




Bible Readings
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
 Matthew 25:14-30



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 Pamela Leslie
 and Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Daniel Gibb
 and Jon Humphries

*Includes the Baptism of Emilia Hain.
 We welcome the family and friends
 of Emilia to worship today.*

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Alex Lawless
 and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 20 NOVEMBER

**9am—Sorting & Pricing
 for Op Shop** lower hall

TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am—Christian Meditation
 in the church
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
 lower hall

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop
7.30pm—Church Council
 at the church

THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER

**5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth
 "Video Games"**

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

No Scheduled Events

**SUNDAY
 26 NOVEMBER**

**9am—Combined Worship
 Followed by
 Elections of Elders**

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

**10.45am-12.30pm—
 St Matthews Preschool
 Completed Renovation Works
 Open Day and BBQ
 All Welcome**

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

FACEBOOK:

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PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

19 November
25th Sunday After Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

There is No Gift Without a Corresponding Service or Ministry

This week the Gospel reading from the Revised Common Lectionary (there are other lectionaries – in case you weren't aware) presents the Parable of the Talents.

If we had heard the Parable of the Bridesmaids before, how many more times have we heard this one? Can there be anything more to learn about it? Hopefully, this week's sermon/message does open up something new for us. You can check it out on our website here https://stmatthewsuniting.net.au/live_stream or on Youtube here <https://www.youtube.com/@stmatthewsbaulkhamhills3151> if you missed it live or wanted to go back and listen to parts of it again.

Often this parable is about using our talents. That does fit alright with the parable, but probably wasn't the focus idea for Jesus when he told it, as talent in Greek doesn't have the same meaning as it does for us in our modern English. However, even if it wasn't Jesus's key idea, it is worth exploring what using our talents might mean for us anyway.

In education terms, a talent is an ability or skill which has been honed and developed to a high level of proficiency. Gifts are our natural abilities, but they need to be formed, honed and developed into talents otherwise they go to waste. This fits with the parable, because one servant/slave doesn't use the talent they were given by their master and things don't turn out so good for that person. So we have gifts, and we should turn them into talents, and we have talents that we shouldn't waste or fail to use.

In the Uniting Church, our Basis of Union (and you can read the whole thing here if you have ever read it or haven't read it in a while <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/>) talks about us having gifts from God. It says,

“The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant.

It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service:

all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.”

The question for each of us then is, 'What is my gift or are my gifts and what is the ministry I should be using them for?' I can't tell you the straight forward answer. Gifts are not only our potential abilities, or spiritual gifts, but can also be people who God or chance brings us into connection with, and they can even be opportunities for us to do good and love our neighbours as ourselves.

Continued next page

Something to think about cont.

19 November
25th Sunday After Pentecost

There is No Gift Without a Corresponding Service or Ministry (cont.)

What I can share with you is a broad guideline or framework to help you start discerning what your gifts are and how God might be calling you to use them. The graphic below gives you something to think about and tries to map some of the complexities that come with discerning our gifts so that we can grow them into talents and then work out the ministry or service that we might apply them to so that our talents don't go waste.



Discerning our gifts and ministry happens in the context of our community which is the Church, and can involve reading the Bible, prayer and spirituality, seeking how we can best worship God through loving our neighbour, as well as attending regular services, and often comes from the good things or potential that others in the community recognise in us. Then there is a whole bunch of thinking and exploring that we need to do and also testing to see if there is sense and wisdom in what we discern.

There is no gift without a corresponding service or ministry – at least no gift from God, for we have gifts and talents for a reason. So, what our gifts are and how we should be using them is a whole lot to think about. I am here to assist you with that or connect you with others who can also be an aid if that is helpful.

God bless.

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Allan Garbutt

Ruth Garbutt

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

19-25 November

East Timor (Timor-Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 10 November 2023 please see link :

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](https://uca.org.au)

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

<https://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au/>

Click on the metal dove image / publications.

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 - 9am (combined) & 6.45pm

Live streaming morning services only

Elders Elections

Elders voting will be held after a **combined 9am service on Sunday 26th November.**

Elders Nomination Forms are located in the upstairs foyer and Nominations close on Friday 10th November.



A list of nominees will be available from Sunday 12th November.



UNITINGCARE
ST MATTHEWS PRESCHOOL

COMPLETED
RENOVATION WORKS
OPEN DAY
& BBQ

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023
10.45AM - 12.30PM

LOCATION
St Matthews Preschool
ST MATTHEWS LANE
BAULKHAM HILLS

You are invited to visit the preschool to see the recent renovation works that have been completed.

The works include a new roof, entrance/reception area and staff room / library area.

The Open Day includes a BBQ with the St Matthews Church Community



Volunteers needed to help organize and cook the BBQ on the day. If you can help contact the church office.

The Church Council and Elders are working with Jon to gather some feedback about how we can continue to grow ways nurture people in faith and discipleship. There is a survey that we are asking you to complete. It also asks for feedback about some of the new things that Jon has introduced in recent times.

You can scan the QR code below or use the link below.



<https://forms.office.com/r/EV8b6YqQmY>

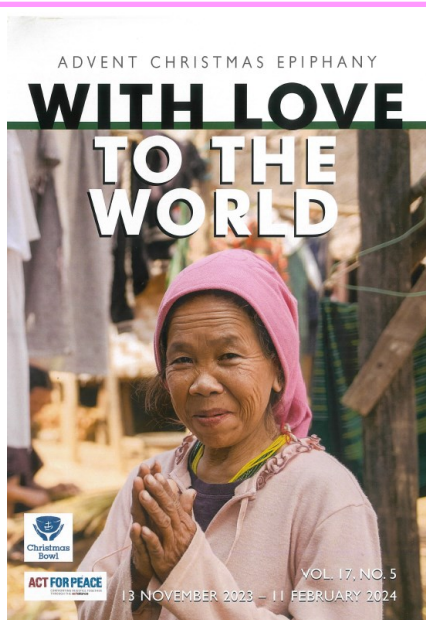
ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
Christmas and Summer services.
for December 2023,
January and February 2024
have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would like an A3 copy please collect a copy from the table in the church foyer.

If you are able
to help with any on the gaps
please contact the church office.

Thank you to everyone who has helped on the last 3 month roster and to those who have been able to help on this roster.



ADVENT CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily
Bible reading
guide based
on the
Revised
Common
Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 5

13 November 2023

to

11 February 2024

is available in the church foyer.

Please place \$7 in offering bag to cover costs.

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

24
NOV

5-7PM
FRIDAY



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
bdschuster@optusnet.com.au

