

st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together

May 2025



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

Easter

As I write this, I note that the last newsletter piece I wrote was for 6 April, and here it is at the end of the month and this is one of the first things that I have written since the beginning of the month. It has been a big month, with most of it for me being dampened **RSV** by having (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). Sadly, this seems to be something that I took away with me to my deployment as a Disaster Recovery Chaplain and has kept me unwell ever since.

However, there has been much to celebrate and be thankful for in the past month. Easter is a season of fifty days, but it really begins with the end of Lent and Holy Week which commences with Palm Sunday. We have been blessed as a congregation through the celebration of Easter. My thanks goes to all who helped out and stepped in to cover services and activities whilst I have been unwell. Whilst I am sorry not to have been able to carry out my responsibilities and have missed this special time of the Christian calendar, it has been a blessing to have a richness of the gifts of the many amazing and generous and faithful people we have in our congregation.

Whilst I was not really well, and unaware that the cause was RSV. I was able to fulfill my role as one of the four people acting as Jesus in the Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church Easter Experience. Thank you to the others from our congregation who were able to help out and it was good to catch up with Daniel Gibb, our former youth and young peoples worker, who also played Jesus. In the three days of taking Year 4 students from local schools through an interactive and immersive experience of the Easter around 180 young people got to encounter the story of God's love through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus in a new way.

I was also able to lead the SRE (Special Religious Education) Easter Assembly for Years K-2 at Jasper Road Public School. This went well as we recalled and explored the Easter story and used music, picture books, song, dance and movement, to better learn about this important event which is told in Scripture.

Although I was not able to be present, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday have been reported as being helpful and spiritual services which were well-led by the wonderful team who stepped in to lead them. Easter saw my return to leading services, and it was a blessing to have so many visitors come to our services.

Our Easter evening services had probably more visitors than regular members. Hopefully, some of these people may find that St. Matthew's is a welcoming place for them to continue to explore faith and spirituality. However, we pray that they may have encountered God in some meaningful way through their time with us and what we were able to offer.

Easter Sunday, the 20th of April was coincidentally the 50th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone for our church building. As we head towards Pentecost, we also look forward as we plan for great celebrations in November to mark our fiftieth anniversary as a church on the present site.



Finally, we welcome Sara
Wienand into her new role as
Pastoral Care Worker. Sara has
20-hour per week role and it is
excited to have her taking on this
new ministry with us. Sara is one
of our elders and normally
attends the 9.30am service, but
we will look to her wider
involvement as she takes on
these new connections. So, it is
an exciting time as we continue
to evolve and grow in our life
and witness together.

God bless Jon



From the book Silence & Stillness in Every Season



Daily readings with John Main

The fullness of the life that Christ offers each of us is eternal life—life without limit. The mystery is that fullness of life is offered to us now. All of us have to learn as we live our lives that there must be constant development. The invitation we have is to grow, to develop, to mature. One of the elements of that maturity is our growing capacity to enter the present moment more and more fully, more and more perfectly, more and more generously. That is why it is so important that we continue to meditate every day, faithfully, every morning and every evening.

Each time we meditate and each time we say our mantra we are entering into that process of development, deepening our capacity to be wholly in the now. The invitation that we have is to build our lives on the eternal rock that is Christ. It is easy for us for our lives to pass before our eyes in some sort of haphazard kaleidoscope. It is so easy for us to live our lives been tossed around by waves of mere fortune, never knowing where we will be landing up next or how long we will be there.

The challenge for all of us is to find the rock who is Christ, to find him in our hearts and then to respond to our lives, rooted in the knowledge that is love.

Door to Silence.



At Eric Mobbs
Reserve, Ferguson
Avenue
Castle Hill
The first Saturday
of every month

WEATHER PERMITTING.

Come along just for a chat, find out what we do at the Men's Shed or have a look at the wonderful shed made items for sale

Not only will there be our beautiful handmade items for sale but there will also be lots of tools and carpentry items from \$5. The perfect opportunity to get that bargain for your home workshop.

Come and have a chat with our talented shedders about any repairs or modifications to your precious pieces, or make of that "special piece" you have always wanted.

EFTPOS will be available.

For any enquires please contact Lloyd - 0424 430 091

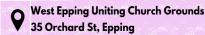






FAIR TRADE MARKET

SATURDAY 3RD MAY 10AM-3PM



From beautiful handmade jewellery, ornaments, textiles, gifts and more from around the world - supporting artisans and their families to help alleviate poverty' - there's something for everyone!

All fair trade products!!

Devonshire tea & sausage sizzle!













Everyone is invited to come along.

Bible Study Tuesday Evenings

Focusing on the Lectionary readings from the previous Sunday.

Where: St. Matthew's UC Church or Community

Room

Time: 7pm-8.30pm

Weekly: On a Tuesday night

In recess for the first few weeks of May

Led by Jon Humphries and Alastair
Burn

Customer Morning Tea

You are invited to the Op Shop Customers & Volunteers' Morning Tea on



Saturday 17th May 2025

in the lower church hall starting at **10.00** am. Please bring a **small** plate of food. Tea and coffee will be provided.

The Op Shop will be open on this day from **10am to 12pm.**



Thursday 1 May

10am—12noon





Who have previously worked as missionaries in Uganda, have recently completed a fund raising effort to build a well in a village where the only available water is from a contaminated swamp.

They will speak of their experiences.



1st Saturday of the month 9am-12pm

Upcoming dates

- 3 May
- 7 June
- 5 July

Pre-loved
Household items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
(Fiction, Non -fiction & children's books)

St. Matthew's Lower hall



Parramatta Mission Hats for Homeless

A new St. Matthew's initiative is collecting knitted, crochet or loomed beanies and scarves and soap for Parramatta Mission for distribution to homeless and disadvantaged people who access their services.

Patterns are available on Hats for Homeless Facebook page.

If you are able to help, there is a collection tub at the top of the stairs.

For more information contact Christine Haines 0401 344 800



From the Social Issues Focus Group at St Matthew's

'Doing little things can make a big difference'.

Learning More About Social Issues from a Christian Perspective

To ask about joining the Social Issues Group at St Matthew's email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com Our next meeting will be on *Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7pm*.

From the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly: The 2025 update of the 'Our Vision for a Just Australia' has been released by the Uniting Church in Australia assembly and is available on the following link:

https://uniting.church/a-vision-for-a-justaustralia/?

fbclid=lwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR6XeF0lYpSG6PX3 8z72tHGCuNpqOZ6MzzMexMRDz5Xhtj9EyrWahZw PzCXXIA aem Y1bM0ZqUfqLVY2k6aYkAhw

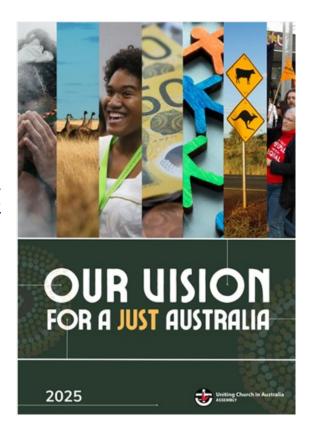
Faith Based Resources on Social Justice:

Gambling reform spokesperson Tim Costello speaks on a podcast by the City Bible Forum (released on 7th April 2025, episode 24). 'Does Religion help or hurt social justice with Tim Costello' https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/city-bible-forum/id982437968?i=1000702623009

There are some special dates coming up soon. National Reconciliation Week is 27th May to 3rd June. Also NAIDOC week is Sunday 6 July 2025 to 13 July 2025. There are some good resources on faith and social justice from the Common Grace website, including resources for learning more about First Nations https://www.commongrace.org.au/

There is a free training course through Uniting Learning called 'Aboriginal Cultural Capability'. There are three 25 minute modules. To register go to:

https://nswactuca.eventsair.com/mt-acct-lms/registration/Site/Register



To subscribe to the Uniting Advocacy Social Justice E-News emails, send an email to register to: advocacy@uniting.org

Blessings, Alexander

Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV): 37. Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38. This is the first and greatest commandment. 39. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Will you join with the Hills Community and March for Change?

TOGETHER WE STAND AGAINST DOMESTIC AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

2 May 2025
Starting at 7am
Meeting at Castle Place, Castle Hill

For more information or to register click on the QR code



Thanks to Castle Hill RSL, Castle Hills Police, Castle Towers, the Hills Soroptimists, Baulkham Hills Lions and the Hills Domestic Violence Prevention Network for being part of this important march for change.









candleligh

END THE VIOLENCE



Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Rd, Castle Hill

Friday, 30 May 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

Join us and light a candle in remembrance honouring those we have lost, those who have suffered violence and those who still suffer.

Stay for as long or as little as you like

Tea, coffee and conversation available

Calendar of Events for May 2025

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS



Bible Study Tuesday Evenings 7pm-8.30pm

in church or community room

We will be Focusing on the Lectionary readings from the previous Sunday.

Led by Jon Humphries & Alastair Burn

Please join us ALL WELCOME



Wednesday 14th May @ 10am

"High Tea"

Dulcie Duncum & Margaret Gray



3rd Wednesday of the month 10am to 12noon

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevarde Bella Vista

Every third Wednesday of the month Enquiries Alan Wright



1st,3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month in the upstairs church hall. 10.00am to 12.00pm Bring your craft along to do.

Share fun and fellowship with other crafty ladies. Morning Tea supplied. Enquiries: Jane Cole



Care and Prayer

All Welcome 11.30am on the first TUESDAY of each month at St. Matthew's February to November

Next meeting 6th May





NEW GROUP MONDAY Evenings 7.30pm-8.30pm Tuesdays at the Church 9.30am-10.30am For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact

Katherine Pedersen
Facilitator kathped56@gmail.com

ALL WELCOME

OP SHOP

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am-2pm and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm

Pre-loved clothes & accessories, Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac, Pot Plants.



aturday **3rd May** 9am-12pm

Pre-loved Household Items, Electrical, Toys & Books (Fiction, Non-fiction & Childrens Books)

St. Matthew's lower hall Edgar St



SHINE is a special needs social group for all ages after High school. Meets Sundays Monthly for dinner & fun. Cost \$5

Still collecting for their shoebox appeal supporting a school in the Philippines. Donations of small educational items, soaps & combs are greatly appreciated. Please place donations in the box provided at the top of the stairs in the church foyer.

Giving From time to time, we receive questions on how someone can make donations to St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, to further support God's work through the Ministry team and congregation, in the wider Community. To assist with this, we have set up the following account with Uniting Financial Services:

Account Name:

Baulkham Hills Uniting Church-Giving Direct BSB: 634634 Account Number: 100025924 If required a Direct Debit Request Form is available in the foyer or speak with Barry Gregory. For your support of God's work here at St. Matthew's, a big thank you! If you wish to find out more, please contact the Church Office.

YOUNG FAMILIES

@ 9.30am service during term for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-8

YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS

Fusion Youth Group....

Years 3 to 9. Meet Friday evenings at the church during term time. 5pm—7pm Contact Jon Humphries

jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE BIBLE STUDY......

For young adults

Fortnightly on Tuesday evenings Contact Jon Humphries jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

**** To include your activity in the June

In Focus

St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter please send details to Lynn in the Church Office by 15 May Thank you

Maintaining contact with you and your family is very important to us.
We would be grateful if you change your address, phone/mobile or email details that you let us know by phoning and leaving a message on 9686 3003 or by email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Thank you to all who have contributed to this publication.

MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

PASTORAL CARE WORKER SARA WIENAND

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY:

LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9686 3003 OFFICE:

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

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