



Bible Readings

Philippians 1: 21-30
Matthew 20: 1-16

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord
Response: Thanks be to God



8am—Worship
Led by Vivienne Strong
and Clive Pearson

9.30am—Worship
Led by Clive Pearson
KUCA in Recess

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Alexander Lawless
And Nicola Lawless

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

9am—Sorting & Pricing
for Op Shop lower hall
12pm—Funeral Service for
Margaret Canu
at the church

TUESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

No Scheduled Events



SUNDAY
1 OCTOBER

8am—Worship
includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
includes Communion
KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship



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

Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Images at an Exhibition

Pentecost 17

Matthew 20: 1-16

Philippians 1: 21-30

September 24

Being a tourist in Europe can mean visiting many churches, art galleries and assorted museums – and, in Germany, the destinations might include what are called 'documentation centres'. The latter possess a very dark side. Most of these are remarkably honest and reflect the critical evaluation of the Nazi regime. The other attractions frequently lead the tourist on a journey through the intersection of western culture and the Christian faith. Many cathedrals (with their side chapels) are adorned with many great works of art as we discovered to be the case in Nuremberg, Munich and Orléans. It left me wondering what an art gallery specifically devoted to the Bible would be like. How might we organize its lay out and curate its collection?

These thoughts imposed themselves upon me we visited a number of churches that were re-built after they had been so destroyed by heavy bombing during the Second World War. Now and then the art was laid alongside photographs, storylines and comments made by those who had made a stand during dark times, those who still sought to provide ministry in destroyed neighbourhoods and by those who held out a hand of reconciliation in the wake of suffering and trauma. These exhibitions were witnessing to how the Christian faith had played itself out in the past in ways that can often be hidden from ordinary churchgoers today faced with the silent drift into secularism, absence and occasionalism. The art collections and exhibitions spoke in a very different way capturing the heartbeat of moments in time.

And so I wondered about an art gallery dedicated to the Christian life and witness. Would there be separate wings for works to do with both Testaments? In the New Testament wing there would be the stock theme of paintings – usually the birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ (with maybe John the Baptist's head on a plate). Would each one of the gospels then have its own room – and maybe another which deals with Paul's life and letters? Would such a gallery then begin to engage with a fairly secular and indifferent public in a way that finds it hard to register the significance to do with Christ through written and spoken word? [The cathedral in Lincoln has an excellent audio-visual display on the Christian life and what happens in church: it is designed to 'inform enquirers' / tourists].

I can imagine in the Matthew room an explanatory note saying the way in which this gospel is crafted there is a birth narrative, then five blocks of teaching and narrative, and then a passion narrative leading to the resurrection. I can imagine then a section on parables and perhaps an aside saying that in Matthew there is no parable of the good Samaritan, nor the prodigal son. The parable for today might feature a number of people who have been working in a vineyard for sometime but now taking exception to a recently hired employee who is receiving the same payment as them. You can see a sense of injustice, outrage, disbelief writhing on their incredulous faces. Off to one side is the owner of the vineyard seeking an opportunity to respond in the midst of all the noise. The accompanying caption might then give a few details and say that the earliest versions of

this parable still recoverable go back to the 4th century (Codex Vaticanus and Codex Sinaiticus). It might explain that it has come after the completion of the fourth body of teaching in Matthew and is followed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. And just maybe it will say there was no fair work or trade unions in those days to advocate for the workers who feel hard done by. The supporting notes might then say something along the lines that the image of the vineyard was often used to describe the relationship between God and the place of Israel within the unfolding of the kingdom of God. It might also then hint at how the late arrivals, the new workers in this vineyard, are – 'us' / gentiles.: we benefit from this initiative of grace undertaken by the owner of the vineyard, God.

In the room dedicated to Paul there might be one of those early descriptions of him being short, bald, bow legged, and with eyebrows meeting! Perhaps there would be a painting of Paul (as Saul) undergoing his experience on the road to Damascus. Maybe there would be an exhibit of the evolution of writing and the importance of letter writing – perhaps with an aside that the letters of Paul have probably had a greater impact on the life and history of humanity more than any other collection of letters. I would hope there might be an accompanying note to the works of art that includes our reading from the close of Philippians.

This epistle is the warmest one that Paul writes which we have. It is highly emotional. The Greek version has a number of words that have a kind of trembling quality attached to them. He is in prison: whether he will see them again or not he does not know. In the midst of much adversity he bids the Philippians to live a life worthy of the gospel. The passage is then followed by the hymn that extols the humility of Christ who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but humbled himself

Music:

At the 8am service we will sing the hymn, 'You are before me, Lord, you are behind'. It seems to fit the Philippians' passage rather well. The words are taken from Psalm 139. But we have a bit of a problem! The tune (Sursum Corda) is actually widely known but as I discovered not known in St. Matthews. That came as a great surprise to me. If you have time, listen to this version on you tube, so come Sunday morning we can sing it with meaning and confidence. BY way of an aside, quite a number of 29th / 21st century hymns are set to this tune.

'You are before me, Lord, you are behind'. (organ only)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mn3qoRN8_Vg

Bonus:

'Glory to God', David Thorne, Mass of St Thomas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbM83WW-VIk>

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

Climate Change:

Maina Talia's thesis 'Am I not Your *Tuakoi* – Neighbour?

Can be downloaded here:

<https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/ws/portalfiles>

<portal/336308847/>

[FINAL SUBMISSION PhD TALIA CSU 2023.pdf](FINAL%20SUBMISSION%20PHD%20TALIA%20CSU%202023.pdf)

He is currently attended the Climate Summit in New York.

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS

Doug Mathewson
Bruce Bills

Lyn Short

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 24 — 30 September

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Sympathy to the family of Margaret Canu who passed away on Friday 15th September.

A funeral service will be held at St. Matthew's on Monday 25 September at 12pm.

Followed by a burial at Castle Hill Cemetery, Gilbert Road Castle Hill.

Children and Youth Table

You may have noticed something new in the church foyer. This Children and Youth table has some activity sheets for all ages that help the younger members of our congregation engage in the worship services in a more meaningful way. Along with the activity sheets, we have included some fidget items that can be used to help focus.

This table will also be used to keep the wider church community up to date on what is happening amongst the various Children and Youth ministries at St. Matthew's.



This table is a work in progress that we will be constantly updating as we continue in ministry with Children and Youth at St. Matthew's.

Rev Jon Humphries Induction Service

3pm Sunday 15 October

St. Matthew's Uniting Church

Light refreshments will be served by the Women's fellowship after the service.

If you will be attending and would like to bring a plate of food it would be greatly appreciated.

Please join Jon as he begins his ministry with us.

News from the Church Council

We wish to thank a member of the Congregation who has generously loaned the St. Matthew's Uniting Church interest free funds to offset the interest in funding the roof replacement. This loan will save the church considerable costs and effectively reduce the term of the main roof loan.

Terry Oliver - Secretary

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

1 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm
includes Communion

8 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

15 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

22 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

29 October - 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

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 or find in recent posts.



THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

Preschool is inviting members of the congregation to support Operation Christmas

Child (OCC), a global project to fill up shoeboxes with gifts that will be distributed to disadvantaged children at Christmas time. For children living in poverty, the shoebox is usually the first gift they have ever received.

You can pick up an empty shoebox along with a brochure, which provides more information on the gifts to pack, from the **Preschool Office between 9am – 3pm Monday - Friday.**

The shoeboxes are available now for collection.

Please note that we will need all the boxes returned to the Preschool Office by latest Friday 21st October.

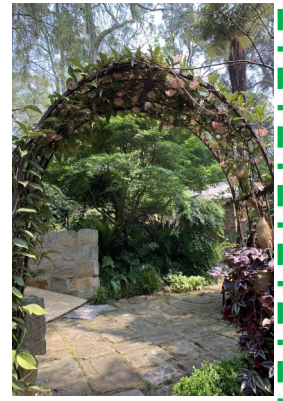
A Donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping costs. Payment details are on the brochure. Thank you for your helping us support the wider community!

Please note that the Preschool will be closed for holidays from Monday 25th September till Friday 6th October.

Warmest Regards
St Matthews Preschool

Dear Friends of the St. Matthew's community.

Bundaleer will be open on several days from 10am to 4pm within the next 3 weeks then closed to St Matthews visitors. The garden is blooming and the temperature is pleasant for a visit relaxing among the trees and by water and having a drink and something to eat.



If you missed coming in autumn this is your last chance.

Please consider visiting by yourself or with a friend or group to enjoy the peace and beauty of this place.

For inquiries or bookings email Katherine at kathped56@gmail.com

Last Dates

September 17; 20; 22; 23; 24; 25; 29; 30.

Time: 10am- 4pm.

October 1; 4; 6; 7; 8

Time: 10am- 4pm.

All donations go to the Roofing Fund.

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH,
BAULKHAM HILLS

TRIVIA
NIGHT

Tables of 8
\$15 per person

SATURDAY | 28 OCTOBER, 2023

7:30 PM

More Info
daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au



JAZZ ON
HAMMERS



Come and join us each month for an evening of live music, dinner and fellowship.

When: Oct 15 from 6-8pm

Where: Northmead Uniting Church, 3-7 Hammers Rd Northmead

Cost: Donations welcome for pot luck dinner

Who: All ages are WELCOME!



For more information contact Noni Medcalf: nones81@gmail.com

market stalls

HILLS FAIR TRADE MARKET

gifts . clothing . food

SATURDAY 30th SEPTEMBER
10AM-2PM



all undercover at St Paul's Castle Hill

421 Old Northern Rd

Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone:

TWILIGHT JAZZ

ON THE BANKS OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

8th OCTOBER 2023

4.00PM TO 8.00PM

A PERFORMANCE BY

**HARMONIX
BIG BAND**

AND SUPPORTED BY
WARRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL
STAGE BAND

ON THE LAWNS OF

EBENEZER CHURCH

BRING A PICNIC, CHAIRS, BLANKET & BYO
BBQ, TEA, COFFEE & CAKE AVAILABLE

TICKETS \$20 EACH

CONTACT REBECCA ON 0439 309 303

TICKETS SOLD ON NIGHT, IF NOT SOLD OUT.

Find us on
Facebook

EBENEZER UNITING CHURCH - TWILIGHT JAZZ

FUNDS RAISED GO TO THE WEST PAPUAN DEVELOPMENT COMPANY - FOR CLEAN WATER WELLS.

PASIFIKA EMPOWERED 2023

A Community Event for Climate Justice and Cost of Living



With
CHRIS BOWEN
Minister for
Climate Change
and Energy

Saturday, 7th October
Nexus Meeting Room
Pullman Hotel

NEW LOCATION!



REGISTER NOW

9 OLYMPIC BOULEVARD
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

1pm - 4pm | Followed by Fiji Day celebrations nearby!

