



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

28 December 2025

Christmas 1

Bible Readings

Matthew 2: 13-23

4 January reading

John 1: 1-18

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

Response: Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.



Christmas 1

9am—Summer Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
followed by Morning Tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER

Office closed

No Scheduled Activities

WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER

Office closed

New years Eve



THURSDAY 1 JANUARY

Public Holiday

New Years DAY

FRIDAY 2 JANUARY

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 3 JANUARY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY

9am—Summer Worship

Includes communion

Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for school holidays

6.45pm—Worship



Christmas 2

MONDAY 5 JANUARY

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

Office Open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

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

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HELEN OLLEY

Email: helen.olley@optusnet.com.au

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

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Something to think about 28 December Christmas 1

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Do You See What I See?

There is a Christmas carol or song that I remember from my childhood. It isn't one we sing very often. It is 'Do you hear what I hear?' Here is a link to a version sung by Bing Crosby https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs9FPx3_Slk According to the Internet it is a song written in October 1962, with lyrics by Noël Regney and music by Gloria Shayne. The pair, married at the time, wrote it as a plea for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Regney had been invited by a record producer to write a Christmas song, but he was hesitant due to the commercialism of Christmas. Whilst the title is "Do you hear what I hear?" the first verse begins with, "Do you see what I see?" With our first Sunday after Christmas still being part of the Christmas season, we might ponder what we see as the meaning of Christmas.

What is the meaning of Christmas? Any answer to this question has many layers of and each answer will depend on the perspective of the one answering the question. It will depend on how they see Christmas, faith and

the world. It will depend on how they see God and how God is at work in the world now, as well as how they see God being at work in the Christmas story.

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" tells a story loosely based upon the story of the Nativity of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Matthew, incorporating fragments of the angel's annunciation to the shepherds from the Gospel of Luke. It is interesting that Jesus is never mentioned by name or explicitly identified. A "night wind" tells a lamb, the lamb tells a young shepherd, then the shepherd speaks to a "mighty king." Maybe the king is supposed to be one of the magi, but maybe it is a metaphor of the humble and poor bringing a message of justice to the rich rulers. The king tells "people everywhere" to pray for peace and announces that the child will "bring us goodness and light."

'Do you see what I see?' is a question we could extend to God and have God asking it of us. Said Almighty God to all humankind, 'Do you see what I see? Through out the world and through history, do you see what I see? The world is not as I created it to be. We must work to make all things right. We must work to make all things right.

The story of the nativity, that is the incarnation of God – God becoming human in the person of Jesus – asks us to see the world as God sees it and to see us as God sees us. We have the image before us of nativity scenes, but they are at best a romanticising of the story of the birth of Jesus, and at worst a distraction from seeing the way God works in the world.

As I spoke about in my Christmas sermon, this is a broken story by our normal expectations and standards. In fact, it is just an introductory paragraph in an important chapter of the story of God's work and redemption of the world. When we ask ourselves, 'do we see what God sees?' then we have to change our perspective. It gives us work as a people to understand the world, the cosmos and ourselves from an eternal perspective. It shifts us babies and mangers; from shepherds and angels; from wise people and gifts; and moves our thinking and seeing to God and what God is doing and why God is doing it. There are libraries of theology books to help us in this work. There is a lifetime of faith and discipleship and prayer and meditation for us to do to better understand God and God's work.

However, here and now, with the injustice and recovery from the shootings at Bondi, and on our minds and in our hearts, we can ask do we hear and see what God sees? It calls us to step back from the narrow focus of the media and different interest groups and look to the world and our society with grace and truth. The truth is that there are complex systems of human society at play and there are great evils and injustices which we may or may not be aware of. We, people of faith, believe that God is present. God does not just stand as an observer from afar, but as Christ sees the world with a compassion having shared our being as humankind. God as Holy Spirit is present with us and

within us seeing us from the inside out as well as the outside in. God sees not only our hearts and minds, but all hearts and minds and is seeking to work for good from all these multitudinous perspectives.

This leaves a practical work for us to take up in seeing as God sees. What can we do hear and now? What can we do to join in the work of God with our gifts and talents working from our perspective with the people we know and love and our neighbours we are yet to know and love?

Christmas continues, not just a memory of a time past, but of an eternal present to live in. The cycle of our remembering moves forward through our liturgical year, but each new season does not mean that we leave the previous one behind, but to take up an additional perspective as we grow to understand the world as God sees it and understand our part to play as God sees it. God asks, "Do you see what I see?" and we have therefore much to now think about.

God bless

Jon

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Sandra Pentland
Graham Cotterill

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

28—3 January

Japan, North Korea, South Korea

Jam Jars

The Op-shop has about 30 clean
used jam jars going free to anyone
who wants them. Ask the
volunteers in the Op-shop or
call/ message Pamela on
M: 0404023588

Thank you

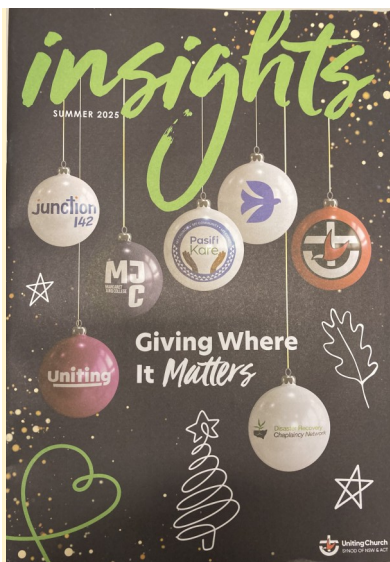
weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

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

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 19 December](#)



Please pick up the
latest

insights

Magazine
Summer2025

From the church foyer

“Christian Meditation is not what you think”

Meditatio Talks Series 2020 A - Release date 8 March 2020

The Work of Selfless Attention by Laurence Freeman OSB

01 Reasons for Meditation

0:00 7:30

The Work of Selfless Attention by Laurence Freeman OSB
Meditatio Talks Series 2020 A Jan-Mar

Laurence Freeman describes the essential work of meditation as selfless attention - a shift from self-centredness to other-centredness. The daily practice of meditation, he says, "is the kindest and most caring thing you can do for yourself". In turning away from self-absorption we open to the peace and harmony at our deepest centre and we grow in love. The fruit of this spiritual discipline is the enhanced care and attention we are able to give to other people and to our work.

The tracks on this playlist are intended solely for personal non-commercial use. By downloading tracks from this playlist you agree to use the downloaded files only for personal, non-commercial use. This resource is provided free. If you would like to support our mission to communicate and nurture meditation in the Christian tradition as passed on through the teaching of John Main OSB, please [contribute here](#).

01 Reasons for Meditation
02 Definition of Meditation
03 The Work of Silence
04 The Method of Meditation
05 The Mind the Mantra and th...
06 The Experience of Being
07 Care and Attention
08 Success and Failure
09 The Benefits of Meditation a...



Titles of talks we
← will be
listening to at
both weekly
sessions.

An invitation to everyone to come and taste and experience for themselves that

“Christian Meditation is not what you think”.

The talks will begin on
Monday 5th and Tuesday 6 January 2026 at the church during our
normal meditation times.

Contact Katherine Pedersen
kathped56@gmail.com 0437 772 011

Quiet Saturday afternoons in January 2026

The afternoons will include two periods of meditation/prayer in the Christian tradition followed by Lectio Divina and personal time for reflection and relaxation. Afternoon tea/refreshments will be included and a donation of \$10 to the WCCM is suggested.

Where: Bundaleer, Castle Hill on 10th and 24th January 2026.

Time: 1-5pm contact kathped56@gmail.com 0437 772 011



PLAY NETBALL IN THE HILLS!

JOIN ST MATTHEW'S NETBALL CLUB

- We prioritise a fun, social game to develop your skills or have a weekend run around!
- Completely ungraded - play with friends!
- All ages from Pre Kindergarten - Opens
- Saturday afternoon competition - no early mornings!

REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW UNTIL

FEB 7 2026

 **GOODEN RESERVE BAULKHAM HILLS**

\$110 / PLAYER
ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS WELCOME!



Go to www.stmatthewsnetballclub.com to complete your registration.

For enquiries please email stmatthewsnetballclub@hotmail.com



Available now!

GOOD MEN Project

"GOOD MEN DON'T"
PODCAST

A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS DISCUSSING
RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS,
DOMESTIC AND FAMILY ABUSE AND
INTERVIEWING PEOPLE IN THE KNOW

www.hca.org.au/thegoodmenproject

Hills Community Aid
Empowering Communities to Thrive

GOOD MEN Project

CHRG



**A St. Matthew's page
Just for us at**

[Mycb.link/45881](https://mycb.link/45881)

Check it out!

**Envelopes will be
available as usual at
each service.**

**Four ways to give to those in need
beyond Australia**

***Cash in the Christmas Bowl
envelope given to the person in
the WHITE HAT at the back of
the Church each Sunday
Service.***

***Give credit details in the form
in the Christmas Bowl envelope
and tie it to the person in the
WHITE HAT and receive a
receipt later.***

***Give directly to a letter sent to
you from Christmas Bowl to
your address. Put that you are
at St Matthews on the form***

Christmas Services

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

Wednesday 24 December 5pm

A chance for young children to be part of the Christmas story. A great family time!

Christmas Eve Late Service

Wednesday 24 December 11.15pm

An excellent way to celebrate Christmas in a relaxed family atmosphere with music, a relevant message and candles representing Christ's light in our world.

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday 25 December 9am

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a Christmas message and carols.



Calendar of Events for January 2026

School Holidays

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | | | 1 New Years Day Public Holiday  | 2 Church Office Closed No scheduled events | 3 No scheduled events | 4 Christmas 2  9am Summer Worship Includes Communion Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in care 6.45pm Worship Includes Communion |
| 5 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room | 6 Church Office Reopens 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room | 7 No scheduled events | 8 No scheduled events | 9 No scheduled events | 10 No scheduled events | 11  9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in care 9am—Worship @ the Willows 6.45pm—Worship Community Meal |
| 12 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room and Church | 13 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room | 14 No Scheduled events | 15 No Scheduled events | 16 No Scheduled events | 17 No Scheduled events | 18  9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in care 6.45pm—Worship |
| 19  9am Sorting & Pricing for Op-Shop & Garage Sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community Room | 20 9am—Set up for Op-Shop 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room | 21 9am—Set up for Op-Shop 10am-12noon In Stitches upstairs hall 10am-12noon Men's Morning Tea @ the Willows | 22 9am—Set up for Op-Shop | 23 No scheduled events | 24 No scheduled events | 25  9am Summer Worship Followed by Morning Tea KUCA in care 5pm—Shine setup from 4pm 6.45pm—Worship |
| 26 7.30pm—Christian Meditation Australia Day Public Holiday  | 27  9am-2pm Op-Shop RE-OPEN'S 9.30-11am Christian Meditation Community Room 7.30pm—Property meeting Church office closed | 28 9am-2pm Op-Shop Church Office Closed | 29  9am-2pm Op-Shop Church Office Closed | 30 No scheduled events | 31 No scheduled events | |