



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

6 November 2022

Pentecost 22

Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5

Luke 20: 27-38



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

Includes Communion

Led by Vivienne Strong
and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Clive Pearson

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

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion

Led by Jane Cole
and Clive Pearson

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7.30pm—Clive study
FINAL "Making sense of
the Bible" at the church

7.30pm—Thrive lower hall

WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship

in the upstairs hall and church

7.30pm—Clive study
FINAL "Making sense of
the Bible" on ZOOM

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

THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

5pm-7pm—FUSION
Youth Group 'Water Games'

upstairs hall

SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER

8.30am-11.30am

Working Bee
Morning tea provided

SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship

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

5pm—Shine

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

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Being Streetwise

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—: *sāddūqim*—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. That emphasis on the resurrection lifts the exchange into another dimension. It is one into which the Sadducees cannot go because they are (in some ways) like a modern day secular person: they cannot conceive of life beyond death – the resurrection. Their worldview is collapsed into the present.

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.

On-line:

N.T. Wright

Jewish sects at the time of Jesus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ5TsPXh03Y>

Meredith Lake:

The Bible in Australia (Bendigo Literary Festival).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqQVVRCMsX8>

Meredith Lake

2019 Tinsley Lecture

<https://vimeo.com/341947176>

Songs:

John Bell

There is a line of women

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

'For all the faithful women'

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

Theme for 6:45pm service.

Who are we?

'A pilgrim people on the way'.

(Basis of Union, Paragraph 3).

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 6 November—12 November

Oceania: French Polynesia, Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

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 dove image / publications.

A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required. This is the responsibility of all groups and individuals, please don't think that someone else will do it for you. There have been too many times in the recent past that things are getting left on and unlocked.

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.*



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

**13 November 2022
Pentecost 23**

Theme:

**The good, the bad
and the ugly.**

**Sunday
13 November:
8am, 9:30am &
6:45pm**

Bible Readings:

**Isaiah 65:17-25
Luke 21: 5-19**

These two readings represent endings of sorts. They are set down for the last week in the season of Pentecost and the second last week of this liturgical year. The Isaiah reading comes from a section named Trito- (or Third) Isaiah. This prophetic book is presented to us as one, but it actually covers three very different time zones. The people of Israel have now returned from exile. The Persians have defeated the Babylonians. It is a time of restoration and a new creation. The captivity of the past has come to an end. What is to unfold is not without controversy: how should those who have returned relate to those who remained in Israel? What happens to the land which is now owned by those who remained but belonged to the families of those taken into exile? Who should govern and how

The oracle speaks of new heavens and a new earth. It is to be a time of joy and rejoicing. The distress of the

past has now passed. The vision is one of a utopian fertility and the well-being of peoples. It is like a new start. One of the features of the return from exile was the rebuilding of the Temple. In the Luke passage Jesus foretells the destruction of that Temple (which happened in 70AD) and effectively ended the primacy of the Sadducees. From that time onwards the role of the synagogue was heightened. Jesus uses the questions concerning the Temple to speak about his return. It is clear that he has no idea of that exact timing. This time of waiting and being prepared is not depicted as peaceful and idyllic. It is highly unsettled and noted for its natural disasters and betrayals / hatred. The imagery is apocalyptic and ugly but the disciples are to endure. In such times the importance of compassion, mercy, hospitality and tending to the innocent victim (as did the Samaritan) is critical.

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 from 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

Update from the Joint Nominations Committee (JNC)

On 25th 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