



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

3 August 2025

Pentecost 8

Bible Readings

Colossians 3: 1-11

Luke 12: 13-21



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

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

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



8th Sunday after
Pentecost

twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Includes Communion

Led by Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Includes Communion

Led by Jon Humphries

Followed by morning tea

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

6.45pm—Worship

Includes Communion

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 4 AUGUST

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 5 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

11.30am—Care & Prayer
community room and church

WEDNESDAY 6 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10am-12pm—In Stitches

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
10-12pm—Coffee & Discovery
25th Anniversary celebration
with music by David Short

FRIDAY 8 AUGUST

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 10 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship
Includes Communion

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

6.45pm—Worship
Community meal



9th Sunday
After
Pentecost

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](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

3 August

Pentecost 8

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

How Do We Connect with God?

Connection with God is an important aspect of faith and discipleship. There are many ways to connect with God and many ways through which people feel connected with God. Prayer, hymns, songs, nature, church spaces, people, the Bible, meditation, silence and there are many other ways people connect with God. However, being connected with God and feeling connected with God is not always the same thing.

Theologically, we know that we are always connected with God. We know that God is present in all things and all times and therefore is present with us because God is omnipresent. Furthermore, we know that God is with us and within us as Holy Spirit, nearer to us than breathing. We know that God is the ground of all being, and as human beings that means that we must have our being in God. However, knowing and feeling and believing are not the same

things and it is possible to know something and not believe it. It is similarly possible to believe something and not feel it, especially in terms of the nearness of God.

Jesus was God. He was the Son of God, but also God incarnate – that is in flesh (John 1: 14), Immanuel – God with us (Matthew 1:23). In Jesus the fullness of God dwelt (Colossians 1:19 & 2:9). Jesus on the cross cried out quoting Psalm 22, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34) So, even Jesus, if we take this literally, felt far away from God or that God was far away. That is certainly a sense of disconnection, even though Jesus was fulfilling the will of God and God was certainly present with and within Jesus. In a strange way, we can say that Jesus as a human felt in that horrible moment all the pain and anguish of suffering and felt that was an indication that God as the divine deity had left him alone.

Feeling close to God is nice. I have enjoyed such a feeling myself and continue to do so quite regularly. However, feelings are not the best measure of our closeness of God. We saw this with Jesus and many of us have experienced times when we haven't felt close to God or that God wasn't close to us. However, just because we feel that way, that doesn't mean that what we feel is the best indication of what is real and true. God is always with us as Spirit. “By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.” (1 John 4: 13)

Continued next page

So how do we connect with God? It is first helpful to know how we can know that we are connected with God. There are two great measures that Scripture gives us that jump to mind. Firstly, those that live in love live in God and God lives in them (1John 4:16) and we know that we are connected with God because God has blessed us by living in us as Spirit (1 John 4: 13). If God is in us as Spirit, then we know that we are really and truly connected on our part by the evidence of manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22-25). If we abide in Christ then we will be bearing much fruit (John 15: 5). If we are living love then we know God and are showing our connection with Go, and such parables as the Sheep and Goats (Matthew 25:31-46) confirm this because whenever we care for the poor and the needy and live out love then we are doing it as the Body of Christ for Christ. Thus, if we want to be connected with God, the we should do as God wants and act as if we are connected with God, and we will be.

Colossians 3: 12-17 is helpful if we want to be connected with God. "Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Chris rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do every-

thing in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Hymns and spiritual songs are good helps for connecting with God, but doing the hard work of loving people in action and in deeds is the real way to connect with God. Reading the Bible and coming to church services are helpful, even sharing in the sacraments can help us connect with God, but the only way to know if they are working is to see the fruit of that connection in our manifesting the Fuit of the Spirit or the marks of love in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8. Praying can help connect with God, especially in the way of the Psalms, but in the end whether we feel it or not, when we live in love and live out love, then we are connected in the fullest way with God who is love.

How to be connected with God is straightforward, but not easy. Feeling connected with God is even more mysterious. I don't think that we can ever be guaranteed any way of feeling connected with God. Feelings are fickle, Feelings are fickle. One day they're up, one day they're down, and other days we can't seem to find them at all. We learn in Jesus, that even when we are doing our best to be connected with God and completely embodying the love of God just as he did on the Cross, we may not feel close, in fact we may even feel the opposite. Whilst it is not a case of 'fake it till you make it' acting as we are called by God and making the best effort to life the way of God will lead us in the best way to being connected with God, whether we feel it or not. How we go about doing that in our daily choices and daily relationships thus gives us something to think about.

God bless
Jon



Happy 100th Birthday to Ida Batten

July 18th was the 100th birthday of Ida Batten, a longtime member of the St. Matthews family. Ida was joined by family and friends for a celebratory afternoon tea, complete with 1925 trivia. What a lot of changes she has seen over the past 100 years!

St Matthew's **HAPPY HOUR!**

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**29
AUGUST**

**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



Volunteer forms

to assist with morning services for September, October, November 2025 are due this Sunday. Please email your form or leave in the mail tray for me to collect.

**New Helpers are most
Welcome**

Many thanks
Lynn

FUSION

Youth @ St Matts Term 3, 2025

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

WEEK 2

1 August

Picture This



WEEK 4

15 August

Pirate Night



WEEK 6

29 August

**Record
Breakers**



WEEK 8

12 September

Mini GOLF

@ Holey Moley
Castle Hill



WEEK 9

26 September

Lego Masters



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For more information contact Jon Humphries
jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



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

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (25 July 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 25 July |](#)

Website Issues

On Occasion we have website issues and do not have access. Below is a link to our **twitch** page. When the website is down in the future you will be able to access live streaming without having to go through the website.

twitch.tv

Please accept apologies for the stream not going out on the 29th July as we had an unavoidable glitch in our system on Sunday morning?

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

3—9 August

*Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome
and Principe*

**IN
Focus**

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
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**AUGUST
2025**



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

In Focus for August 2025 is out.
copies are available in the Church
foyer.

or you can go to the

St. Matthew's website.

www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CREATION
**WITH LOVE
TO THE WORLD**



Creation

**WITH LOVE
TO THE WORLD**

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17, Number 12
18 August 2025 to 16 November

is available in the church foyer.

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

Thank you to all who have
contributed to this
publication.



*Episode 2 of the 'On the Way' podcast is out. This is part of our congregation's incongruous and developing collaboration with Uniting Heart and Soul in Woollahra. In this episode Ness and Jon talk about **'Who is Jesus?'** They also have their standard chat at the start about their wellbeing and use a little question to start a bigger conversation. This episode they ask, "What are we grateful for?"*

Hopefully, their conversation encourages you and others to have deeper conversations about deeper things which help build high quality connections and richer relationships.

Here is the YouTube link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amy0p_FCpt4&t=17s

The aim is for 10 episodes for each season.

Ness and Jon are having fun and learning themselves as they chat and share their insights about faith and theology and get to know each other better through doing it. They hope that it might be a blessing to others in some way.

You can find audio versions wherever you get your podcasts - currently it is sitting under the Uniting Heart and Soul banner.

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

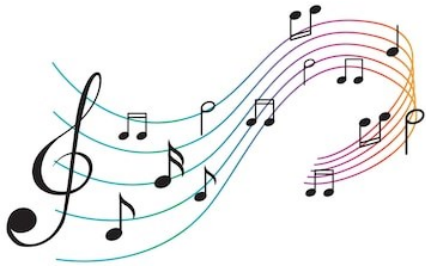
Click on the metal dove image / publications or find in recent posts.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amy0p_FCpt4&t=17s



Happy
25th
Anniversary!

25th Anniversary Of Coffee & Discovery



Thursday 7 August
10am-12pm

"A Warm Welcome is extended to a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Coffee & Discovery with a great morning tea and a musical treat with *David Short's* amazing music .



ALL are welcome!

Please contact Sara via the office if you would like to attend and need a lift.

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 Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

On 6 and 9 August 2025, the world will commemorate 80 years since the catastrophic atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1945, two cities were utterly destroyed and more than 200,000 lives were lost. Modern nuclear weapons are even more devastating.

As these significant anniversaries approach, Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli has written to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong urging the Australian Government to immediately sign and ratify the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (TPNW).

In her letter, Rev Suli said the anniversaries were “a solemn reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare,” and called on the Government to show leadership in advancing global disarmament.

“For more than four decades, the Uniting Church in Australia has rejected the use, proliferation and threat of nuclear weapons in the strongest possible terms,” she wrote.

“These weapons are morally indefensible and fundamentally incompatible with the Gospel of Christ, which calls us to be peacemakers and reconcilers in a world where violence and enmity threaten human life and God’s creation.”

Rev Suli affirmed the Government’s stated commitment to a world without nuclear weapons, but urged more decisive action.

“We urge you now to translate those commitments into action by immediately signing and ratifying the TPNW and offering leadership in international disarmament efforts for the sake of the whole creation.”

As a peacemaking Church following Jesus, the prince of peace, the Uniting Church has long stood in opposition to nuclear weapons and nuclear testing. The Uniting Church Assembly is a member organisation of the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), joining with them in calling for Australia to immediately sign and ratify the Treaty.

Article from: <https://uniting.church/president-calls-on-government-to-support-nuclear-disarmament/>

Link to Rev Suli’s letter: https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Letter_PM_FM_Nuclear_Weapons.pdf

The Past for Today

Episode 3

Plagues, Pandemics and Christ

When: Saturday 23 August 2025

Time: 10am-11:15am

Where: St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills.

Led by Clive Pearson: All welcome

We experienced COVID 19 with vaccines, lockdowns, worship on zoom. Only small groups could attend weddings and funerals. We were told by synod to exercise care.

Throughout its history the church has had to negotiate plagues and pandemics.

- What happens when there is no vaccine, no daily briefing, no zoom?
- How did the church exercise its care of those in need?
- What were the costs in lives, ministry, communities?
- Why did Christians behave in the way they did? What did they think?

We explore the above in the context of:

- The Antonine Plague and the Plague of Cyprian;
- The Black Death and the Isenheim Altarpiece;
- Martin Luther's *Whether One May Flee the Deadly Plague*;
- Responses to the Spanish Flu, 1918-1919.

Episode 4 is on 'Allah': How the Christian faith engaged with Islam over time.

Saturday 27 September 10am-11.15am

The word 'Allah; means God; it is the word used by Arabic Christians; it was used long before the English word 'God' was used.



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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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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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

JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS & GET CREATIVE

AS PART OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WE WILL RUN A COMPETITION INVITING HELP TO CREATE AN ANNIVERSARY THEME AND LOGO THAT REFLECTS THE CHURCH'S JOURNEY AND THAT INSPIRES HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

SHARE YOUR VISION AND CREATIVITY
TO CHOOSE A THEME AND DESIGN A LOGO.

ALSO, WE ARE LOOKING TO PREPARE A BANNER TO ADVERTISE OUR
CELEBRATIONS – IF THIS IS SOMETHING YOU COULD HELP WITH LET
US KNOW.

IF YOU FEEL YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CREATIVE, PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB,
CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE [0414 764 437](tel:0414764437)
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO greg.gibb1955@bigpond.com

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE COMPETITION IS 15 AUGUST 2025.
A SMALL PRIZE WILL BE OFFERED FOR THE WINNING THEME AND LOGO.