



st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

30 October 2022

Pentecost 21

### Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Habbakuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4

Luke 19: 1-10



#### 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 Roland Bryant  
and Clive Pearson

### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb  
and Clive Pearson

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

### 6.45pm—Worship

Led by Barbara Gibb  
and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

### MONDAY 31 OCTOBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

### TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

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 3 at the Church

7.30pm—Thrive lower hall

### WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—In Stitches upstairs hall

7.30pm—Clive's Study "Making Sense of the Bible" week 3 on ZOOM

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

### THURSDAY 3 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart

In lower hall

10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery

Guest Speaker: Brenda Inglis  
Powell

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

### FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE

upstairs hall

### SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop & Mini Mart

in lower hall

10am—Care and Prayer Meet in the  
Church Final for the Year

### SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

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

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

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# Standing Watch

Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4    Luke 19:1-10

Online resources to do with the story of Zacchaeus are likely to fasten upon songs (mainly for children) of him 'being a wee man'. In some ways that is a pity. There is a lot more going on in this parable and it is placed in a key position in the text just before Jesus enters Jerusalem and the passion narrative begins to unfold. It occupies a space not unlike the story of blind Bartimaeus in Mark: both occur in Jericho and are like a climax for the journey that Luke and Mark describe of Jesus' journey southwards from Galilee.

The story to do with Zacchaeus is another of those encounters and parables that is only found in Luke. It stands within two of the great overarching themes of this gospel. Zacchaeus was a 'a chief tax collector'. He belongs as such inside the disreputable company with whom Jesus often associated and for which he was criticized by the Pharisees and scribes. Tax collectors served the Roman Empire rather than the Jewish community. Zacchaeus was also 'rich': Jericho lay at the heart of a region noted for the production and export of balsam. One of Luke's most pronounced themes is the nature of true wealth; there are many references to rich and poor.

In a way we might say the story of Zacchaeus fulfils both these themes. He has turned up early to see Jesus: given his short stature he climbs a sycamore tree—and immediately becomes more obvious to the Jesus who is passing by. In the fine traditions of Luke he then hosts Jesus to a meal—where once again Jesus eats with those whom the Pharisees condemn.

Unlike the rich man in the parable of Dives and Lazarus, this time the rich man (Zacchaeus) is changed and gives away half of his wealth. Of all the gospels Luke has the keenest sense of time—that is, both *chronos* or calendar time and *kairos* time, the right time, God's time. The moment of salvation, the moment the kingdom of God breaks in upon the ordinary, that is a *kairos* moment which the Zacchaeus' story presents us with: 'today salvation has come to this house'. It is a climax moment.

The Zacchaeus' story is complemented by the prophecy of Habbakuk. The book appears to have been composed around the mid-7<sup>th</sup> century and is anticipating the Babylonian siege and capture of Jerusalem in 586BC. The book opens with Habbakuk questioning the

wisdom of God: why does God not take action against injustice? Why does God not bring an end to violence? In a way that resonates with Zacchaeus up a sycamore tree Habakkuk stands watch; 'I will look to see what he has to say to me'. Our reading ends with one of the primary texts of the Christian faith 'the righteous shall live by faith'. Paul will highlight this text in Romans; it is the text that leads to Luther finding freedom in Christ and marks the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

## All Saints' / All Souls'.

Public attention these days is directed towards Halloween. It features representations of witches and the macabre – which is rather surprising. The word Halloween means 'all hallows eve' – a time when 'all the saints' / 'all the departed' are remembered. All Saints' day is 1 November, All Souls' day is 2 November. In quite a number of countries around the world All Saints' Day is a public holiday. Some of the current Halloween practices are derived from the opagan Celtic festival of Samhain.

### On-line:

Kidsong:        Zacchaeus was a wee little man

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxe9jO0scgA>

Worcester Cathedral For all the saints

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffM1jNA6BuU>

Carrie Newcomer    All Saints' Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQefafxbS9E>

Chris Tomlin    All Saints' Day

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNlgG\\_-wjpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNlgG_-wjpM)

John Rutter    'O when the saints go marching in'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qVFDVP0hJRY>

Louis Armstrong    'O when the saints go marching in'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eUzdTF3P2M>

Bruce Springsteen    'O when the saints go marching in'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6eKkirEcGE>

The Gospel Garden, 'O when the saints go marching in'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4-dP1myTCg>

*Yours in Christ,*

Clive



## PEOPLE NEWS

Judy Yeoh

*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

30 October—5 November

*Canada , United States*

**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:**

**6 November 2022**

**Pentecost 22**

**Theme:**

**Being  
Streetwise**

**Sunday**

**6 November:**

**8am, 9:30am &**

**6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-5**

**Luke 20: 27-38**

For most of his ministry prior to his arrival in Jerusalem Jesus' critics were Pharisees. The Sadducees only enter the narrative once he is in the city. That should come as no surprise. They were more closely bound to the Temple than the Pharisees – which is reflected in their name. The word Sadducees in Greek is taken from the Hebrew word—: *šaddūqim*—which is related to two words: the first is Zadok, the priest. When Queen Elizabeth was crowned queen, the choir sang Handel's 'Zadok the Priest'. It is also related to the idea of being just', derived from the Hebrew word to 'be right, and, in the New Testament—it lies behind the Hebrew word that is translated as righteousness. The Sadducees were of a more aristocratic nature. They carried out a range of political, social and religious duties. One of their key responsibilities was the maintenance of the Temple.

The Sadducees were not the same as the Pharisees. They did not believe in the resurrection whereas the Pharisees did. They believed that the dead went to Sheol – a shadowy, dark place of the dead. This question that they pose to Jesus, 'whose wife will the woman be'—which one of the seven brothers—is at one level a nonsense question because they do not

believe in the resurrection. It depends upon the understanding of a Levirate marriage (Deuteronomy 25:5). There is more than meets the eye here. According to the custom a woman should marry the brother of her deceased husband. Beneath this practice lies the matter of how property is handed on. A Levirate marriage kept land within the family.

In his response to this trick question Jesus demonstrates how streetwise he is. He does not enter into any of the details: rather he talks of life in the resurrection and bears witness to the living God.

The reading from 2 Thessalonians is a reminder of how the Christian faith is lived out 'in between times' – in between the first and second coming of Christ. It is a different way of thinking about how we organize our sense of time: we think of one year giving way to the next. This reading is set at the end of the lectionary year because there is a sense in which the coming season of Advent anticipates not just Christmas, but the coming again of Christ. This expectation of Christ's return is lived out in times that can be troubled and where there might be a shaking of the foundations to what society / culture knows.



## Nomination and Voting of Elders

The congregation will have an opportunity to nominate members to eldership from **this Sunday, 30 October**. The nominations will close on 20 November; The election of elders will take place on site on 4th December - If you are not at Church on that Sunday, you may vote in the week from 4th December through to Thursday 8th December.

We would be looking to also have another 2 or 3 new Elders be nominated from each congregation so as we will have a balance of representatives from each.

If a congregation member feels someone in the congregation may be interested or would be ideal as an Elder of St. Matthew's please nominate them.

Advised they do not wish to renominate	George Haines Christine Haines Anne Oliver Ken Caldwell Jan Caldwell Marijke Prinsloo
Advised they are happy to renominate for less than 3 years	Sandra Drayton (1 year) Melissa Gibson Darling (1 year)
Advised they are happy to renominate for a 3 year term	Jane Cole Robyn Burn Vivienne Strong Erin Mathewson Robyn Mathewson Eulalie Herat Pamela Leslie Helen Olley

If you need further information regarding the role of an Elder, please feel free to speak with Clive, Helen Olley or Melissa Gibson Darling.

***Nomination Forms available today Sunday 30 October from the church foyer.***



## 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

ST MATTHEW'S

# TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

NOV 19 7:30 PM

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)

### Update from the Joint Nominations Committee (JNC)

On 25<sup>th</sup> October, the NSW Synod ACOMP Placements Committee met but were again unable to provide any names to the JNC. Please continue to pray for this process, for ACOMP and the JNC, and that God will lead the right person to minister with us at St Matthews.

If you have any questions, please contact one of your JNC members - Alexander Lawless, Dean Drayton, Eulalie Herat, Helen Olley, Karen Vandenberg and Mike Underwood

On our way home in September on a road trip to visit family in South Australia, we stopped at Narromine for Saturday lunch and decided to look where the Uniting church was.

We easily found it and met 4 of its congregation finishing a morning working bee. 4 others had already left and I had a chat with 4 active members who were wondering what to do with the spreading bearded iris in amongst the garden and lawn.

Some were offered to me and of course I would like some for St. Matthew's garden and to then when they multiply to pot up to sell at the Op Shop.

You will find them planted down St Matthews Lane in the sunshine and we can look forward to finding out their colour next spring.

The Narromine church do not have a minister at the moment and continue to run the Food bank.

The countryside looked so lush with massive fields of green and yellow crops, nearly every area in cultivation and the dams and rivers were full to overflowing. Sheep were being shorn and goats were grazing along the sides of the road.

In the back of my mind I hoped that the farmers would be able to reap a bumper harvest to send much needed grain overseas to countries devastated by war and harsh climate events.

Since our return the flooding of rivers over the Great Dividing Range has worsened.

May the farmers be able to make hay while the sun shines.

Katherine Pedersen

