



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

28 September 2025

Pentecost 16

Bible Readings

1 Timothy 6: 6-19
Luke 16: 19-31



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
and Thomas Smith
Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
and Albert Olley
Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alexander Lawless
and Nicola Lawless

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

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

WEDNESDAY 1 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
9am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
10am-12noon—Coffee & Discovery
Guest Speaker: Ron Ray

FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER

9am-12pm—Op Shop
9am-12pm—Garage Sale
lower hall

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER



8am—Worship
Includes Communion

9.30am—Worship
Includes Communion
Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for School holidays

4pm—Upstairs in use

6.45pm—Worship
Includes Communion



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

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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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Something to think about

28 September

Pentecost 16

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Faith and Politics

For people of faith, engagement in politics is almost always a certainty. By politics I do not mean party politics or petty politics, but “the activities of the government, members of law-making organizations, or people who try to influence the way a country is governed.” We are called to join in God’s mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God being at hand and to work for its fuller realisation. We have a prophetic call to speak up and out on moral issues, particularly about justice for the poor.

Being aligned with a political party or faction is everyone’s right and all are free to do so, but there is a problem with aligning a party or faction with religion and worse when it is the other way around and religion aligns itself with political parties and factions. We are called to speak out about moral issues, at least offer our perspective, which should be founded in good biblical basis. Yet, to throw our lot in as a religion for one group or the other is very problematic.

There is nothing wrong with having a leaning towards or a preference for or being a member of a political party. We get to choose. However, it is almost always wrong to seek to support a party and its policies with a naïve notion that it is aligned with the way of Jesus. The way of Jesus challenges us and our way of living. IT has always been the case that the radicality of Christ outstrips even the most well-intentioned groups. So, it is logical that there is a good chance that quite often the way of Jesus will not align with any particular political party and its policies.

All this is to note that the Uniting Church supports the current stance of the Australian Government towards the recognition of a Palestinian State. The Uniting Church in Australia supports the stance of The World Council of Churches.



Uniting Church stands with the global church in call for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel

<https://uniting.church/uniting-church-stands-with-global-church-for-justice-and-peace-in-palestine/>



Statement on Palestine and Israel: A Call to End Apartheid, Occupation, and Impunity in Palestine and Israel

[Statement on Palestine and Israel: A Call to End Apartheid, Occupation, and Impunity in Palestine and Israel | World Council of Churches](#)

The Uniting Church is not aligned with the Labour Party which is the government of today, although members of the church, such as Penny Wong (who is a congregant of Pilgrim Uniting Church in Adelaide), are members of such parties. Our Church, that is the national leadership of the Church through the Assembly Standing Committee, applaud the action by the Australian Government in relation to recognition of a Palestinian state (of which terrorist organisations such as Hamas should have no part), but at the same time condemn other policies and positions. This is because we stand with God and work for the principles of God's Kingdom, not human political party allegiances.

We speak into politics, not allowing politics to speak into faith, at least not in determining our stance on faith. Our stance on public policies should be grounded in faith, but our stance on faith should not be grounded in public policies or political party positions. State and religion should be separate, in that the religion should not seek to govern, neither should we let state govern religion.

As the Church we are part of society. We follow God, who as Christ, proclaimed a radical vision of human relationship and as the Holy Spirit is at work to transform the world and the way we relate to each other, so that the will and way of God guide us in right living. You may say to me, "Jon, where is it in the Scriptures, particularly the Newer Testament that we should be political? Shouldn't we just obey the government of the day?" You would be correct to point me to such passages as Romans 13:1-2 which states, "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So, anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished," or 1 Peter 2:13-14 which says, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right."

However, we are not in an autocratic society or a dictatorship, but in a democracy where we stand alongside our leaders in equity in our status in humanity. We can use our vote and our voice to challenge, encourage and educate those who represent us. Let

us also remember the teaching of Jesus who cleverly and provocatively taught about going the extra mile and broke with numerous social, religious and potentially political conventions and traditions.

The Word of God came to us as Christ. The Spirit, who is God, resides in us as counsellor and comforter, but also as discomforter and distquieter. To love God means that we need to love our neighbour as ourselves. This may mean that we stand with them and thus stand against the state when it is perpetrating injustice. God calls us to do justly, love with mercy and kindness and walk humbly with God. What shape that takes for us individuals and as the Church is something to think about.

God bless

Jon



JOINT STATEMENT

ANTHONY ALBANESE
Prime Minister of Australia

PENNY WONG
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Effective today, Sunday the 21st of September 2025, the Commonwealth of Australia formally recognises the independent and sovereign State of Palestine.

In doing so, Australia recognises the legitimate and long held aspirations of the people of Palestine to a state of their own.

Australia's recognition of Palestine today, alongside Canada and the United Kingdom, is part of a co-ordinated international effort to build new momentum for a two-state solution, starting with a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of the hostages taken in the atrocities of October 7, 2023.

Today's act of recognition reflects Australia's longstanding commitment to a two-state solution, which has always been the only path to enduring peace and security for the Israeli and the Palestinian peoples.

The international community has set out clear requirements for the Palestinian Authority.

The President of the Palestinian Authority has restated its recognition of Israel's right to exist, and given direct undertakings to Australia, including commitments to hold democratic elections and enact significant reform to finance, governance and education.

The terrorist organisation Hamas must have no role in Palestine.

Further steps, including the establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of embassies, will be considered as the Palestinian Authority makes progress on its commitments to reform.

Already, crucial work is underway across the international community to develop a credible peace plan that enables the reconstruction of Gaza, builds the capacity of the state of Palestine and guarantees the security of Israel.

The leadership of the countries of the Arab League and the United States is vital to this task.

Australia will continue to work with our international partners to help build on today's act of recognition and to bring the Middle East closer to the lasting peace and security that is the hope, and the right, of all humanity.

21 September 2025



Let's Make a Banner!!

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.

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



David Short
David Neideck

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

28 September—4 October



Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (19 September 2025) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 -](#)

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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.

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

Willow's Service on 9 November

June Davey is asking for help to play the piano at the Willow's service on Sunday 9 November at 9am.

You will be playing traditional Hymn tunes. If you are able to help on this day, please contact the church office or June Davey.

Thank you

50th Anniversary planning

To ensure we achieve our tasks for the planning of our Anniversary, we will be having a meeting to review and follow up on things still to be done.

Sunday 28 September 2025 at 11:00 am in the church - please let me know if you can come.

Greg Gibb



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>



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Episode 10 is out.
Ness and Jon go
head to head
with the big
question of
whether God is a
boy (or girl).
There will be a
break of a couple
of weeks but next
season is already
in the works.



On the Way with Ness and Jon
Is God a Boy (or girl)? | On the Way 1x10

<https://youtu.be/6DWDt122SM0?si=tWNIpATrAnJ4xLSa>

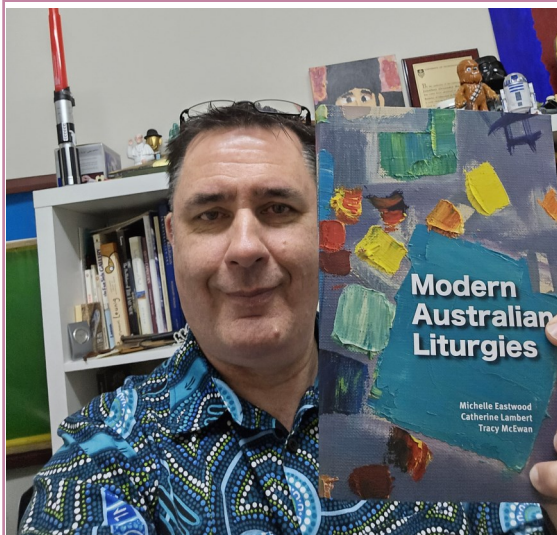
BAULKHAM HILLS & WESLEY UNITING CHURCHES

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.



Jon has recently had a liturgy published in the collection called "Modern Australian Liturgies." His contribution is called,

'Sticking Together: A Ritual for Community.'

Jon's liturgy involves using sticks in a ritual which builds a sense of community and encourages cohesiveness together.





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.

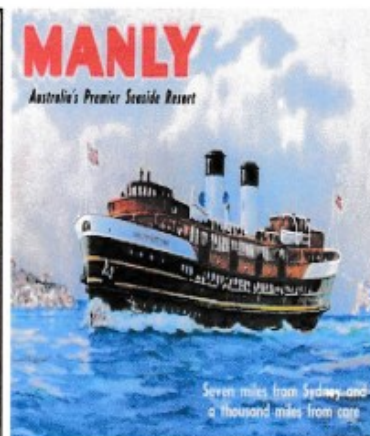
***** ALL WELCOME *****



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.





Janz Kidz Art is running this school holidays at Wesley Castle Hill!

Classes for children aged 5 years old and over will be running on

- Thursday 2nd October
- Wednesday 8th October
- Time: from 10am to 12pm

**at Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church
32 Showground Road, Castle Hill.**

The class on 2nd October will focus on drawing, whereas the class on 8th October will be a painting class.

Cost is \$25 per child and RSVPs to Jan are essential.

We hope to see you there! Contact Wesley Castle Hill for Jan's contact details

Phone: (02) 9894 8999 Email: admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au



Please come along for a little while or the whole time. Many hands make light work and would be most appreciated.

The property committee will be holding the next working bee over 2 days to make it easier for volunteers to attend.

**Friday 24th October
and
Saturday 25th October**

**8.30am to 12noon
Both days**

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Climate Change and the Environment – a Christian Perspective

From the introduction to the worship resource written by Rev Charissa Suli, President of the Uniting Church in Australia 'Season of Creation, 1st September to 4th October 2025':

Welcome to the Season of Creation! As we enter the Season of Creation, I am deeply reminded of the interconnectedness of our faith, our communities, and the Earth that sustains us all. Growing up as a daughter of the Pacific, I've witnessed firsthand the delicate balance of creation—how the ocean's rhythms sustain life and how, in turn, our actions impact those same waters.

I recall stories from my Tongan heritage where the ocean is not just a resource but a living, breathing part of our community, a sacred gift from God that demands our respect and care.

This Season of Creation, with its theme Peace with Creation, invites us all to embrace our shared responsibility to protect and nurture the Earth. The theme resonates deeply with our mission as the Uniting Church, where ecological justice and the stewardship of creation are central to our call as disciples of Christ. Romans 8:19-25 reminds us that creation itself groans in anticipation of liberation—a liberation that we are called to participate in through our prayers, actions, and advocacy.

As President, I have emphasised the theme, Threads of Love, Weaving Christ's love across cultures and boundaries. This theme is powerfully connected to the Season of Creation, as our care for the Earth transcends all human divisions. Just as we are called to weave threads of love in our communities, we are equally called to weave these threads into our relationship with creation, recognising that every act of care for the environment is an act of love for our global neighbours and future generations.

I encourage you to explore this worship resource and other resources provided for this season and to actively engage. Whether through worship, advocacy or community action, let us come together to protect and renew the Earth, reflecting the boundless love of Christ in all we do.

As we weave Christ's love into the fabric of our daily lives, may we also weave it into the very soil, waters and skies that sustain us, honouring God's gift of creation with every step we take.

In doing so, let us also acknowledge the deep wisdom and spiritual connection of First Nations peoples to this land. Their care for country over countless generations reminds us that creation is not just a resource to be used, but a sacred trust to be nurtured and respected. May our actions reflect this understanding, as we seek to live in harmony with the land, honouring both God and the First Peoples who have cared for this place since time immemorial.

Link to the resource for the 'Season of Creation' from the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly:

https://uniting.church/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Season-Of-Creation-2023_Final-Indoors-2025.pdf

Blessings,

Alexander, from the Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMMT)

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th October 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 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



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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH
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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**



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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