




**Bible Readings**  
Psalm 19  
Matthew 21: 33-46

*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 Vivienne Strong and Jon Humphries
- 9am—Worship @ the Willows**  
Led by Warren Arthur
- 9.30am—Worship**  
Led by Sara Wienand and Jon Humphries  
**KUCA** in Recess
- 6.45pm—Worship**  
*includes Communion*  
Led by Daniel Gibb and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

- MONDAY 9 OCTOBER**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop** lower hall
- TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation** in the church  
**7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study** lower hall

**SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER**  
**8.30am-11.30am Church Working Bee**  
Many helpers make light work

**SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER**  
**8am—Worship**  
**9.30am—Worship**  
**KUCA** Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

**WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship** upstairs hall & church

**3pm—Rev Jon Humphries Induction Service** followed by refreshments  
**6.45pm—Worship** includes Community Meal

**THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER**  
**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group** "Lego Masters" in the upstairs hall



**MINISTER**  
REV JON HUMPHRIES

**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  
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**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570  
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

# Heavenly Invasion

Pentecost 19  
October 8th

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21: 33-46

## Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20

In Exodus 3, Moses was sent by "I am who I am" to deliver God's oppressed people from Egypt and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. The people of Israel, now liberated from Egypt, finally meet the Liberator. Moses has brought the people to the mountain of the Lord where God first directs Moses to tell them these words. "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all peoples. Indeed the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation." (Ex 19:4-6) The people are told these words and answer as one, "Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do." The people consecrate themselves, and hear God's words.

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord." (Ex 20:2-4a,7a) A further seven commandments are given. And after all the laws, the directions are given to build a Tabernacle, where the 'I am who I am' will be present with the nation. (Ex 23-32)

There is a broad misunderstanding that the ten commandments are laws to live by. The Commandments are much more than laws, they are guidelines for living in the covenant relationship God has established. The commandments describe the relationship the people will have with God, with parents, and all others. Each commandment describes a specific element of relationship, and gives the limits to that relationship. With others we are not to take life, take property, lie, or subvert a neighbor. With family, we are to honor parents and not subvert marriage. With God we are to be true, not make our own god or abuse God.

## Psalm 19

The psalm is a celebration of the way the creation discloses the glory of God, and especially the law of God. Verse after verse extols the effect of the law. The Law revives the soul, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eyes, brings rightness, and is a treasure greater than gold, and sweeter than honey. But the law also warns, alerts to hidden errors, and exposes the insolent. It is a fitting psalm to accompany the Exodus reading of the giving of the commandments. And the psalm ends with a prayer that is heard often in the life of God's people.

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer."

## Philippians 3:4b-14.

Paul gets to the point of his letter to the church in Philippi. He wants to encourage them to resist the flesh and worship in the Spirit of God. It is an illustration of Paul's theme in Romans 8. Don't be fooled by the flesh, but set your mind on the Spirit. He then spells out what for Paul was the flesh, the human perspective that once controlled his own life.

In Jewish society he had it made. A true Israelite, member of the tribe of Benjamin, a powerful Pharisee with a noted reputation, morally blameless, a national leader at the forefront of maintaining the purity of the law and the temple. He had worked hard for his achievements. Now he sees this as rubbish in comparison with the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. He is not interested in the righteousness that comes from the law, but the righteousness that comes from God, based on faith. His citizenship is already in heaven, not in Jerusalem; he does worry about that. He wants to live out this citizenship through knowing Christ and the power of the resurrection, and sharing in Jesus sufferings in the making known of what God has done. He is clear he is still on the way, pressing on into the prize of God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus. We too can hear his call. Brother and sisters stand firm in the Lord!

## Matthew 21:33-46

The Prophet Isaiah had declared "the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting." (Isa 5:7a) The prophet brings the word of the Lord. "What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?" (This vineyard dug and cleared of stones, planted with choice vines, and a wine vat, guarded by a watchtower.)

When Jesus tells this parable about a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower, the parable is about the house of Israel. And those listening knew it, especially the chief priests and the Pharisees there in the crowd in the temple. In the parable, the tenants took over the vineyard. At harvest time they killed all who came to collect the landowner's produce. And when the landowner's son came they saw the chance to kill him and get his inheritance. It is not subtle – the chief priests and Pharisees hear a direct repudiation of their leadership as the leaders of Israel. They wanted to arrest Jesus immediately but feared the backlash from the crowds who listened to him and considered him a prophet.

"Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom." (Matt 21:43) They had to find a way to remove him from the temple.

It does not take long for those leaders of Israel to turn the parable into the reality of what happened in their midst in this week of celebrating the exodus.

Truly, the Son invites us into the vineyard that God has prepared for us: this fruitful kingdom, with the Spirit of God, where the ten commandments and the tabernacle have become for us the two commandments and the risen Son in whom we live and move and have our being.

Dean Drayton





## PEOPLE NEWS

George Haines

Ted Page

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 8—14 October

*Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama*

Katherine Pedersen would like to say **thank you** to the anonymous painter who left these painted rocks in this pot last week.

Katherine re mulched and put them back on top.



## 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. *Daniel Gibb*

## 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.*

## Welcoming everyone at St. Matthew's

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)



When I first came to St. Matthew's as a visitor and tentative 'newcomer' just over a year ago, door welcomingers greeted me warmly. And I remember it clearly to this day.

Your happy enthusiastic 'welcome' to everyone including me made a big difference in my life. Now as I arrive each Sunday, I feel welcomed, accepted and encouraged.

We may not know the situation people are in, we may not know their challenges. But I like to think we can all be welcoming people.

As for me I'll be moving to the northern beaches in a couple of months and will experience a whole new church and their 'welcome to newcomers'. I'll let you know how it goes.

*Judy Mann*



# Church Working Bee



**St. Matthew's**

**Saturday 14 October**

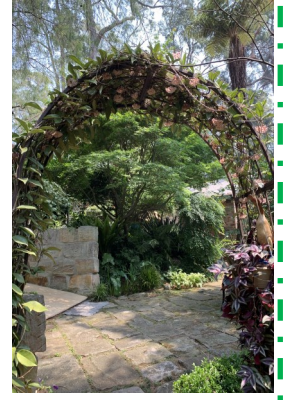
**8.30am-11.30am**

Many hands make light work.

Please come along on Saturday and lend a hand.

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](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)

**Last Dates  
Time: 10am- 4pm.  
October 7 & 8**

**All donations go to the Roofing Fund.**



## 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 25<sup>th</sup> September till Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.**

Warmest Regards  
St Matthews Preschool

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



# Recycling Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Recycling initiative. The funds raised so far will be passed on to various organisations.

**Collecting for the 2023 Appeal will finish at the end of October.**



We appreciate all the donations so far and hope to continue this initiative sometime next year.

Thank you

Marijke Prinsloo

## 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.*

**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 dove image / publications.**

Uniting Church Hawkesbury Zone.

# TWILIGHT JAZZ

ON THE BANKS OF THE HAWKESBURY RIVER  
**8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**  
4.00PM TO 8.00PM

A PERFORMANCE BY  
**HARMONIX BIG BAND**

AND SUPPORTED BY  
WARRAWEE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
STAGE BAND

ON THE LAWN 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.



# 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](mailto:nones81@gmail.com)