



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

22 June 2025

Pentecost 2

Bible Readings

Galatians 3: 23-29
Luke 8: 26-39

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

Response: Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.



Uniting Church Anniversary



8am—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 23 JUNE

9am-10.30am—Coffee & Play
NEW group for Grown ups and their little ones
upstairs hall

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 24 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room and church
7pm—Social Issues group meeting lower hall

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop
8.45—12pm—Preschool using upstairs hall

THURSDAY 26 JUNE

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 27 JUNE

8.45am-12pm—Preschool using upstairs hall
5-7pm—Fusion Youth group
Rock climbing @ the Edge

SATURDAY 28 JUNE

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 29 JUNE

8am—Worship
Followed by morning tea

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

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
jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
SUNDAY am, MONDAY, TUESDAY
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

OFFICE : 9686 3003
Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD
Email: mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au

CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY
Email: helen.olley@optusnet.com.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

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

22 June

Pentecost 2

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Psalm 42 and 43
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

The Uniting Church Anniversary

Sunday 22 June is the anniversary of the inauguration of the Uniting Church in Australia. It is not too often that the date of the anniversary falls on a Sunday. So, it is nice to celebrate our birthday on the actual day which many of us gather. What does the Uniting Church mean to you? What do you know about our church? Why are you a part of this church and not another, both here at St. Matthew's Uniting Church in Baulkham Hills, and the Uniting Church as a whole?

In 1977, three Australian Christian denominations joined to form the Uniting Church in Australia. After many years of prayerful discernment, the Congregational Union in Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia came together in the hope that they would "bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and will for the Church". It was initially hoped that more churches would join to form an Indigenous/Australian Church, that is one formed in this Country and nation, rather than

national churches from other places, such as the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Church of Scotland etc. We use the name "Uniting" rather than "United" because we believe we are still on a journey of coming together.

The Uniting Church in Australia, for many, represents a commitment to reconciliation, inclusivity, and social justice. It's a denomination that emphasizes unity and fellowship among Christians, while also actively engaging with the wider community to address issues of fairness and compassion. If you haven't ever read the 1977 'Statement to the Nation' or haven't read it for a while, here is a link to this groundbreaking document which was printed in full pages in most of the leading newspapers at the time. https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/1_StatementNation1977.pdf

When you read what we as the Uniting Church set ourselves out to be is there anything that surprises you? Were you aware that this is how we saw ourselves then, and that it still informs how we see ourselves now?

Even those of us who may have been members of the Church often find out there is always more to learn about our identity and our history. After all our identity is always shaped by whom we are, being those who make up the Church, and this is always morphing as new people join or leave (of which we hope there aren't too many of). If you have never searched it out, there is some good and interesting information on our Assembly website about our Church. <https://uniting.church/about/>

The 'About Us' page begins with, "Since we began in 1977, we have been following Jesus, working for justice, growing as disciples and serving communities in these lands now called Australia. From our capital cities to the heart of the outback, you will find around 1600 congregations and faith communities joyfully worshipping in more than 45 languages, including First Nations languages. In Australia's 2021 Census, more than 670,000 people identified themselves as having an affiliation with the Uniting Church. In the work of our agencies, we serve alongside local communities and our Church Partners across the Pacific, Asia and Africa to inspire a better world. We believe all people are made in the image of God and deeply loved. As members of the Church, we make up the one body of Christ. We encourage one another to learn more about and grow with God, to care for each other and God's creation, to seek justice and to live lovingly in the world."

The Uniting Church is a community of people who are shaped by Jesus' teaching and example, by Jesus' life, death and resurrection. We seek to be followers of the way of life Jesus demonstrated and encouraged. In our founding document, 'the Basis of Union,' the Uniting Church describes Jesus as "Lord of the Church's life, and as the beginning of a new creation, a new humanity". As a result, the key values of the Uniting Church come directly from our understanding of Jesus, how Jesus expressed God's priorities and how Jesus taught us to live. If you have not read it, or have not read it for a while, here is a link to the Basis of Union. <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/>

As the Church, we are the Body of Christ, both as a congregation of the Uniting Church and as a wider collection of congregations and faith communities. We are also the Church through the world-wide Church which

is made up of many denominations across the Earth. As a Church we are called into unity in our diversity. As Paul writes in Galatians 3: 26-28, "For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Our identity is not just our own. We get to have a say in who we are, but firstly Christ, who is God, calls us into being, and then we are not individuals but a communion of difference and diversity.


Being the Church is a challenge as much as it is a joy and privilege. It would be nice if we all got along, agreed on everything that was important, believed the same things and understood our identity in the same way. However, it just isn't like that. We are a family in faith, and like every family there is a lot of work that has to be done in order for us to do as Jesus commanded, which is "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." [John 13: 34-35] As we know, loving is also not easy because it costs us as we lay down our lives for others and each other as God in the person of Jesus did [1 John 3: 16 & 1 John 4: 9-10], and we have to love in the way Paul describes it in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8, and by manifesting all the Fruit of the Spirit he lists in Galatians 5: 22 & 23.

So, who are you as part of the Church? How does the Church shape who you are or are called to be? What is your identity in Christ? These are good things to think about.

God bless
Jon

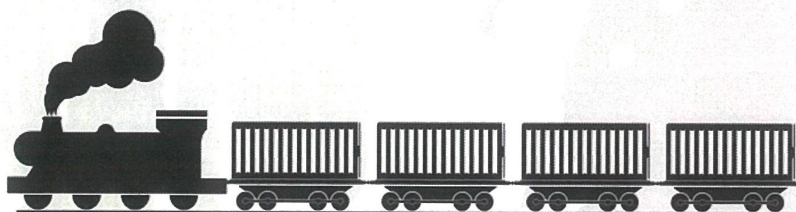
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Coffee and Play



Kids! Bring your adults for a
morning of conversation and
play time!

Cnr of Edgar & Charles Sts
Mondays 9-10:30am



PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Miles Medcalf
Bev Chivers
Christine Haines
Brayden Bell
Jane Cole

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

22 —28 June

Malawi, Zambia



SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (13 June 2025) please see link to Synod
weekly:**

[Synod Weekly](#)

**HELP
WANTED**



**CAN YOU DRIVE SOMEONE
TO CHURCH - WEEKLY,
FORTNIGHTLY, MONTHLY?**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
8 AND 9:30 SERVICES**

PLEASE CONTACT SARA



Youth @ St Matts
Term 2, 2025

5-7PM FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS
Year 3-9 \$10 (includes supper)

WEEK 1

2 May

Movie Night



WEEK 7

13 June

Spy Night



WEEK 3

16 May

**Dude Perfect
Night**



WEEK 9

27 June

**ADVENTURE
NIGHT**



WEEK 5

30 May

Music Night



**Rockclimbing @
The Edge**



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For more information contact Jon Humphries
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

Thank you to all who have
contributed to this
publication.



Hats for the Homeless

'This week St. Matthew's Uniting Church, Baulkham Hills, has donated seven bags of clothing, including one large bag of beanies to Parramatta Mission.



The staff expressed their sincere appreciation for these donations.

The beanies are claimed very quickly, and more are needed please.

The staff also disclosed they are short of volunteers at the Mission. If you have a few hours to give, the Mission would appreciate your help.

The number to call is 98912277.'

Winter Blanket Drive for Parramatta Mission

Help Us Share the Warmth

Drop off time & location:

From Fri 1 May to 31 Jul, 9.00am – 4.30pm

Address: Allan Drew Funerals

221 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill

(please don't bring blankets to St Matthews)

**Let's wrap our community in kindness this
winter. For More information, please visit**

<https://brnw.ch/2lwT6Op>



Please pick up the latest

insights

Magazine

Winter 2025

From the church
foyer

**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.**

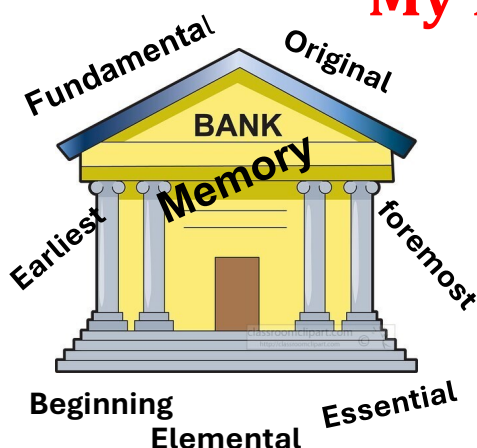


Thursday 3 July

10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Alan Wright

My First.....and other stuff



Do you remember your first...? Was it the first and last or was it the first of many?

Inevitably, 'firsts' happen when we are young, but not exclusively.

Alan digs deep into his memory bank and talks about some of his 'Firsts.'

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

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



Cancer Council Australia's Biggest Morning Tea Fundraising

A HUGE THANK YOU is extended to everyone who donated to our Biggest Morning Tea fundraising either online, at our enjoyable morning tea event held on 30th May, or cash/online donations received since. Every donation is very much appreciated and in feedback from the Cancer Council we have been congratulated for our support of their very vital cause with our contribution of an amazing amount \$3,088.00.

Dulcie & Peter Duncum & Barry Gregory

The Past Today

The Christian faith has a very rich history that is largely unknown to members of congregations today. There is a benefit in looking at the past.

- It can give us a sense of perspective on the present.
- It can show us where we have come from.
- It can also show us the times when the church got things 'right' and when it did not.

The following 4 part series is part of a plan to offer enquiries into slices into our past on an annual basis.

This series will consist of a presentation with questions and discussions. Led by Clive Pearson

When: last Saturday of the month for 4 months:

June 28- 'We believe'

July 26- 'Herstory'

August 30- 'Plagues and Pandemics'.

September 27 . 'Allah'.

Time: 10am-11am approx.

The themes for this first series are:

1. 'We believe'.

2025 marks the 1700th anniversary of the first great ecumenical council of the church, the Council of Nicaea. It was called into being by Constantine, the first emperor of the Roman Empire. Its principal focus was on dealing with contested understandings of how Jesus Christ, the Son, relates to God, as the Father. Was Christ divine or was a 'creature', the first-born of creation? The theological stakes were high: our faith and worship depends on how this 'problem' was resolved.

Constantine's conversion to the Christian faith had gone hand in hand with tolerance and legal status being given to Christians following a period of great persecution. No longer was the Christian faith a persecuted minority on the edges of empire. Was something lost in this change of status? That is an ongoing concern over the centuries. The Council also set the date for Easter.

2. 'Herstory'.

So often the history of the church has been exactly that – 'his' story. This way of viewing the past has tended to reinforce patriarchy but is it as true as we might be led to believe. In this presentation we consider the role played by women in the early church, including the 'order of widows', medieval women mystics and the life and witness of Argula von Grumbach during the Reformation.

3. 'Plagues and Pandemics'.

'Doing' church during COVID-19 gave us an experience of what it means to be a community of Christ during a time of pandemic. What was it like to worship, extend pastoral care, maintain youth groups? It is likely that there will be future pandemics. – which will most likely be a complication bound up with a changing climate. We were fortunate: we had the advantages of technology and vaccines. In the past that was not so.

In the course of its history the church has often had to negotiate its way through a plague / pandemic. In this presentation we will look at 3 of those and see how our forebears dealt with them. We will look at plagues in the early church (the Antonine, Cyprian and Justinian), the Black Death of the 14th century and Luther's response and advice during the Reformation.

The conduct of Christians during the early church struck pagan observers who were struck by the care extended to unknown 'neighbours'. The Black Death did much damage to the church's witness and ministry; Luther instructed the people of his day on how to exercise care for one self while calling upon those who exercised authority and oversight of society to work for the common good.

4. 'Allah'.

The Christian faith and Islam are the world's two leading religions. They can both look back to Abraham / Ibrahim. Jesus (as Isa) is the most mentioned prophet in the *Qur'an*, while Mary is mentioned more times there than in the New Testament. Their history has often been one of conflict – and caricature. This presentation fastens upon the expansion of Islam into what were Christian territories in the Middle East and North Africa, the Crusades, the Fall of Constantinople and Luther's determination to have the *Qur'an* translated into his German language and know what Muslims actually believe.

Luther was wanting to get beyond received stereotypes inherited from the Crusades. He was writing at a time when the Ottoman Turks had advanced through formerly Christian territories in Eastern Europe and were at the gates of Vienna.



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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!

SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025 -

WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE @ 2pm

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA 9:00 AM

PICNIC LUNCH AT JOHN CURTIN RESERVE WINSTON HILLS FROM 11:00 AM

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CHURCH

– TALENT SHOW FROM 3:00 PM (DEPENDING ON ENOUGH PARTICIPANTS)

– DINNER & GAMES NIGHT FROM 5:30 PM (SHARE FOOD, STORIES & GAMES)

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM

YOUTH SERVICE - GUEST PREACHERS (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) 6:45 AM

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

50TH ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM
- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)
- BANQUET LUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) 12 NOON



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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO ENSURE THAT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ARE A SUCCESS WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION OF THE VARIOUS EVENTS. HELP IN A SMALL WAY CAN LIGHTEN THE LOAD.

IF YOU CAN ASSIST WITH THE FOLLOWING TASKS YOUR HELP WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED BY THE PLANNING COMMITTEE.

- JOIN AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
- ASSIST WITH PREPARATION OF A GAMES NIGHT (SAT 15 NOV)
- HELP PREPARE OR PERFORM IN THE TALENT SHOW (SAT 15 NOV)
- ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF A PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE
- HELP TO PREPARE MEALS (**CONTACT ANNETTE WATSON**)
 - ❖ PICNIC LUNCH (SUN 9 NOV)
 - ❖ GAMES NIGHT DINNER (SAT 15 NOV)
 - ❖ BANQUET LUNCH (SUN 23 NOV)
- ASSIST IN PREPARATION OF WORSHIP SERVICES

IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN ASSIST IN ANY OF THESE TASKS, PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB OR CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE **0414 764 437**