



## The Gospel .... in June

Following a detour into John's gospel the lectionary returns to Matthew for the whole of June. It is not surprising that for Trinity Sunday (4 June) it features the closing lines of Matthew 28:16-20. As we heard back at the end of April the title for this passage 'the great commission' is a bit misleading. Those words were never used until the 17<sup>th</sup> century and its present practice is due to James Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is included in the lectionary because it is the only place where the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is used. The passage ends with 'I am with you to the close of the age' thus sealing what was said of Jesus' birth, 'Emmanuel – God is with us'.

The next Sunday (11 June) begins with the call of Matthew. The focus is not so much on Matthew himself but on Jesus' ministry to those who are outsiders—tax-collectors (like Matthew) and sinners. It becomes an opportunity for Jesus to emphasize the importance of showing 'mercy' rather than sacrifice. Wouldn't be interesting if the church, broadly speaking, was known for the way in which it talks about mercy and forgiveness? This exchange leads into a healing and restoration of those in need.

The reading for June 18 presents us with a great challenge. We have become so used to the decline of the church and how it struggles to speak to our contemporary world, We have seen how difficult it is for those who left to one side the practice of coming to worship and participating in the life of the church in the wake of Covid and lockdowns. We are very aware of how so many people are time poor and how difficult it is to compete with Sunday sport and so many other things. Into this kind of scenario the reading speaks of the harvest being great and the labourers being few. The stage is then set for Matthew to rename the disciples as

apostles: the word means 'the ones who are sent out' whereas a disciple is one who learns. There is an urgency behind this task. It flows from the disciples' own experience of being called, forgiven, set free.

The month closes with a reading that is rather uncomfortable for us. It speaks of Jesus not coming to bring peace to the earth, but a sword. It speaks of divisions within families as members are set against each other. Imagine yourself in Matthew's church or some other early Christian congregation. You might then get a glimpse of how the cutting edge in this passage spoke into their experience. To follow Christ would mean separating yourself from your former religion / worldview; it would mean standing apart, most likely, from your neighbours and your family might be appalled at the choice you have just made. You have decided to follow someone who was a condemned criminal, a traitor, and now there is all this 'idle talk' about him being raised from the dead – and his followers indulge themselves in a strange custom whereby they eat his body and drink his blood! Imagine the arguments you might have. And, maybe, think about how difficult it can be to lay claim to your Christian faith in conversation with some of your own relatives and neighbours today.

*Clive*

**For lovers of theology and art:**

<https://artandtheology.org>

<https://artandtheology.net/about/>

**For music:**

<https://www.jubilate.co.uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Acapeldridge>

<https://www.theportersgate.com>

The Brilliance. (google / youtube)

# From Baulkham Hills .... to Beirut

One Sunday after the last service at St. Matthew's Mary and I were at worship in the National Evangelical Church in Beirut. It was a world away in so many respects from the Shire Hills and the leafy streets of Baulkham Hills. For a period of several decades in the middle of last century Beirut was known as the 'Paris of the east'. It was an elegant city (aspects of which still remain), noted for its shopping and night life. The city was the capital of a nation that the French had carved out for a Christian majority hemmed in as its by Muslim nations in most directions and Israel to the south.

Fast forward: - a civil war or two, Syrian and Israeli invasions, Palestinian incursions and a flood of refugees. All of that was familiar on a past visit back in 2017, but now in 2023 add in the devastation of the port explosion and the financial crisis with inflation running at 297 per cent. For breakfast (2 croissants and 2 flat whites) we paid 1.1 million Lebanese pounds (when not so long ago there were 4 Lebanese pounds to the Australian dollar).

One week on from St. Matthew's I was asked to preach in this lovely centre city church next to the Prime Minister's 'palace'. It was rather a daunting arrival: we needed to go through a security check as the military have an outpost guarding the area around the palace because it has been the site of multiple protests. We later learn that many of the windows and doors of the church (and its halls and meeting rooms) were destroyed during the explosion, but they have now been repaired.

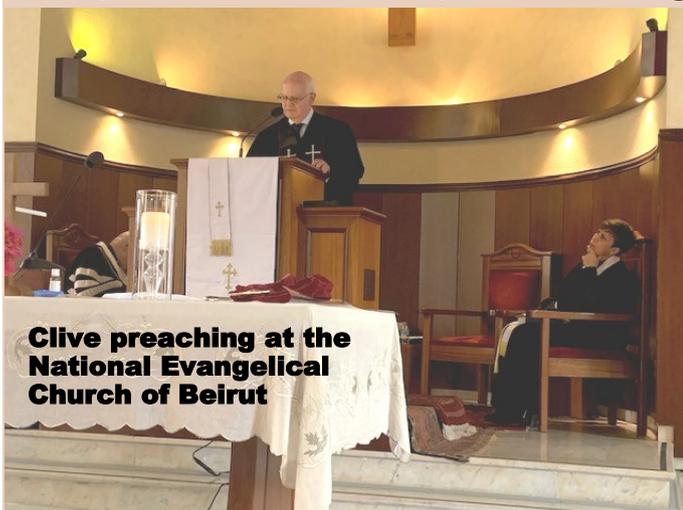
The organist arrived half an hour early and was rehearsing – he was superb and his music filled the church. The minister, Rev Dr Habib Badr, has been in this placement for four decades. His appearance was deceptive: he looked frail and, after an early morning flight from Dubai, he was not feeling well .... and, as the service unfolded, I was wondering

whether he would make it through to the end. He did and would invite us out to lunch at an upmarket restaurant where I discovered appearances can be deceptive. He had suffered a nasty car accident in the past and is highly articulate, a cosmopolitan man who had founded the Middle East Council of Churches and obviously had had to manage a number of traumatic events in the life of the church in a much-troubled land.

The sermon had been translated in advance into Arabic. Many people in a good-sized congregation nevertheless understood English. I had wondered what on earth would I preach upon for a people whose context was so different from mine. We get used to our local neighbourhoods and the challenges we face. How does one think into the space of another? In the end I went with the lectionary, but not with the gospel. The epistle for a number of weeks is 1 Peter: it is a much neglected epistle. It does not get the same high treatment that letters like those to the Romans, Philippians, Corinthians and Galatians enjoy. And so I thought what would an epistle to Beirut, modelled on 1 Peter, look like?

1 Peter is an epistle I know well: I once wrote a dissertation on its themes and setting. It seemed apt. It is addressed to a people who are scattered in Asia Minor, what we now know as Turkiye. They are a small minority who are subject to great pressure from their neighbours who worship different gods. It is not clear whether this was an official persecution from the Romans or more a case of having to deal with the prejudice and discrimination bestowed on them by those who live alongside them. They are subject to suffering: we are often inclined to look for good news that affords us peace, but these people are told that they are called to 'partake in the sufferings of Christ'—and, 'to give an account of the hope that is within them'. There are more references to suffering in this epistle than in any other; that happens alongside a rather strange phenomenon. There is more joy in 1 Peter than in anywhere else in the New Testament. They are told that they were once no people but now they are a royal household; they are the people of God; they are citizens of not simply the places where they live. They are citizens of heaven and are 'aliens and sojourners' in the earthly city'.

Continued on next page



**Clive preaching at the National Evangelical Church of Beirut**

## From Baukham Hills ... to Beirut – continued

In the course of our stay in Lebanon we saw many examples of great resilience and fine displays of a Christ-centred ministry. 1 Peter seemed to capture something of that experience and so I composed an epistle to Beirut along those lines. The letter finished with words I had taken from the moderator of our

synod, **Simon Hansford. He wrote:**

*To my brothers and sisters in the Church of Lebanon and the Middle East, Greetings in the name of our crucified, risen Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*I give thanks to God for you, for your faithfulness, for your discipleship, and for the example you are to our Church, bearing witness in these straitened and challenging times for each of our nations and for our world.*

*I am constantly mindful that the Middle East is the birthplace and cradle of our faith in Christ; our ancestors in faith bore witness in your homeland before anywhere else, and our Uniting Church is but one heir of your legacy of faithfulness.*

*Your churches and communities have been much in my prayers and the prayers of our whole Church, most especially in recent times.*

*The rigours of political unrest, the earthquake shattering communities in Syria and Türkiye, the ongoing legacy of the Armenian genocide, the explosion in the port of Beirut three years ago; all of these have sponsored our grief and our prayers.*

*Many of our congregations and communities have sought to provide support in a range of ways, but these must seem insignificant compared to the great challenges confronting those in need. Be assured of our continuing prayers for you and for all those affected.*

**Simon finished with a blessing.**

*God sees you and calls you by name.  
God calls you to stand firm in the face of oppression and injustice, to stand.  
May you be blessed to stand firm; as the Holy Spirit enlivens your hope, as Jesus Christ renews your faith, as God's enfolds you in love.*

Yours in Christ,  
Clive



## Pastoral Care

Caring for one another has been the way of the Christian community since the very beginning, both for those we know and for those whose lives intersect with ours. It is at the heart of our Christian life. The word “pastoral” is important, although it isn't a word that is easily understood outside the church, since it is usually associated with farming. How do we care? How do we manage situations that may unexpectedly challenge us and that we may find disturbing? How do we carry other people's joys and sorrows? How do we care for ourselves as carers? There are things we learn that can help us as we come to understand this important ministry of the church.

You are invited to join 2 sessions with

**Mary Pearson**

at St. Matthew's Uniting Church

on Friday 23 June 7.30pm – 9.00pm

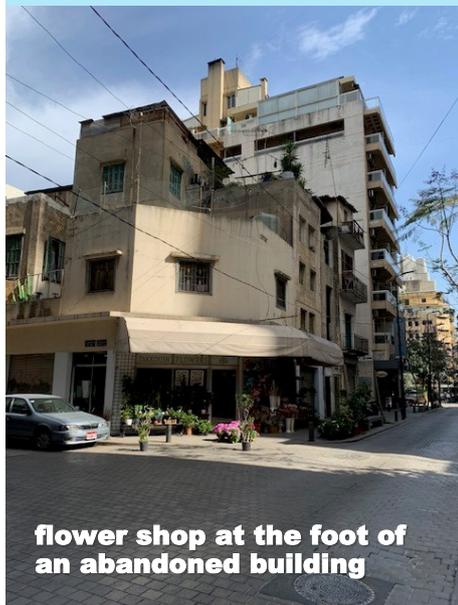
and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 9.30am – 12.30pm



# Mary's Impressions, Lebanon

It is easy to label Lebanon as “chaotic”: an electricity grid that no longer functions, requiring the use of fuel hungry generators and so necessitating daily scheduled power cuts ; water that is undrinkable; air that is heavily polluted; traffic that is densely snarled up and driving that seems almost entirely without road rules other than that drivers give way to whoever edges their car in front, without which understanding the roads would be totally unmanageable. Then there are so many windowless buildings and bent metal frames of structures that still bear witness to the vast devastation of the port explosion on 4 August 2020. There are the vast wads of pound notes that fill one’s wallet in order to pay for a cup of coffee, the inflation rate being 33.5% and a consumer price index that has risen 261% in the last year. All of this stagnating in the political vacuum of a barely functioning government that meets once a month and where there is stalemate in the appointment of a president.

This is one way of picturing Lebanon. The other is to see it on a more personal scale, to notice how people are going about their daily lives and still managing to live side by side in a society where there are so many potential and real divisions between religious, denominational, cultural and economic groups. It feels, to an observer, as if there are so many tectonic plates that may, for the moment, be holding steady, but where there is always a threat of a rumbling, grating shift that could de-stabilise



**flower shop at the foot of an abandoned building**

the hard-won peaceful co-existence. While there is this underlying unease, morning by morning the shop-keepers are out early, washing down their pavements, sweeping the gutters, even while refugees may be scavenging in the big refuse bins. The cafes open; people stop for their coffee, smile and chat to passers-by. There are the smartly dressed and those whose clothes are tidy but worn. The Mediterranean sparkles blue, even as the air is hazy and catches the throat.

It is in the conversations that a truer sense of the country is found. Framing them all is the deep sense of identity as Christian within all of those we met. This is no easy or casual definition, no half-hearted or merely inherited label. It is core. It treasured and nurtured by the scriptures and by worship.

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**Armenian village church near the Syrian border we visited on the Thursday.**

**4-5-23**

It is a faith that has sustained people through so much violence over decades which has been like a refiner’s fire. The people were described as being vulnerable but not fragile. Another person commented that everyone carries trauma, indeed several traumas. For them, Christ is central. The small Protestant Evangelical Union reaches out from this to care for the elderly, the sick, the children, the refugees. Their social justice is the outworking of their Christ-centred, biblically nourished faith. Their Christian education is central to building for the future, not an optional extra. There was both humour in conversation as well as weariness and hunger for connection – to feel heard, recognised and supported. They were not oblivious to changes in the wider world and in particular to the challenges facing young people, who often, after school-age, seek to leave in order to find greater security and economic independence. There is a cost to families in this. There is a mental health cost to the stresses of daily life anyway so an understanding of the choices to be made.

Close to the Syrian border and near a Shiite village and a refugee camp at the edge of the Bekaa Valley there is the village of Anjar, an Armenian Christian settlement. It is a green oasis with flowers and fruit trees. The minister is a young man who, a week before going with his wife to USA to do a Ph D at Fuller Seminary, instead answered a call to serve the church in Anjar. He talked about the school and the boarding house that they set up to meet the needs of children as young as three who needed protection, whatever their religion. They can stay until they are 18, after which they are still supported. He showed the poly tunnels where they grow not just food to feed the children but to give them an outlet for their energy and distress. They also are beginning to grow lavender to make oil to sell and olive trees from which they will be able to produce oil. All around were roses in flower. He showed us the church which had been restored not long ago, a beautiful place where Christians of all denominations come to worship. He has cared for the village, the church, the school through Covid—apart from all the crises in the shadow of the Syrian border only a handful of kilometres away. He is a young man totally dedicated to his ministry and brimming with ideas to help the community. We were there on a Thursday. On the following Sunday we heard that there had been a fire at the church and the office. No-one was hurt but the lovely building is blackened and damaged. What or who caused the fire remains unknown. It is just yet another set-back to be overcome and for which to find the energy and money to make right.

Continued on next page



**On the Sunday after the fire**



**7-5-23**

## Mary's Impressions, Lebanon 2023 – continued

To be Christian used to have the strength of being the majority among the Muslim population, itself divided between Sunni and Shiite. Now it is to be the minority and to know that real power resides elsewhere. It is to be vulnerable not fragile. It means to stand firm and hold onto hope. To be hopeful there is a need to be known by others.

This is what felt like the second important thing to have heard on this visit. The first was to see what is to be learned from these different Christian groups we met: the strength that arose from holding Christ in the centre, not set aside somewhat by talk of the Spirit's empowering work. It was about a kind of discipleship that is often lost sight of in the relative

comfort of our Western society, even with our different challenges.

There was laughter and hospitality, cups of coffee always offered and received; meal shared, experiences also. Anxieties acknowledged and humility shown, alongside pride in culture and resilience that has been hard-won.

Lebanon is a beautiful country, battle-scarred and with many areas that bear a recent history as war zones, hillsides where rocket fire shattered small towns and broke lives. There are mountains and forests, villages that perch on steep slopes that have provided shelter from bombings below; borders that have shifted and walls and fences that define the present moment. Everywhere, people have stories. Everywhere those stories are about pain and loss but also about survival. There will be change in the future and the people and the country is vulnerable. To be heard and known and offered a hand of fellowship is a gesture of enormous importance. It costs us little.

Mary Pearson



Clive and Mary with church leaders at an Armenian church in Beirut



## *The Art and Science of Rowing and the Spirituality*

Presented by a master's competition rower who learnt to row as an adult in Canberra.

**Guest Speaker**

**Judy Mann**

**Thursday**

**1 June**

**10am until 12noon**



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

\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

# A Day in the Life of the Op Shop Volunteers

**M**ary always arrives early, she likes to walk through the racks of clothing offering silent prayers for the customers and staff. She prays the words spoken will be of love and spark an interest in Jesus. Volunteers come for the friendship and for 'something to do' following retirement. Some, but not all, belong to the St. Matthew's church. Most of them never anticipated the deep bonds they would make with their co-workers.

**B**ruce pops his head through the door and asks if it is OK to come in? He is early, it's not quite nine o'clock. Mary greets him cheerfully, and calls him in to browse the trinkets on the shelves. He is well known to the little shop, a dealer, who is always polite and never haggles. Teena and Kellie come in calling out their greetings to Bruce and Mary. Razia is quick to follow and the group chat about their week while stowing handbags and popping lunches in the fridge. They get to work sorting clothing that has been donated overnight, placing soiled or damaged clothing in bags to be used for rags. Two ladies start pricing and hanging garments on the racks.



**C**ustomers wander in, some stop for lengthy chats. Most of them are well known to the staff, having visited the Op Shop for years. Photos of weddings and new grandchildren are proudly shown around, while husbands look through the book shelves and men's jeans. The

atmosphere is full of cheerful banter and lots of laughter, when Sally comes in, full of apologies for being late. The laughter continues with jokes of her pay being docked and no lunch break for her. But everyone knows why she is late, and the jokes are all in jest. It's coffee time and Mary is clearing the little store room to set up chairs so they can have coffee together and watch the shop at the same time. Someone passes biscuits around and weight problems are moaned about. It is the sort of conversation you will find in any tearoom the length of the country, colleagues chatting together who have welcomed new workers and embraced them with love and compassion.

**T**he day continues with people coming with donations and questions. Does the shop accept furniture or stamp collections? Will you accept my 'almost new' suitcase that turns out to be full of mouldy clothing and is too big for the garbage bin! No day is the same, with many opportunities to see God's love at work. The community are incredibly generous with donations & time.



**T**he volunteers are struggling to dismantle a child's play pen when a man recently widowed and slowly donating his wife's clothing, arrives. He sees the dilemma and offers to deliver the assembled play pen to the customer's home in his big four wheel drive. Everyone is grateful, and the volunteers offer a silent prayer for the widowed man.

**T**he day ends and the takings are tallied. They have made \$342 and all agree this was a good day. In economic terms for five women to have made this amount in five hours, it is a disaster. The work is labour intensive with so little gain. But this is not all about profit. It is about connections and support, friendship and love. It is about providing quality clothing to struggling families & supporting many people who in turn are proving relief to refugees and third world communities.

**T**he Op Shop is closed and the ladies prepare to leave. Sally takes the mouldy suitcase to her council pick-up, and they wave happily to each other as they disperse. Another day, another dollar, but so much more!

Pamela

Mary, Teena, Kellie, Sally, and Razia are all fictitious names, the stories are true.

# News from the Finance Committee

## Church Budget 2023/24

It was great to catch up with members of St. Matthews' groups and committees in March to determine the budgets that each required for the 2023/24 financial year. Once the proposed budget for 2023/24 has been approved, Amanda will contact Church groups and committees to confirm their budget allocations for the 2023/24 financial year.

Just a reminder that 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 contact Alastair for approval **prior** to the expense being incurred.

## *Raise the Roof' Fundraising*

The Finance Committee wish to thank Terry Oliver for all his work with obtaining the \$9000 Community Grant that has been put towards the repayment of the loans for our new church roof.

We most sincerely thank Katherine and Gary Pedersen for their generosity in opening their beautiful garden 'Bundaleer' to church members for fundraising for the church roof. There will be more open days at 'Bundaleer' in May and June. See the 'In Focus' magazine for more details. Bookings are essential.

Donations for the roof repayments are also being accepted through PushPay and by envelope (marked 'roof donation') via the offertory during services.

Best wishes

Dom Schuster and Alastair Burn



# Defibrillator Training

**Thursday 22 June @ 7pm**  
in the upstairs hall at St. Mathew's



*Open to everyone,  
even to those who wish  
to review their skills.*

**NO COST**

Contact Jeff Cuff: 0466825190

st. matthew's  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS  
growing together

## *Open Garden at the Pedersen's*



Here is another fundraising project that is open to the whole community at various times throughout the year.

This is an amazing private

garden on the edge of the bush between Baulkham Hills and North Rocks being opened to our community for inspection on the dates listed.

Those that have seen this garden are lost for words as to the detail and quality of the garden.

**Don't miss this opportunity.**

Light refreshments are provided.

**Easy access toilet available. For those with mobility issues some of the garden can be viewed from the flat front yard and access to back deck through the house.**

## Dates for June

**Thursday mornings: 9.30am –12 noon**  
**8, 15, 22 & 29 June**

**Sunday mornings 9.30am–12noon**  
**4, 11, 18 & 25 June**

*During June most of the camellia japonicas will be flowering and the maples will be changing colour and loosing their leaves.*

*Autumn happens a bit later down here.*

**Closed during July and August.**

**Reopening September and October for Spring. Where there will be pots of tulips, ranunculus, daffodils, blossoms and wisteria in flower.**

\$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.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the owners, Gary and Katherine Pedersen, [kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)

**When emailing bookings please indicate if you have mobility issues. Katherine can also provide a lift down to the house and back up the hill to your car.**

## CHURCH WORKING BEE

Saturday 17 June

8.30am- 11.30am



ALL WELCOME

Many hands  
make light work



st. matthew's  
growing together



Saturday  
3 June

9am-12pm

Pre-loved  
Household Items,  
Electrical, Toys & Books  
(Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

st. matthew's  
BANKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
growing together

Jesus said,  
"Come to me,  
all you who are  
weary and  
burdened,  
and I will  
give you rest."

### Care and Prayer

All Welcome

3pm

on the first Monday  
of each month  
at St. Matthew's

February to November

Next Date: June 5th

A small, quiet group  
are here to pray for  
your needs.

Whatever your faith,  
you are truly welcome.

Women's Fellowship  
Wednesday 14th June  
@ 10am



Table games or Quiz

All ladies are welcome to join with us in a  
relaxed and friendly time together.

Enquires: Dulcie Duncum  
& Margaret Gray



### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

You are invited to come along to the  
church on

Tuesdays at 9.30am—11am  
All are welcome

"The important aim in Christian meditation is  
to allow God's mysterious and silent  
presence within us to become more and more  
not only a reality but the reality which gives  
meaning, shape and purpose to everything  
we do, everything we are"

John Main.

[www.WCCM.org](http://www.WCCM.org)

[www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

The World Community for Christian  
Meditation (WCCM)

Katherine Pedersen. Facilitator of the Tuesday  
9.30am sessions and for information.

[kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)

### MEN'S MORNING TEA Wednesday 21st June

10am to 12noon

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa  
Boulevard Bella Vista.



Enquiries  
Alan  
Wright

We are allocated external seating to  
ensure compliance with the recommended  
Covid situation.

## Recycling Appeal



St. Matthew's Community  
Engagement Focus Group  
will be collecting  
glass and plastic  
bottles as well as  
cans for this year  
again.



We have raised \$83.60  
so far! Thank you to  
everyone who has  
participated in this initiative.

The money raised will be donated to various  
organisations who support women and children  
who have been affected by domestic violence.  
Plastic and glass bottles needs to have their  
barcode and plastic wrapper still attached.  
Cans should be left uncrushed as the machine  
needs to read the barcode.

We appreciated all the donations and look  
forward to a successful year.

Thank you

# Calendar of Events for June 2023

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 <p>Pentecost</p>	<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p> 		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>10am-12pm Coffee &amp; Discovery </p> <p>Speaker: Judy Mann</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9am-12pm Op Shop </p> <p>9am-12pm Mini Mart lower hall </p>	<p><b>4</b></p>  <p>9am Combined service Followed by morning tea and congregation meeting</p> <p>KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship includes Communion</p>
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>9am Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall </p> <p>3pm Care and Prayer Meef in the Church</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>9.30–11am Christian Meditation in the Church </p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>10am-12pm In Stitches upstairs hall </p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group upstairs hall </p> <p>'Music Night'</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>No Scheduled Events</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9am—Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>King's Birthday Public holiday</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>9.30–11am Christian Meditation in the Church </p> <p>7.30pm Thrive bible Study lower hall</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>10am-12noon Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall &amp; church </p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8.30am- 11.30am Church Working Bee </p>	<p><b>18</b></p>  <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>5pm—Shine BBQ &amp; Boxing @ Jane's</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>9am Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall </p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>9.30–11am Christian Meditation in the Church </p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea McKels Café Bella Vista. </p> <p>10am-12pm In Stitches upstairs hall </p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>7pm-9pm Defibrillator Training upstairs hall </p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>5pm-7pm Fusion Youth group upstairs hall </p> <p>7.30pm-9pm Pastoral Care Session 1 at the church </p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9.30am- 12.30pm Pastoral Care Session 2 / Final at the church </p>	<p><b>25</b></p>  <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9.30am Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8 </p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>9am Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall </p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>9.30–11am Christian Meditation in the Church </p> <p>7.30pm Thrive Bible Study lower hall</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p> <p>7.30pm Elders meeting In the church</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9am-2pm Op Shop </p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>		 <p>Pentecost</p>

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....

Second Wednesday of the month  
Next event: **14th June at 10am**

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum  
Meet in the upstairs hall and church



### MEN'S MORNING TEA.....

Meet 3rd Wednesday  
of each month.  
Next Event: **21st June  
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 Monday** of each month  
in church and Community room @ 3pm  
All welcome  
This Month: **5th June**

Contact: Rosemary Sexton



### In Stitches.....

1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays of each month  
10am-12noon in upstairs hall  
Next event: **7th June**  
Contact: Jane Cole

### 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.

### 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!**

## 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](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### THRIVE BIBLE STUDY.....

For young adults

Fortnightly

Contact Daniel Gibb

[daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### SHINE.....

is a special needs social group for all ages  
from high school up.

Meets Sundays Monthly for dinner & fun.

We are *still collecting in 2023* 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.

### 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.

**If you are interested in any  
of the above groups or  
activities please contact the  
church office.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* To include your activity in the \*  
\* July \*  
\* In Focus \*  
\* St. Matthew's \*  
\* Monthly Newsletter \*  
\* please send details to Robyn and Lynn in \*  
\* the Church Office by **15 June** \*  
\* Thank you \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Maintaining contact with you and  
your family is very important to us.**

We would be grateful if you change your  
address, phone/mobile or email details that you  
let us know by phoning and leaving a message  
on 9686 3003

## UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

**Sunday 4 June  
combined service at 9am  
followed by  
Congregation meeting**



Thank you to all who  
have contributed to  
this publication.

### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
Email: [mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto: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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**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
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