



Bible Readings

8am & 9.30am

Micah 6: 6-8
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: *In this we hear the word of God*
Response: *Thanks be to God*



8am—Worship includes Communion
 Led by Jon Humphries

9.30—Worship includes Communion
 Led by Jon Humphries
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
 Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship includes Communion
 Led by Alex Lawless,
 Abbey Sim and Jon Humphries

**Livestreaming at
 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 9AM

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 2 September
9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale
 lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 3 September
9am-2pm—Op Shop
9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
 community room and church
11.30am—Care and Prayer
 Community Room or Church
7.30pm—Thrive Bible Study
 lower hall

WEDNESDAY 4 September
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—In Stitches
 upstairs hall

THURSDAY 5 September
9am-2pm—Op Shop
10am-12pm—Coffee and Discovery
 upstairs hall

FRIDAY 6 September
No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 7 September
9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
 lower hall

**SUNDAY
 8 SEPTEMBER**

8am—Worship
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

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
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WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

1st September

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Readings:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-2

Reading for Our Service:

Micah 6: 6-8

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-2

Church and Religion

What comes to mind when you hear the word, 'church'? Literally, what is the first thing that comes to mind? What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word, 'religion'? What is the first thing that comes to mind to many in our community when they hear the words, 'church' and 'religion'? How do you know? Do you ever think about it? Have you asked many people, or have they talked to you about it? How much thought have you given to what it means to be Church and what our Church is like?

If we are to be relevant as the Church in our context and community and in our modern society, we need to be able to answer both sets of questions well. Answering these questions is not about trying to work out what people want and then adapt the way we go about things to be attractive to others in our community in an attempt to bring

people in. It is about knowing who we are, why we are, and who we should be. It is about knowing how people perceive us and why they perceive us that way, not to change ourselves to correct their image, but to know where things might be going wrong either with our own sense of self or the way we are connecting, or failing to connect, with our community.

This week in our service we are looking at what the Scripture talks about in terms of what good religion is. It may be a little surprising to find that there is little in the Bible that suggests Church should be what it is today. Much of what we think of Church being today, at least the visible tip of the churchberg [Church + iceberg] has little to do with what the early Church looked like and what the guidance of the Scriptures gives for being Church.

Furthermore, hopefully it is not the case, but if Church is a chore, or has a priority rating in our lives which is easily pushed aside due to other things which might be happening, then what does that say about how we have let Church become. After all, WE are the Church. The Church isn't a building or an organisation, although both of those things are a part of being Church for many of us. The Church is us. If Church is not a place where we connect with God, connect with others, being encouraged towards love and good works, and having a community which helps us or provides opportunities to do this, then it is our problem, because we have either made it that way or let it become that way. We are the Church, not the Church Council, the Elders or the ministry leaders.

Continued next page

Church and Religion—Continued

In the Uniting Church, the Church in the foundation form of the congregation has the following purpose and responsibilities.

“A Congregation, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, shall be those members and adherents who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, and who meet regularly to hear God’s Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery.

(b) ***In fulfilling its purpose a Congregation shall:***

- (i) bear witness to that unity that is both Christ’s gift and his will;
- (ii) build up the members and adherents in faith and love;
- (iii) sustain the members and adherents in hope;
- (iv) nurture the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- (v) equip the members and adherents for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as they participate in the mission of Christ;
- (vi) discipline [disciple] its members in love;
- (vii) maintain pastoral oversight;
- (viii) encourage each member and adherent to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation; and
- (ix) provide means whereby the members and adherents may be sustained in fellowship, in prayer and in confession, in baptism and in the Lord’s Supper, in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel proclamation and service.”

[see Par. 23 of the Uniting Church in Australia Constitution and Regulation 3.1.1]

We are slowly evolving our sense of mission. Our mission plan isn’t something to just whip up quickly so that we can say that we have one. Our sense of mission arises from who God calls us to be, who God calls us to love and serve and bear witness to and what God is calling us to do in order bear that love and witness and serve them, (which includes Jesus’ commission to disciple all people and teach them all he commanded).

I encourage you to watch the little video called, ‘The Great Commission, go and make disciples’ which you can find on YouTube or use the following link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNQ-I_N07oc

It is a nice provocation to get us thinking about who we are and what our purpose is as the Church. It is good to remember that in all this we are called to God’s mission to grow the Kingdom of God/the Commonwealth of the Common Good, not to grow the Church per se. If we focus on God and God’s work, then there is every chance, given the witness of Scripture and history, that the Church will grow too. Who we are called to be and what we are called to do and how we share that with our community gives us a lot to think about as we seek to move forward

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Ellen Keegan
Peter Duncum
Belinda Schuster

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

SEPTEMBER 2024
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
at the church

1st September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

8th September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

15th September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

22nd September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

29th September - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services

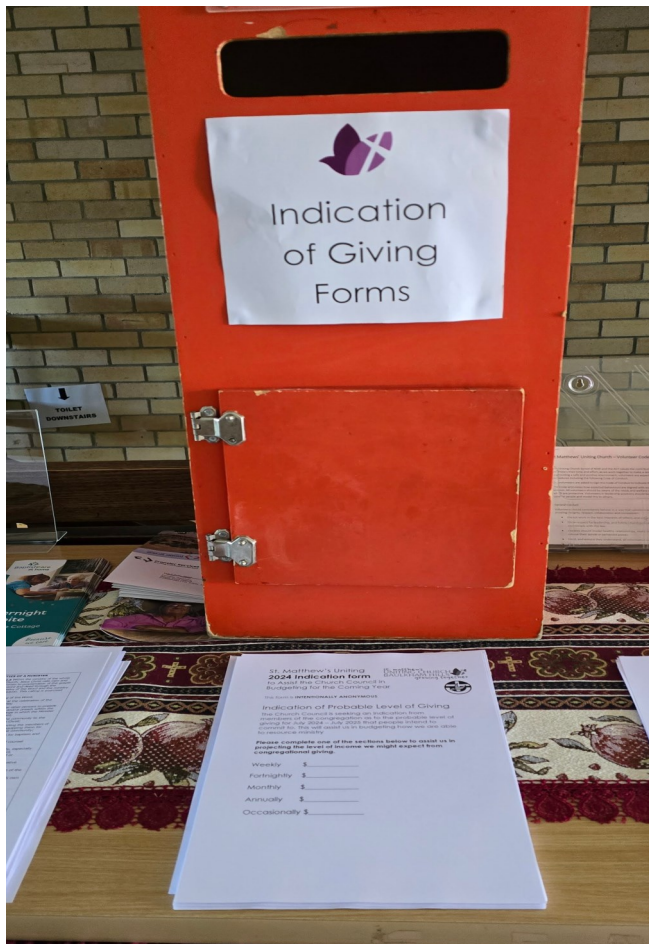
Ecumenical Prayer Cycle





1—7 September
Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Weekly
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter
for last week (23 August 2024) please see
[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)



St. Matthew's Uniting 
2024 Indication form
to Assist the Church Council in
Budgeting for the Coming Year



This form is **INTENTIONALLY ANONYMOUS**

Indication of Probable Level of Giving

The Church Council is seeking an indication from members of the congregation as to the probable level of giving for July 2024 – July 2025 that people intend to commit to. This will assist us in budgeting how we are able to resource ministry

Please complete one of the sections below to assist us in projecting the level of income we might expect from congregational giving.

Weekly \$ _____
Fortnightly \$ _____
Monthly \$ _____
Annually \$ _____
Occasionally \$ _____

Please fill in the Indication of probable level of giving form located in the Church foyer



Thursday 5th September

10am - 12pm

Aussie Hero Quilts

Guest Speaker: Jan Marie Bell

Jan Marie Bell will tell the inspirational story of 'Aussie Hero Quilts' founded by her in 2012, when a group of volunteers came together and commenced making quilts and laundry bags to send to Aussie service men and women serving overseas.



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

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

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**13
SEPTEMBER**

**5 PM
FRIDAY**



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda on belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



A notice to all groups and individuals using the church property.

If you open any windows whilst you are here, can you please ensure that you close and lock them before you leave.

Thank you

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.