



Faithfully Growing Together

November is the month of celebration for our being fifty years on this site as a Church. Fifty years has seen much change in the area and in the Church, yet at the same time there has been much that hasn't changed a whole lot – especially in relation to faithful life and witness. In that time, we became the Uniting Church. We have seen growth and decline. We have seen some activities keep going strongly, and other activities have had their life span and are not part of our current life and witness anymore.

The local area has changed. The congregation has changed. We don't see the numbers in the pews that we once enjoyed, yet we still have so many faithful people doing good as they engage in ministries of our Church. We have many dedicated people who volunteer in many ways. We have groups like Shine, Christian Meditation, Coffee and Discovery, Op Shop, Women's Fellowship, Men's Morning Tea and others which continue to be a vital part of how we live out our faith and discipleship together as a fellowshiping community.

We have seen new groups develop such as our Social Action Missional Ministry Team and new initiatives as part of our existing activities. There is much to celebrate.

Our missional development team is currently undertaking some reflection on the health of our congregation. We are using the National Church Life Survey Health Check as a tool to assist us in this. There are nine core qualities of Church vitality that are part of their model of Church health.

As we reflect on these and look to the next chapter of the life of our congregation we will identify much that is good. There will be some area for growth, and maybe even areas of un-healthiness that need to be

Continued next page

9 Core Qualities of Church Vitality

The Internal Core Qualities



Faith



Worship



Belonging

The Outward Core Qualities



Service



Faith-Sharing



Inclusion

The Inspirational Core Qualities



Vision



Innovation



Leadership Culture

Looking to the Future With Hope

If we are honest, there are some indicators of decline and a degree of some lack of congregational health. However, this is not the time to focus on such things. At this time, it is about celebrating how we have been growing together for half a century in this place and continue to do so. The positive signs of growth include:

- Healthy and active ministries
- Growth happening in our ministries
- We are an active community of faith full of faithful people who love God
- Passionate and faithful people doing good and working for our congregation in both paid and volunteer roles.
- New people joining

Faithfully Growing Together

We have experienced growth in a range of areas and that is a powerful sign not only of hope but of health still being present and God being at work. We have seen growth in the following ways:

- New people coming to our services
- Growth and expansion of the Christian Meditation group



- People from Christian meditation and Care and Prayer coming to our services
- Growth in engagement with our digital initiatives
- Growth in those who have joined our Op Shop team
- New Op Shop initiatives
- The music repertoire is growing and new people participating in the leading of music
- The coming together of the social action ministry team

These indicators of growth demonstrate that there is faithful life and witness taking place as we live as a community of faith.

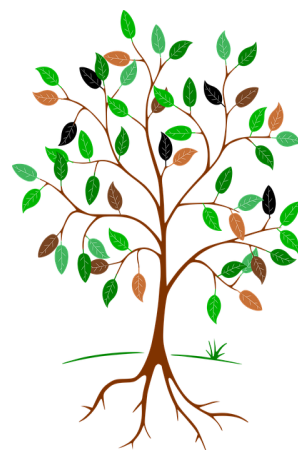
These sit alongside the faithful leadership and attendance of people at our Sunday services. We have also seen aspects of our building being refreshed, and although some of the growth has come at the cost of the reduction in staffing levels, we have sought to balance our current resources in a faithful and responsible manner with a bent towards being more missional, and have

seen re-growth in our financial position enough to reestablish a pastoral ministry leadership role. .

God is good. We have been a faithful

community for Christ, God incarnation and continue to open ourselves to the guidance of God with us as Holy Spirit. We have been blessed. We continue to be blessed, and we look to evermore be a blessing to God and our wider community.

*Happy fiftieth Anniversary
St. Matthew's Uniting
Church Baulkham Hills.*



God bless
Jon



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**

Sydney Welsh Choir And The Bones of Contention



We kicked off our celebrations for being 50 years on our current site in Sunday with a magnificent concert featuring the Sydney Welsh Choir and the trombone choir 'The Bones of Contention.' It was great to see the Church space full to overflowing. All who were present were treated to a wonderful program of over two hours of amazing performances and music of a range of styles, era and genres.

We then shared an amazing afternoon tea thanks to our Women's Fellowship and those who generously brought food to share.

Thanks to all who helped bring this terrific event together.

We look forward to seeing you at some of the great happenings scheduled to take place throughout the month of November.



50th Anniversary Games Night and Dinner



**Saturday 15
November
From 5.30pm**

Tickets will be available to purchase after both morning services.

- ◇ \$20 Adults
- ◇ \$40 Families

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



Op Shop

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



CLOSES for 2025
Thursday
18th December
Last Day of Trading



9am—2pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
& first Saturday of the month 9am-12noon

. Pre-loved clothes & accessories
. Books, Haberdashery, Bric-a-brac

Edgar Street Baulkham Hills



REOPENS for 2026
Tuesday
27th January



Youth @ St Matts
Term 4, 2025

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

WEEK 2

24 October

Spooky Night



WEEK 8

5 December

Park Games

WEEK 4

7 November

Video Games



SUMMER GAMES

WEEK 6

21 November

Master Chef



WEEK 10

19 December

End of Year

Pool Party



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

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

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!



With a Twist

Come to our house

9 Attlee Place, Winston Hills

**7
NOVEMBER**

**5 PM
FRIDAY**



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



RSVP to Belinda
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS 
growing together

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

9AM

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

TRIVIA AND GAMES

5:30PM

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

PICNIC AT
JOHN CURTIN RESERVE

11AM

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARY
SERVICES

9AM & 6:45PM (YOUTH)

SUNDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

CORNER OF EDGAR AND
CHARLES ST, BAULKHAM HILLS

(02) 9686 3003

50th Anniversary Banner

On Sunday 12th October, a group gathered to create a new banner for the front of the church, celebrating the 50th anniversary. Over the previous few weeks, members of the congregation had been cutting out and returning letters, organised by Barbara Gibb.

The finished banner reads Celebrating Faithfully Growing Together and features a number of symbols of our worship and life together. Many thanks to Barbara for all her hard work and to all involved.



Thursday 6 November

10am—12noon

“Staying Safe Online”

Michelle Vickery, Branch Manager CBA Carlingford
and Paula Saxby, Branch Manager CBA Baulkham Hills will
speak to you about staying safe Online and will also speak
about the many changes in banking over the years.

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

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



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!!!

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

From the St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

'Doing little things can make a big difference'.

Topic: Gambling lobby's sponsorship of Australian parliamentary sports club

From an article by Independent MP Kate Chaney in The Guardian 10th October 2025

Responsible Wagering Australia (RWA) is a lobbying organisation with members including Australia's leading wagering service providers – bet365, Betfair, PointsBet, Sportsbet and Unibet. They represent the interests of Australian online wagering and promoting the standing of the industry.

Currently the Australian Government are being called to act on all the recommendations of the late MP Ms Peta Murphy's report 'You Win Some, You Lose More' including the complete banning of gambling advertising. It is argued that RWA are trying to inappropriately influence government decision making.

Independent MP Kate Chaney calls on the Australian Prime Minister Mr Albanese to remove Responsible Wagering Australia's membership of the Parliamentary Sporting Club, because it allows sponsors to access 'key opinion leaders'. Crossbench MPs and a transparency group have criticised the gambling lobby's sponsorship of federal Parliamentary Sporting Club, alleging it paid to secure access to decision-makers and entrench wagering's close association with sport.

Responsible Wagering Australia has also been accused by the independent ACT senator David Pocock of "shamelessly" trying to claim it was involved with a running group devoted to eliminating suicide, which was hosted by the Parliamentary Sporting Club. Wesley Mission Advocacy Team advise that as a result of his lobbying against the gambling lobby, Senator Pocock has been removed as a member of the federal Parliamentary Sporting Club over his opposition to gambling sponsors.

The independent MP Kate Chaney, who was a member of a parliamentary inquiry that called for a total ban on gambling advertising more than two years ago, said the club and its event provided the RWA with an opportunity to build influence in Canberra.

To read the full article: https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/sep/17/gambling-lobby-sponsorship-australian-parliament-sports-club-condemned-by-crossbench-mps-kate-chaney?utm_campaign=Advocacy

To read the report 'You Win Some, But Lose More': https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Social_Policy_and_Legal_Affairs/Onlinegamblingimpacts/Report

If you would like to follow the Wesley Mission Advocacy Team, go to: <https://www.wesleymission.org.au/get-involved/advocate-with-us/>

*Blessings,
Alexander,
SAMMT*



**1st Saturday of the month
9am-12pm**

Upcoming dates

• **1 November**

• **6 December**

(last Saturday for 2025)

Pre-loved

Household items,

Electrical, Toys & Books

(Fiction, Non-fiction & children's books)

St. Matthew's Lower hall



New Nametags Have Arrived

I've always been jealous of people who can effortlessly remember names and faces...because that's not me! In fact, I once almost hugged a stranger in public when I mistook her for my mum and when my son Theo recently got his hair cut, I didn't recognise him at first. So I am very grateful to everyone who has been

wearing their new name tags in October!

Personally, I find the sticky labels a little frustrating. Sometimes they start to peel off, or my hair gets stuck to the back and I find myself trying to stick it back on. However, there are definite benefits. No more leaving the name tag at home or in the car, no more rolls to be marked at the front door. This means our welcomers are free to be truly welcoming and not worry about who might slip in via the back stairs and not be counted.

The names of both morning services have been laid out together and will shortly be joined by the evening service also. I would like everyone to become familiar with the names of others who they might not see very often and hope that we can develop deeper relationships at the upcoming anniversary events or future combined morning teas. If you see someone's nametag still on the paper and realise they haven't been around for a few weeks, I encourage you to reach out to them, see how they are and let them know they are cared for and loved. Please also let me know if you are worried about someone. There are care cards at the back of the church and in the pews.

Thank you again to everyone for wearing your name tags! This is one way we can be supportive of each other and particularly anyone who might have difficulty with memory, names and faces. It also helps newcomers to settle in and not feel embarrassed while they learn who is who.

Kind regards,

Sara



You are invited to a Service of Remembrance and



Thanksgiving

Tuesday 9th December @ 7.30pm

A Service specifically designed for all those who experience a sense of loss at Christmas, especially those for whom this is the first Christmas without a loved one. During the service the names of our loved ones will be read out. You will also have the opportunity to light a candle in their memory. The names may be phoned or emailed through to the church prior to the 9th December. We also invite you to bring a card or memento to place on the Tree of Remembrance.



A tree will be supplied by the Hills Shire council and after the service the tree will be planted together with your message somewhere in the community.

Please contact us if you would like further information, and know that we are thinking of you at this time of year.

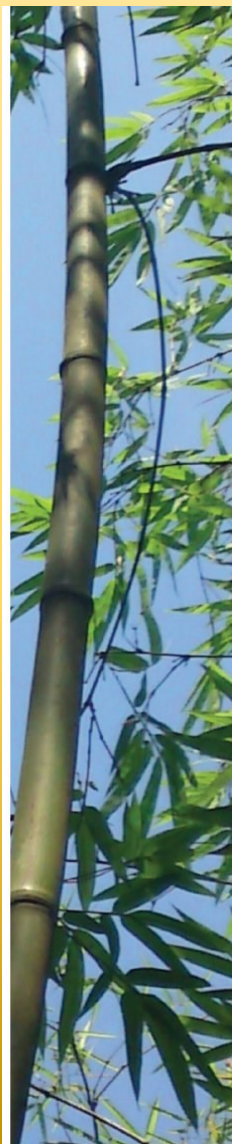


**The Bill Crews Foundation
is need of these items for
their food Hampers:**

- **Tinned Foods (ring pulls)**
- ◊ **Spaghetti**
- ◊ **Baked beans**
- ◊ **Tuna/Salmon**
- ◊ **Meats/chicken**
- ◊ **Soup**
- ◊ **Fruit & Vegetables**
- **Rice**
- **Dry Pasta**
- **Pasta Sauces**
- **Supermarket & store gift cards**
- **Noodles cups/packets**
- **Chips**
- **Crackers**
- **Biscuits**
- **Cereals**
- **Muesli Bars**
- **Up & Go breakfast drinks**
- **Fruit juices/poppers**
- **Tea/coffee**
- **Long life milk**
- **Bottled water (600ml)**

**Please donate to the St. Matthew's collection for the
Bill Crews Foundation Christmas Food appeal.**

**Please leave items in the containers in the upstairs
foyer by 15 December.**



Silence and stillness in every season

Daily readings with John Main



The word 'meditation' has an interesting possible connection with the Latin *sto in medio*—'*I stand in the centre*'. Meditation indeed means learning to live out of the centre of your being.

It is not an esoteric practice. Everyone needs to learn that rootedness in their centre so that they can be fully themselves. It is something deeply ordinary and natural. We live in a world that makes great demands on us and is continually threatening our ability to stay rooted in the centre of our being. Stress and all its related forms of dysfunction, depression anxiety and addiction are not rare conditions in modern living. It is perhaps difficult to think of modern life at all without them.

To be stable we need to be sure of ourselves. We need to feel we are standing on firm ground and that we will not have our identity or self-respect blown away by the first storms of disappointment or conflict which we encounter. Meditation is the way to this first and basic sense of stability, rootedness in ourselves. Without it external or physical stability can degenerate into a search for security or ways of self-protection. The essential stability is the reality of our own being, and how many are in touch with that.

Word made flesh



MEDITATION

Christian meditation will continue for 2 sessions a week for the rest of year at St. Matthew's except for the week between Christmas and New Year and are open to all ages from high school and above.

Monday evenings 7.30pm — 8.30pm

Tuesday mornings 9.30am — 10.30am

For more information or to express your interest in attending please contact

Katherine Pedersen

Facilitator kathped56@gmail.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

Calendar of Events for November 2025

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together 50th Anniversary Celebrations							1 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am-12pm Garage Sale lower hall Garage SALE	2 21st Sunday After Pentecost 8am—Worship Includes Communion 9.30am—Worship Includes Communion KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 followed by Morning Tea KUCA in Recess 2-4pm—Hall in use 6.45pm Worship Includes Communion
3 9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room	4 9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room 11.30am Care & Prayer Community room & church FINAL FOR 2025	5 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12noon In Stitches Upstairs hall 7pm—Finance Committee meeting	6 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12noon Coffee & Discovery Guest Speakers: Michelle Vickery Paula Saxby Coffee & Discovery	7 5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group Video Games	8 9am-12pm Christmas Market Day lower hall	9 22nd Sunday After Pentecost 9am—Combined Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 Followed by Morning Tea Please bring a plate 9am—Worship @ the Willow's 11am—Picnic at John Curtin Reserve 6.45pm—Worship Community Meal		
10 9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church	11 9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room	12 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12noon Women's Fellowship Upstairs hall 7.30pm—Church Council Exec meeting	13 9am-2pm Op Shop	14 No scheduled events	15 Games night and Trivia Includes Dinner from 5.30pm TRIVIA	16 23rd Sunday After Pentecost 8am—Worship Guest preacher 9.30am—Worship Guest preacher Followed by morning tea KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8 6.45pm—Worship Guest preacher		
17 9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church	18 9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room	19 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12noon In Stitches Up 10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea McKels Café Bella Vista stairs hall	20 9am-2pm Op Shop	21 5pm-7pm Fusion Youth Group "Master Chef"	22 10.30am to 11.30am Choir Practice In the church	23 50th Anniversary services 9am—Combined service flowd by morning tea-please bring a plate A BBQ lunch will follow—Donation 5pm—Shine set up from 4pm 6.45pm—Youth service & Shine Celebrations		
24 9am Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop & Garage Sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room	25 9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation community room 4.30pm-8pm Pre school end of year concert In the church	26 9am-2pm Op Shop 7.30pm—Church Council	27 9am-2pm Op Shop	28 4.30pm-8pm Pre school end of year concert In the church	29	30 ADVENT Hope 8am—Worship 9.30am—Worship Includes Baptism Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in Recess 6.45pm—Worship		

