



**Bible Readings**

**9am Service**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)  
John 1:43-51  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

**Response after Bible Readings**

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



**9am—Combined Worship**

**Includes Communion**

Led by Sharon Underwood  
and Jon Humphries

**KUCA** In recess

**6.45pm—Worship**

**Includes Communion**

Community Meal

**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 9AM**

**Livestreaming at  
9am only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 15 JANUARY**

**Painting lower level trims**

**TUESDAY 16 JANUARY**

**New Flooring being laid lower hall, foyer and kitchen.**

**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**

Meeting offsite

**WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY**

**New Flooring being laid lower hall, foyer and kitchen.**

**Cancelled—In Stitches**

**THURSDAY 18 JANUARY**

**New Flooring being laid lower hall, foyer and kitchen.**

**FRIDAY 19 JANUARY**

**New Flooring being laid lower hall, foyer and kitchen.**

**SATURDAY 20 JANUARY**

**No Scheduled Activities**

**SUNDAY  
21 JANUARY**

**9am—Summer Worship**

**KUCA** in recess

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**



**MINISTER**

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**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

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

**LOCATION:**

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
BAULKHAM HILLS

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**

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PO BOX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

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Thank you to all who have  
contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

14 January  
2nd Sunday of After Epiphany

## Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Romans 16:25-27

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:1-14

## After Epiphany

After Epiphany is a bit like after New Year. It is one thing to have an epiphany or to have a brilliant idea or revelation, just like it is one thing to have a great new year's resolution. However, the hard part then follows putting that idea into practice or keeping to that resolution. The calendars have turned, both the yearly and the Church's liturgical. We have begun both a new liturgical and then a new calendar year. Both give us work to do.

Liturgically, remembering that liturgy at its heart means 'the work of the people,' we have had the work of preparation in Advent where we were reminded of hope, peace, joy and love, all of which are associated with God's presence and mission. We have celebrated the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus at Christmas and the humility of God being born amongst as a baby to literally embody compassion (which literally means to feel with) in the most humble of circumstances to help make that compassion complete. We are now in the new season of After Epiphany, which is a season of growth and the work we have to do is to put into practise any new learnings, realisations or revelations that we may have had in Advent or at Christmas.

Even if we haven't had any new epiphanies, the whole idea of the liturgical cycle is one of manufactured epiphany where we are supposed to be reminded, realise and come to a better understanding of God's work amongst us and our call to join in that work.

That brings us to this week where some of our readings remind us of how God has consistently called people to join in God's work and called specific people to specific tasks. In the Old Testament / Hebrew Scripture reading Samuel gets the call as a young person to become a prophet. We have the young person literally calling to them and awaken them to the task that they were already kind of being prepared. Eli was a priest and the second to last judge of Israel. Samuel was according to scholars between 8 and 15 and according to the Jewish historian Josephus, he was 12 when God called him to be a prophet and the last judge of Israel.

Here at this stage in his life he was already engaged in ministry. We should note this according to verse 1 of the chapter which states that he was already "ministering to the Lord." So, as a young person he already had an important role in the community with the priest, albeit one which was likely centred on formation. How do we engage and value young people in ministry in our church? We teach them, but how do we not only invite and encourage them, but actually literally put our faith in them and help them by giving them the work of leading us in ministering to God? This is a good thing to reflect on as we look to planning our young people and youth programs for the year.

Continued next page

## Something to think about After Epiphany continued

The second thing worthy of note is that when God calls, Samuel is taught to listen. Eli, who Samuel has soon to speak prophetically to, tells Samuel to respond with the words, "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening." Samuel not only hears the instruction but puts it into practice. This is a good lesson for us at this time. We have not only heard the story and celebrated the incarnation (which literally means enfleshment) of God in the person of Jesus, who is the Christ and one whom we seek to follow, but now have the instruction to listen to what God as Jesus is going to tell us. In fact we already we reminded of what some of that core message is in Advent. We, like Samuel, having had our epiphany, now have to do it – that is not only listen (remember the Hebrew word for listen is [שמע\[shema\]](#)), [listen and do what we hear](#), for the core meaning of שמע[shema] is to not only hear but obey or put into practise what we are told. This is the work of After Epiphany and each season of growth or 'Ordinary Time' which follows each of the two seasons of celebration in the liturgical calendar.

We also have the story of Jesus calling Philip and Nathaniel. Let us not overlook Nathaniel's exclamation and affirmation that Jesus was the Christ, when he says, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" That is a pretty amazing epiphany. Of course with it comes the work of being called to discipleship. Is this not again an echo of our own liturgical journey? We have just celebrated that Jesus was God born as 'The Son of God' and named Jesus to be born 'King of Kings.' We too now have the work of being called to discipleship, albeit in a continuing way for most of us.

Now is the time for discernment. We are called to discipleship. We are called to שמע[shema] / listen and do what we hear God calling us to. What is that, well at the end of the last liturgical year, we heard Jesus teaching us the greatest commandment, and then learnt through a series of parable what that meant. We should love God with our all, our muchness and do that by loving our neighbour as ourselves. This is the primary or general call. Most of us will not likely hear God speaking to us directly or be called in person by Jesus to follow him. We need to remember that this is the witness of Scripture, that few people have such experiences. We are blessed if we do, but we are equally blessed to be one of the crowd who just hear what Jesus teaches and then the call to put it into practice.

Our specific work of discernment is to שמע[shema] / listen, not just to the words but have the daily epiphanies of attending to when people have need and thus become our neighbour and then do the loving we are called to do. After all God who we love is in nature love and we who love God should be that love for others so that they might connect with God and have their own divine epiphany and come to love God and hear the call to enter into discipleship themselves. Alongside this we should also be calling people to join in ministry, be they young or older, for that may lead them into epiphany. There is also the other work of discernment, which is what vocation that God might be calling us to, or discerning our next step or stage in the vocation that we have already been called to. So, in this second week of After Epiphany, there is a lot to think about as we שמע [shema] / listen and seek to do what we hear.

God bless.

Jon





## PEOPLE NEWS

Helen Olley

Alastair Burn

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

14 – 20 January

Arabian Peninsular:

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

**The Op Shop is CLOSED and will Re-open on Tuesday 30 January. Please hold on to your donations until we reopen.**

## Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 15 December 2023 please see link :

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

## The downstairs foyer and hall are getting a makeover.

Old floors and compactus storage have been removed and painting is now taking place.

The new floor will be laid over a few days starting Tuesday 16 January.

Thank you to David Porter and all who are providing their invaluable time, help and support with giving St. Matthew's downstairs foyer and hall a welcoming and updated look and feel.

Barbara Gibb

## COMMUNITY

### CONTACT LIST 2023

The community directory is now available - those that have entered their family details are welcome to have a copy by email (please request from the church office by email) OR get a printed copy by calling into the office. The information will not be published on any website or sent out in bulk.

Need to update, fix an error or add your family? Version 1.2 is now open – please click [HERE](#) . Thanks

David Neideck

## Worship Leader Needed

After numerous years of service Warren Arthur has retired from leading the 9am Uniting Church Worship @ the Willows service.

The Willow's community is extremely appreciative for having this service each month and would greatly like it to continue.

*If you can help and use your worship leader talents to run the once a month, service please speak with Jon Humphries.*

Worship @ the Willows is held at 9am, once a month on the second Sunday, at The Willows 226 Windsor Road, Winston Hills.

# Garage

# SALE

## Saturday

## 3<sup>rd</sup> February

### 9am-12pm

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

St. Matthew's Lower Hall

st. matthew's BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH growing together

# Coffee and Discovery

## SAVE THE DATE

### Thursday

### 10am—12noon

### 7th March 2024

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

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

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.



st. matthew's BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH growing together

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