



## September

The season of Pentecost stretches on. It is the longest season of the church year running right through into Advent. The month of September covers weeks 13 to 16 of this period of the church's calendar. We are much more likely to think of September in terms of spring dawning and seeing signs of new life about. In the life of the wider church September is noted for a couple of themes that break away from the norms of the lectionary. September is sometimes regarded as the month whereby we focus on 'the seasons of creation' and/or 'interfaith September'.

By focussing on these two themes the church seeks to engage with concerns that relates to others. They are designed to engage with the signs of our times as we become more aware of the impact of a changing climate and how our neighbourhoods have been transformed: they now reflect greater cultural and religious diversity.



## SEASON OF CREATION

### The Season of Creation

There have always been songs and hymns which have spoken about praising God the creator and giving thanks for the harvest of the earth. What has altered over the past couple of decades has been the growing realization of how we need to care for God's good creation. The hymn found in the opening chapter of the epistle to the Colossians give us good reason to be so concerned: it declares that 'all things' were made in, through and for Christ.

Throughout the church there have been congregations that have initiated various projects to act out that vision. Some have done the necessary biblical and theological homework; some have sung new songs; in others young people have raised their voice over what will the earth be like for them when they are older and have their on children and grandchildren.

Last year at this time Mary and I were assisting in the Southern Highlands congregations of Bowral and Mittagong. They set aside a couple of weeks for the theme of caring for God's creation: they paid attention to their local neighbourhood—their habitat—and created prayers and reflections that

There is a dedicated website for the season of creation. See, <https://seasonofcreation.org/about/> On its front page it explains how and why this season came into being.

Clive



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios 1 proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world.

The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios 1 and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encourages the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations.

Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billions Christians come together to care for our common home.

### Interfaith September

The program behind Interfaith September has been one of the casualties of cutbacks in the church in recent years. But, nevertheless, there is still an online link to some of the work done by the Uniting Church here and suggestions for what can be done. See, <https://assembly.uca.org.au/rof/resources/interfaith-september>

It is rather interesting to note that many of those who become involved in the exchange of ideas about their faith with someone form another faith find two things happen: the first is that they have a better understanding of another faith – and they appreciate their own Christian faith more!

Some years ago I led an

interfaith series of studies in Crows Nest during September. It was designed for the local congregation but the study was designed to get a better grasp of Islam. We learnt a little about Muhammad and about the *Qu'ran*. We noted how very different it is from the Bible. We discovered that there are quite a number of biblical characters found in the *Qu'ran*—including Abraham (Ibrahim), Joseph (Yusuf), Noah. What came as a surprise to members of the congregation was that Mary was mentioned more in the *Qu'ran* than in the New Testament—and that Jesus (Isa) is the most frequently named person in Islamic scripture.

The way in which the narratives around these figures happen in the *Qu'ran*

is not the same as what we find in the Christian Bible. The difference helped us better appreciate our own faith while having some more understanding of those who are often treated with suspicion. In a way that would not have been thought about in the past, we were seeking to 'love our neighbour as ourselves' by trying to understand the neighbour who belongs to another faith.

Clive





## My Period of Discernment

In 2020 I began to reflect on my calling in Ministry. Having been working at St. Matthew's since 2018 I started to think about the next steps in my ministry journey. As part of this reflection, I was encouraged to undertake a Period of Discernment (POD) which is a process that helps a person to consider God's call for their life through reflection, prayer, conversation, and learning. A POD typically involves meeting with a mentor on a regular basis to reflect on your ministry and what it may look like to live out God's call in your life.

I began my POD in August 2020. Unfortunately, due to various lockdowns, my POD stalled quite a bit but I have now recommenced my POD with a new mentor and I am in the process of discerning God's call in my life. I am hoping this POD will give me some clarity regarding my future ministries.

As part of my POD, I am continuing my Bachelor of Theology at the Uniting Theological College in North Paramatta. This helps me to build a strong foundation in biblical studies and systematic theology that I can the implement into practical ministry at St. Matthew's while reflecting what my future in ministry may look like.

My hope is that through this process of reflection and learning, I will be able to enhance my skills and abilities and gain a better understanding of how these may work within my role at St. Matthew's and beyond.

Daniel Gibb



## Who am I?

Sometimes members of the three congregations do not know much about those in one of the other services. It seems like a good idea, then, to include short notes about different people from the different congregations that make up St. Matthew's.



My name is Alexander Lawless, and I am a Christian and member of St. Matthew's since I was baptised here in 1994. I think this is important to mention first, as my Christianity informs how I try to act in my day to day life.

I was raised a Christian, and attended various kids clubs and youth groups from a young age. Youth group had a big impact on me and my faith, and so I was passionate about serving as a youth group leader for a number of years after leaving high school.

I am now involved in helping run the 6:45 service through preaching and liturgy, and also currently serve on the church finance committee

and the JNC. I'm always looking for ways to develop my relationship with God and to help out our church.

Outside of church, I've managed at McDonald's for five years, but in a few weeks I am very excited to be moving into a field related to my biology degree, environmental consulting.

Christianity helps me make sense of the world, and of people in particular. St. Matthew's is a hugely important part of both mine and my wife Nicola's lives. This is the community in which I've come to know Jesus, and I am passionate about keeping it alive."

Alexander

Coming in October:

## Making Sense of the Bible



On-line and on-site options 4 weeks

st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

- How did the Bible come into being?
- How (and when) was it translated into English?
- Why do we have so many versions?
- How do we 'use' the Bible ( an ancient book) in our world today – or let it 'use' us?
- How might we seek not to 'misuse' the Bible?

In every Sunday service we read from the Bible its importance in the Christian life and worship cannot be underestimated. But have you ever thought about how this book became the book it is. It is a fascinating story with a murder or two included along the way. Once this study is done you are likely to have a much deeper appreciation of what it cost some of our forebears to ensure that you could read this ancient text in your own language and let it shape you.

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

You are invited to come along to the church on Tuesdays at 9.30am—10.30am



All are welcome

### The Muscle of Attention

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BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

During September and October the Tuesday morning Christian Meditation Group will be listening to these 10 - 20 minute talks given in 2021 by Laurence Freeman as part of the hour long session. We then do the work of silently repeating our mantra, giving attention only to the mantra to take the attention off our distracting thoughts.

We meet in either the Community Room or Church Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join this group to find out how exercising our muscle of attention produces love and community.

Please contact Rosemary Sexton or Katherine Pedersen 043 777 2011 [kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com) to find out more about the World Community for Christian Meditation. There are groups all over the world and you can join many online groups, watch podcasts, seminars, introductory sessions and undertake courses online.

<https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/cd/cwkSXCfLd4mXpG6pFGc>

These talks reflect on the meaning of attention because attention is at the centre of human meaning, Laurence Freeman says. In moments of crisis, as during the present pandemic, what really matters is our encounter with love through the attention we receive. Meditation is a way of exercising our muscle of attention. In repeating the mantra selflessly, we are learning to pay attention to God, and as we enter into that experience, the Word of God is born in us, and begins to divinise us. Contemplatives therefore are portals through which divine love can enter the human condition.

The tracks are entitled: Love one another, The essential teachings of meditation, Self-knowledge, Evolution of WCCM, Listening and paying attention, The muscle of attention, Pure prayer, Meditation for children, Kenosis and the emptying out, The power of attention and The equivoillance of love and attention.

*So you may say, 'You know, I have a very busy mind. And I am doing a lot of things, I am multitasking all the day.' But a hyperactive, hyper active mind, too much multitasking, constant distraction, jumping from one thing to another without resting in this work of attention; or rapid bursts of stimulation, which is what we like today – that might seem as if the faculty of attention is being exercised a lot, but it is not. Actually, the muscle of attention is atrophying, is wasting away. It is wasting away and it needs exercise. It needs therapy. The therapy of the soul is prayer.*

(Attention and Love 1 by Laurence Freeman OSB)



Saturday  
3 September  
9am-12pm

Electrical, Toys  
and Books  
(Fiction, Non-fiction  
& Children's Books)

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

"Come, all who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest."

This month: 3 September

Care and Prayer  
10am, every first Saturday  
in the Church.





All are welcome  
at  
Coffee & Discovery

Guest Speaker – **Alan Wright**  
Topic — **“Around the World in 5 Decades”**

continuing on the  
1st Thursday of each month and will  
run from March to December.

**10am until 12 noon**

**Our next meeting**

**Thursday 1st September**



Not just another  
travelogue. Alan  
recounts unusual  
and unanticipated  
events which  
happened during  
his overseas  
business trips.

*These informal morning gatherings include devotions, morning tea and  
guest speakers which cover a large range of interesting and informative topics.*

\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*



**MEN'S MORNING TEA**

**Wednesday 21st September  
10am to 12noon**

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa  
Boulevard Bella Vista.

We are allocated external seating to  
ensure compliance with the recommended  
Covid situation.

Every third Wednesday of the month

Enquiries  
Alan  
Wright



**Women's Fellowship  
Wednesday 14 September  
@ 10am**

The Women's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday

*“A Celebration of Birthdays”*

**Please join us**

Enquiries: Barbara McIntosh



**SPRING FAIR MARKET DAY**

**Saturday 3rd September 2022**

**from 8.30am - 12.30pm**

Join us on the grounds of the shed  
for coffee & cake \$2.50

**Giant raffle drawn at 11am.**

Beautifully crafted men's products. Great gift ideas for any occasion.

Tools for sale.....priced to sell. Plants for sale from \$1.00 each.

Craft and cake stall, jams, pickles, chutney. Wind chimes and garden accessories.

Cd/DVD's all priced at \$1.00 each.

For any restoration or repairs please phone (02) 9680 2180

<https://thehillsmensshed.org.au/Splash.php>

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Hills-Mens-Shed-101833152453608>



The Hills Men's Shed Inc  
Eric Mobbs Reserve  
Ferguson Ave, Castle Hill 2154  
Phone: 02 9680 2180



**MONTHLY ACTIVITIES  
and  
REGULAR GROUPS**

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....**

Second Wednesday of this month

Next event: **14 September at 10am**

**“A Celebration of Birthdays”**

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum  
Meet in the upstairs hall and church

**MEN'S MORNING TEA.....**

Meet 3rd Wednesday  
of each month.

Next Event: **21 September  
at 10am**

Contact: Alan Wright

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard  
Bella Vista. We are allocated external seating to  
ensure compliance with current Covid restrictions.

**CARE & PRAYER.....**

Meet on the 1st Saturday of each month  
in church and Community room @ 10am  
All welcome  
This Month: **3rd September**

Contact: Rosemary Sexton

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

**Tuesdays in the Church  
9.30am-10.30am**

All welcome.

For more information or to express your  
interest in attending please contact  
Katherine Pedersen 043 777 2011.

**OP-SHOP.....**

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
9am-2pm and

**1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm**

Pre-loved clothes & accessories, Books,  
Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac.

**Giving** From time to time, we receive  
questions on how someone can make donations  
to St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham  
Hills, to further support God's work through the  
Ministry team and congregation, in the wider Com-  
munity.

To assist with this, we have set up the following  
account with Uniting Financial Services:

Account Name: Baulkham Hills Uniting  
Church

– Giving Direct  
BSB: 634634  
Account Number: 100025924

If required a Direct Debit Request Form is available  
in the foyer or speak with Barry Gregory.

**For your support of God's work here at  
St. Matthew's, a big thank you!**

**YOUNG FAMILIES**

**KUCA.....**  
@ 9.30am service during term  
for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-8

**YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS**

**Fusion Youth Group.....**

Years 3 to 8. Meet Friday evenings at the  
church during term time. 5pm—7pm

Contact Daniel Gibb  
[daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**Alive Youth Group.....**

Years 9 to 12  
Meet Friday evenings at the church during  
term time. 7pm—9pm

Contact Daniel Gibb  
[daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**THRIVE BIBLE STUDY.....**

year 11 up to the age of 25.  
Fortnightly

Contact Daniel Gibb  
[daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**THRIVE SOCIAL GROUP.....**

Contact Daniel Gibb  
[daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**SHINE.....**

is a special needs social group for all ages from  
high school up.

Meets Sundays fortnightly for dinner & fun.

We are *still collecting in 2022* for their shoebox  
appeal supporting a school in the Philippines.

**Donations of small educational items, soaps  
& combs are greatly appreciated.**

Please place donations in the box provided at the  
top of the stairs in the church foyer.

**If you are interested in any  
of the above groups or  
activities please contact the  
church office.**

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To include your activity in the  
**OCTOBER In FOCUS**  
**St. Matthew's**  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
please send details to Robyn and Lynn in  
the Church Office by **15 SEPTEMBER.**  
Thank you  
Please check St. Matthew's weekly Newsletter  
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**Maintaining contact with you and  
your family is very important to us.**  
We would be grateful if you change your ad-  
dress, phone/mobile or email details that you let  
us know by phoning and leaving a message on  
9686 3003

**UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES**

**Save the Date**

**St. Matt's  
Trivia Night  
Saturday  
19 November  
7pm**

**Making Sense  
of the  
Bible**



**OCTOBER**

Stay tuned for dates and times

**SUPPLY MINISTER**  
REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024  
Email: [minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

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

**SENIORS PASTORAL CARER**  
MICHAEL STRONG Part Time  
Email: [mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto: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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**FACEBOOK:**  
[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570  
SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153  
**EMAIL:** [director@stmatthewsps.net.au](mailto:director@stmatthewsps.net.au)



# Calendar of Events for September 2022

School Holidays

Monday

Tuesday
































Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

<p>st. matthew's <b>UNITING CHURCH</b> BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>		<p>Psalm 104:12 NRSV</p> <p><i>By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation: they sing among the branches</i></p> 	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12pm —Coffee &amp; Discovery Speaker Alan Wright “Around the World in 5 Decades” upstairs hall &amp; Church</p>  <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> <p>7pm-9pm— Youth Group <b>ALIVE</b> upstairs hall</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9am-12pm—Op Shop &amp; Mini Mart in lower hall</p>  <p>10am— Care and Prayer Meet in the Church</p> <p>10am-3pm—St. Matt's Endurance Series contact Brad Turner</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>HAPPY FATHERS DAY</p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8am— Worship includes Communion</p> <p>9.30am—Worship includes Communion KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship includes Communion</p> 
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>  	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12pm—In Stitches In the upstairs hall</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>  	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> <p>5pm-7pm—<b>FUSION</b> Youth Group “Giant Games Night” upstairs hall</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8am— Worship</p> <p>9am— Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8 5pm—Shine “BBQ offsite” 6.45pm—Worship</p> 
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> <p>7.30pm—Thrive in lower hall In the church</p>  	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship “A Celebration of Birthdays” in the upstairs hall and church</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>   	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> <p>7pm-9pm— Youth Group <b>ALIVE</b> upstairs hall</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8am— Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship</p> 
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>  	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea at McKels Café Bella Vista. See back page for details</p> <p>10am-12pm—In Stitches in the upstairs hall</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>   	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p> <p>5pm-7pm <b>FUSION</b> Youth Group “Minute to Win it” upstairs hall</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8am— Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA in recess 6.45pm—Worship</p> 
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>		
<p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>7.30pm—Thrive in lower hall In the church</p>  	<p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>No scheduled events</p>		