



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

17 August 2025

Pentecost 10

Bible Readings

Luke 12: 49-59



Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

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



10th Sunday After Pentecost

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

twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am and 9.30am only

9am—Combined Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

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

Followed by morning tea

10.15am—Church AGM

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
and Abbey Sim

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 18 AUGUST

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 19 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation
community room and church

WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 21 AUGUST

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
Includes Vintage Sale
lower hall

FRIDAY 22 AUGUST

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 23 AUGUST

9am-12pm—Op Shop open
Vintage sale in lower hall

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship
KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship



11th 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

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

17 August

Pentecost 10

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Being the Church, We Have Duties and Responsibilities

As our name, St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, clearly identifies we are part of the Uniting Church in Australia. Being part of the Church, as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12, means that we are part of the Body of Christ being individually and collectively members of it. This means that we as individuals and as a congregation have our part to play in the mission of God through our ministry. The Uniting Church sets out some clear guidelines in our Constitution and Regulations about what our part is and the duties and responsibilities that are a part of that. I thought it worth sharing some insight into this as many may not have read the formal documents which underpin our life and witness.

Purpose and Responsibilities of a Congregation

The Congregation, that is us, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic [meaning universal] and apostolic [meaning both in the way of the Apostles and being sent out (ἀπόστολος [apostolos] in Greek means sent with a mission)] church, shall be those members and adherents who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, and who **meet** regularly to **hear** God's Word, to **celebrate** the sacraments, to **build** one another up in love, to **share** the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to **serve** the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery.

(b) In fulfilling its purpose a Congregation shall:

(i) bear witness to that unity that is both Christ's gift and his will;

(ii) build up the members and adherents in faith and love;

(iii) sustain the members and adherents in hope;

(iv) nurture the members and adherents in their growth in grace;

(v) equip the members and adherents for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as they participate in the mission of Christ;

(vi) discipline its members in love;

(vii) maintain pastoral oversight;

(viii) encourage each member and adherent to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation; and

(ix) provide means whereby the members and adherents may be sustained in fellowship, in prayer and in confession, in baptism and in the Lord's Supper, in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel through proclamation and service.

(c) The responsibilities of a Congregation include:

- (i) participating in shared responsibilities with any related Congregations;
- (ii) **fulfilling the ministry of the Church in and to the community**;

This is from our regulations, paragraph 3.1.1 - PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONGREGATION (See also Para 23, Uniting Church in Australia Constitution).

We each have a lot to do and it is up to all of us, not just paid ministry leaders or those who volunteer in special roles or get involved in specific ministry groups or activities. Of course, it help to have people doing specific roles and carrying out specific task as per their gifts and calling, but we all have a calling and if we are all not **actively** playing our part, then our life and witness as a congregation will be impoverished.

As seek to continue to be 'growing together' as a congregation after fifty years on our current site, then we need to put our hands to the plough – to take up Jesus' imagery in Luke 9:62. There are things which should perhaps stand out for us. Firstly, we are a community in Christ to worship, witness and serve. I believe these are an integrated whole, not three separate and individual elements. Secondly, in the context of the

rest of the responsibilities, worshipping, witnessing and serving, is not, I believe, limited to Sunday Church services. Thirdly, worshipping, witnessing and serving involves meeting regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world. Reg. 3.1.1.B.v makes it clear that worship, witness and service takes place in the world as we participate in the mission of Christ.

Then, given our purpose, there are those awesome and challenging responsibilities, which are not simply meant to be passed off to Church Council or Elders. We are called to unity, to build each other up in faith and love, to sustain each other in hope, equip ourselves for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as we participate in the mission of Christ, and encourage each of us to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation. All of this is wrapped up in fellowship, in prayer, and in confession, in baptism, and in the Lord's Supper, and in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel through proclamation and service.

We are called to be a missional Church, not just a religious social club, which I am not suggesting that we have become. However, I think that many of us are right in suggesting that we have some work to do to grow our life and witness, given our purpose and responsibilities. How might we each individually, and as a congregation, more intentionally take up all these vital aspects of being Church together? That is something to really think about.

God bless
Jon

PEOPLE NEWS



Earl Gray
Don Dixon

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

Sympathy to the family and friends of Ida Batten who passed away on Tuesday 12 August at the age of 100.

Details will follow regarding A funeral service.

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (8 August 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 8 August |](#)

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AGM

Annual General Meeting

**Sunday
17 August
@ 10.15am**

**Following the 9am Combined
Worship Service**

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

17—23 August



*Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania,
Niger*

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

ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am, and the combined services for September, October, November 2025 have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would like an A3 copy please collect a copy from the table in the church foyer.

If you are able to help with any of the gaps please contact the church office.

Thank you to everyone who has helped on the last 3 month roster and to those who have been able to help on this roster.



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
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

**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 4

What a big question that Ness and Jon take on this latest episode of their 'On the Way Podcast'! In Episode 4 they ask, "Who am I?" This is a question about identity, that has lots of layers. They end up bringing it back to how God calls us to be and who we desire to be.

Ness and Jon are having a great time developing this resource. They're actually a bit humbly proud how it's coming together.

Check it out on YouTube or audio versions on major podcast platforms.

<https://youtu.be/X6FtbMnqdP8?si=RjB71go914oEYGS0>

Vintage Sale

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

St. Matthews Op Shop
Cnr Edgar & Charles Streets
Baulkham Hills 2153

- Clothes • Shoes
- Fabrics • Linen • Books
- Accessories • Bric a Brac

Sale Starts:
 Thursday 21st August 9am-2pm
 Saturday 23rd 9am-12noon
 Tuesday 26th 9am-2pm
 Wednesday 27th 9am-2pm
 Thursday 28th 9am-2pm
 Saturday 30th 9am-12noon

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BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

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.

Vintage Sale

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UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

St. Matthews Op Shop
Cnr Edgar & Charles Streets
Baulkham Hills 2153

21st-30th August

st. matthew's
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BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP



**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.





Please join us for
A Banner 'brainstorming' discussion
10.00am on *Saturday 30 August* at the church.

We will be discussing ideas for the creation of a banner for the 50th Anniversary for the church during November.

Celebrating 50 Years

For more details contact Barbara Gibb



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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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

Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!

PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED

IF YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OR STORIES FROM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FROM THE LAST TEN (10) IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE TO BE PRESENTED DURING NOVEMBER'S CELEBRATIONS. IN PARTICULAR WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES:

- DIRK VAN DOORENE CLOSURE OF MINISTRY SERVICE & MORNING TEA
- JON HUMPHRIES INDUCTION SERVICE
- ACTIVITIES & EVENTS DURING COVID
- VARIOUS CHURCH GROUPS ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE
- SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING TEAS
- ANY OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 50 YRS)
- SHORT STORIES IN THE LIFE OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 10 YRS)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA TO CONTRIBUTE,
PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB OR CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE 0414 764 437**

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.

Topic: *Modern Slavery – using our power as consumers to help to eliminate it.*

From Baptist World Aid - The Global Fashion Industry

Millions of workers in the global fashion industry face injustice, abuse, low wages, and modern slavery. The way we produce clothes and shoes, and the endless demand for more, is having a detrimental impact on local communities, their lands and waterways, and even the air they breathe. The fashion industry connects us all. There are millions of workers and billions of consumers around the world. Together, we are part of this system, and together, we can drive change. Baptist World Aid is revealing the hidden truths behind the supply chains of the biggest fashion brands, to create momentum for real progress.

Find Your Favourite Brands on the Baptist World Aid Ethical Fashion Guide:

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/ethical-fashion-guide/#row3>

Use the Ethical Fashion Guide (link above) to find out how brands scored and how they rank compared to others. Baptist World Aid assessed 13,000 data points covering 46 questions across three tiers of the supply chain for the brands. They gave each brand a score out of 100, based on how they're going at protecting workers and the environment. Brands are ranked into five colours, ranging from the bottom scoring ones to the top scoring ones.

Click on the brand to find out more information and you can ask them to do better using the 'Speak Out to Brands' tool (link below). If you're looking for something specific, use the filters or sort brands to find what you need. Looking at the italicised line below the brand name will show you the parent company that owns that brand.

'Speak Out to Brands' link: <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/action/speak-out-to-brands/>

Something to read:

Dressed to Oppress? Unravelling Forced Labour and Supply Chains in Fashion

Link to the article: <https://www.faegredrinker.com/en/insights/publications/2025/7/dressed-to-oppress-unraveling-forced-labour-and-supply-chains-in-fashion>

Blessings,

Alexander

Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMMT)

To ask about joining the Social Action Group 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.



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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**



Galston Concerts

Sunday 24th August @ 2pm



Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston



Pianist & Organist:- SEBASTIAN LAU
Sebastian Lau is in his final year at the elite Tonbridge School in Kent, UK. He is a distinguished recipient of both an Academic Honorary Scholarship and a Music Scholarship, reflecting his academic excellence and musical prowess. Guided by esteemed music teachers in Hong Kong and the UK, Sebastian has demonstrated his dedication and passion for music by gaining the Trinity College of London diploma in violin and piano in 2019 and 2021, respectively.

[youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLI4Qi7nPbKLHtBEIfIkN
XYdGiniq2Dj9S](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI4Qi7nPbKLHtBEIfIkNXYdGiniq2Dj9S)

Organ Programme

Praeludium (BuxWV 152)
Dieterich Buxtehude
Choral Prelude on "Eventide"
Hubert Parry
Trio Sonata No 4 in E minor
Johann Sebastian Bach

Piano Programme

Sonata No 3 (4th movement)
Frederic Chopin
Widmung "Dedication"
Schumann /Liszt
Moment Musicaux
No 4 in E minor Sergei Rachmaninoff
Nocturne
in C minor Op 48 Frederic Chopin
Ballade No 4
Frederic Chopin



**\$40 adults; \$30 concession & children free
(Cash only at the door)**

Bookings: Trybooking.com



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