



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am Services



1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



Livestreaming

8am
and
9.30am
only

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

8am—Worship
Led by Mike Strong and Jon Humphries
Followed by Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship
Led by Sharon Underwood and Jon Humphries
Includes the Baptism of
Kaia Catherine McLaughlan-Sproule.
We welcome the family and friends
of Kaia to worship today.
Followed by Morning Tea
KUCA in Recess

11am-12pm Christian Meditation Introductory
Course Week 4 in the church

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Barbara Gibb and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 29 April

9am—Sorting & Pricing
for Op Shop & Garage Sale
lower hall

TUESDAY 30 April

9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room **Includes**
Introductory Course Week 4
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
lower hall
7.30pm—Property Committee
Meeting
lower hall

WEDNESDAY 1 May

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

THURSDAY 2 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery
Guest speaker
Rev Jon Humphries
“The Science of Flourishing”
upstairs hall and church

FRIDAY 3 May

No Scheduled Events

SATURDAY 4 May

9am-12pm—Op Shop open
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
lower hall

SUNDAY
5 MAY

9am—Combined Worship
Includes

- **Mission Planning**
- **Closure of Ministry for Mike Strong**
- **Thanksgiving for Warren Arthur**
Willows Worship Leader
KUCA in Recess
Followed by morning tea

11-12pm Christian Meditation
Introductory Course Week 5
in the church

No evening worship tonight



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:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Weekly newsletter available on website

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

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

28 April

Fifth Sunday in Easter

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 8:26-40

Ps 22:25-31

1 Jn 4:7-21

Jn 15:1-8

Abide

In our Bible readings which are set in the Revised Common Lectionary for this week there are a lot of uses of the word, 'abide.' This is not a word that we might hear a lot of in our modern context. When I think about it, the most common way that I have heard it used is when someone says that they "can't abide" someone - and this is still not a phrase used very often. The related word that might be more likely to be heard is abode – as in "this is our abode" or that there are people living in a 'common abode'. However, again, this is not a word used very often. Maybe this is possibly why in some translations of the Bible other words are used in its place. In our services this week we will be looking at this strange and often unfamiliar word and how it applies to our understanding of God who we know in Jesus – after Jesus abides in God and God abides in Jesus.

Abide, like many other words in English, carries a complexity of meanings. It can mean:

- to remain, continue and stay
- to dwell or reside or live
- to continue, persevere or endure in a particular condition, attitude, or relationship.

All of this relates well to what Jesus seems to mean when he uses the metaphor of a vine – with him being the vine and we being the branches that abide with him in order to live. This link with life, living and abiding seems very important. God is our source of life, and it is God in the person of Jesus who shapes and sustains us in our life as disciples and followers of his way. Yet, God, who we know as Christ, is not just the source and shape of our life as people of faith, but the implication is that God is the source of our actually life and living and abiding in God's way leads to fuller life and greater wellbeing. Furthermore, not only does abiding and living in God and God's way, as revealed through Jesus, lead to fuller life, it also leads to us bearing fruit. Bearing fruit is about there being meaning and purpose, as well as good, that comes from our living and abiding in God. The fruit that we bear, as God abides in us as the person of the Holy Spirit, as we abide in God, is the bringing out in our character and being such things as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control. Fruit also lead to seeds of the Kingdom of God which can grow in the lives and living of other people who come to be connected to and abide/live in God as God lives in them.

Continued next page

Abide - continued

When we try to describe abiding and who abides in who and in what, such things can seem complex and all tangled up. It is not simple to try to work out who abides in who and how God is abiding in the form of different persons of the Trinity. However, what it really is helping us understand is the ecosystem of faith and spirituality. An ecosystem is a community of interrelated interaction and mutuality. These are large words which simply say that in faith all things are connected to God and relate to one another as a whole system. We can't separate belief from the way that we live. Having faith leads us to understanding God's love in ways which should result in us understanding how we are called to love others. Those who live/abide in love abide/live in God and God lives in them, because God is love. (1 John 4: 16)

This week in our 9.30am service we will be celebrating the baptism of Kaia with her family. If we remember what baptism is about then we recall how baptism "plunges us into the faith and family of Jesus." Each time someone is baptised as part of our congregation we are supposed to remember our baptism and the idea of baptism is not just a ritual which happens and that is that. Baptism is a sacrament which leads us into the fullness of faith. It is a sacramental part of our faith and spirituality ecosystem. It may be symbolised as a ritual use of water, but it is more truly about being immersed in the faith and family of Jesus. The word 'baptism' comes from βαπτίζω (Baptizo in Greek) which means to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge, to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, and to make clean with water. Baptism calls us to abide/live in God knowing that we need ongoing care in order to live well. It connects us as the Church / the Body of Christ / the people of God, who bear the name of God not only as a label, but as how people see and come to understand what God is like – at least that is what people should understand when they see us as the Church.

We don't always live well. We think that we abide/live in God because God is in all places and all times, and we can never be out of the presence of God. However, the readings point us to the reality that abiding/living is not so much about location but is about intention. We may always be in the presence of God, but we may not be living in a way that indicates our awareness of what that means. We may be the house of God, but that does not mean that we care to be it or care what others see when they look at us. Let's be clear here that this is not about keeping up appearances or ensuring that we have a nice façade that others might be impressed by. This is about living in a way where we are living true to our identity. There is a difference to just living and living well. Living well in the way of God is to live in love – not emotional or romantic love – but self-giving, caring and practical love which usually means the sacrifice of some of our life to help others have better living in their life. In this way, we don't lose our life for no reason, but actually gain it because we are all connected and in community. So, when we abide/live in love and that helps others, it leads to an increase in the life of our community.

Those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. This is not just about us as individuals, but those of us who are in community. We live well together when we live in love, laying down our lives for each other, giving of the more than enough that we have for those who have less than enough. When we abide/live/love together in this way then we are living in God and we are letting God live in us.

Abiding in God and abiding in love and how that shapes our living is something to which gives us much to think about.

God bless

Jon



PEOPLE NEWS

Ron Mallyon
Melissa Gibson Darling

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

MAY 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
 at the church

5th May - 9am Combined includes
 * Mission Planning
 * Closure of Ministry for Mike Strong
 * Thanksgiving for Warren Arthurs as Willows Worship Leader

12th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
 includes Communion

19th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
 26th May - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

28 April—4 May
Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
 Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

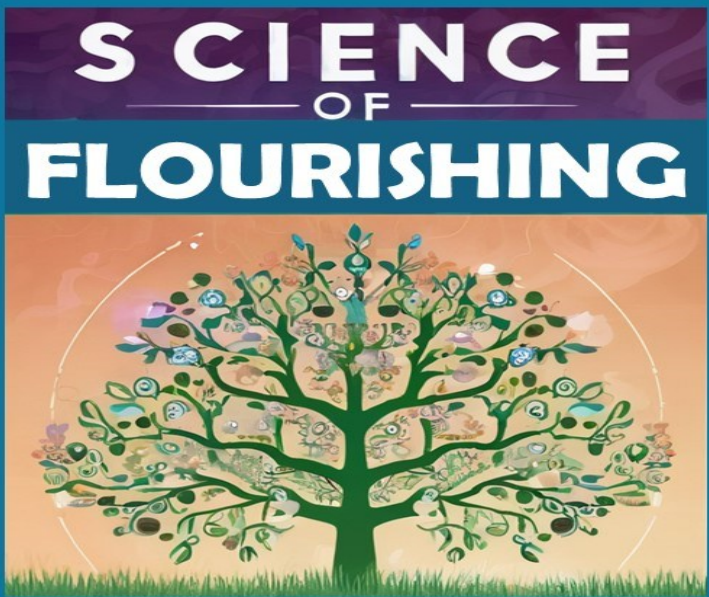
For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 19 April 2024 please see link :
[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)



Thursday 2 May - 10am to 12pm
Guest Speaker
Rev Jon Humphries

The Science of Flourishing

Thursday 2 May
10 am - 12noon
(Rev) Jon Humphries
Talks about his journey over 10 years into understanding the science of flourishing and wellbeing, and its connection with faith.



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

***** ALL WELCOME *****



INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

YOU ARE INVITED TO A SIX WEEK COURSE

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS
Corner of Charles St & Edgar St, Baulkham Hills

**CONTACT:
Katherine**

This course provides an opportunity for those interested in finding out about Christian Meditation to experience the practice in a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

SUNDAY MORNINGS
11.00am-12 noon
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 7 April – 12 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS
9.30am-10.30am
(Weekly for 6 weeks)
From 9 April – 14 May

Please return completed forms by 28th April

Volunteer Form

Assisting with Morning Services



June, July & August 2024

Have been emailed or collect a copy from the foyer.

NEW HELPERS WELCOME



Please return forms to the blue mail tray or church office.

UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION



NEW GROUP MONDAY Evenings
7.30pm—8.30pm
Starting 20th May

Tuesdays at the Church 9.30am-10.30am
For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact Katherine Pedersen for more information.
Facilitator kathped56@gmail.com



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

 **Cancer Council**
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



You can also make a donation by clicking on the link below or

Scan to Donate



Unique ID: 48251631

We're hosting a Biggest Morning Tea

Please help us support people impacted by cancer!

Barry Gregory
0425 815 340
Dulcie Duncum
0417 070 848

You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'
being held at the home of
Dulcie & Peter Duncum
at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills
Friday 31st May.
Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us
from 10.00 am
in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who
have journeyed with cancer.
Bring your friends also.
We look forward to your company.

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

Community Presentation Uniting Church Wentworthville

23rd May 2024

Wentworthville Uniting Church are hosting (on behalf of Presbytery) a Face Dementia presentation led by Dr Meredith Gresham, a Research fellow in the school of Health and Society in the University of Wollongong.

Worried about dementia and brain health?

- Learn about dementia and how to recognise the early signs and changes.
- Learn how to reduce your risk of dementia.
- Get tips to improve your brain health.
- This is your chance to have all your questions answered.

TIME: 10:00am

VENUE: Uniting Church 115 Station Street, Wentworthville

 Face Dementia



Free Community Presentation

Meredith writes:

"We are 7 Australian Universities working on the ['Face Dementia'](#) project, which aims to reduce stigma of dementia and communicate with the public to help them recognise the signs, ask a GP and get the right treatments and support. Currently it is estimated around 50% of all people with dementia never get a diagnosis. We are focusing on Western Sydney in this campaign where population statistics indicate there should be between 9-12,000 people with dementia, whereas only a little over 3,300 people have diagnosis are registered with their GP.

I am delighted that Dirk is keen to utilise our services to help your congregations better recognise people with dementia to get the right support. We are targeting older people (over 65) and adult children who may be concerned about a parent or older relative.

Our team are happy to provide talks (tailored to audience), run information tables at events, write article and blogs for newsletters, speak to welfare staff/lay staff or other ways to get positive messages out that there are benefits to diagnosis... not least getting help and support to live well. We can use our Dementia Australia Advocates to speak from lived experience of dementia as well".

You are warmly invited to attend this event.



The Galston Concerts

Sunday 28 April 2024



a pre-concert chat c. 1.40, the concert at 2 (with players' relaxed comments) till 3.15ish, then a 'meet the musos' afternoon tea, all in Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston

Gold & Silver ~ Cello & Piano

Popular music by Classical greats: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms; toe-tapper 'encores' from Budapest, Barcelona & Buenos Aires (plus Chopin, Handel & Schubert - a Top Ten lineup) with ABC FM Classic 100's favourite instruments in 2023 ... Cello & Piano!



with **Zoltan Szabo** (cello) and **Erzsébet Marosszeky** (piano), Australian-Hungarian husband-and-wife duo, Sydney-resident after Europe, UK & USA triumphs.

Bookings advised on trybooking.com (search Galston 28 April)

Cash-only sales at the door on the day - \$40/30/10/12&u FREE
Enquiries phone 9653-2039

Garage



Saturday 4th MAY

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

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

OP SHOP

Open Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday 9am-2pm
and
1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm
Pre-loved clothes & accessories,
Books, Haberdashery,
Bric-a-brac, Pot Plants.

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.