



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

26 October 2025

Pentecost 20

Bible Readings

Luke 18: 9-14



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

20th Sunday
After
Pentecost



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

We welcome the family and friends of the Baptism family

Followed by morning tea

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

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

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

7.00pm—Social justice group
meeting lower hall

7.30pm—Property meeting
Upstairs hall

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
10am-12pm—In Stitches
Upstairs hall

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER

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

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

Includes communion

9.30am—Worship

Includes communion

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship

21st
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
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CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

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BAULKHAM HILLS

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Weekly newsletter available on website

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PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
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Something to think about

26 October

Pentecost 20

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, & 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Understanding the Bible

The Bible is our sacred text. It is set apart from other books because we believe that God speaks to us through the it. Some refer to the Bible as the Word of God, and that is true. However, that needs unpacking as God is the Word and as Christ is the Word of God, at least according to the Bible in John 1: 1 which states unambiguously, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." So, the Bible may be a record of the Word of God to people in the past [Jeremiah 1:4/1 Kings 18:1/Isaiah 38:4/Zechariah 1:1/Micah 1:1] or, as we read the Bible, we might hear the Word of God, but in all of this our focus and truth is God. It is God who is the source of God's revelation. It is God who we listen to. It is God whom we seek to understand.

When we read Scripture, we are reading the Word of God, but we are also interpreting what that means. The text is not the Word of God in and of itself. It may be a record of what God, as Word, said to people in the past, and then we have to interpret what that means for us today. It may be that as we read Scripture, that God, present at the Holy Spirit, speaks to us and calls to be and do certain things, but again we need to prayerfully and through

dialogue as a Church interpret how that might be true, because not everything we think is aligned to the thinking of God, and anything that is spoken, even by God is always interpreted by the listener who constructs their own sense of meaning, which may or may not be what the speaker intended.

Jesus, as the Word of God, in the Word of God we refer to as the Scriptures/Bible, is recorded as rebuking and reframing what people understand to be what God wants them to do. He did this when he challenged the leaders of the faith by healing on a Sabbath [Matthew 12, Mark 3, Luke 6, Luke 13]. He spoke about what was said in Scripture and then said "but I say to you..." as part of what we call 'The Sermon on the Mount' in Matthew 5. This way he reframed people's understanding of what God had said and what that means. What we think God is saying to us or what we have been taught that God says in the Bible is not always what God meant us to understand by that.

"The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated. When the Church preaches Jesus Christ, its message is controlled by the Biblical witnesses. The Word of God, on whom salvation depends, is to be heard and known from Scripture appropriated in the worshipping and witnessing life of the Church.

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, commits its ministers to preach from these and to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as effective signs of the Gospel set forth in the Scriptures." This is from the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church. It is the fifth paragraph. It is important to note that our living out of our life and witness is not only shaped by, but "regulated" by the authority of the Scriptures.

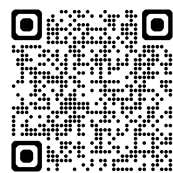
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However, the Uniting Church, at our inception, ensured that Scripture/The Bible requires interpretation. The eleventh paragraph of the Basis of Union states, "The Uniting Church acknowledges that God has never left the Church without faithful and scholarly interpreters of Scripture, or without those who have reflected deeply upon, and acted trustingly in obedience to, God's living Word. In particular, the Uniting Church enters into the inheritance of literary, historical and scientific enquiry which has characterised recent centuries, and gives thanks for the knowledge of God's ways with humanity which are open to an informed faith. The Uniting Church lives within a world-wide fellowship of Churches in which it will learn to sharpen its understanding of the will and purpose of God by contact with contemporary thought. Within that fellowship the Uniting Church also stands in relation to contemporary societies in ways which will help it to understand its own nature and mission. The Uniting Church thanks God for the continuing witness and service of evangelist, of scholar, of prophet and of martyr. It prays that it may be ready when occasion demands to confess the Lord in fresh words and deeds."

So, we who are the Uniting Church in Australia see the Scriptures/Bible as authoritative in shaping our life and witness. However, we centre ourselves not just in the words in Scripture but in the living word who is God. We commit ourselves to reading and interpreting Scripture in a way which helps us "confess the Lord in fresh words and deeds." We note that scholars and science help us shape our understanding of what God might be saying to us in Scripture. We note that contemporary thought and contemporary society will engage us in understanding our nature and mission, as we seek to be informed by Scripture, but more importantly listen to the calling of God.

There is a challenging but helpful video called, "The Bible Doesn't Say So" by Dan McClellan. It is not saying that we shouldn't trust or read the Scriptures or see the Bible as authoritative. However, it does draw our attention to the process of interpretation which we all engage in, and how we need

to be both conscious and use critical thinking to understand how that plays a part in what we get as meaning from the Bible.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VidaQPd3C6Q&t=122s>

So, do we read the Bible? How much? How often? How do we understand it? How do we interpret it? What fixed understanding of what we think it says might God as Word be challenging us to change? These are important things to think about.

God bless

Jon

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**

St Matthew's **HAPPY HOUR!**



With a Twist

Come to our house
9 Attlee Place, Winston Hills

7 | **5 PM**
NOVEMBER | **FRIDAY**



PLEASE BRING A SALAD OR DESSERT
AND YOUR OWN DRINKS. WE'LL
SUPPLY BAKED HAM.



RSVP to Belinda
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com

Can you
help us?



**St Matthew's
Netball Club**

St Matthew's Netball Club would like someone to voluntarily review this year's accounts. Please see Belinda Schuster if you are willing.



Your Help is needed

50th Anniversary
celebrations



Your help is needed to sort and create power point presentations from the many photos that have now been received.

Please contact Greg if you can spare some time to help.

**We will be meeting at the Church on
Saturday 1 November at 2pm
to prepare the presentations.**



Please complete the form in the foyer if you know of any past St. Matthew's members that we could invite to our celebrations.



50th Anniversary Games Night and Dinner

**Saturday 15 November from
4.30pm**

Tickets will be available to purchase after both morning services commencing this Sunday 26 October.

- ◇ \$20 Adults
- ◇ \$40 Families

Come join us for a night of fun, sharing food stories and games.

PEOPLE NEWS



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

weekly **SYNOD SPOTLIGHT**

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (17 October 2025) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 -](#)



Thank you so much for your
kind donation of food
items. Gifts such as yours
help keep our operational
costs down and enables my team to put
resources into our Frontline services such as
Loaves & Fishes Restaurant, primary health
care and crisis support for our guests.

My foundation is a place that brings people
together and strengthens the community.

Rev. Bill Crews

Church Diary for 2026

A note to all group leaders — If your group
is planning to use a part of the church property
please ensure the area is available before
finalizing your program.

***Please send your 2026 programs
to the church office ASAP.***

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

26 October — 1 November

***The Caribbean:** Antigua and Barbuda,
Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican
Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica,
St Kitts-Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the
Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago*

Thank You From Women's Fellowship

A huge thank you is extended to everyone who
assisted with supplying food or helped in any
way with organising the afternoon tea provided
by The Women's Fellowship on Sunday 19th
October following the performances of the
Welsh Choir and Wesley Trombone Choir .

Your help is always very much appreciated.

Thank you from The Women's Fellowship
Catering Team

**Please
return
completed
forms by
26**

Volunteer Form

**Assisting with
Morning Services**



December 2025, January, February 2026

Have been emailed or
collect a copy from the foyer.

**NEW HELPERS
WELCOME**



**Please return forms to the blue
mail tray or church office.**

UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Updates on major campaigns:

Uniting Climate Action Network:

Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN) state that we are stewards of God's creation. The climate challenge is great, it also presents an historic opportunity for our nation—and all nations—to transition to a sustainable, equitable future powered by renewable energy. We have a duty to uphold climate justice for our communities and global neighbours, particularly our near Pacific neighbours. UCAN have published a guide on how to write to your local politicians and tips on how to engage with your local politicians in a meeting. Alexander, Abbey and Amanda from SAMMT have joined with members of other local Uniting Churches to prepare for meetings with our local politicians. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Uniting Fair Treatment Campaign on the recommendations of the 2024 Drug Summit Report:

Uniting was expecting the NSW Government to respond to the recommendations of the NSW Drug Summit Report within the 6 month deadline identified by the Summit's co-chairs with the life-saving reforms recommended in the report. The deadline passed at the end of September 2025 and Uniting Fair Treatment are now urgently calling on the State Government to respond. Emma Maiden, Uniting NSW/ACT's Director Advocacy and External Relations stated that "The Drug Summit Report recommends comprehensive drug checking and education, improvements to existing systems to divert more people to a health response for their drug use and more access to life-saving harm reduction services like supervised injecting spaces." We await the State Government's response.

Gambling: Wesley Mission – Put the Pokies in their Place Campaign:

Wesley Mission is currently focusing their campaign on making clubs power-down poker machines after midnight until 10am. The evidence is clear, gambling after midnight is a significant risk factor for harm. As far back as 2010, the Productivity Commission recommended the earlier closure of suburban poker machine venues in recognition of the increased risk of harm during late-night gambling. Successive reports, including the NSW Government's own research, demonstrate that people already significantly harmed are over-represented in pubs and clubs after midnight. With \$1,000,000 being lost by poker machine gamblers every hour in NSW, this is something that must be urgently addressed.

What can we do?

Please keep these issues in your prayers. We can also contact our local politicians and ask for government action.

*Blessings,
Alexander*

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



Celebrating 50 Years

St. Matthew's Uniting Church & 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**



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

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

Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!

You have saved the dates!
Now it's time

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