



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

21 September 2025

Pentecost 15

Bible Readings

1 Timothy 2: 1-7
Luke 16: 1-13



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

9am—Combined Morning Tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

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

2-4pm—Upstairs hall in use

5pm—Shine— setup from 4pm

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

7.30pm—Netball club AGM

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

5-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
"Lego Masters"

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

KUCA

in Recess for School holidays

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

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

21 September

Pentecost 15

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Humbled as Humankind

Christianity doesn't often make the news in Australia, and when it does it is usually not good. Too often news to do with Christianity is about sex abuse or scandals in Church schools. We might occasionally have a good new story about Youth Off the Streets or Wayside Chapel, but they are normally quite rare. In the past week the news was not so much bad about Christianity, but the death of a prominent, and somewhat controversial Christian leader in the USA – Charlie Kirk, who was sadly assassinated.

The death of Charlie Kirk rose him to prominence for some of us, who may not have heard about him or why he was a popular figure for conservative Christians. He was an influential right-wing activist, author, and media personality who promoted a form of populist, Christian nationalist conservatism closely aligned with the "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) movement. He was the co-founder of Turning Point USA (TPUSA), an

organization dedicated to advancing conservative viewpoints among young people. and a controversial figure for others. I did not agree with Charlie Kirk, and I found some of his ideas abhorrent and an anathema to my understanding of the way of God in Christ. He had strong beliefs and stances about women, abortion, LGBTQI rights, immigration and of course Christianity. There is a sad sense of irony in his death as he controversially stated that a certain number of gun deaths were a "prudent deal" and an acceptable cost for preserving the right to bear arms. Yet, I do not take any joy in his death, and I mourn yet another moral injury to our human kindness.

We are called in Christ to love our enemies. We are called to embody the love of God. We are called to love the fruit of God's presence in us as Holy Spirit. We are called to walk the extra mile as we challenge injustice. The strange way we as Christians interpret the teachings of Christ and the Scriptures is something of a mystery. I don't say that in judgement of those who believe different to me, but by statement of fact that Christians who claim to hold to the same faith, read the same Scriptures and all claim to be disciples of Jesus can hold such opposing stances and positions on such a range of issues. It is a key reason why some reject the faith because they cannot see how it makes sense.

However, it is not this polarised nature of the Church or our division which flies in the face of the call to be united in Christ [John 17:23; Ephesians 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11] in a ministry of reconciliation [2 Corinthians 5:18].

The response to the death of Charlie Kirk raises for me an issue of awareness and justice. The death of Charlie Kirk was an injustice, but that is not what I wish to focus our thinking on. His death and the lament over it highlights the often unheeded reality that the unjust death of one prominent white privileged person, which is tragic in itself, goes noticed and mourned and cared about by many such as myself whilst tens of thousands of such injustices are wrought each day by humankind upon each other which do not make the news or stir the hearts of the people of God, nor move us to any action which might work to prevent such horror.

We are called to love our neighbour. [Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14] which includes loving our enemies [Matthew 5:44 and Luke 6:27-28]. Yet, the issue is about us who we see as our neighbour. Do we just see those like us and who think like us as our neighbour? Is it the people just near to us, either in relationship or in locality? We are called to embody the love of God, for to love our neighbour is to love God, because how can we love God whom we can't see if we can't love our other whom we can see? [1 John 4:20-21] However, I would challenge us with the notion that God, in the call to do justly (Micah 6:8) calls us to also love the neighbour that we can't see but can know about if we just made the effort to look into where there is suffering and injustice in the world.

We are called to walk the extra mile as we challenge injustice. Praying about it and asking God to do all the work to make things better in the world is not enough. We are the Body of Christ, the embodiment of love of God in the world and we claim to be God's hands and feet, and sadly too often God's voice. Let us stop being like the three monkeys who see, no evil, hear no evil or speak no evil, nor like the newer fourth monkey who sits on their screen seeing and hearing all about evils in the world, but sits alongside the others doing nothing else. Who are our unseen neighbours and how might we really show love to them? That is something to think about.

God bless

Jon



To Celebrate the 50th Anniversary, we will be creating a banner which will be hung in the church. Everyone is invited to participate in creating this special reminder of a great celebration of us all still Growing together.

We are asking for help cutting out the letters for the banner.

We have 31 letters to be cut out.

Letter pattern and material is supplied.

Please collect a letter pattern from the hall. Cut out the letter in material and return to the church by

Sunday 12 October ready to be put on the banner.

If you are crafty and want to participate with some extra bits, please see Barbara Gibb.

We are also looking for someone to sew the background of the banner.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's effort come together hanging in the church in November.

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.

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Enid Clifton
Doug Mathewson
Bruce Bills

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

21 —27 September



Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (12 September 2025) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 -](#)

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



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.

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

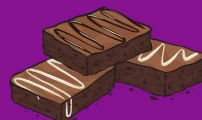


For more information contact Jon Humphries
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

Combined MORNING TEA 9AM



21
SEPTEMBER
2025



**BETWEEN THE MORNING
SERVICES**



THE PAST — FOR — TODAY

HOW CHRISTIAN HISTORY CAN
INFORM FAITH AND DISCIPLESHIP TODAY



“ALLAH”

**The Arabic Word for
God**

Encounters with Islam: From
the Crusades to Cronulla



Rev Dr Clive Pearson

27 September 10am

at St Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills



Catch it or rewatch on the
St Matthew's Twitch Channel
<https://www.twitch.tv/stmattsuniting>



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



BAULKHAM HILLS & WESLEY UNITING CHURCHES

Present the SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR & THE BONES OF CONTENTION [TROMBONE CHOIR]

**Sunday 19 October 2025 @ 2.00pm
at St Matthews Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills**

Adults \$15, Concession \$10

Afternoon tea will be provided after the concert.



**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.





Thursday 2 October

10am—12noon

Guest Speaker: Ron Ray



“The History of Sydney Ferries”

Ron is a volunteer guide and member of the Australian National Maritime Museum. Ron will speak about “The History of Sydney Ferries”.

A ticket will be given to each attendee for the opportunity to win a family pass to the Maritime Museum.

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

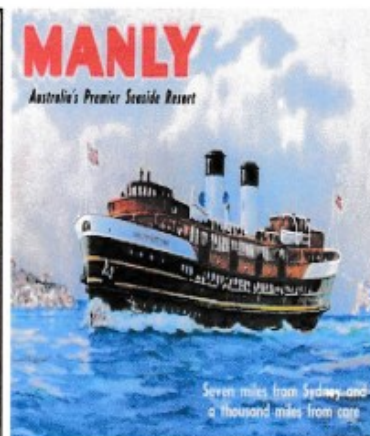
***** ALL WELCOME *****



SHORT HISTORY OF SYDNEY FERRIES

The talk will cover the fascinating history of the ferries of Sydney Harbour from colonial times, the early years of Sydney town, ferries before the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, ferries of the present day and what the future looks like for the ferries operating on Sydney Harbour.

You will hear stories of some of the characters of Sydney Harbour such as Billy Blue, Henry Smith and Walter Reeks, the history of the Sydney Ferry Company, as well as the ferry disasters and accidents that have occurred on the harbour.





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 November 2025!!!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

9 NOVEMBER 2025

9:00 AM

FOLLOWED BY

MORNING TEA

BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE

GUEST PREACHER

REV NICHOLAS FRIED

PICNIC LUNCH

9 NOVEMBER 2025

FROM 11:00 AM

JOHN CURTIN RESERVE

HUXLEY DR WINSTON HILLS

BBQ AND KITCHEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

FOLLOWED BY GAMES AND

T10 CRICKET MATCH

GAMES NIGHT

PLUS TRIVIA AND OPEN MIC

INCLUDES DINNER

15 NOVEMBER 2025

FROM 4:30 PM

TICKETS

\$ 20 ADULTS

\$40 FAMILIES

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE

OR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN

SHARE FOOD STORIES AND GAMES

50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE (CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL)

23 NOVEMBER 2025

9:00 AM

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE

AND BBQ LUNCH - DONATION

SHARE WORSHIP FOOD AND STORIES

A SHOWCASE OF CHURCH AND

PRESCHOOL HISTORY ON DISPLAY

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF PLANNING TO

ATTEND FOR CATERING (02) 9686 3003



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**



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 PM

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Australia

United Nations General Assembly: From the report of the visit to Australia of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Tomoya Obokata. Published 16th July 2025

Temporary Migrant Workers (IIIA p 8 of the report) - a summary is below:

'31. The Special Rapporteur wishes to express serious concerns about the treatment of temporary migrant workers in Australia. Those workers are often employed in high-risk sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, food processing, including meat processing, healthcare and social assistance, accommodation, domestic work, hospitality, cleaning and security. Particular attention should be given to workers under the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme, the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) stream under a Temporary Work (International Relations) visa, the Skills in Demand visa (formerly the Temporary Skill Shortage visa), the Working Holiday visa, the Student visa, Bridging visas with no work rights, and Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional visas. Employers who use the false promise of nomination for permanent residency through the Employer Nomination Scheme visa is another concern. Undocumented workers, including disengaged workers under the PALM scheme, are another category who face the most significant risks of exploitation and contemporary forms of slavery.

32. The Special Rapporteur has received credible information from numerous stakeholders, including from workers themselves, revealing alarming and sometimes severe patterns of exploitation by employers, labour hire companies and migration agents across various sectors. The exploitative practices include deceptive recruitment, underpayment or withholding of wages, unilateral changes to or termination of contracts, excessive deductions, unreasonable production targets, racial discrimination, hazardous working conditions, harassment, threats and even violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, for example violence that can arise from reliance on employer-provided accommodation, as well as dismissal due to pregnancy.

Reportedly, labour hire companies, immigration agents and education agents in the home countries of international students often engage in deceptive practices that push workers into debt bondage. In addition, some temporary migrants, including Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme workers, are exposed to conditions of overcrowding and substandard and unsafe housing.'

To read the whole report: https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/60/28/Add.1?mc_cid=58655d7d7d&mc_eid=a5de9055d8

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 28th October 2025
at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall.