



Bible Readings



Luke 6: 17-26
Psalm 1

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

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
 and Roland Bryant

9.30am—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

KUCA Preschool,
 Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
 Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 17 February
Church Office Closed

7.30pm—Christian Meditation
 community room and church

TUESDAY 18 February

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open
9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room and church

7-8.30pm—Lectionary Bible Study

WEDNESDAY 19 February

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open
9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12noon—In Stitches
 Upstairs hall

10-12noon—Men's morning tea
 Mckels Café Bella Vista

THURSDAY 20 February

8am-2.30pm—Church Office Open
9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 21 February

2pm—Memorial service in Church
5-7pm—Fusion Youth Group

SATURDAY 22 February
No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY
23 FEBRUARY

8am—Worship
 Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship
KUCA

Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

Followed by morning tea

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



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:

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 BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

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Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

16th February

Epiphany 6

Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

A Big Apology

Dear members of St. Matthew's Uniting Church. I wish to humbly and formally apologise for last week's newsletter piece. I wish people to know that it was a reflection rooted in my own personal journey and growth. In sharing my thoughts, particularly the prayer that was shared, it was not my intention to accuse or denounce anyone, other than myself, as being racist. Whilst the issue of aversive racism is one which we should address in society and the Church, after all Paul addresses it in his letters and Jesus addresses it with his people in terms of their aversion to people from Samaria, the way it ended up coming across was not how I desired to encourage people in thinking about the issues

The prayer that was included, unfortunately due to miscommunication on my part, appeared under the heading, "share this prayer." It was not my intention that people should share the prayer or share in the prayer. It was simply shared as my own personal reflection and confession and as

an example of someone, who is sometimes held to high standards of personal spirituality, was taking up the call in Christ to growth, transformation and reconciliation.

Please accept my humble apologies, in Christ.

Jon

What Do I Do as a Ministry Leader Do with My Time?

What do ministry leaders and ordained people in placements do with their time each week? I wondered this when I was a member in the congregations that I have been a part of. I am presuming that it might be of interest to some here at St. Matthews. Whilst I cannot comment on what other people who are ministry leaders do with their time, maybe it is of interest and even helpful that I share some of what I do in a week. This might aid understanding and shaping priorities as I share some of what I do in closer detail, which gives a finer glimpse than the quarterly ministry reports I offer.

Of course, every week is different, even though there are some basic core tasks such as preparing for the coming services. Different seasons also have different demands as well – Christmas and Easter being times where preparation for the special services take priority in the weeks leading up to those celebrations.

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What Do I Do as a Ministry Leader Do with My Time?
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So, here is most of what last week looked like for me... The week began on Sunday where I usually arrive between 6.45am and 7.00am to get things set up and ready for the services. This includes opening the place up, checking all is in order and doing some last-minute tasks. I then participate in the 8.00am and 9.30am services and try to get to talk to as many people as I can as well as resetting the space for the next service. After closing up around 11-11.15am, I head off usually to have lunch with my family. In the afternoon I might finish preparing for the evening service, if I haven't selected songs and prepared the Proclaim presentation. Proclaim is the presentation software that we use to display the order of service and the words to songs, hymns and prayers etc. I usually arrive back at the Church between 5.30 and 5.45pm to set up for the evening service. Last week involved stopping on the way for bread for Communion and then setting up for Communion before the service. We usually use the method of intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) in the evening. So, set up is getting a plate and mug and setting out the elements. At 6pm Bradley Demartino and I then usually practise the music for the service because it is currently only he and I who form the band. We have supper after the service and I help clean up and lock up, leaving at about 8.30pm.

Monday last week was a fairly quiet day in terms of extra activities. I arrived at the Church building about 12noon and then much of the afternoon included preparing orders of service, answering emails, getting the mail etc. At about 6.45pm I set up for Christian meditation, preparing the Community Room for the 7.30pm gathering, and also setting up the chairs etc for the Tuesday

morning session. We usually close and lock up about 8.45pm.

Tuesday I was here at 7.30am. I opened up, finished setting the space for Christian, meditation, did some work preparing for the evening Bible study I do some work adjusting the digital sign board, adding a notice screen for Prayer and Care. Meditation was at 9.30am. When it finished, I went down to my office, talked with Lynn in the office about how she was going and about things that we needed to work for the week. I answered some emails, started my reflection for In Focus and then went up for Care and Prayer at 11.30am. After that I corrected the digital sign board because I had left off the times for Care and Prayer. I also finished the preparation and printing for Bible Study that evening. We had training from Dean Drayton on Care and Prayer from 1.00pm-3.30pm. I went home after that got dinner ready for the family and came back for 7.00pm Bible Study. Bible Study wrapped up soon and 8.30pm and I locked up and headed home.

Wednesday began with a 9.30am drop-off of books from the Garage Sale to Lifeline book depot in Asquith (10min from where I live). I then went to Castle Hill for a meeting with someone I am mentoring as part of their Period of Discernment. The meeting was at 11am, and whilst I was waiting, I posted on the St. Matthew's Facebook and wrote a prayer of confession for Sunday morning. After my meeting which finished just after 1pm I was off the clock for a time and drove to Newcastle to participate in an Interplay Group that I belong to. Although it seems a long way, it is a time which nurtures my soul, and the driving time allows me to make phone calls and do some reflection. I drove back when the group finished at 5pm for a 7pm Finance Committee meeting which finished just after 9pm. I locked up and went home.

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What Do I Do as a Ministry Leader Do with My Time?
continued

On Thursday I headed in about 12.30pm. I talked with Lynn in the office, chatted with people in the Op. Shop, helped a little there. I put up some paintings from Rosemary Smith in the Church space. They are about the Fruit of the Spirit and are worth looking at more closely. They were formerly in the downstairs hall. I put up a bracket for a Dyson vacuum near the tech desk at the back of the Church space and put in some hooks for this year's drapery at Easter or Christmas since I had my drill and tools out. I spent the afternoon, answering emails, adding to the schedule of dates, readings and themes which the team who choose music use so that it extends beyond the current schedule that was up to March/Easter. This includes trying to read through the readings for each week and chose a theme. I prepared some resources for the evening service young adults Bible study and the Tuesday night Bible study. I pulled together the slides for my learning together time and message part for the Proclaim presentation. I prepared and sent a letter of invitation to a guest speaker for Preachfest 2025, which I am on the organising committee for.

As an ordained ministry agent in placement in the Uniting Church, I have to assist in the wider work of the Church as part of the terms of placement. In this time I wrote a report to Dirk Van Doorene and the Presbytery Ministry Committee about the progress of the mentoring for the Period of Discernment I have been doing which is part of that contribution to the wider life of the Church. Thursday was rounded off as I then made sure that the Church was reset for Sunday and was ready for the digital

ministry group meeting at 7.30pm. This wrapped up close to 9.30pm and that wrapped up my week, because I took Friday as a day off.

As I have mentioned, every week is different. Some weeks have visits to people in hospital or caring conversations. There are other meetings, training events and seminars. Conversations, meetings, emails and phone calls are part of the regular pattern although irregular in the times which they occur. Soon I will resume teaching Special Religious Education (SRE *formerly known as 'Scripture'*) once a week and doing the preparation for those lessons. I am coordinating and helping with the leadership of the youth group which starts up this week and trying to get to visit the preschool when I can. The pattern is always changing and is never boring.

I hope this is helpful in giving you a glimpse in what ministry looks like for me. I am aware that I haven't yet done as much visiting as I had hoped to when I started but also note that we have less members on our ministry team than when I commenced in this role. That, being said I am always happy to meet with people and visit. I apologise for not initiating this as much as many might like or expect. Please, if you would like me to meet with you, visit someone (including yourself) or just have a chat, reach out and we can make a time.

God bless Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Hugh Darling
Ben Mathewson
Warren Arthur
Robyn Mathewson

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

16—22 February

Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Many Thanks

To all those who contacted me after my recent fall and hospital stay. Your cards, visits and phone calls, when contact could be made were very much appreciated.

Margaret Benoit



**We need your help
teaching KUCA
During the 9.30am
service**

**Preschool, Year K-2 and
Years 3-8**

Please see Jon if you can help.

Sympathy to Helen Olley and Family on the death of Helen's father Max Gamble on 8 February 2025.

A funeral service will be held at Lismore Regional Uniting Church on Monday 17 February at 10am.



A Memorial service for the life of Cecile Layt will be held at St. Matthew's on Friday 21 February at 2pm.



**Friday 7 March
Saturday 8 March**

The Property Committee will be holding the next working bee over 2 days to make it easier for volunteers to attend. The focus of the working bee is to be ready for Erin Mathewson & Sam Lam wedding on the 15th March which is being held at St. Matthew's together with afternoon tea and Easter soon after. We want the church to sparkle for these events.

Times and dates:

- ◇ **Friday 7th March:** from 2.00pm to 6.00 pm
- ◇ **Saturday 8th March:** from 8.00am to 11.00am (morning tea provided)

Please come along for a little while or the whole time. Many hands make light work and would be most appreciated.

Due to the possibility of storms and severe weather, this event has been deferred until 22 March.

More details will follow.

INVITATION

This is an urgent request and invitation for people to be a part of an audiovisual production, which is a modern adaptation of the story of the Life and Teachings of Jesus.

In this production, the voice and face of God is the Rev Geoff Stevenson, the voice and face of Jesus is the Rev Kent Crawford, the Rev 'Oto Favia is a member of God's committee and the Rev Ian Pearson is one of the 17 narrators, who have already recorded the audio channel for this production.

We need at least 200 people to be the members of a large crowd, to take part in a photography session during a relaxed picnic

lunch on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, in the grounds of the Ebenezer Church, from 11 AM on **Saturday 22 March. (please see change of date)**

All that is required is to arrive at Ebenezer by about 11 AM, then set up your picnic blanket or chairs and your lunch in the designated area, before enjoying everybody's company.

Photos will be taken of Kent Crawford, speaking as in the Sermon on the Mount and the feeding of the 5000, and of the assembled crowd of extras.

Any questions should be directed to John Law, who is the writer, director and producer at Cosmic Publications and Productions. John's phone number is 0414 409 098 and his email address is jvl@dutg.com.au.



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Join Us for the First 2025 Missional Reading Group!

Whether you're deeply involved in mission or exploring fresh perspectives on church, culture, and creation, this reading group promises enriching discussions that deepen our understanding of a blended ecology of the church, mission in Australia, First Nations voices, and key issues of intercultural life, gender, and creation care.

When: Tuesday, 25 February, 7–9 PM

Where: Online via Zoom

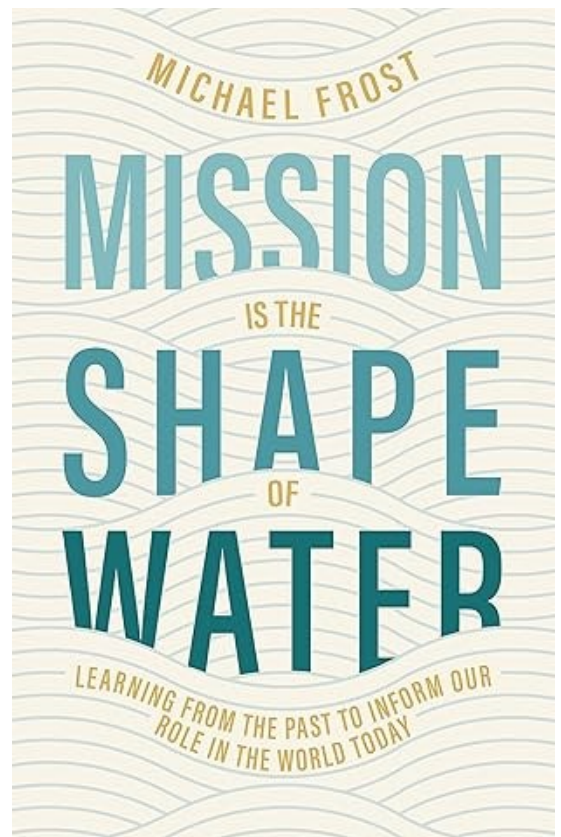
Book: [*Mission Is the Shape of Water: Learning From the Past to Inform Our Role in the World Today*](#) by Michael Frost

Discover how mission, like water, adapts and flows through changing contexts. Let's explore how lessons from history can shape our role in today's world.

Special Guest: We are thrilled that the author, Michael Frost, will be joining us for a conversation about the themes of this powerful book!

Open to everyone across our churches and Synod!

[Missional Reading Group – First Gathering - UCA](#)





The first Thursday of each month from March until December

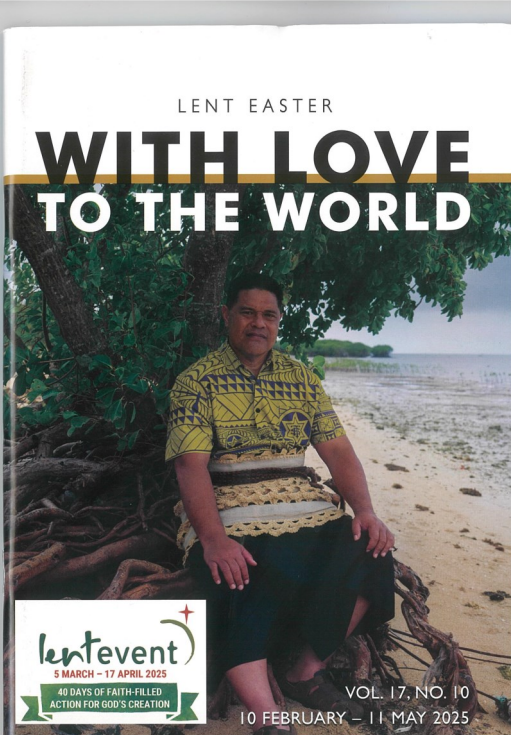
Next meeting will be **6th March**
10am—12noon



Speaker: Jennifer Philps
"Genetics Medical Research Institute"

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

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



L E N T E A S T E R

**WITH LOVE
TO THE WORLD**

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 10
10 February 2025 to 11 May 2025

is available in the church foyer.

**Please place
\$7 in offering bag
to help cover costs**



Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (7 February 2025) please see link :

[New Insights](#) (Synod Weekly)

**The St. Matthew's Uniting Church weekly
Newsletter is available to view at the
end of each week for the upcoming Sun-
day on the St. Matthew's website
www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Click on the metal dove image / publications
or find in recent posts.**

St Matthew's **HAPPY HOUR!**

At NBC

166 Windsor Rd, Northmead

21
FEBRUARY | **5 PM**
FRIDAY



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

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



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**

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.