



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

24 August 2025

Pentecost 11

Bible Readings

Hebrews 12: 18-29

Luke 13: 10-17



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



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am and 9.30am only

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 Abbey Sim
and Alexander Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 25 AUGUST

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 26 AUGUST

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

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

WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST

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

THURSDAY 28 AUGUST

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

FRIDAY 29 AUGUST

5pm—Fusion Youth group
"Record Breakers"

SATURDAY 30 AUGUST

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

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

8am—Worship

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

5pm—Shine offsite

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

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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

24 August

Pentecost 11

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

The Fearsome Awe of God

When I was studying science at high school, we were taught about the atom using the planetary model. This was first developed by Earnest Rutherford in 1911. In his experiments, Rutherford aimed positively charged particles at a thin sheet of gold foil. The majority of the particles passed through the

gold foil, and a very small number of these particles deflected at wide angles. As a result of his work, he concluded that there must be a small, highly dense and positively charged nucleus in an atom. Moreover, he assumed that negatively charged electrons were orbiting around the nucleus in a manner similar to how planets orbit around the sun.

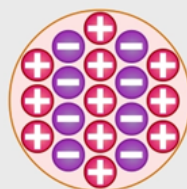
Source: Kaynak Linki : <https://www.aydemperakende.com.tr/en/blog/what-is-an-atom-what-are-atomic-models>

This planetary model of the atom was further developed by Niels Bohr into the model which many may be familiar with. Here, the atom, which was often touted as the fundamental building block of elements, there is a nucleus made of protons and neutrons surrounded by atoms orbiting like planets do the sun. In his atomic model, Bohr expanded on Rutherford's research and proposed that electrons orbit the nucleus in several distinct directions. He argued that the energy level of an electron determines where it is located in each of these several orbits.

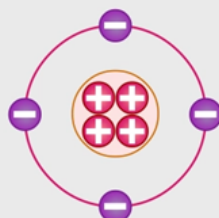
Atomic Models



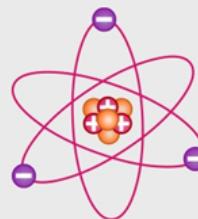
1803
John
Dalton



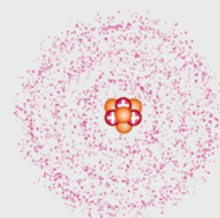
1904
J.J.
Thomson



1911
Ernest
Rutherford



1913
Niels
Bohr

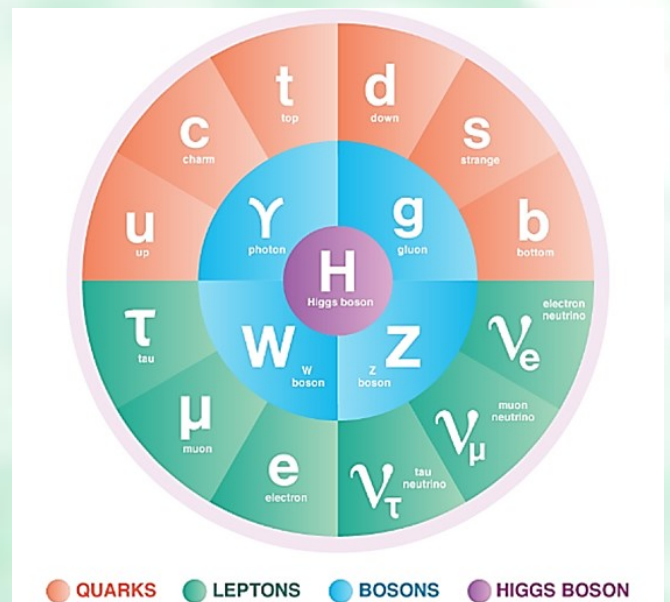


1926
Erwin
Schrodinger

For me, learning about this was awe-inspiring as it was, not to mention strangely surprising to think that all the solid stuff we have around us is actually made of a lot of empty space. However, as you can see by the history of atomic models graphic, even as I was learning about the atom in high school in the 1980s physics had already moved to a more complex understanding. What I believed to be what the atom looked like was not really what it was like at all.

These days we have increasingly impressive particle accelerators and colliders which have opened up a reality that protons, neutrons and electrons are made up of other particles. Many of us may not be familiar with the standard model of particle physics which identifies and describes such fundamental particles as quarks, leptons, and bosons. This is almost mind-boggling in its complexity with particles being described as having colour and spin and orientation such as down and up, where none of these descriptions mean what they sound like they mean. Then to really twist our minds we can consider such things as anti-matter, where every particle we can conceive of has an opposite or negative version, and we haven't even begun to address 'dark matter' and 'dark energy.'

These sorts of things we don't always hear about or know about, especially if we haven't had much science input since school or university. Certainly, they are not talked about in Church, at least not in the churches I have been involved with.



So, I understand why you might be surprised about me talking about it, and you are probably wondering what it has to do with God and faith. For me this is about finding awe in Creation, but not just the mythical description of Creation with Adam and Eve, but the one our 'God-given' minds have been able to discover through science. We often speak about the wonder of God in Creation, but the more we learn about the nature of the universe the more we might find ourselves in awe of God whose mind brought all things into being. Sadly, we don't always connect science with faith. Science should, though, inform our sense of wonder as part of our faith because it helps us understand just how amazing is all that God brought into being – at least that is how works in my mind.

Theologically, God is often considered 'the ground of all being.' Colossians 1:16-17 states, "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." John 1:3 states, "All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." That 'him' is God, but also the Word, who is God, but is also Christ. That's amazing and awe-some theology right there. However, the notion of the ground of being becomes a real source of awe when we consider our best theories of being according to physics.

Here we can open up into a next-level, brain-breaking area of physics that is Quantum Field Theory. If it is weird to think that much of our universe is made up of space, even inside atoms which are the things that fill up the small bits of space we call matter, and that atoms are made up of even smaller

particles, then Quantum Field theory takes weirdness and biggers it right out of our brains.

Quantum Field theory suggests that matter and energy are actually pretty much the same thing. Furthermore, Quantum Field Theory, to really oversimplify it, suggests that particles are not actually things themselves but the interaction of waves on quantum fields which are the fabric of being of the universe.

Here is a link to a short video which tries to explain some of how the universe works at its most fundamental level according to Quantum Field Theory.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoStndCzFhg&t=134s>

Continued next page



If all this hasn't broken your brain or bored you to death, then maybe it might open you up to the wonder and awe of just how complicated and intricate and plainly weird the universe is. I titled this reflection, the fearsome awe of God. Fearsome is used to describe things that are frightening, for example because of their large size or extreme nature. The nature of the universe as God has brought it into being is large in size and extreme in nature, and what kind of mind and what kind of power could bring this into being? The complexity of the mind of God is a bit scary to think about. God spoke as Word, and all things came into being. Word for us is sound and sound is vibration, and so far, our best physicists and their best theory of the nature of being is that all of everything that we know and do is described by vibration on the quantum fields as they ripples through the cosmos.

For me, God breathed the fields of our being, that is the quantum fields of all things of which we are a part of, into existence and then started them rippling and vibrating with a word or God's words. In God all things are connected and "live and move and have our being."

[Acts 17: 28] "We are fearfully and wonderfully made." [Psalm 139: 14] If we stretch our brains out of the comfortable numbness of daily life and ponder with wonder the nature of our universe as God's creation, then we might have something truly awesome to think about and find ourselves in fearsome awe of God. I hope I have got you thinking a little and a little differently.



God bless
Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Colin Stoner
Robyn Burn
Will Samuel
Elaine King
Adele Arthur

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

A funeral service for Ida Batten will Be held at St. Matthew's on Wednesday 3 September at 10am.

Light refreshments will be served in the hall following the service.

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (15 August 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 15 August](#)

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

24—30 August

Liberia, Sierra, Leone

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](https://www.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



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



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

St. Matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

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




Thursday 4 September

10am—12noon

Guest Speaker: Michelle Vickery

Staying safe Online

Michelle is the manager of the Commonwealth bank at Carlingford and she will be speaking about keeping safe Online and about all the changes in banking over the years.



Commonwealth Bank

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

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



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



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

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**



**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.



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: Gambling Reform – Wesley Mission's 'Put Pokies in their Place' Campaign

NSW Minister for Gaming, David Harris, has issued a ministerial direction to the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILGA) requiring a more 'balanced' approach to their license approval process, with the implication that harm minimisation should not be the chief consideration. However, the recent findings of the NSW Auditor-General's report were that existing regulations in NSW are not effective enough in minimising harm from gambling.

The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre's (AUSTRAC), a Commonwealth Government organisation, has conducted investigations that reveal at least a quarter of poker machines in NSW could be used for money laundering. This is happening while the Mounties Group, a key player in the poker machine industry, is in the Federal Court over allegations of allowing money laundering.

In his interview with the Minister for Racing, Peter Fitzsimons refers to poker machines as 'misery machines' (the link to the transcript is below). He also mentions that 'NSW has 37 per cent of the world's pub and club poker machines. But we've only got 0.1 per cent of the global population!'. It makes one realise how powerful the gambling industry is in NSW.

It is clear that more advocacy needs to be done to make the NSW Government realise the how they need to act to reduce the damage that 'misery' machines are causing in this state. Wesley Missions' Gambling Harm Awareness Week 2025 is on this year between 20 – 26 October. Keep an eye out for local events in our area and notifications will be shown in the church newsletter or In Focus when we receive them.

Things we can do:

Sign Wesley Mission's petition to turn off (power down) poker machines from midnight to 10am go to this link:

https://www.wesleymission.org.au/get-involved/advocate-with-us/petition-on-poker-machines/?utm_campaign

Further Reading:

For the full transcript of Peter Fitzsimon's interview: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/this-man-could-cull-the-number-of-misery-machines-in-nsw-but-he-won-t-20250801-p5mjk.html>

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 21st October 2025 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall.



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

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