



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

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 focusing 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. I 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/interfaithseptember

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 Iesus (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 to 'love our seeking 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 1?

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



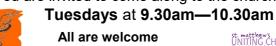
On-line and on-site options 4 weeks

- 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?

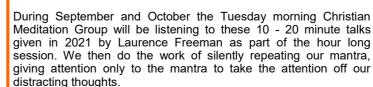
In every Sunday service we read from the Bible its importance in the Christian life and worship cannot be underestimated. But have you ever thought about how this book became the book it is. It is a fascinating story with a murder or two included along the way. Once this study is done you are likely 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



The Muscle of Attention



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 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://meditatiotalks.wccm.org/cd/cwkSXCfLd4mxpGb6pFGc

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 equiveillance 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)



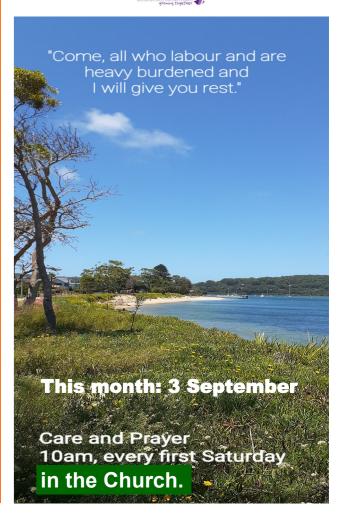
Saturday 3 September *9am-12pm*

Electrical, Toys and Books (Fiction, Non-fiction

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

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

st. matthew's
BAULKHAM HILLS UNTING CHURCH
GYOWING together





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.

MEN'S MORNING TEA Wednesday 21st September 10am to 12noon Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevarde Bella Vista.

We are allocated external seating to ensure compliance with the recommended Covid situation. Every third Wednesday of the month



Women's Fellowship Wednesday 14 September @ 10am

The Women's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday

"A Celebration of Birthdays"

Please join us

Enquiries: Barbara McIntosh





Wright

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









Eric Mobbs Reserve Ferguson Ave, Castle Hill 2154

Phone: 02 9680 2180

The Hills Men's Shed Inc

OP-SHOP.....

9am-2pm and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm

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

YOUNG FAMILIES

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

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS

Fusion Youth Group...

"A Celebration of Birthdays"

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum Fellowship Years 3 to 8. Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 5pm-7pm Contact Daniel Gibb Meet in the upstairs hall and church

daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Alive Youth Group..

of each month. Next Event: 21 September at 10am

Meet 3rd Wednesday

Contact: Alan Wright Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevarde Bella Vista. We are allocated external seating to ensure compliance with current Covid restrictions.

REGULAR GROUPS

VOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP...

Second Wednesday of this month

Next event: 14 September at 10am

MEN'S MORNING TEA.

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.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Years 9 to 12

Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 7pm—9pm Contact Daniel Gibb

daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE BIBLE STUDY......

year 11 up to the age of 25. Fortnightly

Contact Daniel Gibb

daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE SOCIAL GROUP.....

Contact Daniel Gibb daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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.

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-

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!

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

Maintaining contact with you and your family is very important to us. We would be grateful if you change your address, 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



OCTOBER Stay tuned for dates and times

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 MORRALI 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

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 Baulkham Hills 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Calendar of Events for September 2022

School Holidays

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Fri	day Saturday Sunday
St. matthew's UNITING CHURCH NRSV the birds of the air have their habitation: Growing together Psalm 104:12 NRSV the streams the birds of the air have their habitation: have their habitation: Speaker Alan Wright "Around the World in 5 Decades" upstairs hall & Church the branches the bra	2 3 4 HAPPY
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop Iower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 7 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 10am-12pm—In Stitches In the upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool	No scheduled events 9am— Worship @ the Willow's 9.30am—Worship
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12 9am—sorting & Pricing for Op Shop 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 13 14 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship 10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool	17 2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use 2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use 9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship
19 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop open 9.30–11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 12pm—upstairs hall in use by	No scheduled events 8am— Worship
T-0.7/3	30 Juled events