



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

16 November 2025

Pentecost 23

Bible Readings

1 Peter 3 8-15
Matthew 7: 24-29



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

23rd
Sunday
After
Pentecost



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Pamela Leslie
and Dirk Van Doorene

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
And Clive Pearson
Followed by morning tea

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

11am—Listening Forum

In the church

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Alexander Lawless
and Christine Bayliss Kelly

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER

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

11-12pm—Preschool in Church

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

11am-12pm—Preschool in
Church

7.30pm—Listening Forum
In the church

WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10am-12pm—In Stitches
Upstairs hall

10am-12pm—Men's morning tea
Mckel's Café

10.30am—Preschool in Church

7.30pm—Elders meeting

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

11am—Preschool in Church

FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER

5-7pm—Fusion Youth Group
"MasterChef"

SATURDAY 22 NOVEMBER

10.30-11.30am—Choir practice
in the church

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER



9am—
Worship

50th
Birthday
celebrations
church & preschool.

Followed by morning tea
(please bring a plate to share)
Share worship & BBQ lunch
and photo display

4pm—shine setup

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Youth service

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Chris Eagles

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

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Something to think about

16 November

Pentecost 23

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 65:17-25

Isaiah 12

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

Modern Slavery

Slavery still exists today, and it is hiding in plain sight. Modern slavery is not like the kind of slavey that we imagine when we think of people owning people. Modern slavery is the contemporary exploitation of people in a manner likened to slavery, characterized by practices such as people trafficking, coercion of workers, and sexual exploitation. Modern slavery takes the form of:

- Human trafficking
- Slavery
- Servitude
- Forced labour
- Forced marriage
- Debt bondage
- Deceptive recruitment for labor or services
- The worst forms of child labor,

It is estimated that 49.6 million people live in modern slavery today: 1 in 4 are children; 54% are women and girls; 27.6M are in forced labour; 22M are in forced marriage.

Watch this video by Be Slavery Free to learn more about what modern slavery is.



What is Modern Slavery?



Modern slavery is all around us, often hidden in plain sight. People can become enslaved making our clothes, serving our food, picking our crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners or nannies. Victims of modern slavery might face violence or threats, be forced into inescapable debt, or have their passport taken away and face being threatened with deportation. Many people have fallen into this trap because they were trying to escape poverty or insecurity, improve their lives and support their families. Now, they can't leave.

Continued next page

Australia has recognised the reality of modern slavery. The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) is a framework in Australia that requires large businesses to report on modern slavery risks in their supply chains and operations. Under the law, companies with an annual turnover of more than \$100 million must publish annual statements detailing how they identify and address risks such as forced labour, human trafficking, and forced marriage. The Act aims to increase transparency and accountability in business supply chains to combat modern slavery.

The Bible can be helpful and unhelpful in helping us understand why slavery is not part of God's Kingdom/Kind-dom/Kin-dom. As abolitionists like William Wilberforce in the 18th Century found in his campaign to abolish slavery, the Bible can be used to justify slavery. The Bible speaks against slavery by condemning kidnapping and selling people into slavery, and by advocating for the humane treatment of enslaved people through laws that granted them basic rights. While the New Testament does not abolish the practice outright, it instructs enslavers to treat their slaves with justice and fairness and encourages the idea of slaves and masters as equals before God. Furthermore, verses emphasizing freedom in Christ and the inherent dignity of all people made in God's image provide a foundation for opposing slavery and promoting liberation. However, the call of God through Jesus to love our neighbour as ourselves makes it hard to justify owning or abusing others.

The reading in Isaiah set for this week in the Revised Common Lectionary has two verses that might be overlooked but speaks to God's vision of a world of freedom. Chapter 65, Verses 21 and 22 read, "They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat." People in the Kingdom of Heaven have the freedom to enjoy the fruits

of their labour without exploitation. God sets forth clearly in Micah 6:6-8 that what God desires from us is to do justly, love with mercy and kindness and to walk humbly with God. Slavery modern or ancient has no part in this vision.

Organisations like Be Slavery Free <https://www.beslaveryfree.com/> can help us to be less ignorant about the plight of so many people in the world and they provide resources and means for us to do something and take action in our daily living, often through things as simple as modifying which products and goods we support through our purchases. Being Christian, that is following Christ who was God incarnate – God who took on our being in order to bring change and transformation – doesn't allow us the option of passivity or inaction in areas of justice. Loving our neighbour in the way of the cross calls us to make a difference for good in the world. It is part of how we live out the Lord's Prayer by helping God's Kingdom come and God's will be done. How we can learn more about such social issues and find out how we can learn to do more is something to think about and work at.

God bless

Jon



Sunday 23 November Anniversary service at 9am

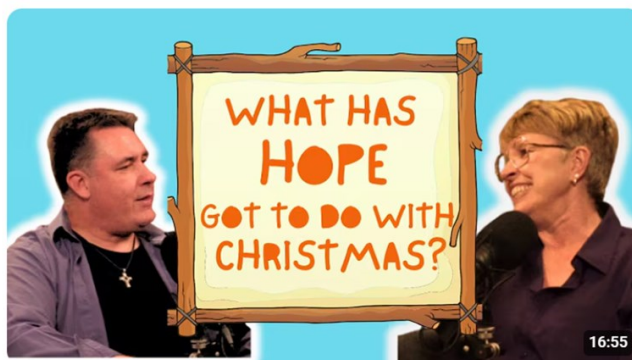
**Afterwards please join us for morning
tea (please bring a plate to share) .
Following this there will be a BBQ lunch.**

**Can you
help us?**



**St Matthew's
Netball Club**

**St Matthew's Netball Club would like
someone to voluntarily review this year's
accounts. This is not a huge job.
Please see Belinda Schuster if you can
help.**



On the Way with Ness and Jon
What has Hope Got to do with Christmas?
Season 2 – Episode 1



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgzsMkT83Ok>

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Janice Caldwell

Allan Garbutt

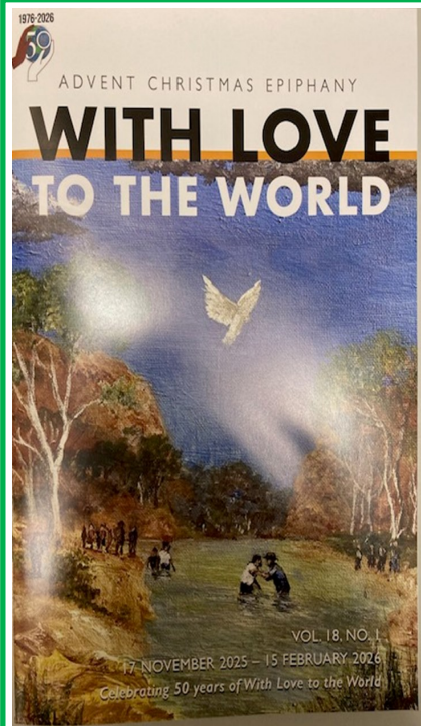
Ruth Garbutt

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

16—22 November

Aotearoa— New Zealand, Australia



Advent Christmas Epiphany

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common
Lectionary

**Volume 18,
Number 1**

**17 November 2025
To
15 February 2026**

is available
in the church foyer.

**Please place \$7
in offering bag
to cover costs.**

weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

**For (7 November 2025) please see link to
Synod weekly:**

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 7 November](#)

ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
for December 2025, January 9am combined,
February 2026
have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would like an A3 copy please
collect a copy from the table in the church foyer.

**If you are able to help with any of the gaps
please contact the church office.**

**Thank you to everyone who has helped on the
last 3 month roster and to those who have been
able to help on this roster.**



Choir Practice

There will be a Choir practice at
the church on

**Saturday 22 November
From 10.30am to 11.30am**

This practice is to prepare for the
Anniversary service on Sunday 23 November



Nominations for Elders and Church Council

Nominations for Elders and Church council are now being accepted. All nominations need to be received by ***Monday 17 November.***

Nomination forms are in the foyer. Nomination forms can be given to the office, Helen Olley or Jon.

Listening Forums

We will be holding listening forums ahead of our voting to decide who is permitted to be married within our Church spaces here at St Matthew's. These will be times when people can ask questions, seek clarification about things and express their thoughts and feelings in a safe and respectful forum.

These will be held in the main Church space.

Saturday 15 November @ 10am

Sunday 16 November @ 11am

Tuesday 18 November @ 7.30pm

The voting will take place on

Sunday 7 December.

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



*Celebrating
50 Years*



*Caring for and serving the Baulkham Hills Community and Beyond
in the Name of Christ*

YOUTH SERVICE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A WORSHIP CELEBRATION
TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS.**

6:45 PM SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP LEAD BY CHRIS EAGLES AND DANIEL GIBB

YOUTH BAND LEADING MUSIC

SHINE GROUP PARTICIPATION AND GIFT GIVING

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC
SHARE STORIES OVER SUPPER AFTER THE SERVICE**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO RSVP CONTACT

GREG GIBB ON 0414 764 437

Games Night This Saturday

5:30 Trivia

Adults \$20

6:30 Dinner

Family \$40

7:30 Games

Bring snacks, drinks & games



Morning Tea Help Required

There will be a special Morning Tea following the Anniversary Service on ***Sunday 23 November***

If you are attending the Service, it would be appreciated if you could bring a small plate of food to assist with the catering.

Help will also be required to set up, serve and pack away – if you will be available to help can you please either contact Barbara Gibb or the Office.

With Thanks from the 50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee

COP30 Prayer Vigil: *Praying for climate justice*



In late November, world leaders will gather in Brazil for COP30 - the 2025 United Nations climate summit.

During the final days of that summit, join us in a gathering of Uniting Church communities, including the Moderator and other leaders, to pray that world leaders listen to the cries of the Earth and the voices of those on the margins.

*The earth is the Lord's and all
that is in it, the world, and those
who live in it.*
Psalm 24:1

Thur 20 November

7:00 - 8:00pm

Light meal from 6:00pm

Dr Moulton Congregation
Auburn Parish
2 Tilba St, Berala

Register at:

[https://events.humanitix.com
/cop30prayer](https://events.humanitix.com/cop30prayer)



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

Uniting Climate



St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Palestine – Learning More About The Situation on the Ground

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Inc (PIEN) is a network of Australian Christians and supporters, seeking lasting peace and justice for the people of Palestine and Israel. To achieve this purpose, the organisation:

Encourages and equips Australian churches to promote peace and reconciliation in Palestine and Israel, inspired by Christ's vision for universal reconciliation.

Educates Australian churches and the wider public on human rights issues in Palestine & Israel.

Seeks public policy change in Australia.

Influences public opinion and advance public debate.

Encourages theological discussion and practical action.

Expresses solidarity with Palestinian Christians and with others who genuinely seek peace and justice for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Works alongside like-minded organisations in Australia and overseas.

The chief relationships of the network are with:

The National Council of Churches in Australia through its international aid agency, Act for Peace.

The World Council of Churches.

The Christian community in Palestine and Israel.

Australian church-related and community groups working for a just peace.

What can I do?

Read PIEN's latest newsletter, here is the link:

<https://mailchi.mp/84378213779e/its-a-wrap-on-our-forum-tour-10999234?e=f39e8eec34>

2. PIEN is running a zoom webinar '*The Story of Bethlehem - Contextualising Life in Palestine*'. A conversation with Mercy Aiken and Cole Martin.

Date: The first Sunday of Advent 30th November at 2pm Sydney time.

Presenters: Mercy Aiken is a cross-cultural advocate, bridge-builder, storyteller, author activist and pilgrimage leader. Cole Martin is a photo-video journalist and Anglican from New Zealand and has recently returned from six months in Palestine. To register use this QR code.



*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 17th February 2026