



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

## Weekly Newsletter

16 October 2022

**Pentecost 19**

### Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

**Jeremiah 31:27-34**

**Luke 18:1-8**

*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 Dean Drayton  
and Clive Pearson

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

Followed by MUFFIN MORNING TEA

### 6.45pm—Worship

**Includes Communion**  
Led by Nicola Lawless  
and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

### MONDAY 17 OCTOBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

### TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation  
in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7.30pm—Clive's Study "Making Sense of  
the Bible" week 1 at the Church

### WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea

Circa Norwest

10am-12pm—In Stitches

upstairs hall

7.30pm—Clive's Study "Making Sense of  
the Bible" week 1 on ZOOM

[https://us02web.zoom.us/  
j/3602745736](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736)

### THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

### FRIDAY 21 OCTOBER

7pm-9pm—Youth Group **ALIVE**  
upstairs hall

### SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Events

## SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

### 8am—Worship

### 9.30am—Worship

Includes Baptism

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

### 6.45pm—Worship



#### SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniteing.net.au

#### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

#### MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB Part Time

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniteing.net.au

#### SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG Part Time

Email: mike@stmatthewsuniteing.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.stmatthewsuniteing.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniteing.net.au)

Weekly newsletter available on website

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

#### FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsuniteingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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

# The Heart of Faith

## Pentecost 19

Jeremiah 31: 27-34 and Luke 18:1-8

This encounter between the widow who persists and the far from just judge is one of the favoured icons of women's scholarship. Here we have a 'savvy widow' who does not give up and overcomes obstacles to achieve justice. It is a parable that depends upon some reversal of expectations. It is usual to think of a judge as an upholder of the judicial system and carrying out his responsibilities with integrity. That is not the case here: he is described as 'unjust' and as having 'no fear of God and no respect for anyone'. There were two classes of cases that would come before the courts – criminal and civil. The latter would have to do with matters of property, money, everyday litigation. There would have been a court of three judges. The more serious cases, the criminal, would be held before the Sanhedrin Council.

The other reversal of expectation concerns the widow. In the ancient world widow had few rights and were very vulnerable. Luke explains that the purpose of the parable is to encourage prayer and not lose heart. It presumes as such the capacity to forget prayer and lose hope. The widow persists; at face value the odds against her. It is not as if she has initiated a complaint against someone else; her vulnerability lies in how someone has accused her (of what we do not know). She is not in a position not to respond.

There is a sense where 'we' are the widow. The unjust judge is contrasted with a God who is just. The parable does not seek to supply the details of a court case or establish an expression of legal precedence. It is speaking into the character and one of those distinguishing attributes is justice.

Of all the prophetic books where there could have been a loss of heart, Jeremiah stands out. It is a book full of lamentation; Yahweh will not relent; and Jeremiah's eyes are like fountains of tears. In the midst of this grim turmoil comes the home of a new beginning—'the days are surely coming'. The promise of a new covenant written on the heart will be realized and the people will know that 'I will be their God and they shall be my people'.

### Online:

Lea Morris.  
'Let justice roll down'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgyPJ41yDZY&t=9s>

NRCCC worship  
'Let justice roll like a river'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AskIaLGk5nI>

Vineyard Worship  
'Roll down like a river'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqR47IscyJ0>

Marty Haugen  
'Let justice roll like a river'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHNE3S8rSJg>

Mathilde Rand  
'Let justice roll down'.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4clrdiuOYc>

Knox Choir  
'What does the Lord require of you?'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipaGPKFgkxY>

*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Sandra Gordon  
Phil Bunn  
Jiwon MacWilliam

Michael Strong  
Ruth Duignan

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

## TURN OUT YOUR CUPBOARDS

Do you have too much clutter in your home? The Church Op Shop is in need of good quality nick-nacks, toys, ornaments, Christmas goods, shoes and men's clothing.

We appreciate all donations of clean, quality clothing, without your donations we would not be able to operate.

*Many thanks.*

*The Op Shop Team.*

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

16—22 October

*Belize, Guatemala  
Honduras, Mexico*

## 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*



*Being prepared  
for next week's  
worship:*

**23 October 2022**

**Pentecost 20**

**"In the eyes  
of God"**

**Sunday**

**16 October:**

**8am, 9:30am &  
6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

Joel 2:23-32

Luke 18:9-14

The great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, tried to perfect himself in all sorts of way: he failed. He came to see himself, in Paul-like terms, as a great sinner. That is not the kind of description that any people would apply to themselves these days. We like to be a bit more positive and self-affirming. In effect, in his quest for perfection and being right with God, Luther was seeking to overcome who he was and be someone else. But Luther was aware of his human frailty and came to realize how he depended upon the grace of God in order to be 'justified by faith alone'. We often tend to justify ourselves. He coined an idea that sought to express who he was – not in terms of rights, but in terms of who he is 'in the sight of God'. The Latin is *coram Deo* which really means 'in the eye of God'.

In this parable the Pharisees are setting themselves apart from others: they are doing so on the basis of who they believe themselves to be: they do so on the grounds of how they reckon

themselves to be different from the seemingly more obvious sinful people. They glorify in their difference and thank God for their being 'better'. The comparison is made with the hatred tax-collector who has a much deeper insight into who he is 'in the eye of God'. Not only does he know that he is a 'sinner'; he asks for mercy. What we then have is one of Luke's typical reversals: those who are exalted are humbled; the humble are exalted. Luther accepted who he was 'in the eye of God' and went on to initiate the Protestant Reformation in which we stand.

This transition to a different age is captured in the prophecy of Joel. The spirit of God is to be poured out on sons, daughters, old men and slaves. There is to be a time of future blessings in the aftermath of a plague of locusts that took on an apocalyptic mood where locusts represent an invading army.



## Making Sense of the Bible



- 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?

The studies advertised above will be held at the following times:

Onsite at the church at 7.30pm

Tuesday – 18 and 25 October

Tuesday – 1 and 8 November

Or

ZOOM online 7.30pm

Wednesday – 19 and 26 October

Wednesday – 2 and 9 November  
(note date change)

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

Clive

Anyone that will be participating in Clive's study via Zoom Online and would like a copy of the study, please contact the Church office and a copy will be sent to you.

Thank you

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.

## 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](mailto:DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU)



PARRAMATTA NEPEAN PRESBYTERY  
UNITING CHURCH ADULT FELLOWSHIP



invites you to the next gathering at

GRANTHAM HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

on Saturday 22nd October

from 10am to 1pm

Guest Speaker is Rebecca Andrews  
from Pitt Town Uniting Church

'Building Water Wells in West Papua'

Retiring offering to Water Wells  
will be collected



ALL FOOD AND DRINK PROVIDED

for specific dietary needs contact Barbara Maxwell 9636 2252

Please RSVP before 15th October to either

Gail Kalaitzis: 9670 4602 or

Kevin Harkness: 0408 218 964

Nearest railway station is Seven Hills. Let us know if needing a pick up.

COVID SAFE RULES APPLY. PLEASE REMAIN AT HOME IF YOU ARE UNWELL.

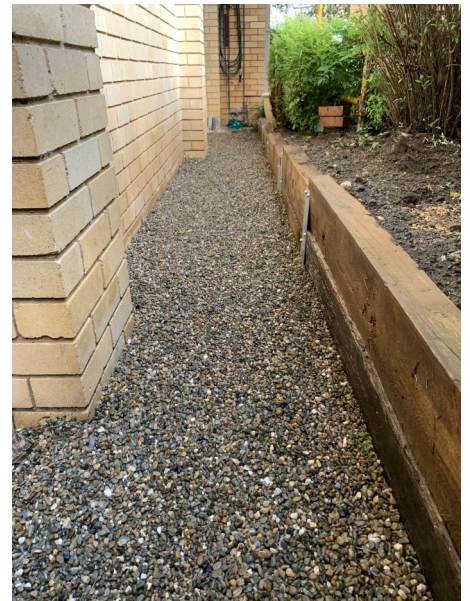


GRANTHAM HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH

cnr Mackenzie Boulevard  
& Nipigon Road SEVEN HILLS



**Thank you** to the guys for building the retaining wall along the back of the maybush garden on the Edgar St side of the church. The terrace holds the soil in the garden and provides for good, dry access along the Op Shop outer wall. The wooden sleepers were donated by Colin Stoner, Peter and Gary transported them and David organised the job and prepared the site with help from George, Bruce and Hugh. St. Matthews appreciates the hard work and time you all spent completing this job that was planned before covid.



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 surplus only.

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

Funds raised go to the West Papuan Development Company- for clean water wells.