



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

18 September 2022

**Pentecost 15**

### Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

**Jeremiah 8: 18-9: 1**  
**Luke 16: 1-13**

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 Mike Strong  
and Clive Pearson

### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Clive Pearson

**KUCA** Preschool,

Years K-2 & Years 3-8



### 6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alexander Lawless  
and Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

#### FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group

#### TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation  
in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

#### SATURDAY

**24 SEPTEMBER**

No Schedules Activities  
School Holidays

#### SUNDAY

**25 SEPTEMBER**

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

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

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SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

#### THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

**Public Holiday**

National day of mourning  
after the passing of  
Her Majesty the Queen

## Shrewd business!

Some years ago the noted preacher Thomas Long (Emory University, Atlanta) conceded that he had chosen a rather unusual text for a graduation ceremony for seminary students. The text in this case was Luke 16:1-13 – the parable of the dishonest steward. It seems a most odd choice for those about to begin the practice of ministry in congregations. The primary character of the parable appears to be a slick salesman, a shrewd operator rather adept at insider trading and feathering his own nest– and not the kind of person you would like a JNC to be interviewing for the new minister of St Matthews.

It is a text that requires care. In those parables to do with meals and being lost Jesus was engaging with the Pharisees and the scribes—his critics. In this text he is talking to his disciples. It is tempting to see this parable as yet another one to do with money and how we use our financial resources. It is easy to arrive at that conclusion when the reading finishes with the counsel that you cannot serve both God and mammon, signifying wealth, riches, profit. But is it really about that?

Sometimes our translations don't help. The idea that we should make friends through dishonest wealth is puzzling and very disturbing. Long suggested that a better translation would be 'the money of this unrighteous age'. The focus might then begin to fall upon how those with the know-how and resources are able to shrewdly use their money in the cut and thrust of a far from perfect world. The emphasis falls upon 'shrewdness' – hence we have Jesus saying 'I wish the children of light were as shrewd as the children of this age'.

Sometimes the Christian life can see a little innocent in the hardnosed world of politics, economics, and the like. The comparison could be made (rather unkindly) between the characters of the Vicar of Dibley and the hedge fund managers of streaming services like *Billions* and *Succession*. Could it be that this parable is inviting the disciples to be 'shrewd' followers of Christ?

### 'Is there balm in Gilead?'

The other reading for today is taken from the soulful book of Jeremiah (8:18-9:1). The prophet mourns for his people; his eyes are 'fountains of tears'. In the midst of his despair he asks 'is there no balm in Gilead?'. The balm of Gilead was a rare perfume: it is associated with healing. It was reckoned to have many medicinal properties, and so becomes a symbol, a figure of speech, to denote healing and wellness.

Below are some references in song and literature to the balm of Gilead. The hauntingly beautiful hymn, 'There is balm in Gilead' is an African-American spiritual from the time of slavery; the novelist Marilynne Robinson is one of the most highly esteemed Christian thinkers today. Her novel, *Gilead*, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2005. It is still celebrated.

### Online:

'There is balm in Gilead'.

The Adventist Vocal Ensemble, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fcMxl\\_6xsk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fcMxl_6xsk)

Melva Costen,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rY0Dcn5c2IE>

Chanticleer,

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

Fountain View Academy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXqs7TORCAY>

Barak Obama on reading Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* (winner of Pulitzer Prize, 2005).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ7TWkiNg\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ7TWkiNg_I)

Book review, Marilynne Robinson, *Gilead*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOKvf03KWpQ>

Will Storrar interviewing Marilynne Robinson, at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWkOkfN3VAg>

**Last week's work of art:** from the 'Cobblestone gospel'.

Trygve Skogrand      Found



*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Janet Goodman  
Jeanette Coleman  
Enid Clifton

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

18—24 September



**Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay**

**Sympathy to** the family and friends of Henry Fiander who passed away on 31st August. A funeral service was held last Thursday 8 September at Castlebrook memorial gardens.

**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.**



**Being prepared  
for next week's  
worship:**

**25 September 2022**

## Pentecost 16

### “True Wealth”

**Sunday  
25 September:  
8am, 9:30am &  
6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:  
1 Timothy 6: 6-19  
Luke 16: 19-31**

Once again this parable—of the rich man and Lazarus—is only to be found in Luke. It has been one of the most frequently painted parables in Christian art—especially during the medieval period. In the world the rich man would have a name and much honour: being dressed in expensive purple and fine linen, dining well, is a sign of him being rich. Everybody would know him but in the parable he has no name. The one who is named is Lazarus, a poor man covered in sores which even the dogs would lick. Lazarus is the only character in a parable who has a name. Being rich is not an asset in Luke's gospel, though.

The two men die. The rich man is cast down into Hades and is tormented; the poor man is by the side of Abraham and in comfort. There is a great chasm between the two that cannot be breached. The rich man wants to send a warning

to his five brothers. The parable anticipates the passion narrative. There is no warning sent: the brothers have been exposed to the law (Moses) and the prophets: they are not likely to pay heed to someone being raised from the dead.

This theme of wealth and true riches is also played out in the concluding section of 1 Timothy. The epistle is written to Timothy and gives advice on the organization of the church. It gives instruction on public worship, the relationship between men and women, young and old, slaves and free, the need to protect the truth of the gospel and then ends with this encouragement made on behalf of a godly life. The call to 'fight the good fight' comes in this concluding section: it highlights the need to be active, well aware of the need to protect and to make a stand for the gospel and its truth.



## New Worship Rosters For October 2022 Have been emailed

If you don't have email or would like a hard copy please take one from the display in the Church foyer. There are a few spaces still requiring volunteers for the October roster. There is a copy of the roster in the foyer with duties that are Hi-lighted. If you can help with any of these please fill your name in the gaps.

### 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

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/cwksXCFld4mxpGb6pFGc>

### Daily Wisdom

*Simone Weil, the great French mystic, who I will quote because attention is so much part of her thought, says that 'There are many occasions when we are with people who are in trouble, in need and there is nothing we can do for them. We can't solve their problems'. Think of pandemic, think of people in intensive care during the Coronavirus, or the people suffering from mental illness because they have no way of dealing with the problems of incarceration and shutdown. And so we can't solve those problems, but what we can do, and it is the greatest gift we can give, is to listen, to pay attention to them, each personally, individually and to hear what they are saying about themselves and how they express their needs, not statistics.*

(**Attention and Love 1** by Laurence Freeman OSB )