



Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

1 Timothy 1: 1-14
Luke 17: 5-10

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *Hear the word of the Lord*

Response: *Thanks be to God*



**DAYLIGHT
Saving Starts**



**Please remember to move
your clocks forward 1 hour**

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 Vivienne Strong
and Mary Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Mary Pearson

KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

TUESDAY 4 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

in the church

7.30pm—Community Engagement

Focus Group Meeting upstairs hall

WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

THURSDAY 6 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery

Guest Speaker: Jane Cole

“St. Matt's in the Philippines“

upstairs hall and Church

FRIDAY 7 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop open

SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER

8am—Worship

Includes Communion

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion

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

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@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

The metaphors of Faith “Increase the Faith”

1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31

The images or metaphors that are used to describe the life of faith can often be confronting for Christians living in twenty-first century. The Luke reading is a case in point. In the first instance faith is likened to a mustard seed that can uproot a mulberry tree. This is not the same saying that takes the form of the parable of the mustard seed. This time a mulberry tree features: in recent times there has been studies done on the root systems of trees. Peter Wohlleben is the author of the much acclaimed *The Hidden Life of Trees: How They Communicate—Discoveries From A Secret World* (The New York Times Bestseller, 2016).

The mulberry tree has a highly invasive root system that spreads far and deep and quickly. At face value it is hard to see how a mustard seed can cause much if a problem to a mulberry tree. It is at this point that it becomes helpful to observe what Jesus has said immediately before this reading. Jesus had warned people not to put a stumbling block before the ‘little ones’. He has spoken of the need to forgive and the disciples have responded with a request to ‘increase our faith’.

The New Testament references to slaves does not travel well in today’s world. The very institution of slavery is offensive: in the New Testament world it was an accepted part of life. Slavery in those times was not quite like the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the plantation system in the United States. There could be bonds of loyalty and even friendship—even though you were still a slave. On occasions Paul describes himself as a slave of Christ. It is a slavery marked by obedience and love. In the case of this often neglected text in Luke the slave does his duty. He does what he has commanded to do. Jesus is likening the life of discipleship to that of a slave who, in effect, belongs to another and simply does what he/she should do.

This sense of belonging to another is set out in the greeting and thanksgiving to be found in 2 Timothy. It is an intriguing reading inasmuch as it reflects Paul’s affection for Timothy (‘My beloved child’) and some reference to Timothy’s family—to Lois, his grandmother, and Eunice, his mother. Insofar as the call to live a ‘holy life’ and serve has come from Christ, Paul advises Timothy not to be timid or ashamed of the gospel: he is to ‘guard’ that ‘deposit’.

On-line:

Vincent Van Gogh,
‘The Mulberry Tree’.

<https://www.vangoghgallery.com/painting/the-mulberry-tree.html>

The Hidden Life of Trees’
(movie trailer, 2021),

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_xKhHwqeW8

The New Yorker
‘The German Forrester Who Wants
the World to Idolize Trees’.

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/the-german-forester-who-wants-the-world-to-idolize-trees>

Burke’s Backyard
The Mulberry Tree

<https://www.burkesbackyard.com.au/fact-sheets/in-the-garden/flowering-plants-shrubs/mulberry/>

Yours in Christ,

Clive





PEOPLE NEWS

David Neideck

Lee Anderson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

2—8 October

Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
at the church

PLEASE NOTE:

Changed days for Communion this month

2 October - 8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm
9 October - 8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm
* includes Communion at morning services

16 October - 8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm
* includes Communion at evening service

23 October - 8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm
30 October - 8am, 9:30am & 6:45pm

Live streaming continues for all services

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

Click on the metal bird image / publications.



Being prepared for next week's worship:

9 October 2022

Pentecost 18
"Gratitude"

Sunday
9 October:
8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm

Bible Readings:

2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

One might have imagined that Paul had every reason to be bitter. He is writing to his 'beloved child' in the faith—Timothy—while he is 'chained like a criminal'. The apostle has undergone many hardships for the sake of his life in Christ. In the midst of his setback and suffering he discerns purpose: he advises Timothy to be an 'approved worker' and not to be ashamed of the message he is to proclaim.

The way in which Paul repeatedly calls upon the followers of Christ not to be ashamed of the gospel should be seen in the light of first responses to the claims of this 'new' faith. It was a stumbling block for Jews, a scandal—and a folly, a madness for Greeks. Some of the more sophisticated of pagans in the classical world thought that members of the church were 'cannibals' because they ate the body of Christ and drank his blood; it was rather easy to misrepresent the 'truth' Timothy is commended to death: was the crucifixion a sign of how Christians preached infanticide?

Paul writes as he does because he has experienced grace; his letters are full of thankfulness. That should be expected as a matter of custom. The standard practice of a Greek letter was to give thanks after acknowledging who you

were and to whom you were writing. Except – Paul transforms the sense of gratitude because his thankfulness is always bound up with how those in Christ nurture the life of the gospel. There is gratitude for the life of faith.

This theme of gratitude is also present in the Luke reading. In this gospel those from other cultures play a significant role—none more so than the despised Samaritans. In this account Jesus and his disciples are *en route* to Jerusalem; they pass through Galilee where they encounter ten men with skin diseases—presumably lepers. They are healed: Jesus tells them to 'show' themselves to the priests—hence, all but one must have been Jews as this was stock response to healing. They had asked for mercy from Jesus; they recognize that he has a power to heal but only one—the Samaritan—returns to say 'thank' Jesus.

This account of the Samaritan leper stands alongside the parable of the good Samaritan. The one who gives thanks like the one who helps the victim on the side of the road is the one who is not expected to do so. It illustrates how the gospel of Luke reaches out into the Gentile world and embraces the one who is 'other'.

Update from the Joint Nominations Committee (JNC)

St. Matthews' JNC is made up of two Presbytery appointed representatives (Grant Atkins from Quakers Hill Uniting and Carmel Ieraci from Wesley Castle Hill), together with six congregational representatives – Alexander Lawless, Dean Drayton, Eulalie Herat, Helen Olley, Karen Vandenberg and Mike Underwood. The role of the Committee is to find a new minister for our Congregations.

On 20th September, the NSW Synod ACOMP Placements Committee approved our Church profile and provided approval to fill our vacant Ministerial position. The next step in the process is for the ACOMP Placements Committee to propose names of appropriate ministers, who shall be invited to a conversation with the JNC.

Unfortunately, the Placements Committee were not able to provide any names to the JNC at this time. We are hopeful that they will soon have some suggestions for the JNC to consider.

In the meantime, the JNC request your prayerful support of this process. Please continue to pray that God will lead the right person to minister with us at St. Matthew's.

If you have any questions, please contact one of your JNC members.

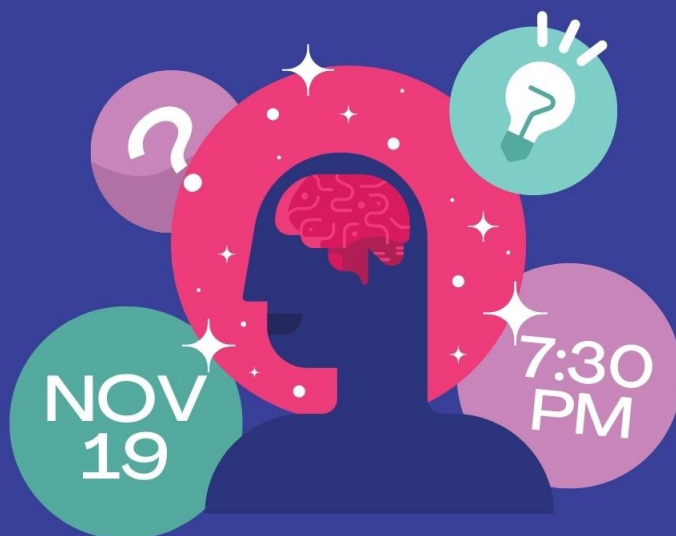
Extended Tenure

It is my great pleasure to announce that Church Council have been able to extend the tenure of the Rev Dr Clive Pearson with us at St. Matthew's until the end of April 2023. We look forward to sharing with Clive during this period.

Barbara Gibb

————— ST MATTHEW'S —————

TRIVIA NIGHT 2022



TABLES OF 8
\$15 PER PERSON

ST MATTHEWS
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT
DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU

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
0437 77 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://meditationtalks.wccm.org/cd/cwkSXCfLd4mXpGb6pFGc>

Daily Wisdom

We have to understand how we have become such a distracted civilisation. On the one hand, we have this inability to pay attention, to make healthy relationships that demand attention to the other and to take the attention off ourselves in order to make relationships. How can you make a relationship if you are only thinking about yourself all the time? So we have to learn to take the attention off ourselves, which is why meditation bears fruit in all our relationships and the first fruit of the Spirit.

(Attention and Love 1 by Laurence Freeman OSB)

ST. MATTHEW'S
BAULKHAM HILLS
UNITING CHURCH
growing together

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.

Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone:

"TWILIGHT OF JAZZ"

On the banks of the Hawkesbury River -
at Ebenezer Church

SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER

4:00PM - 8:00PM
Gates open at 3:00pm

Featuring:
HARMONIX BIG BAND

TICKETS \$20 per head - School students free
To prebook your tickets call or text Rebecca on
0439 309 303 or visit our Facebook page.
Tickets will be available on the night for a limited time.

Bring your chairs, blanket or a picnic.
Sausage sizzle, cake stall, tea & coffee
will be available to purchase.
BYO Alcohol

Find us on Facebook Ebenezer Uniting Church - Twilight Jazz
Funds raised go to the West Papuan Development Company- for clean water wells.