



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

10 August 2025

Pentecost 9

Bible Readings

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

Luke 12: 32-40



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



9th Sunday

After

Pentecost

twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

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

Community meal

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 11 AUGUST

**9am—Sorting & Pricing for
Op Shop & Garage Sale**

lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 12 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

**9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation**

community room and church

WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship

upstairs hall & church

7.30pm—Church Council meeting

Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

FRIDAY 15 AUGUST

**5-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
"Pirate night"**

SATURDAY 16 AUGUST

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 17 AUGUST

9am—Combined Worship

Followed by

AGM @ 10.15am

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

Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship



10th 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

10 August

Pentecost 9

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

High Quality Connections

Connection with God is an important aspect of faith and discipleship. It is good to have a high quality and consistent connection with God – God as Creator; God as Christ; God who is always present, nearer to us than breathing, as Holy Spirit. However, as the Church, the Body of Christ, our community of faith, we also need to consider how we foster high quality connection with each other: across ages, across cultures, across different congregations or groups of people meeting at different times for services.

High-quality connections are positive, meaningful interactions that leave individuals feeling engaged, energized, and valued. They are not necessarily long-term or intimate, but rather characterized by mutual respect, trust, and open communication. These connections can be brief encounters or more sustained interactions that foster a sense of well-being and contribute to individual and organizational success.

Most of us know in theory that we are called to love each other by God, especially through Jesus who was the Word of God. We know about charity and acts of compassionate caring through such parables as the Loving Neighbour and the Sheep and the Goats. Yet, despite using such language as 'family' to describe our relationship to each other as the Church, as members of our faith community the reality of the way we go about our Sunday services and our life and witness, can mean that we have relatively limited interaction with each other.

It can be possible to be in a room with people each week for years, being the Church together, and 'worshipping' together as a gathered community, but knowing little of each other, and maybe not even knowing each other's name. This is where the discipline of creating high quality connections comes into play for us as the people of God. We are encouraged in Hebrews 10: 23-25 to not give up meeting together, in order to encourage one another to love and good works. We need to disciple others, especially our younger members and those new to faith and our community, and this is best done not just by a limited few volunteers, but as the whole Church together. Of course, volunteers who lead groups are important and play a crucial role, but being known, loved and cared for, and because of that, feeling that we have a place in the community is even more important.

“Teenagers know they are important because they are involved in ministry. They are treated as full-fledged members of the church, not just kids to be entertained.” [Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church.’ by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin] I believe this is true, though for all of us. We need to be creating high quality connections in our Church and that takes effort and intentionality in striking up conversations with others, but also simply smiling at people or asking them to sit with us, and then talking with them.

Professor Barbara Fredrickson speaks about how we should encourage, positivity resonance. This is where our positivity resonates with others. It comes from interpersonal moments, some of which can be fleeting where we notice each other and create a positive interaction. This can lead to co-experienced emotion, where things like us being nice, makes others feel nice and we in turn also experience nice feelings. As the Church we are supposed to love each other as Christ commanded us and that others will know that we are followers of Jesus, who was God with us, by our love. [John 13:34-35] Barbara Fredrickson speak about

how kind-hearted synchrony over times builds embodied rapport, social bonds, commitment, loyalty and trust. All of these are important aspects of being a caring faith community where people feel that they are truly welcome and belong.

So, if we want to be a goodly, Godly, great Church then we should be doing the Fruit of the Spirit and living the love of God, in the kind of ways Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 13: 4-6. We should be doing the Fruit and Living the love by getting to know each other, valuing each other – even if we are radically different in many ways, and going about practising our faith together through caring for our community within and beyond our Church. Faith is not just a belief, but a living of the way of God and joining God in God’s mission together. This is not usually easy, especially at first, but it leads to flourishing of us as a community and as individuals. How might we get better at this growing of high-quality connections? What is each of our parts to play in the big, beautiful mess of joy and love which is (or should be) our Church? That is something to really think about.

God bless
Jon

PEOPLE NEWS



Jon Humphries
Ann Cotterill
Jesse Cameron
Judith Johnston

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

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (1 August 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 1 August |](#)

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AGM

Annual General Meeting

**Sunday
17 August
@ 10.15am**

**Following the 9am Combined
Worship Service**

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

10—16 August

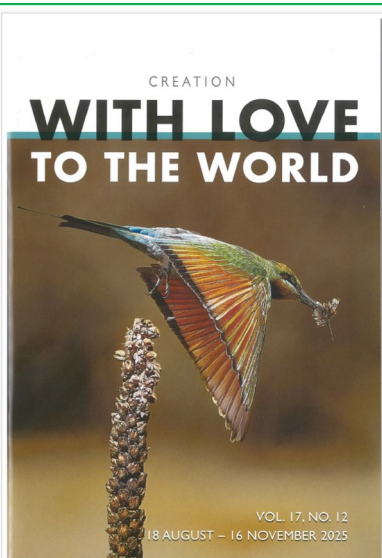


*Cameroon, Central African Republic,
Equatorial Guinea*

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



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.*



**Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th September
2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm
Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church
32 Showground Road, Castle Hill**

***People of all faiths, explorers and doubters welcome to
a space of creativity and community inspired by the
beauty of the natural world***

Come along to yarn over yarn, colour-in and chat about creation and join a safe space to share spirituality, creativity and the beauty of nature with others.

You can bring along a creative project or discover something new in community. There will be opportunities for conversation guided by the Bible, science, music, poetry and personal stories, centring around the environment, spirituality, creativity and hope.

Our gathering time will also include space for silence, prayer, meditation and stillness, however you wish to participate. We hope to see you there.



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
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

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



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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.



**IN
Focus**

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
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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

**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.



Episode 3 of the 'On the Way' This week on the 'On the Way Podcast' with Ness and Jon they tackle the big question of 'Who is the Holy Spirit?' Check it out on YouTube or on major podcast platforms.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-7jfh4_Gmg&list=PLnf2pvp7Bp7Zw28esbTruTFKBjTMDkq8A

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

Do you have any vintage items which are no longer needed and looking for a new home?

St. Matthews Op Shop is looking for any donations of vintage items including:

clothing, shoes, accessories, bric a brac, linen & household items.

Please drop any Donations to St Matthews Op Shop Tuesday to Thursday from 9am-2pm.



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.

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Reducing Corporate Profits from Gambling:

Wesley Mission is asking its supporters to consider using their power as shareholders or as members of superannuation funds to help Wesley with their campaign to reduce the harm that gambling is causing in our community.

Corporations have a huge impact on our world. Investors can change the way corporations do business to have a healthier impact on our communities. This can include writing letters to company leaders or even participating in their annual general meetings.

Wesley Mission is working with SIX Invest to put pressure on the Nine Entertainment media company to end the advertising of gambling on television (#EndGamblingAds). People who are shareholders in Nine and other media companies are encouraged to email or write to these companies to ask them to stop all gambling advertising on their platforms.

Superannuation:

While simply being a member of a super fund doesn't mean you're a shareholder, there are things you can do as a member of a fund to move your fund towards divesting from gambling companies. You can email or write to your super fund to ask if your money is being used to invest in the gambling industry. Let them know why you don't want your money to contribute to causing gambling harm.

For free, confidential support for people experiencing gambling harm, call the GambleAware helpline 1800 858 858 or visit Gambling Help Online. These are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Wesley Mission can be contacted by emailing gambling.reform@wesleymission.org.au
<https://www.wesleymission.org.au/activism-in-the-boardroom-curious>

To ask about joining the Social Action Missional Ministry Team
at St Matthew's, email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th August 2025
at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall.

Proverbs 31:8-9: (NIV)

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy."



Noël! Noël!

A Brandenburg Christmas in the heart of your community

The magic of *Noël! Noël!* returns this December with our beloved series of intimate performances in Sydney's most beautiful churches – and tickets are on sale today!

This year, to add to our four performances at City Recital Hall, we're delighted to return to three church favourites:

- St Francis of Assisi, Paddington
- Holy Name Church, Wahroonga
- St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

And for the very first time, we bring *Noël! Noël!* to **St Brigid's Catholic Church in Marrickville**, offering a brand-new opportunity to experience the joy and spirit of the season in Sydney's inner west.

Celebrate the festive season with the Brandenburg in a stunning historic setting near you. Limited tickets available, so book now and we'll see you in the festive season.

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington
Tuesday 9 December @ 7pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm

Holy Name Church, Wahroonga
Monday 15 December @ 7pm

St Brigid's Marrickville
Thursday 18 December @ 7pm

FIND TICKETS

Or head to the website
www.brandenburg.com.au



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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

SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE **2:00 PM**

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

- DINNER, OPEN MIC & 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 & 6:45 PM**

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

- 50TH ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE **9:00 AM**
- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)
 - MUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) (AFTER WORSHIP)
 - YOUTH SERVICE (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) **6:45 AM**



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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.