



Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am



Mark 4:35-41
 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

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 and 9.30am only**

8am—Worship
 Led by Mike Strong and Jon Humphries
9.30am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by Morning Tea

5pm—Shine
6.45pm—Worship
Closure of Ministry for Daniel Gibb
 Led by Jane Cole, Shine and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 24 June
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall
7.30pm—Christian Meditation
All Welcome
 in community room and church

TUESDAY 25 June
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
 lower hall

WEDNESDAY 26 June
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

THURSDAY 27 June
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9am-2pm—Bridal Expo
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

FRIDAY 28 June
No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 29 June
9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Bridal Expo FINAL
"Say Yes to the Dress"
 lower hall

SUNDAY 30 JUNE
8am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea
9am—Worship @ the Willows

9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

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
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

23 June

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

1 Samuel 17: 32-49
Psalm 9:9-20
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Hope, Faith, God and Church

In the Gospel reading fear rears its scary head. The disciples are afraid that they are going to die. Jesus calms the storm and then rebukes them by saying, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" At this the disciples are still afraid. Some translations soften it by saying that the disciples were full of awe, but the Greek text makes it doubly clear that they were afraid when it states, "... and they feared and with great fear they were saying, 'Who is this man?'" (Mark 4:41).

What does it mean to fear Jesus or at least be fearful of him? We hear about the fear of the LORD being the beginning of wisdom in such things as Proverbs 9:10. Yet, that use of 'fear' is more about awe than being afraid. The disciples were, though, actually afraid. Is fear a right response to God in the person of Jesus?

We might put down the fear of the disciples to being more ancient and simpler in their worldview. However, to have the raw power of God on

show may in fact still be frightening to us today. Perhaps, the disciples were fearful of what they had got themselves into. They were following this wise teacher who could do miracles, but to still a storm is next level stuff. Maybe they were in that moment afraid of where all this might lead.

On 22 June the Uniting Church celebrates/ed its 47th Anniversary. We who are members of the Uniting Church have pledged ourselves to God in the person of Jesus. At our inauguration in 1977 the Uniting Church published large advertisements in the major newspapers which presented a "Statement to the Nation." You can read about this and read the statement on the Uniting Church Assembly website using this link. <https://uniting.church/a-justice-oriented-church/>

The 'Statement to the Nation' is not a statement of doctrine in terms of theology. That kind of statement is found in 'The Basis of Union' which you can find using this link <https://uniting.church/basisofunion>. The 'Statement to the Nation' is a statement of vision and a commitment to guiding principles and where that should take us as the Church. It is actually an amazing piece and very forward thinking. It concludes with the words, "[We pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others. In the spirit of His self-giving love we seek to go forward.](#)" Hopefully we still are committed to following God in this way. Yet, this is a bit scary.

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Hope, Faith, God and Church

Continued

Forty-seven years later, a lot about the Church has changed. We don't hold the dominant place in society which we once enjoyed. We have seen significant decline in attendance and are still seeing a decline in participation in Church by many in our younger generations. In this there is some fear for our future. This is not fear of God, but a fear for God and the lack of people's valuing of a relationship with God – at least as expressed through formal, institutional, traditional forms of Church. Of course it is not all doom and gloom and there are many, many exciting things happening in the Church and great examples where trends of decline are being broken.

How then does fear of Jesus, fit in all this? Many of our congregations are doing things as they have done since Union. Many of our services and buildings which hold them look largely the same, although some of the music, exteriors and interiors have had some freshening up. In all the time I have spent in the Uniting Church (which is close to 42 years) I have not seen in the several congregations that I have been a part of I'm afraid that I have not seen a lot of the vision of the Statement of the Nation being prioritised. Certainly, in the wider Church I see evidence of the Statement being lived out, but in most of the congregations I have been a part of or have had connection with, most of the focus has been on Sunday services as Worship, with some secondary attention to Bible studies, home groups and other activities. I realise that I am grossly oversimplifying and that many congregation do much more (even the ones I have had connection with). Yet, in being deliberately provocative in order to get us thinking about our priorities, I can't help wondering if we are sometimes afraid to commit to Jesus at that level described in the Statement to the Nation.

There is the chance that the Uniting Church got it wrong back in 1977. However, some will argue that the decline in participation in Church can be correlated with our failure to engage as a whole people of God in much of which is described in the Statement to the Nation. Have too many of us fallen victim to the temptation of a *pax perniciososa* – a dangerous peace of mind which keeps us feeling separate and superior instead of connected and compassionate? Have we dulled the edge of the Gospel that Jesus preached and forgotten awe, and maybe even a little fear at how mind-bending is the Kingdom of God and how we are called to participate in its building? Maybe Jesus might be asking us in our comfortable churches, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" As the Church, the people of God, the Body of Christ, maybe we should revisit the Statement to the Nation and take up its challenge. Maybe we should reaffirm the commitment and, "pledge ourselves to hope and work for a nation whose goals are not guided by self-interest alone, but by concern for the welfare of all persons everywhere — the family of the One God — the God made known in Jesus of Nazareth the One who gave His life for others. In the spirit of His self-giving love we seek to go forward." Anyway, there is a lot we can 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

Bev Chivers
Christine Haines

Brayden Bell
Jane Cole

Annette Watson

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

23—29 June

Kenya, Tanzania

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (14 June 2024) please see link :

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



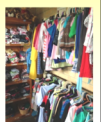
ST. MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BULKHAM HILLS growing together

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.