




**Bible Readings**  
Matthew 22:34-46

**Response after Bible Readings**  
Leader: *Hear the word of the Lord*  
Response: *Thanks be to God*




**8am—Worship**  
Led by Jon Humphries

**9.30am—Worship**  
Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Jon Humphries

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

**6.45pm—Worship**  
Led by Barbara Gibb  
and Jon Humphries

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 30 OCTOBER**  
**9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop** lower hall  
**7pm—Defibrillator Training** upstairs hall All Welcome

**TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am—Christian Meditation** in the church

**WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER**  
**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**10am-12pm—In Stitches** upstairs hall  
**7.30pm—Finance Committee Meeting** upstairs hall

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

**FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER**  
**No Scheduled Events**

**SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER**  
**9am-12pm—Op Shop and Mini Market** lower hall

**SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

**8am—Worship** includes Communion

**9.30am—Worship** includes Communion

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

**6.45pm—Worship**



**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  
**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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@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.

# Something to think about

October 29th  
22nd Sunday After Pentecost

## Lectionary Readings:

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

Do we really want to know God and know what God wants from us? You might think that the obvious answer for those of us in the Church should be, "Yes". However, I am not sure, if I am being honest, that I really want to know – or I do really want to know, but I am not always keen to know, because I know that God will usually call me out of my comfort zone.

This week in the Gospel reading, we have the classic passage about the 'Greatest Commandment.' We love the Lord, our God, with everything and love our neighbour as ourselves. It's simple, right? Most of us are really familiar with this reading, but are we really familiar with loving God with our all – everything, all the time and in every opportunity. We probably even think that we are doing it, or at least trying to do it.

The Bible Project has some great videos to help us understand this idea of giving our all to God as love. The passage that Jesus quotes comes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The word for soul in Hebrew is not about spirit or soul, but is 'nephesh' נֶפֶשׁ which

literally means throat, but is not just our throat but all of us. The word heart is 'lev' לֵב which is all not just our physical heart or the place of our emotions. For ancient people the heart was physical, the emotional centre, the place of our thinking and the agency of our choices. Then there is the word for strength which is 'me'od, מְאֹד which the Greek translation uses the word *dunamis* δύναμις – which is about power, potential or ability (all of which is more than just strength), but Hebrew me'od is about "muchness." So, we can see that the ancient understanding about what we should love God with is all about the different facets of our all or everything. That of course takes us back to why we might be wanting to give God our all, but at the same time reluctant to.

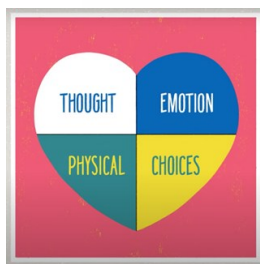
Here is a little watchlist from the Bible Project that is worth checking out to help you learn more.

**Love** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV\\_LUs2InIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HV_LUs2InIQ)

**Heart** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aS4iM6KpPYo&t=16s>

**What It Means to Love God with "All Your Soul"** - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g\\_igCcWAMAM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_igCcWAMAM)

**Strength** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aaVy1AmFX4>



So, we should love God with our all – that is our everything, including all our effort. Then we hear that the second command is not just like it, but the Greek word is *homoia* ὁμοίως, from which we get our prefix 'homo' which means the same or one with. This command is that we love our neighbour as ourselves. This is really important. To love God is to love our neighbour. My go-to passages of 1 John 3 & 4 emphasise this. 1 Corinthians 13 notes that without love, faith and everything else in life is useless or worthless. For me this hits home as to what true worship is. It has less to do about gathering in a special temple-like building and singing praises to God, but about going and doing what God calls us to – love our neighbour. We all then know who our neighbour is from the version of this story in Luke with the Parable of the Loving Neighbour (traditionally wrongly referred to as the 'Good Samaritan'). If you are not sure that I have got things right, you can go forward a couple of chapters to Matthew 25:31-46 and get confronted by the Parable of the Sheep and Goats. Here is where the discomfort of loving God with our all comes back. We want to but are often worried about the cost.

Finally, what does it mean to love ourselves. For me is love – *agape* ἀγάπη love is about giving of our best to bring out the best in others or work for the best for others. So, loving ourselves is balanced by loving our neighbour. We naturally want the best for ourselves most of the time, but to do justly, love with mercy and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) calls more out of us than just looking out for our self-interest.

Then, the issue becomes about how do we get over or around our selves. We have to let God, tune into God and allow God as Spirit to empower us to be our better selves, just as God as Christ calls us to be through loving with our all. That is where Christian meditation and the contemplative tradition becomes very helpful. It helps us be still and know that God is God. It helps us develop self-discipline and self-control, along with other Fruit of the Spirit such as love, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and faithfulness. Many of us know little about Christian meditation, but is a healthy and important part of our Christian tradition. Here is a link to a video to help you learn more about it. (How to do Christian Meditation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvFneqPA8U8>)

If we want to love God with our all, then we need all the help that we can get. We need God's help and we need to help ourselves (a.k.a. love ourselves). If we want to love others, for to do so is to love and truly worship God, then we have the help of each other as the Church. In all of this, we are not alone, nor do we have to do it on our own. God is with us, guiding us, supporting us, empowering us, but most of all, loving us. We love God because God first loved us 1 John 4:19, and we can love with our all, because as Christ, God loved us with God's all.

That is something to think about.

God bless.

Jon





## PEOPLE NEWS

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

29 October—4 November

Canada, United States



## Defibrillator Training

Monday 30 October @ 7pm

in the upstairs hall at St. Matthew's

Please **RSVP** your attendance to the church office by **Thursday 26 October**

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

**NO COST**

Contact Jeff Cuff: 0466825190



## NOVEMBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

at the church

5 November – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
includes Communion

12 November – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm  
Community Meal

19 November – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

26 November – 8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

## 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

The 8am and 9.30am  
Worship Roster Non-availability Form for  
December 2023, January & February 2024

have been emailed. If you do not have email or would like a hardcopy please collect them from the church foyer or outside the church office.

**Please return your Roster Non-availability Form to the blue mail tray, church office**

**or via email by 29 October.**

Many thanks

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.

## Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 20 October 2023 please see link :

<https://comms.nswact.uca.org.au/v/47004/2081203/email.html?k=gvXtCdalGW7NNEg6Oo4MurfYTkMEeiedOZh8VvsJVe0>

## Church Diary for 2024

A note to all group leaders — If your group is planning to use a part of the church property please ensure the area is available before finalizing your program.

**Please send your 2024 programs to the church office ASAP.**





# FRANK HEBBARD and the LOST PHOTOS OF WW2

**Guest Speaker**

**Chris and Margo Hebbard**

**Thursday**

**2 November**

**10am—12noon**

Margo is the narrator and Chris will speak his fathers actual words which were written down in the last months of Franks life. They tell of how Frank came to make a photographic record of his WW2 Australian Army Hospital unit, 2/5 Aus General Hospital, and how he and another 168 members of his unit volunteered to stay with critically wounded soldiers as the Germans overran Greece.

He continued to take photos behind enemy lines while helping to attend over 2,800 wounded allied POWs for the next 8 months. Some 600 of these photos were eventually printed for the first time in 2011, a full 70 years after they were taken.

After the history, (about 20 minutes) photos will be shown on the screen and then members are invited to inspect a range of Frank's memorabilia.

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

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



As Christmas is fast approaching, we are starting to collect donations for our Christmas Hampers, these hampers are provided to our families who need a bit of extra cheer during the festive season.

If you would like to get involved, please reach out to us at [donate@mjcnsw.edu.au](mailto:donate@mjcnsw.edu.au).

**MJC**  
MARGARET JURD COLLEGE

# Christmas Hamper Fundraiser

DONATE FOR 2023

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, MJC IS FUNDRAISING FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY

BANK TRANSFER | CASH | RECEIPTS PROVIDED

For more information, please email the Wellbeing Team at [Donate@mjcnsw.edu.au](mailto:Donate@mjcnsw.edu.au) or call on 0249517314



## The Galston Concerts



**Sunday 5th November**

**Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road - Galston**

Starting 1.30pm in lieu of our traditional organ prelude. Robert will 'launch' our 2024 concerts line-up with news of performers and programs. Plus musical interlude appetisers by J S Bach, George Gershwin, maybe Henry the 8th and maybe a tango.

**2pm**



Galston's favourite pianist, Hornsby-resident, internationally acclaimed Tonya Lemoh, returns with a program by Top Ten composers (and maybe a Top Twenty) Beethoven, Mozart and their favourite mentor Josef Haydn of the Classical era. Dances by Chopin and 'songs' by Tchaikovsky in Romantic style. Bonus waltzes from Sierra Leone deserving 'Top' status.

Galston Concerts co-director, violist Robert Harris, joins Tonya to celebrate love's joy, loves sorrow, and love's magical power.



*Followed by afternoon tea*

Tickets available at [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com) - search Galston or cash at the door

Adults \$30.00 Seniors \$25.00 HS/Uni \$10.00 Children Free  
Enquiries Galston Uniting Church 9653 2039