



Getting the Balance Right



As we look to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our life and witness as the Church on our current site, and we look to the future towards what God is calling us to as the next Chapter, it is good to think about our worship as the Church as part of our call to join God in God's mission. Looking back as the worldwide Church throughout the ages we have not always understood that missional ministry should be our priority. We have not always helped people see that being missional is an essential part of faith and discipleship and that as congregations it should be at the heart of our life and witness. We have tended to make worship as the centrepiece of our mission and have misunderstood worship to be what happens on a Sunday morning.

We as the Church are a product of our inheritance of how being Church has been handed on to us, as well as our own choices and potential failure to do our own work discerning the need for missional ministry and in learning how this might be truly done. The wider Church has not always been

effective in resourcing us as congregations in a deeper understanding of mission and ways and means of engaging in effective missional ministry, nor have we always been proactive in taking up our own agency in seeking out resources which can assist us in our life and witness. So, the notion of worship has been set to worshipping God in a temple-like building on a Sunday.

Given that humanity has a tendency to settle into comfortable routines, we have also historically exhibited a lethargy towards discomfort and a tendency to reduce faith and discipleship into easier religion. Thus, we have too often reduced our sense of mission in our local context to being first about providing worship services, then sending a few to be missionaries whilst we engage in some ministries that have outreach as a focus. These things are good in themselves, but do not represent the fullness of our call in God.

As the whole Church, not just as a congregation, we need a movement towards a change in culture towards missional

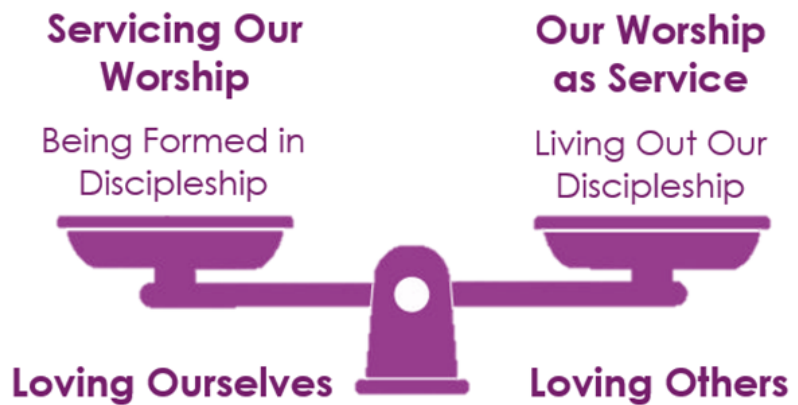
ministry because the model of being Church centred around Sunday 'worship' is not adequate in a post-Christendom society, nor is it truly in keeping with the call of God in Scripture or through God present with us as Holy Spirit. Sunday Church services are helpful and an important part of our life and witness, and play a part in nurturing us as disciples, but they should not be our primary means of being missional, nor should they be our primary focus if we are to truly worship God and honour what God has laid before us through Scripture as our purpose and task in life and witness.

Worship is part of our missionality, or more correctly, missional ministry is a prime expression of our worship of God, whose mission we are called to be a part of. Thus, all parts of our life and witness as a congregation for part of our missionality. Missional ministry is not separate to our worship, but is at the heart of our worship, which prompts us to think of worship as being more than just our Sunday gatherings for Church services.

We are called to be disciples. This involves the learning, growth and develop of us as disciples, but also involves us following in the way of Christ, who is God with us. Therefore, serving God by engaging in missional ministry is as important as learning who God is. Discipleship calls us to both learn more about God and develop in relationship with God, but that will also mean that we come to better understand that God calls us embody the love of God to others through serving them as Christ served us and, in the process, discipling them as we have been discipled.

Our true worship is service to God. It is a worship as service not a worship service. We gather to connect with God and each other as the people of God, not simply to offer worship in the form of praise and prayer, but to encourage each other in love and good works [Hebrews 10: 23-26] in response to us hearing God's Word and God's call to join God in God's mission. When we reach out in love to others then we are serving God and bringing God true praise by honouring God in living out God's loving nature to others and them seeing our good works and coming to give glory to God. [Matthew 5: 16] So, it is good to gather together as the Church. There is an element of worship involved in this, but ultimately our gathering is to service our worship by being

reconnected with God and God's call, hearing anew God's grace and love and how that calls us to live it out in the world, and in being encouraged and spiritually resourced to be sent out to do this in our life and witness.



Jesus noted that in loving God we should be loving our neighbours as ourselves. [Matthew 22: 38-39, Mark 12: 30-31 both of which are drawn from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18] Thus, loving ourselves can be seen as part of discipleship, but it should be in balance with our love for others. To love others we need the resources, spiritual and material, to do this. However, we are given so that we might give and we are blessed that we might be a blessing. If we do a lot to prepare us for missional service through loving others, then we should be able and active in doing a lot of missional service of sharing the love of God in our community.



God bless
Jon

Combined Morning 21 September

Thanks to everyone who was able to come to our combined morning tea between our 8am and 9.30am services. We even had people from our 6.45pm service present. Sorry if you weren't able to make it. We look forward to hopefully connecting with you at one of these in the future.



FUSION

Youth @ St Matts
Term 4, 2025

5-7PM FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS
Year 3-9 \$10 (includes supper)

WEEK 2

24 October

Spooky Night



WEEK 4

7 November

Video Games



WEEK 6

21 November

Master Chef



WEEK 8

5 December

Park Games

SUMMER GAMES

WEEK 10

19 December

End of Year

Pool Party



st matthews
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

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

Church Working Bee



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

Op-shop Report October 2025

Dear Friends, The past few months have flown by! July, August, and September have been full of activity as our Op-Shop continues to grow and adapt to the needs of our wonderful customers. Earlier in the year, I mentioned plans for a monthly board games club. Those plans have since blossomed into something even better



— a weekly Wednesday morning tea. This gathering is already proving to be a lovely way to connect with our customers and local community, and we're excited to see it grow as we share it more widely. August brought one of our biggest highlights yet — the very successful Vintage Sale.

The lower hall was transformed into a stunning boutique, and our customers were thoroughly impressed with how professional and inviting it looked. Our volunteers continue to make the shop a joyful place. We often hear from customers how much they enjoy the happy, welcoming atmosphere. Truly, we are like a family working together.



Most recently, we gave the shop a fresh new look by rearranging the layout, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Everyone loves the new feel! We are indebted to Jenny Morgan and her daughter Jessie for their creative expertise in both the Vintage sale and the 'new look' Op-shop.



After

Before

From the St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

'Doing little things can make a big difference'.

Topic: Repairing environmental damage: an extract from a UnitingWorld article.

UnitingWorld - Reaching the forgotten in West Papua

Along the far north coast of West Papua, people are facing an intensifying, struggle to survive on lands and seas that have sustained them for generations. "Life is hard here and getting harder. Governments make promises about this area but then nothing happens. It feels like we've been forgotten." Travelling to the remote Tambrau region in the far north of West Papua, it's a sentiment you hear often. It's not just poverty or the lack of services, it's the sense of being left behind as the world changes around them.

In April 2025, GKI-TP (the Evangelical Christian Church of the Land of Papua) and UnitingWorld staff hosted an extensive community consultation and climate analysis to identify the drivers of poverty for men, women and children, and the ways human development can be done sustainably.

In a village where sea levels are rising and fish are disappearing, Rev Oto and his congregation are learning a hard truth: when you destroy the environment, you put your future at risk. "It used to be all mangrove forests and coral along here," he says. "But people cut down the mangrove trees and sold the coral to the tourist shops so they could build their houses." Most homes now sit on stilts to escape the encroaching sea. And the cost is becoming clear. "The king tides are getting higher. The mangroves used to be a fence that softened the waves, and now it floods badly. During typhoons, even when they're far offshore, no one sleeps. It feels completely exposed, like we'll be swept away."

Rev Oto is working to restore the mangroves, knowing it will take years. As well as overseeing hundreds of seedlings being planted, he's found strong support from his church, GKI-TP. Their statement of faith commits the church to caring for the environment to ensure the flourishing of future generations, giving him confidence to speak boldly.

To read the whole article:

<https://unitingworld.org.au/reaching-the-forgotten-in-west-papua/>

Visit www.unitingworld.org.au/westpapua to discover the impact donations can have to help with the work of UnitingWorld.

*Blessings,
Alexander,
SAMMT*

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.



1st Saturday of the month
9am-12pm

Upcoming dates

- **4 October**
- **1 November**
- **6 December**

Pre-loved
Household items,
Electrical, Toys & Books
(Fiction, Non-fiction & children's books)

St. Matthew's Lower hall





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.

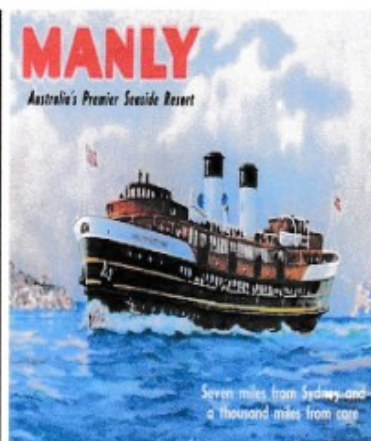
***** ALL WELCOME *****



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.



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.



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

Monday 15 December @ 7pm

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta

Holy Name Church, Wahroonga

Tuesday 16 December, 7.30pm

FIND TICKETS



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!!!

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



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](tel:0414764437)**

Calendar of Events for October 2025

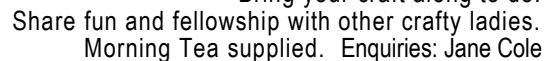
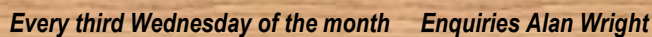
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

<div>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS</div> <div>growing together</div> <div></div>		<div>1</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div>10am-12noon Coffee & Discovery Guest Speaker: Ron Ray "The History of Sydney Ferries".</div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9am-12pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>9am-12pm Garage Sale lower hall</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div>17th Sunday After Pentecost</div> <div></div> <div>8am— Worship Includes Communion 9.30am—Worship Includes Communion Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in Recess 2-4pm—Hall in use 6.45pm Worship Includes Communion</div> <div></div>
	<div>6</div> <div>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall</div> <div></div> <div>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room</div> <div></div>	<div>7</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</div> <div></div> <div>11.30am Care & Prayer Community room & church</div> <div></div>	<div>8</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>10am-12noon Women's Fellowship Upstairs hall</div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>	<div>11</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>
<div>13</div> <div>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall</div> <div></div> <div>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church</div> <div></div>	<div>14</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>10.30am-12pm Community Cuppa lower hall</div> <div>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</div> <div></div> <div>10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea McKels Café Bella Vista</div> <div></div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div>	<div>17</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>	<div>18</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>	<div>19</div> <div>8am— Worship 9.30am—Worship Followed by morning tea KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8</div> <div> 2pm Sydney Welsh Choir & Bones of Contention 6.45pm—Worship</div>
<div>20</div> <div>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower</div> <div></div> <div>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church</div> <div></div>	<div>21</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room</div> <div></div> <div>7.30—Property Committee Upstairs hall</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8.30am- 12noon Working Bee</div> <div>5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group</div> <div>"Spooky Night" HAPPY HALLOWEEN</div>	<div>25</div> <div>8.30am- 12noon Working Bee</div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div>20th Sunday After Pentecost</div> <div>8am— Worship Followed by Morning Tea</div> <div>9.30am—Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8</div> <div>5pm—Shine</div> <div>6.45pm—Worship</div> <div></div>
<div>27</div> <div>9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall</div> <div></div> <div>7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room</div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>9.30-11am Christian Meditation community room</div> <div></div> <div>7pm—Social Action group lower hall</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div> <div></div> <div>10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am-2pm Op Shop</div>	<div>31</div> <div>No scheduled events</div>		

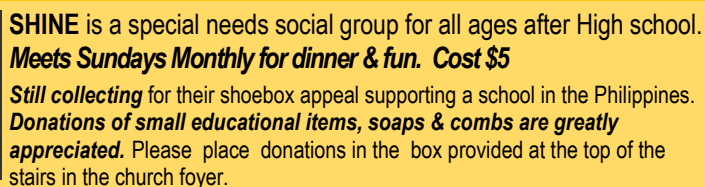
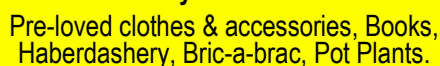
Bible Study
Tuesday Evenings
7pm-8.30pm
in church or community room

IN RECESS

IN RECESS



Tuesdays at the Church 9.30am-10.30am
For more information or to express your
interest in attending please contact
Katherine Pedersen
Facilitator kathped56@gmail.com
ALL WELCOME



If you wish to find out more, please contact the Church Office.

To include your activity in the
NOVEMBER
In Focus
St. Matthew's
Monthly Newsletter
please send details to Lynn in the Church
Office by **15 October**
Thank you

Maintaining contact with you and your family is very important to us.
We would be grateful if you change your address, phone/mobile or email details that you let us know by phoning and leaving a message on 9686 3003 or by email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Thank you to all who
have contributed to
this publication.

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au