



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am



Mark 4: 26-34
 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, &14-17
 Psalm 20

Response after Bible Readings
 Leader: Hear the word of the Lord



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 and 9.30am only**

**8am—Worship
 Closure of Ministry for
 Daniel Gibb**

Led by Jon Humphries

**9.30am—Worship
 Closure of Ministry for
 Daniel Gibb**

Led by Daniel Gibb
 and Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Daniel Gibb
 and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 17 June

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
NEW GROUP
 All Welcome

in community room and church

TUESDAY 18 June

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room

WEDNESDAY 19 June

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's Morning Tea
 Mckels Café Circa Norwest

THURSDAY 20 June

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

FRIDAY 21 June

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
 "Code Red" offsite

SATURDAY 22 June

No Scheduled Activities

**SUNDAY
 23 JUNE**

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

5pm—Shine

**6.45pm—Worship
 Closure of Ministry
 for Daniel Gibb**



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

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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Thank you to all who have
 contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

16 June

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, & 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

We Sometimes Try Too Hard, Having Been Taught or Having Caught Faith in the Church.

Here is a provocative statement. We sometimes try too hard, having been taught or having caught faith in the Church. There is much that is good about the Church, but we who are the Church are human and, even though we as the Church are divinely instituted, we are too often all too human. We tend to simplify the wrong things for comfort or out of habit's sake and complicate the simple things. We often talk too much, judge too often and think way too much of ourselves in our religion. Church then too often becomes less about being the community of God who seek to share the love of God by serving others who are our neighbours in love, thus opening a way for them to connect to God who is love and is present as Christ and the Spirit in our loving interactions. Instead, Church becomes about a religion centred around gatherings in the name of worshipping God, where there are way too many words sung about God, prayed to God and spoken about God or in the name of God and not enough action as the Body of Christ and the people of God.

In the Gospel reading set in the Revised Common Lectionary for last week [Mark 3:20-35] we have a complicated set of interactions. People are thinking that Jesus is out of his mind, the Scribes come down from Jerusalem and judge Jesus to have an evil spirit and only being able to cast out demons because of his being in league with Beelzebub. And, his family try to restrain him and try to get him to come away for their fear for him or what others may do to him (or to them). In the end Jesus makes the point that, "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." [Mark 3:35]. So, what is the will of God? How do we seek it, interpret it and live it as the Church?

In the Book of Acts there is a story of Paul speaking to the Athenians about the statue to an "unknown God." In his presentation he declares, "The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being.'" [Acts 17:28]

So, as the Church, like all people, in God we live and move and have our being. God is templed in the whole of creation, and doesn't need shrines, temples or church buildings. Neither does God need complicated services, hymns, songs of praise, prayers, liturgies, rituals and sacraments. I am not saying that these are bad things. WE need them to help us in our connection with God, but God doesn't need these from us nor require us to perform them or have them as our religion. As the Church we believe that we are the body of Christ when we live and move in God and live love to others and each other. For, those who live in love live in God and God lives in them. (1 John 4:16)

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We Sometimes Try Too Hard, Having Been Taught or Having Caught Faith in the Church.

Continued

What then should we be doing as the Church and as disciples of Christ, who is God incarnate? Firstly, we should do the will of God and love God with all our being, principally by loving our neighbour as ourselves. This is our first and primary discipline: The practice of laying down our lives for others as Christ laid down his life for us. Secondly, we should take on the disciplines of spiritual practices which centre God in our lives. Here, gathering as the Church can be helpful. Prayer can be helpful. Singing spiritual songs can be helpful. Reading the Bible and have people preach the Word of God to us can be helpful. Theological reflection can be helpful. Yet, as helpful as all these are, the simple reality is that we live and move and have our being in God, and therefore one of the simplest and most excellent things that we can do is to stop and pause and be mindful of God, listen and attend to God. This is where contemplative practices such as Christian meditation are very helpful.

Here is a description by John Main which assists us to understand why practices like Christian meditation are so important. He writes, "To begin to meditate requires nothing more than the determination begin: To begin to discover our roots, to begin to discover our potential, to begin to return to our source - and God is our source. In the simplicity of meditation beyond all thought and imagination we begin to discover utter simplicity that we are in God; we begin to understand that we are in God in whom we live and move and have our being. We try to describe this growing awareness that we discover in the silence and daily commitment as 'undivided consciousness.'

Meditation is just this state of simplicity that is the fully mature development of our original innocence. As St Catherine of Genoa expressed it, 'My me is God. Nor do I know myself save in Him.' The wonder of the proclamation of Christianity is that everyone of us is invited into this same state of simple, loving union with God. This is what Jesus came both to proclaim and to achieve. This is what each of us is invited to be open to. 'My me is God. Nor do I know myself save in Him.'

As we all know from our own sad experience, we are so easily distracted. God's love is given to each of us freely and generously and universally. God's love flows in our hearts in a mighty stream. But, like Martha in the gospel story, we are all of us so busy about so many things. All of us must therefore address our own lack of discipline. We must bring our restless wandering minds to stillness. It is one of the first great lessons in humility we learn, when we realise that we come to wisdom and stillness, and we pass beyond distraction, only through the gift of God. His prayer is His gift to us and all we have to do is to dispose ourselves, and this we can do by becoming silent. Silence is the essential human response to the mystery of God, to the infinity of God. We learn to be silent by being content to say our mantra [the phrase we repeat to fix out concentration and focus upon] in humble fidelity [faith]."

Reading set for 10 June in 'Silence & Stillness for Every Season' quoting the – 'Moment of Christ' by John Main

Many of us have caught faith in the Church and been taught all these things that are important, like reading the Bible, coming to Church, worshiping God in certain ways, praying and attending Bible study groups. They are important and can be helpful. Yet at the same time they can actually distract us from attending to God in person. We can ironically become like Martha being busy trying to do all the right things, that we forget to simply sit at the feet of God and listen. We too often think that we are looking and listening for God, but in reality we are just seeing our own interpretations and hearing our own voices. How are we disciplined in our seeking connection with God and doing things which intentionally bring us consistently into a mindful awareness of us being in God and God being in us? This is something to think about.

God bless.

Jon

Farewell to Daniel

As some will know, the Church Council has received Daniel Gibb's resignation as our youth and young people's worker. Daniel has been a great asset and blessing to the congregation and leaves to take up a similar role at Turramurra Uniting Church. He will be very much missed, but we are excited for him and continue to pray for him as God leads him into this new ministry.

We will be holding some closure of ministry services on the following dates at the following times:

- **16 June 8.00am & 9.30am**
- **23 June 6.45pm (to celebrate with Shine)**

Daniel commences the new role in July, but his last day of ministry with us will be Sunday 23 June.



PEOPLE NEWS

Erin Mathewson
Craig Longmuir

Miles Medcalf

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

Giving Envelopes

The Giving Envelopes for the next financial year are now ready to collect from the church foyer.

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

16—22 June

Malawi, Zambia

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (7 June 2024) please see link :

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

JUNE 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

2nd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

9th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

16th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

23rd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

30th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services



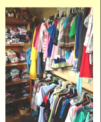
ST. MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BULKHAM HILLS growing together

Op Shop Support Needed

People to help with:

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays

For more Information please contact the church office.



Katherine Pedersen has requested donations of used floral bowls. (See image).



If anyone has any of these bowls, would you please bring them in and leave them with the Op-shop. They will be used for a special project later in the year. **Thank you**



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Weekly Sessions

@ St. Matthew's Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills

Cnr Charles and Edgar Street, Baulkham Hills

MONDAY EVENINGS

7.30pm

Starting 20 May

TUESDAY MORNINGS

9.30am-10.30am



The Galston Concerts



Sunday 23 June 2024 @ 2pm

**Galston Uniting Church
11 School Road Galston**

Andrew Blanch, guitar ... Spanish Magic

The Galston Concerts feature Australian international guitarist Andrew Blanch, recent #1 in ARIA's Classical Albums chart, just prior to his 45-concert Seattle-to-Miami coast-to-coast USA tour. Andrew's music for Galston includes bubbly Baroque (a Vivaldi Guitar Concerto from Venice); solos with Spanish flair from Asturias, Granada & Seville; Latin American musical travels in Brazil, Cuba, Venezuela & Uruguay, before a fitting finale of Argentinian folksongs, with mezzo-soprano Maria Eugenia Nieva, who will also feature in the pending US tour. Andrew's Australian triumphs lead to competitions success in Portugal & the USA; his international pedigree also includes recent recordings with the New Zealand Guitar Quartet & concerto recordings in Brazil. A member of the Australian Guitar Quartet & President of the Classical Guitar Society Sydney, Andrew is acknowledged as "a complete artist ... a gift to the guitar ... a leading light of Australian performance."



Bookings trybooking.com (search Galston 23rd June)

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

Enquiries phone 9653-2039

Coffee and Discovery
@ St. Matthew's

**Thursday 4 July
10am to 12pm
Guest Speaker:
Colin Booth**



WHAT MAKES SOMETHING A TREASURE ?



Colin, a treasure collector, will speak about treasures he has collected throughout his life and some of the treasures that have been uncovered at the Op Shop and taken to auction to raise money for St. Matthew's.



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

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

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.