



**Bible Readings**

**8am and 9.30am**

Ephesians 2:11-22  
 Mark 6:30-34 & 53-56

*Response after Bible Readings*

**Leader:** *In this we hear the word of God*

**Response:** *Thanks be to God*



**8am—Worship**

Led by Pamela Leslie  
 and Clive Pearson

**9.30am—Worship**

Led by Hugh Darling  
 and Clive Pearson

**KUCA** in recess for school holidays

Followed by Morning Tea

**6.45pm—Worship**

Led by Clive Pearson

**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**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

**MONDAY 22 July**

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

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
**All Welcome**

community room and church

**TUESDAY 23 July**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**  
**9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation**

community room and church

**7.30pm—Property Committee Meeting**  
*upstairs hall*

**7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study**  
*lower hall*

**WEDNESDAY 24 July**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**THURSDAY 25 July**

**9am-2pm—Op Shop**

**FRIDAY 26 July**

**No Scheduled Events**

**SATURDAY 27 July**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop**  
**10.30am Op Shop Morning Tea**  
 lower hall

**SUNDAY  
 28 JULY**

**8am—Worship**  
 Followed by morning tea

**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

**CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:**

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**LOCATION:**

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have  
 contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 21 July

### 9th Sunday after Pentecost

#### Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 7: 1-14a  
Psalm 89: 20-37  
Ephesians 2: 11-22  
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

## Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday

Jesus summed up all the Law and Prophets with the exhortation to love God with all our being (our muchness) and to do this by loving our neighbour as ourselves. When asked, “Who is our neighbour?” Jesus tells the Parable of the Loving Neighbour. This powerful story of compassion in action is often misrepresented as the parable about the ‘Good Samaritan.’ Calling it this firstly misses the point Jesus was making by not actually naming what the parable is about – i.e. answering what it means to be a loving neighbour and who our neighbour is. Secondly, it misses the point by focusing on the foreignness of the loving person and by calling that person ‘good’ implying other were bad – after all the Samaritan people did not get on with Jewish people and vice versa. We are called to love our neighbour, but as Jesus’ story points out, our neighbour can often be more loving than we are.

Loving is a two-way thing. It is not something we do to others, but something we share with others. As the classic ‘Servant Song’ reminds us each time we sing it, “Brother, sister, let me serve you. Let me be as Christ to you. Pray, that I might have the grace to let you be my servant too.” Maybe we need to add a verse which says you my neighbour let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you. Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my neighbour too. Neighbouring is relationship lived in love.

Emerging from a decision of the 16th Assembly meeting, 21 July is designated as Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday in the Uniting Church. This day is an opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity in our DNA and to explore ways to build intercultural relationships in our own neighbourhoods. It is a time we as Church are encouraged to celebrate the cultural diversity at the heart of our Church and explore ways our interculturality. This year's theme is the 17th Assembly theme, ‘Threads of Love: Weaving Christ’s Love across Cultures and Boundaries.’ It’s an invitation to weave the threads of Christ’s love in all expressions of faith, across cultures and boundaries in your community and wider neighbourhood.

In a message from Rev Charissa Suli, our incoming President for the National Assembly, she offers the following reflection.

“An old Tongan proverb says, ‘oku nofo fakataha ha ki’i kolo lavame’a, ngaue fakataha, mo fetokoni’aki, which translates, “a successful village lives together, works together, and helps one another.” This proverb is particularly true for the Tongan women who work together to weave the Tongan Fala (mat). It is sacrificial labour, and women work diligently in communities to ‘lalanga’ (weave) the Fala so that the talanoa (dialogue) of people who sit on the Fala can begin. Each strand of the Fala is important to each other in the same way that the Holy Spirit gifts and empowers all members of the Church to confess Jesus Christ and serve him as one body with many members who contribute to the ministry and mission of the Church.

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## Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday

*Continued*

I encourage you to watch the message from Charissa using this link: <https://vimeo.com/973642695> You can read more about Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday on the Assembly website using the following link. <https://uniting.church/intercultural-neighbouring-sunday-2024/>

Loving our neighbour is not an optional extra for us as Christians, neither is being loved by them. In an increasingly multi-ethnic, multicultural, multi-faith society, our neighbours are increasingly likely to not always be from the same background as us. Our Church family is a good example of this. We have Sri Lankan, Korean, Chinese, Fijian and other nationalities represented as part of our Church family at St. Matthews. We are not just multicultural, but intercultural, for we each and as a community have a connection to many cultures.

Of course, culture extends beyond our nationality and ethnicities. Our Church culture is different from our club culture, be it a sporting club, social club, activity club or whatever. Those of us who are married know that each family has its own culture, and our family together will be different to the culture of the families we came from, just as those families are different to each other. We are intercultural because we carry the legacy of different cultures with us and within us. Each group of humans creates its own culture, even if that culture is based on a wider shared culture. For every group we belong to we carry part of that culture with us which makes us intercultural as individuals, but the same is also true for us as a community.

As we consider how to be better neighbours, the challenge becomes how we are truly loving to each other. We need to be cross-cultural as well as intercultural. We need to actively build bridges and connections where we welcome and celebrate our multicultural identity, valuing the difference and

diversity and weaving together the goodness to create our own intercultural identity. We cannot just expect others to be like us. We cannot say we are welcoming but make that welcome conditional to them conforming only to our culture and traditions – not if we want to claim to be part of Christ. Loving draws us out of ourselves and draws others into us. This is something that may seem easy to say but is hard to do.

God calls us to lay down our lives for each other and our neighbour, just as God did in the person of Jesus. Our reading from Ephesians reminds us that we adopted into God's family. [Ephesians 1: 5] All of us are the Children of God and our siblings in faith come from different backgrounds, yet together we are a family in love. We are learning how to better weave our cultural identity into an intercultural family of love where all are welcomed by our celebration and weaving of their culture with ours. There is still work to be done, but as we hold to Christ, it becomes easier for Christ is our centre and in him we share our identity.

A successful Church/congregation lives together, works together, and helps one another as we welcome, honour, celebrate and weave together our differences that we might be stronger together as we share faith and love. Loving our neighbour invites us to invite them to join with God in God's mission, but also invites us to take up the invitation to join with them in how they are joining with God in God's mission. The Kingdom of God is a sharing of love and we give and receive, offer and accept, and become more together as a communion of loving neighbourship. How we might continue to grow in this way is something to think about.

*God bless.*

*Jon*



## PEOPLE NEWS

Elaine Cater | Alexander Lawless

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

21—27 July

*Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo*

*Sympathy* to the Family and Friends of Val Whitmore who passed away on 17 July 2024. Details of the funeral will not be known until next week.



**Please return completed forms by 28th July**

## Volunteer Form

Assisting with Morning Services



**September, October & November 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.

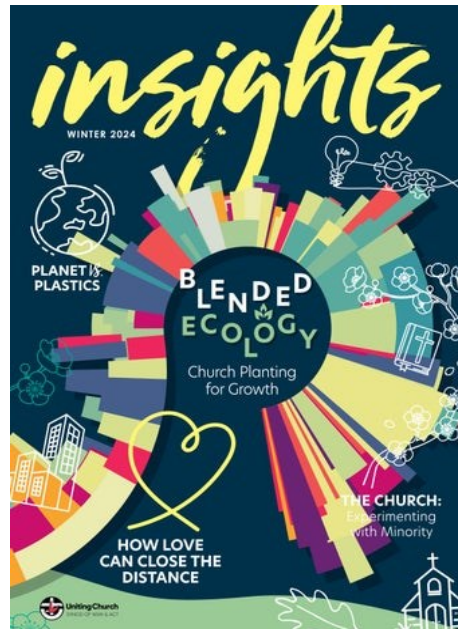


## Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for last week (12 July 2024) please see link :

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



Please pick up the latest *insights* magazine for Winter 2024 from the church foyer.

## AUGUST 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

**4th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm**  
includes Communion

**11th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm**  
Community Meal

**18th August - 9am Combined AGM**

**25th August - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm**

Live streaming at morning services

## Request for donations of used floral bowls.

If anyone has any of these floral 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



# Op Shop Morning Tea



**All Welcome**

**Saturday  
27th July**

Starting at 10:30am

**St. Matthew's  
Uniting Church**  
lower church hall

*Come and join our  
friendly volunteers and  
Op Shop customers for  
a special morning tea  
get-together.*

*Everyone is asked to  
bring a small plate of  
food. Tea and coffee  
will be provided.*

To follow us on **Facebook** search: 'St Matthews Op Shop Baulkham Hills'

To follow us on **Instagram**, search: StMatthewsOpShopBH

To contact Op Shop by email, go to: [stmatthewsopshopbh@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsopshopbh@gmail.com)

*Coffee  
and  
Discovery*

## celtic REGIONS

**-facts  
and  
other  
stuff**

**Thursday  
1st August  
10am - 12pm**

Guest Speaker: **Alan Wright**

**The history of Celtic regions  
in Northern Europe dates  
back over many hundreds of years.  
Each has a unique set of traditions,  
some ancient, some relatively modern.  
This presentation is a look at some of the  
customs and practices of six of these  
regions and includes a wee bit of history  
and some other stuff.**



*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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)**

**Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.**