




**Bible Reading**   
**8am & 9.30am:**  
**Jeremiah 1:4-10**  
**Luke 13:10-17**

*Response after Bible Readings*  
**Leader:** Hear the word of the Lord  
**Response:** Thanks be to God



Welcome to St. Matthew's Community Room.  
 Children are very welcome at St. Matthew's and that means their noise is welcome too. This room is here if you feel the need to step out of the service or would like some more privacy but still want to see and hear what's going on in the service.  
**OPEN FROM 9.30AM**

**Livestreaming**

at all . **8am**  
 three . **9.30am**  
 worship . **6.45pm**  
 services

**8am—Worship**  
 Led by Roland Bryant  
 and Dean Drayton

**9.30am—Worship**  
 Led by Sharon Underwood  
 and Dean Drayton

**KUCA** Preschool,  
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8



**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Led by Barbara Gibb  
 and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

**What's happening this week at St. Matthew's**

**MONDAY 22 AUGUST**  
**9am—Sorting & pricing for Op Shop** lower hall  
**12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool**

**TUESDAY 23 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**  
**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation** in the church  
**12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool**

**WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool**  
**7.30pm—Church Council Meeting** at the church

**THURSDAY 25 AUGUST**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop open**  
**12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool**

**FRIDAY 26 AUGUST**  
**12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool**  
**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group**  
 "Movie Night" in upstairs hall

**SATURDAY 27 AUGUST**  
 No scheduled events

**SUNDAY 28 AUGUST**  
**8am—Worship**

**9.30am—Worship**  
**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

**6.45pm—Worship**



**SUPPLY MINISTER**  
 REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024  
 Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER**  
 DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
 Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**  
 MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
 Email: mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**  
 ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL  
**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI  
**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

**LOCATION:**  
 CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
 BAULKHAM HILLS

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**  
 BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
 PO BOX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au  
**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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 SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
 PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153  
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## Keeping the Sabbath

It can be rather interesting to set the reading for the day inside the big picture that the gospel is seeking to tell. Right back near the beginning of the year we heard of how Luke set the agenda for Jesus ministry through a reading based on Isaiah: 'the spirit of the Lord is upon me'. It declares how the oppressed will be set free. In a manner of speaking the healing of this woman who has been crippled for 18 years is a story of being 'set free'—as Jesus' response to the leader of the synagogue.

The 'problem' is that Jesus heals on the Sabbath. In the course of his ministry how Jesus and his disciples observed the Sabbath is full of controversy. The conflict might be seen as a clash between law and grace. With the coming of Jesus the church did not do away with thinking on the Sabbath, though. The day was changed from Saturday to Sunday and became synonymous with the day of resurrection and the prospect of new life. It became the day set aside for worship. Over time it would become associated with Sabbatarianism and a day of restrictions. That all changed with the advent of Sunday sport and Sunday shopping. For members of the Uniting Church the research shows that of all the ten commandments the keeping of the Sabbath is the least popular of all the commandments.

All of which is to miss the point about the importance of the Sabbath. This biblical idea is making a stunning comeback in the world of biblical and theological studies. The Sabbath's importance in the line-up of the commandments cannot be ignored: those that come before all have to do with the worship and reverence for God; that come after have to do with our human interactions. The Sabbath holds the two together. It is like the buckle in the belt. But more than that, the Sabbath is linked to the completion of creation as well as the observance of the year of jubilee when debts were forgiven and the land rested. The Sabbath has become an important key to how we care for God's creation. Going back to Luke's agenda setting reading from Isaiah, the Sabbath in this sense is linked to the acceptable year of the Lord.

Music for the week:

Jana Alayra 'Sabbath Song' (young people).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm8ZOhtD\\_Fw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nm8ZOhtD_Fw)

Jamie Grace 'O what a beautiful day'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPyOctgMwE0>

John Rutter, 'This is the day that the Lord hath made'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Su-QUI9spMw>

### A Moment in Time: The Nicene Creed

Becoming a tolerated religion in the Roman Empire (313) marked a significant change in the Christian faith. It was not just a case that the threat of persecution lessened—though it would reappear now and then. The Christian faith was more likely to attract those who might not have previously considered this strange sect. The spread of faith also meant that there were more differences to encounter: how was difference to be 'managed'? In the earliest days of the church there had been a 'Rule of Faith' and the Apostles' Creed. Now that Constantine was Emperor there was need to respond to the dilemma of what is the relationship between the Father and the Son. Constantine called together an assembly of bishops which met in Nicea (to the east of Constantinople/Istanbul). They formulated the Nicene Creed. It was designed to preserve the divine nature of Christ (being of the same essence as the Father) alongside his humanity. Several decades (381) later the dilemma arose as to two to understand the relationship of the Spirit to the Father and the Son

There were 'losers' in these Councils. Their understandings would come to be known as 'heresies', from a Greek word meaning 'a choice'. In this case the heresy would be known as Arianism after Arius who considered Jesus to be 'the oldest and not beloved creature of God' but not equal to God.

Because the Christian faith was now the official religion this controversy had threatened to destabilize the Empire.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Colin Stoner

*Our very best wishes to all the St. Matthew's community who are celebrating their birthdays this week.*

**Sympathy** to the family and friends of Elaine Dunning who died on 11 August.

A funeral service was held at Northern Suburbs, South Chapel on Friday 19 August at 9am.

**Service of Closure** for the St. Marys Congregation to be held at the church on **August 27 at 2pm**. There will be a catered afternoon tea following the service.



**PLEASE RSVP your numbers by August 21**  
Kevin Burchell [kevinburchell@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinburchell@hotmail.com)

### HELP NEEDED

Person with car to transport bags of clothing from lower hall to clothing charity bins once a week. Must be able to lift 20kgs. The Op-shop donates any excess clothing to charity bins.  
Please contact Pamela on M: 0404023588 or Christine on M: 0401344800.

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

21—27 August

**Liberia, Sierra Leone**



### WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading guide based on the Revised Common Lectionary

**Volume 16, Number 12**  
**15 August to 13 November**

is available in the church foyer.

**Please place \$5 in offering bag to cover costs.**



**Being prepared for next week's worship:**  
**28 August 2022**

### Pentecost 12

**“Where is the Lord?”**

**28 August 2022 Sunday:**  
**8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

**Jeremiah 2: 4-13**  
**Luke 14: 1, 7-14**

Once again it is the Sabbath. How Jesus stands in relation to the Sabbath is a subject for close scrutiny. On this occasion Jesus has been invited to a meal in the home of a leader of the Pharisees. The ancient world was organized along codes of honour and shame. It mattered where you sat around the table. The text says that Jesus when he saw the guests trying to work out for themselves the best and most honourable seats at the table, he tells a parable. Strictly speaking what follows is not a parable. It is more like an example of direct teaching. Its purpose is to emphasize the virtue of humility. In the ancient world humility was not ranked highly: it is a distinctively Christian virtue that goes back to the example and teaching of Jesus himself.

Jeremiah has already received two 'words' of the Lord preparing him for his prophetic vocation. He has been informed that the Lord has made him into 'a fortified city, an iron pillar, and a bronze wall against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.' They will fight against him. The leaders of the people of Israel are in exile in Babylon. The book is designed to explain how this misfortune came about through the way in which their worship has become corrupted. Now he delivers his first oracle to the 'house of Jacob'. Through Jeremiah the Lord reminds the people of how God had led them out of Egypt into the promised land; rather than ask 'where is the Lord' (twice that question is raised) they have forgotten that past and gone after false gods.



## Wear a Beanie and support Brain Cancer

The Preschool is organising a fundraiser in support of **Brain Child Foundation** and will be holding Beanie for Brain Cancer Days on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August at the Preschool.



The children are encouraged to wear a beanie to preschool and raise much needed funds for this foundation

On **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August** we are inviting the church congregation to get involved too and **wear a beanie** to Sunday worship. A collection box will be placed at the front entry door for donations

Demi our preschool student, whose mother Marly is a teacher at the preschool, was diagnosed with a brain tumour in early April. Support for this charity has been requested by the family

The Brain Child foundation provide support to the children and families affected by brain and spinal cord tumours while striving for a cure.



## Soul Care conference 31 August—2 September at Wesley Mission Centre *Rediscover and reimagine pastoral care at Soul Care*

Soul Care is just around the corner! With just over two weeks until the conference, in-person ticket sales must close in one week from today - **Monday 22 August**. If you haven't already, you can purchase tickets from our [Eventbrite page](#). In-person tickets are available in both three-day and single-day pass options. Morning and afternoon tea are also included with all in-person tickets.

If you can't make it in person, there are also virtual ticket options available which must close **Monday 29 August**.

We're thrilled to have an amazing line up of keynote and plenary speakers, workshops, panel discussions and more. You can also visit the [Soul Care website](#) for more information

Please reach out to us via email at [soulcare@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:soulcare@nswact.uca.org.au) if you have any questions or would like to chat further!

**Uniting**



**The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly Newsletter is available to view at the end of each week for the upcoming Sunday on the St. Matthew's website [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au) Click on the metal bird image / publications.**