

IN
FOCUS

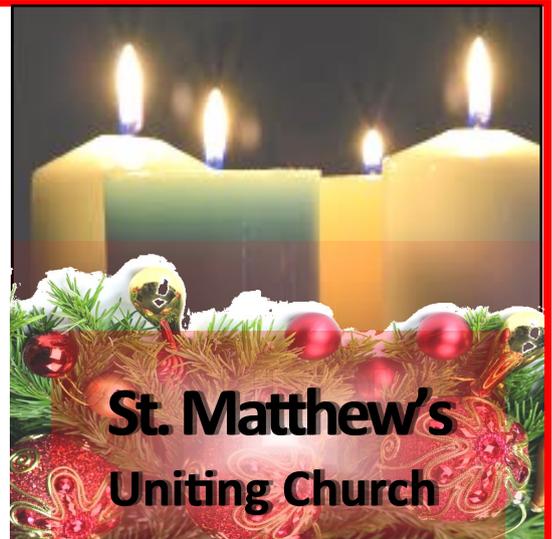
st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
growing together

November
2022



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

You are invited to a Service of
Remembrance
and
Thanksgiving
Monday 12th December
@ 7.30pm



A service specifically designed for all those who experience a sense of loss at Christmas, especially those for whom this is the first Christmas without a loved one.

During the service we intend to read out the names of people we have known and loved but see no longer, and whose absence is particularly felt at Christmas. People will be invited to light a candle in memory of their loved one after the names are read out. Please contact us with any name(s) you would like included.

The names may be phoned or emailed through to the church prior to 12th December.

We also invite you to bring a card, item or memento to place on the Tree of Remembrance. This tree has been supplied by the Baulkham Hills Council and after the service the tree will be planted, together with the messages etc., somewhere in the community.

Please contact us if you would like further information, and know that we are thinking of you at this time of year.

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
growing together



St. Matthew's Baulkham Hills Uniting Church
Cnr Edgar and Charles Streets
and St Matthews Ln

PO Box 773, Baulkham Hills 1755
Phone 9686 3003
office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Bound for Brazil

Stages along the way:

The story of why I made the trip to Brazil has a long pre-history. It began way back at the turn of the millennium when Dean Drayton, William Emilsen and myself set up (what we think what was) the first Masters of Public Theology in the world. That was at UTC where we would be greatly assisted in our endeavours by Moira Bryant as the Library Manager. That was the first step: the second step was a walk down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh in the company of two other scholars - William Storrar (then of Edinburgh, now of Princeton) and Nico Koopman (Stellenbosch University, South Africa. We discovered we had much in common and Will began the process of putting into place a process that would lead to the formation of the Global Network of Public Theology.

Today there are over 50 institutions around the world that belong to this Network which has a conference every three years. The Network has also established through a major Dutch publishing an *International Journal of Public Theology*. That was the brainchild of Sebastian Kim (now of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, USA). I have been its editor-in-chief for the past five years. In the past I have been the deputy chair of the network as well been on the executive for all but a couple of years

So what is public theology?

Theology has to do with how we understand our faith in God. It explores our understanding of God, creation, what it means to be human, how we understand the person and work of Christ as well as how we understand the Holy Spirit, the purpose of the church (including worship): it examines what we think is the Christian life and what it means to be a disciple, how we engage in mission and what do Christians hope for.

The most obvious audience for this work is the church. It is the Christian faith reflecting on its beliefs and experiences. It is also an area of knowledge that has a long academic history. Theology used to be called 'the queen of sciences' - and, up until relatively recently, the churches assumed that it was always important for them to think hard and deeply about belief.

There is a third audience, though - that is, the public domain. How does the Christian faith contribute with society at large to build up a sense of the common good, a civil society. This public domain can be divided up into a number of spheres: i) government / law; ii). economics and labour; iii). religions, NGOs and voluntary societies; iv) media and artists; and v). social media.

In order to play a part in these spheres a public theology needs to win the right to be heard, to be persuasive rather than dogmatic, to engage with other disciplines and fields of knowledge and ensure that the most vulnerable are heard. It seeks to

nurture a civil discourse - and it must be willing to respond, in faith and Christian thought, to issues that arise and threaten society. Examples of such issues are climate change, the life of cities, asylum-seeking, terrorism - and many others.

Curitiba in the state of Parana.

The 6th conference of the Network was held in Parana, about an hour by plane to the south of the huge megacity, Sao Paulo, in Brazil. It was a long flight to get there - Auckland, Santiago, Sao Paulo and Curitiba - and even longer to get home. There were 150 folk present (on-line and on-site) from around the world.

Curitiba is a city of around 2 million people. It was developed as a garden city and so there are a number of green spaces (which is not always the case in Brazilian cities). The university where we gathered was a private Catholic university of 30,000 students. The campus was well laid out. It has a chapel which is open all the time: around the walls are scenes taken from the stages of the cross. The windows feature modern, colourful artistic swirling designs that capture the energy of the Spirit.



Spirit of energy,
University chapel

The university works closely with congregations and agencies in the provision of relief to the poor (of which there are many in Brazil). I took part in an orientation at the beginning of the conference to a Francis and Clare House (named after the 2 13th century saints who cared for the poor). This is a university initiative providing shelter, work, food for those at a disadvantage; another place made available food packages for the needy on the back of the price of rice having risen 6 fold due to inflation.

The city has the only holocaust museum in Brazil. Quite a number of Jews fled Nazi Germany for Brazil. The Curitiba museum is understated. Some holocaust museums have large piles of shoes - this one only 3 shoes but with an accompanying audio telling the story behind these shoes.



Children's faces.
Holocaust Museum Curitiba

There are many restaurants and cafes - but no flat whites. Cappuccinos are not the same. Brazilian versions include some chocolate. It seems as if everyone is a carnivore and there are so many different types of meat circulating in restaurants as you eat as much as you like for a set price. I surrendered early and concentrated on salads - one of my table companions declared that he was 'allergic to anything green' as he commented on how 'delicious' his meat portions were.

Continued next page

Bound for Brazil Cont'd...

At the conference dinner I was part of a panel that reflected on the past 15 years of the Network. This dinner was held in a restaurant called 'The Stage of Five Senses'. It was set up by an artist who also built a stage for his wife, a violinist, who played with a pianist between courses works of Brazilian composers.

The theme

The theme for this consultation had to do with faith in the cities. There is not a lot of urban theology in Australia. That is to our loss. I chaired a group on Liveable Cities and presented a paper on faith, being a designated highly placed liveable city finding itself having to deal with Covid, fires, extreme heat and floods. In other words, I was reflecting theologically on life in Sydney.

There were several key note addresses. One was from a Sudanese woman, a professor of architecture who spoke on development and the use of space - and how the decision not to build is also an architectural decision. A second address was from a leading Orthodox theologian, Cyril Hovorun, from Ukraine: he had once worked closely with the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church but left Moscow when the Russians invaded Crimea. The patriarch has blessed Russia's war as a holy war against the decadent west much to Hovorun's disgust.

The last keynote was very different. It was an artistic performance from a Latin American theologian who happens to be a professional clown! His presentation had to do with climate change and the threat to the forests - the fate of the Amazon jungle was strongly implied. He dressed himself up as 'the spirit of the forest': his 'costume' was one of green leaves, a tee-shirt that captured flames and his hair was a flame-like orange as well. His performance was stunning: I have never attended a conference where a theologian was called back on stage for a curtain call!



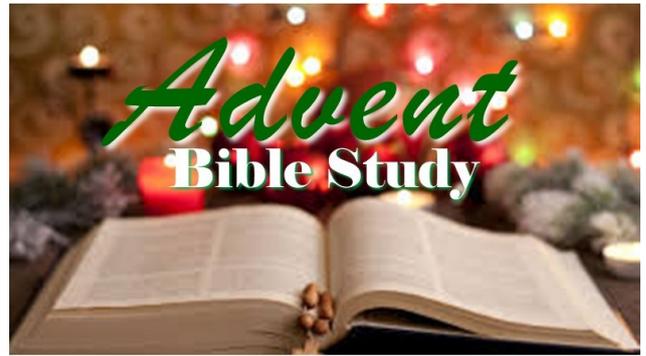
Spirit of the Forest

What next?

The next GNPT conference will be held in 2025 in Pasadena, California. By that time I will have stepped down from the editorship of the journal but continue to assist as a language editor. So many articles (58 out of 97 contributions since 2019) have come from people whose first language is not English.

In the meantime Brazil anxiously await the decision of its election. Will it continue with far-right Bolsonaro or swing back to the left with Lula?

Clive



Advent Studies for this year

The coming Season of Advent in the Christian calendar commences on Sunday 27th November. We traverse from a gospel year in Luke into a year featuring Matthew.

This means that we move from a year featuring gentiles and the needy to a focus on Jewish people, the chosen people of God as viewed by Matthew.

We will be engaged in Three studies this advent, at weekly intervals.

The first will be led by Clive Pearson who will provide us with much food for thought. He will draw comparisons between the Advent story of Christmas as presented by both Matthew and Luke and provide some clues about what will follow in Matthew as we explore this Gospel in 2023.

Drawing on the information provided by Clive, the following two weeks of the study will be led by Michael Strong and will first involve reflections on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The second will consider the entry of Herod and horrid actions he inflicted on male children in Bethlehem and the flight of Jesus and his family to Egypt. This exploration will continue through to the exchanges between John the Baptist and Jesus.

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

Onsite at the church at 10.30am

Tuesday — 29 November

Tuesday — 6 & 13 December

Or ZOOM online 7.30pm

Wednesday — 30 November

Wednesday — 7 & 14 December

Zoom link:

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

Updates from St. Matthew's Finance Committee:

It was great to catch up with members of the Church groups and committees in June this year to determine the budgets that each required for our current 2022/23 financial year.

As a church family it is necessary that we 'live within our means' just as we do for own family budget. As Dom explained at the AGM in July, we expect to run a deficit budget again in 2022/23, so keeping expenses under control is essential.

In order to keep our church expenses under control, groups and committees need to advise either Barry Gregory or Alastair Burn of all purchases prior to the money being expended. If a group or committee has already used its yearly budget, the requested purchase may need to be deferred to the following financial year or an alternate method of funding may need to be found.

It is important that all potential expenditure is approved prior to the payment of invoices:

For expenditure under \$1000 that was included in the current Church budget, please contact Alastair or Barry to ensure that the proposed expenditure will be within the allocated budget amount (so that it does **not exceed** the allocated amount) and then the purchase can be forwarded to Barry for processing.

For expenditure over \$1000 or expenditure that is **not** included in the Church budget, please complete the new 'Expense Approval Request Form' and forward to Alastair for approval **prior** to the expense being incurred.

If you don't have a copy of the form, please email Alastair or Amanda Manson for a copy.

Best wishes

Dom Schuster and Alastair Burn

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

This month: 5th November
Final for the year

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

Thursday 3rd November
9am-2pm
 and
Saturday 5th November
9am-12pm

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

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

St. Matthew's Anglican Church growing together



All are welcome at Coffee & Discovery

10am until 12 noon

Our next meeting

Thursday 3rd November

Guest Speaker – Brenda Inglis Powell

“Jimmy Darcy did not live long enough to see a plane descend from the sky so John and Albert did something about it”**Brenda will explain!**

Our final meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 1st December

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

***** ALL WELCOME *****

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 above continue during November on:

Tuesday – 1 and 8 November *onsite 7:30 pm.*

or

Wednesday –2 and16 November. *online 7:30 pm.*

Please contact the church office for study notes.

ZOOM link:

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

Clive



MEN'S MORNING TEA

Wednesday
16th November
10am to 12noon

Mckel's Café,
Shop 14, Circa
Every third
Wednesday of the month

Enquiries
Alan Wright

Women's Fellowship
Wednesday 9th November
@ 10am

Meet at the church
Please join us



Enquiries:
Barbara McIntosh



A TIME OF GIVING FOOD

Rev
Bill Crews
Foundation

The Bill Crews Foundation is in need of these items for their food Hampers:

- Rice
- Dry Pasta
- Noodles packets
- Noodle cups
- Pull Ring Tinned soup
- Pull Ring Tinned fish
- Pull Ring Tinned baked beans
- Pull Ring Tinned spaghetti
- Powdered soup
- Muesli bars
- Cereal
- Long life milk
- Tea/coffee
- Up and Go

Please donate to the St. Matthew's collection for the Bill Crewe's Foundation Christmas Food Appeal .
Please leave items in the containers in the lower foyer.
BY 11th December. Entrance on Edgar St .

The recycled Christmas tree Project

Giving kids a Christmas



*The recycled Christmas tree
@ St. Matthew's
Uniting Church Baulkham Hills*

offers us a chance to do our bit as a community in recycling our 10c cans and bottles and providing a gift for children who are victims of domestic violence.

Place your cans in the marked containers which will be located at both entrances of the Church. From there they will be collected and recycled on a weekly basis.

For any enquiries please contact
Marijke Prinsloo: 0423641477



Give Hope

Share God's love with a refugee going hungry this Christmas

Please give today. 1800 025 101
www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the International humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. www.actforpeace.org.au

Christmas Bowl envelopes are available as you enter and leave the services from Sunday 27 November.

There are three simple ways to give;

1. Go to the website and donate directly.
2. If you want to give by cheque or credit card, please fill in the details in the envelope and **PUT IT IN THE POST.**
3. Cash to Christmas Bowl person the back of the church. (if you want a receipt – put the cash in the envelope, fill out the form inside and hand it to the Christmas Bowl person so that a receipt can be mailed to you).

Christmas Bowl Coordinator: Dean Drayton

VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....

Second Wednesday of this month
Next event: **9th November at 10am**

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum 
Meet in the upstairs hall and church

MEN'S MORNING TEA.....

Meet 3rd Wednesday
of each month.
Next Event: **16th November
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: **5th November**

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.

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

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

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

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.**

UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

CHURCH WORKING BEE Saturday 12 November

8.30am- 11.30am

ALL WELCOME

Many hands
make light work



Christmas Services

Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service

* Monday 12 December 7.30pm

Carol Services

* Sunday 18 December 8am & 9.30am

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

* 24 December 5pm

Christmas Eve Late Service

* 24 December 11.15pm

Christmas Day Worship

* 25 December 9am

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

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO BOX 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

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!**

To include your activity in the combined
DECEMBER/JANUARY

In Focus

St. Matthew's
Monthly Newsletter

please send details to Robyn and Lynn in
the Church Office by **15 November.**

Thank you

**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

Calendar of Events for November 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p>1 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool Making Sense of the Bible 7.30pm—Clive study "Making sense of the Bible" at the church</p>	<p>2 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12pm—In Stitches in the upstairs hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool Making Sense of the Bible 7.30pm—Clive study "Making sense of the Bible" at the church</p>	<p>3 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery Guest Speaker: Brenda Inglis Powell upstairs hall & Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>4 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE upstairs hall</p>	<p>5 9am-12pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart in lower hall 10am—Care and Prayer Meet in the Church</p>	<p>6 8am—Worship Includes Communion 9.30am—Worship Includes Communion KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship Includes Communion</p>	<p>7 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>
<p>8 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool Making Sense of the Bible FINAL "Making sense of the Bible" at the church 7.30pm—Thrive lower hall</p>	<p>9 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall and church 7.30pm—Clive study FINAL "Making sense of the Bible" on ZOOM</p>	<p>10 9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>	<p>11 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool 5pm-7pm FUSION Youth Group Wales Games upstairs hall</p>	<p>12 8.30am-11.30am Working tea provided </p>	<p>13 8am—Worship 9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 5pm—Shine 6.45pm—Worship</p>	<p>14 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>
<p>15 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>16 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea at McKels Cafe Bella Vista. See back page for details 10am-12pm—In Stitches upstairs hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>17 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>18 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7pm—Choir Practice in Church 7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE upstairs hall</p>	<p>19 2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use 7.30pm—Trivia Night In the upstairs hall</p>	<p>20 8am—Worship Includes Choir item Celebrating UC Anniversary on 22 November 9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship</p>	<p>21 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>
<p>22 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7.30pm—Thrive lower hall</p>	<p>23 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>24 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>25 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 5pm-7pm FUSION Youth Group Games Night upstairs hall</p>	<p>26 No scheduled events</p>	<p>27 8am—Worship 9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship</p>	<p>28 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool</p>
<p>29 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 10.30am—Advent Studies with Clive Week 1 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool</p>	<p>30 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12pm—In Stitches in the upstairs hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7.30pm—Advent Studies with Clive Week 1 on ZOOM</p>	<p>31 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12pm—In Stitches in the upstairs hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7.30pm—Advent Studies with Clive Week 1 on ZOOM</p>				<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>

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14 9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by preschool	15 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool	16 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea at McKels Cafe Bella Vista. See back page for details 10am-12pm—In Stitches upstairs hall 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool	17 9am-2pm—Op Shop open 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool	18 12pm—upstairs hall in use by Preschool 7pm—Choir Practice in Church 7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE upstairs hall	19 2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use 7.30pm—Trivia Night In the upstairs hall	20 8am—Worship includes Choir Item Celebrating UC Anniversary on 22 November 9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship
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