



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**   
 growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

26 January 2025

Epiphany 3

### Bible Readings

**1 Corinthians 12: 12-31**  
**Luke 4: 14-21**



#### Response after Bible Readings

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

**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 9AM**



Epiphany 3

**9am—Worship**   
**Australia Day**

Led by Jon Humphries  
 and Clive Pearson

**Followed by morning tea**

**KUCA** in Recess for school holidays

**5pm—Shine**

**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Led by Abbey Sim  
 and Jon Humphries

**Livestreaming at**

**8am and 9.30am only**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 27 January

**Australia Day**   
**Public Holiday**

**Church Office Closed**

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

#### TUESDAY 28 January

**8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop RE-OPENS**

**7.30pm—Christian Meditation**  
 community room and church

**7.30pm—Thrive bible study**  
 Meeting offsite

#### WEDNESDAY 29 January

**8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop**

**10am-12noon—In Stitches**  
 Upstairs hall

#### THURSDAY 30 January

**8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open**

**9am-12pm—Op Shop**

#### FRIDAY 31 January

**No Scheduled Activities**  
**Church Office Closed**

#### SATURDAY 1 February

**9am-12pm—Op Shop**

**9am-12pm—Garage Sale**  
 lower hall

### SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

**8am—Worship**  
 Includes Communion

**9.30am—Worship**  
 Includes Communion

**KUCA returns for 2025**  
 Preschool,  
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8

Followed by morning tea

**6.45pm—Worship**  
 Includes Communion



Epiphany 4

#### MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

#### CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY:

LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 8AM-2.30PM

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

**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

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Thank you to all who have  
 contributed to this publication.

# Something to think about

## 19th January

### Epiphany 3

#### Lectionary Readings:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

#### Being In Christ, or Christ Being in Us

In this week's readings as set by the Revised Common Lectionary, we have the passage that many of us will be very familiar with from 1 Corinthians 12 which talks about how we are one body with many parts. We know ourselves, we who are the Church, as the Body of Christ. Paul affirms this when he clearly states. "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12: 27) It is a powerful statement of identity whose importance we can sometimes overlook or become complacent about.

Being a body, as the Apostle Paul writes, means that we all have a place and role as and as the Church, and no part of the body can say to another that they are not part of the body. Neither can any individual part see ourselves as not being a part of the body. This is a gift and calling. We are called into community in our diversity, and this community

and our diversity is our gift. Furthermore, our diversity stems from our gifting from God as Spirit. We each have gifting from God as Spirit and, as the Uniting Church affirms in Paragraph 13 of the Basis of Union, there is no gift without a corresponding service/ministry and all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ. <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/> Thus as we all contribute to the life of the Church/ The Body of Christ in different ways, the body talks on its full life.

It is notable that no one of us can say to another that we are not a part of the Church. If we stop to think about that, this is a really significant statement of inclusion and it has very strong implications about how we organise our life. Moreover, we can't exclude others or ourselves because it is God who has included us. There aren't people who are in and who are out in the family of God. We have to learn to live and work together. This is at the heart of the message of Paul to the Church in Corinth who were experiencing divisiveness.

Therefore, if we are in Christ we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is not just something which applies to us only as individuals, but I believe has to do with the call in Christ to be the body of Christ corporately and collectively. We not only have a new identity – "the Body of Christ" – but a new way of being, which is not just about our own personal spiritual and faith life, but it brings us into a community with our brothers and sisters in Christ who also have been adopted by God. Adoption is a real and legal and binding. It means that we have to live differently, because we are now related differently to God and to all we share faith and discipleship with.

Continued next page

### Being In Christ, or Christ Being in Us-continued

Being the Body of Christ means that we are the incarnation of Christ in the world – this is not to say that we are God, but as adopted children of God (Ephesians 1:4-5) we are a principle way that God manifests the Kingdom of God in the world. We are the enfleshed working of God, for God dwells within us as Spirit, because we are temples of God as Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) which Paul wrote about earlier in the same letter in which he now describes us as the Body of Christ.

We are holy temples of God who is Spirit. This is an amazing reality. God enfolds us into Godself and we become the Body of God who is Christ. At the same time God is unfolding in us the Kingdom of God, as God as Spirit, unfolds gifts in us which call and lead us into the embodiment of God's love in the world as we seek to serve and love our neighbour.

What all this means is that we have a choice. It is not just a once-in-a-lifetime choice, although that first 'Yes' to God can be a powerfully important starting step, but it is a moment-by-moment, day-by-day lifetime choice to submit to God's working in and with, and through us. Our first choice to say 'Yes to God is a moment of conversion, but we then are led into a lifelong journey of conversion as we submit to the will and way of God. Here the Fruit of the Spirit are not only an outward manifestation of God as Spirit being at work in us, but key pathways into our acceptance of how we are called to live differently in relation to each other.

Submission to God, is a term we don't often talk about in our modern Western Christianity, that is often focused on what we receive and gain from faith and spirituality. Submission sometimes gets interpreted as submissiveness in yielding to a greater

power or authority. This does apply to God, but in our submission to God, God is not overbearing or coercive. Our submission to God is to open ourselves to the way and wisdom of God. It is standing aside from blocking God's enfolding and unfolding of love, grace and other gifting in our lives and joining in God's enfolding us into a community where God's purpose and love is unfolding into the wider world.

So, we are the Body of Christ – the Church. This is our identity. We embody God to others. We have life in our connection with each other which is a connection with life in God. The body of Christ is not just a nice metaphor, but a challenging reality which changes how we should seek to go about living well. Being the Body of Christ puts us in the place of submitting to each other in love as we seek to integrate ourselves as the people of God. It calls us into sometimes difficult relationships, but ones which God equips us with the fruity tools to help us with and the guidance of the Word of God which we can hear through Scripture.

As we move towards our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills it is good to remember that we, individually and collectively, are a part of the Body of Christ, and not just as a congregation or even as a denomination, but as part of the whole, world-wide Body of Christ which is the whole Church of God. How we can live better and more healthily as Christ's body together therefore gives us much to think about.

*God bless*

*Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Beau Cameron  
Peter Jenkyn  
Garry Bindley  
Bruce Chivers

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

**Garage**



**Saturday  
1st February**

**9am-12pm**

Pre-loved  
Household Items,  
Electrical, Toys & Books  
(Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

*St. Matthew's Lower Hall*

ST. MATTHEW'S BAWKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
growing together

**Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

26 January — 1 February

*Cyprus, Greece, Turkey*

**Optus customers**

As you be aware congregation members who are Optus customers are not receiving emails sent by the Church office. This is a problem that cannot be fixed and we have been advised that people who have Optus.net accounts change to alternative email providers, whether that may be Gmail, Outlook etc. If this effects you, please advise the church office when you make any changes *Thank you*



Please pick up the latest

**insights**

magazine  
Summer 2024

from the  
church foyer

**Please note the Lectionary Bible Study will resume in February 2025.**

**St Matthews Pre school Closure dates**

St Matthews Pre School will be closed from Friday 20 December and we re-open for a pupil-free staff only day on Friday 31 January 2025.

Classes begin from  
Monday 3 February

**Please return completed forms by 26 January**

**Volunteer Form**

Assisting with Morning Services



**March, April, May 2025**

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 BAWKHAM HILLS



St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills  
Contemplative Spirituality  
SPIRITUALITY IN A SECULAR AGE

The Monday evening 7.30-8.30pm and  
Tuesday morning 9.30-10.30am

Christian Meditation groups will be  
listening to 7 short talks by  
Laurence Freeman OSB as part of the  
hour sessions from

**January 13th to February 25th,  
2025.**

You are welcome to join to listen to  
these important talks and experience  
being in community in the silent  
presence of the Spirit of Christ.

If you wish to find out more please  
contact Katherine Pedersen on  
0437772011 or Rosemary Sexton at  
morning worship.



**WORLD DAY  
of Prayer 2025**  
**Focus country: The Cook Islands**

**7.30pm  
Friday 7th March**

**Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
295 Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills.**

**Join your local one-hour prayer service**

***The Easter Experience*  
2025**

**at Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church  
Sunday 6th, Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th  
& Wednesday 9th April**

**If you would like to take part please contact  
Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church at [info@gpuc.org.au](mailto:info@gpuc.org.au)**

The Easter experience staged each year with volunteer actors from Gordon/Pymble congregation and others, an outreach to the local primary schools (year 4) telling them the story of Easter.

**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.**