



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

30 April 2023

Easter 4

Bible Readings



Acts 2:37-42

Matthew 28:16-20

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

8am & 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Judy Mann
and Clive Pearson

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Clive Pearson

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jane Cole
and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 1 MAY

9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall
3pm—Care and Prayer at the church

TUESDAY 2 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation in the church
7.30am—Digital Focus Group Meeting in the church

WEDNESDAY 3 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches in the upstairs hall
7.30am—Finance Committee Meeting in the church

THURSDAY 4 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery in the upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 5 MAY

No Scheduled activities

SATURDAY 6 MAY

9am-12pm—Op Shop and Mini Mart in the lower hall

SUNDAY 7 MAY

8am—Worship includes Communion

9.30am—Worship includes Communion

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

6.45pm—Worship includes Communion



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:

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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Easter 4
'Go'
30 April

Acts 2:37-42 Matthew 28:16-20

Imagine you have been asked to finish off Matthew's gospel. How would you do it? The narrative through until the final verses lies before you. It began with a genealogy and then proceeded through an infancy narrative full of dreams, magi and Joseph assuming more of a role than Mary. Following the baptism of Jesus and his temptation in the wilderness there are five blocs of teaching interspersed with five blocks of practical ministry before Jesus and the disciples make their way to Jerusalem and the unfolding of the Easter events. Just before you complete the gospel there is reference to a counter story that Jesus' body has been stolen. Now you step up to the writing desk and complete the gospel!

The ending of the gospel of Matthew differs from the others. There is no ascension as there is in Luke. There is no request for Peter to feed the sheep, and thus occupy a pastoral role within the new community who confess that the crucified Jesus has been raised from the dead. There is no fish breakfast with the disciples beside the lake. The very last phrase declares that the risen Christ will be 'with' them to the close of the age. It reminds us of how Jesus is described as Emmanuel, God with us, at his birth. The intervening gospel has been designed to show how God is with us in and through the narrative that Matthew has just related.

It is evident that the women have handed on the message to the remaining disciples who have headed back to Galilee; there had been no previous reference to a mountain. There had been no reference to such in the four predictions that Jesus had made of his death and resurrection: there is no mountain mentioned in the exchanges between the angel and the risen Jesus with the two Marys at the tomb. Mountains feature prominently in Matthew. Jesus public teaching began on a mountain: the transfiguration takes place on one while Jesus prays on a mountain.

Whereas the two Marys left the tomb with a mixture of fear and joy (in Mark it was only fear), the disciples are a mix of worship and doubt. There has been no account of Thomas who doubts in this gospel nor the equivalent of talk of an 'idle tale' as in Luke.

The silence of Jesus in his trials before the chief priest and elders—and Pilate—is now set aside. In the wilderness Jesus had been taken up on to a very high mountain tempted by the devil with splendour of all the kingdoms of the world. They will be given to Jesus so long as he bows down and worship Satan. Jesus resisted: now, having undergone the cross—and being raised—on a mountain he declares that 'all authority has been given to me on heaven and on earth'. This authority is not local. It is not confined to one place, one people, one nation. The resurrection the validation of God for the way in which Jesus observed the 'will of the Father'. Rather than having been the way of splendour it has been the way of the cross.

The gospel ends with the commission for the disciples to make their way 'to all nations'. They are to become apostles (which means 'the sent ones'). They are to 'go', just like Abraham and Sarah and Moses had done in the past. It is open-ended what will transpire. That the disciples should go to all nations marks one aspect of the parting of the ways with the Jews of the synagogue. Their community will include Gentiles. This commis-

sion is a fulfilling of the promise made to Abraham who will have descendants from all nations (Genesis 22:15-18). They are to baptize. There is no evidence in the gospels that Jesus baptized. They are to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. This formula did not become settled into how the church came to understand more fully the Trinity: that will take several centuries to emerge. Whether Jesus used those words is a moot point. In the book of Acts (2:38) Peter baptizes only in the name of Jesus. It would seem as if it was in this name that baptisms were carried out this three-fold name: that might have been an emerging and local practice.

Teaching has played a pivotal role in Matthew. There are five blocks of teaching dispersed throughout the gospel. Each block ended with something along the line of 'when Jesus has said these things'. At the transfiguration the voice from the crowd declares to the three disciples to 'listen' to him. The tasks of the disciples includes teaching those who have been baptized all that Jesus has taught them. It is signposted as a matter of obedience.

Music:

OCP Session Choir 'Lord, you gave the great commission'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmjFLViW4P8>

Cain 'The Commission'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z44eQikDgY>

Celtic Worship 'Be thou my vision'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiukM6WHQEQ>

David Abramsky, Cello and piano 'Be thou my vision'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiukM6WHQEQ>

BBC Songs of Praise 'Be thou my vision'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBD7Et0-kHQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoFvVw8Lby4>

Pauline Ramos 'I am ever with you'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-E5cphgW3s>

Nancy McLaren 'In Christ we live'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSLdnlu66ds>

Nick Chambers 'Creation blooms anew'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iqbETAKBVQ>

Pat Tsagalakis 'Bring forth the kingdom of heaven'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRk8QM5C6RI>

Lectures:

N. T. Wright 'Resurrection and the Renewal of Creation'.

Yours in Christ,

Clive

Thank You!

This Sunday, after 16 months at St Matthews, Clive finishes his ministry with us. Today is his final service as our supply minister.

Originally we asked Clive to come for 6 months, then we extended for another 6 months and finally in January we asked Clive if he could extend his time with us for a little bit more.

Clive has given us over 100% every week. He has attended meetings, supported the office staff with the newsletter and In Focus content, led some very interesting studies on Luke & Matthew with a bit of Mark & John thrown in. Clive's knowledge and wisdom has made for some very informative studies and our church community is richer because of his ministry. Our Focus groups and Elders are meeting and functioning in a way that is productive, they all have goals, directions, and reporting measures.

Thank you Clive for your support and encouragement for those in our church family who are grieving and dealing with illness. Your pastoral care, visits and conversations have been so important. You have guided and supported the Church Council in their discussion and decision making. Thank you so much Clive. We wish you and Mary safe travels and rest in the next stage of your life journey.

Advance Notice

Practising Pastoral Care

23/24 June

Mary Pearson will lead a workshop on pastoral care on the evening of Friday 23rd and morning of Saturday 24th June. The time together will encourage us to think through how good practices are observed in a number of case studies.

All are welcome; all are encouraged to attend.

MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

7 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

14 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

21 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

28 May - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming continues for 8am & 9.30am services only



PEOPLE NEWS

Melissa Gibson Darling

Betty Carmody

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 30 April— 6 May



***Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,
Uzbekistan***

WELCOMING ALL NEWCOMERS TO ST. MATTHEW'S

Thank you to those who have provided their own recollections on being a 'newcomer' at St. Matthew's. We have a good collection now, thank you. The little booklet will be shared with our future newcomers.

Our next step is to look for opportunities to improve the experience all newcomers have in our church.

So . . .

How would you like to be welcomed if you were a newcomer today?

How can we improve the way we look after newcomers?

Would you be interested in meeting some newcomers to chat with occasionally?

It doesn't matter how simple or even novel the suggestion; all your ideas can help.

Please either text your replies to Judy on M: 0414 591 548 or email Judy at judyruithmann@gmail.com

Thank you

Judy – a recent 'newcomer'



Blankets for Refugees

We are collecting blankets for Ukrainian refugees, some who have arrived in Australia and some who are in Poland. A lady whose family in Poland is supporting the refugees is organising a shipment of clothes and would like to include blankets. Her group is also supporting refugees who have arrived in Australia.

If you have any spare woolen blankets that you would like to donate please drop them in to the Op Shop. They can be in any condition as they can be washed and mended if needed.

Contact Pamela Leslie 0404 023 588 or
Amanda Manson 0407 221 374

**Please
return
completed
forms by
30 April**

**Worship Roster
Non Availability Forms**

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



**for
June, July & August 2023**

FOR BOTH MORNING SERVICES

are available in the church foyer.

**An email has been sent out with
an electronic copy.
NEW HELPERS WELCOME**



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.

Katherine Pedersen Open Garden

Dates for May

Wednesday mornings of 3, 10 & 31 May at 9.30am- 12noon

Friday afternoon of 12 May at 1.30pm-3.30pm

Saturday afternoons of 6 May at 1.30pm-3.30pm

Up to 8 people can visit on any open day.

\$10 adults 18 years and over includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

\$5 school children to 18 years includes drink and sweet or savoury offering of the day.

(Children must be constantly supervised by their parents or carers and follow the Instructions for their safety.)

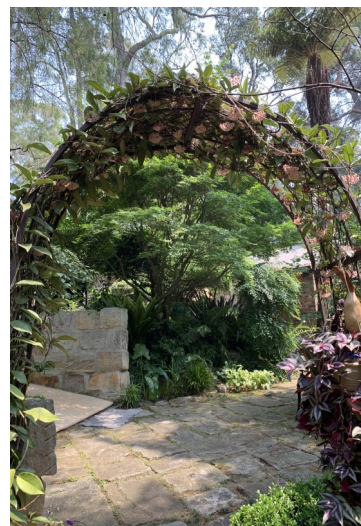
Cash is required for payment and some extra as there are plants for sale

Visitors must be physically able to walk down 100metres including a couple of hills. There is Water, steps, trip hazards, wildlife in the garden .

The garden will be open at various times each month of this year, sometimes on other days of the week.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the owners, Gary and Katherine Pedersen, kathped56@gmail.com

This initiative is a fundraiser to assist with the cost of replacing the St. Matthew's roofing.



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.

LOST PROPERTY BOX

PLEASE CHECK THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IF YOU HAVE LOST ANY ITEMS WHILE AT THE CHURCH.
THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS LOCATED ON THE CABINETS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.