



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



OCTOBER
2026



St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

God, Climate and Us

God is Creator and all that is, everything in existence is created. This includes us and the world we live in. As people of faith, part of our work is to work out what our God-given and God-sanctioned role is in relationship to all other things and develop a spiritual, theological, moral and ethical framework which not only shapes our thinking and focus, but also shapes our being and behaviour.

This area in the scheme of thinking about God and all things is called ecotheology. Ecotheology is a form of theology that explores the relationship between religious worldviews and the environment, particularly in response to current ecological crises and how God calls us to be as part of Creation. The term combines ecology (the study of relationships between living organisms and their environment) with theology (the study of God and God's relationship with us and everything). Ecotheology seeks to inform our beliefs about God and nature and who and how God calls us to be. Ecotheology is part of Christian theology but is also a part of theologies of other religions and faith traditions.

There are four core foci of ecotheology. These include:

Interconnectedness: This aspect assists us to view the Earth, humanity, and all living things as part of an integrated, sacred system rather than seeing humans as separate from, or masters of, nature. Spirituality exists in the nature of relationship and relationality, at least from a theological perspective. We are part of an ecosystem and as such our living has consequences and effects, both positive and negative. Ecotheological interconnectedness places humanity within Creation, not separate from it, and seeks to understand Scripture in ways which help us draw on key themes and relate and connect them with our relationship with all of the world – both living and non-living.

Stewardship vs. Dominion: This foci re-examines our traditional theological thinking and understanding about what it means to be Created in the image of God and to have a covenantal relationship with God. In the light of this relationship, both with God and all of Creation, thinking in this area challenges old interpretations of human "dominion" over the earth and reframes human responsibility as "caretakers" or "stewards" in partnership with God in sustaining environmental balance.

Eco-Justice: This focus connects economic and social justice, which comes out of from our moral understanding arising from the call of God to do justly, live with mercy and walk humbly with God, [Micah 6: 8] along with such instruction from God through Scripture to love our neighbour as ourselves. [Matthew 22:39 & Mark 12:31] Eco-justice views Creation and all within it as 'our neighbour' and asks what it means to live in right, good and just relationship with our companion humans and all living things as well as the fullness of nature. From this concern arises for ecological preservation, recognising that environmental degradation harms both vulnerable ecosystems and human communities and we have a moral and spiritual obligation as part of the mission of God and the coming of the Realm of Heaven to make things right and good.

Faith-Led Action: Our faith in God moves us to action. Ecotheology argues that spiritual values can inspire the deep cultural and behavioural changes needed to combat such things as climate change, as well as living responsibly and sustainably in custodianship of not only the world as we inhabit it, but in consideration of the future world those people who come after us will inhabit. Ecotheology is a practical area of theology as it draws on evidence and thinking from science and other practical disciplines and then marries that with our understand of God, who God is, who we are and who and how God calls us to be.

The Uniting Church is engaged in ecotheological concerns. As was clearly explained in the 1977 Statement to the Nation at the inauguration of our Church, "We pledge ourselves to seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur. We will challenge values which emphasise acquisitiveness and greed in disregard of the needs of others and which encourage a higher standard of living for the privileged in the face of the daily widening gap between the rich and poor. We are concerned with the basic human rights of future generations and will urge the wise use of energy, the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth's resources for their use and enjoyment."

"The Uniting Church's commitment to the environment arises out of the Christian belief that God, as the Creator of the universe, calls us into a special relationship with the creation – a relationship of mutuality and interdependence which seeks the reconciliation of all creation with God. We believe that God's will for the earth is renewal and reconciliation, not destruction by human beings. The foundational document of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Basis of Union, expressed this as the very heart of the Church's mission: 'God in Christ has given to all people in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation. The Church's call is to serve that end.'" From <https://www.unitingearthweb.org.au/bible-and-theology-resources/a-short-summary-of-ecotheology/>

The 1996 Uniting Church Statement, 'For the Sake of the Planet and All Its People,' stated that:

"The Hebrew Scriptures proclaim that other creatures have value apart from their usefulness to humans, praising God, living in intimate relationship with God, and being sustained by God's Spirit. All Creation is very good.

The New Testament proclaims that all Creation came about through and for Christ, who holds all Creation together as the Word of God. Paul hears Creation groaning, waiting to obtain the freedom of the children of God. The Children of God are the church, following Jesus the liberator, the table over turner, who warned constantly about the dangers of greed and affirmed God's care even for sparrows.

So, when the Uniting Church formed in 1977, we acknowledged God's reasserted claim over the whole Creation, accepting that we are called to serve God's mission of the "coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation."

The Uniting Church's many statements about environmental issues draw on these insights to varying extents. In the Church we acknowledge and respect that our members identify with a broad range of theological metaphors for our relationship with the rest of Creation, including dominion, stewardship, servanthood, and family. We have never attempted to enforce one metaphor or develop a distinctive doctrine of Creation. However, our councils and representational bodies have done much work to advocate for an ecotheology which encourages an holistic engagement between faith and environmental action.

Maybe this all a bit new to you, or maybe this talk of ecotheology is stuff you are well-familiar with. Either way, who God is and who God calls us to be, and how God calls us to be and what that might mean that we might have to do is something that we are all encouraged to think about.

*God Bless
Jon*



Thursday 1 October
10am-12pm

Guest Speaker: Ross Abraham



**“CONSTRUCTION OF THE
SEA CLIFF BRIDGE
WOLLONGONG”**

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

Leading in Services Seminars

7.30pm Wednesday Nights in October

14 October – Leading Liturgy

21 October – Thinking About
Preaching

28 October – Praying With the
People – Leading
Intercessory
Prayer



ZOOM
Link
QR Code

From the St. Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

'Doing little things can make a big difference.'

Topic: Global Warming and Climate Injustice

Climate change is not only an environmental issue; it is also a social justice issue. Its effects fall hardest on vulnerable populations that have contributed least to the crisis.

Amos 5:24

“But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!”

The scale of natural disasters is hard to comprehend. One example demonstrating this is Nepal. According to the United Nations (2023), Nepal's ice and permafrost mountain regions have lost close to one-third of their ice in just over 30 years due to global warming.

At 8.37 am local time on 26 August 2026, a huge mass of rock and ice sheared free and slid 1,200 metres to the valley floor in Nepal's Langtang National Park, about 60 kilometres north of the country's capital. Satellite imagery showed that glacial collapse was to blame. This disaster should be understood not as an isolated event, but as part of a widening pattern of climate-driven risk in the Himalayas.

Rescue operations have been hindered by bad weather, poor access, and the threat of further flooding due to two lakes that formed after the landslide. About 12,000 people have been rescued at time of the writing. A total of 1428 bodies have been recovered, including 1,385 confirmed deaths in Nepal and 43 in Tibet. More than 5649+ persons remain unaccounted for. Thinking of the people behind the numbers is depressing. International and local families came to Nepal for spiritual blessings, renewal, and growth. Many included single family members who came to give thanks for events such as an impending births or marriages, as well as seeking healing for themselves and family members. The heartache was in those far from Nepal, knowing that their dreams of marriage and a joyous birth had been shattered.

The human cost of this catastrophe is tragic and continues to be revealed. Families went missing, as did pilgrims, local communities, and tourists. Many villages were completely wiped out. The landscape looks bleak. Children did not return home from school. Workers were buried in mud. As floodwaters moved through the Lhende Khola, Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers between Tibet and Nepal, they swept away high-altitude villages, including homes, roads, bridges, and power plants. Along the Trishuli, water levels rose by as much as nine metres in half an hour.

Television images captured the intensity of a flash flood sweeping through the Lhende Khola valley. The torrent of mud, water and debris travelled down the valley at speeds approaching 150 km/h. The destruction of the landscape showed life's power and fragility. Nepal is already living with cascading climate disasters. As more images became known, the magnitude of this event raised difficult questions. Could the risks of such disasters have been reduced if global warming had not taken place?

Water-induced disasters account for about 80% of physical property losses in Nepal. On 16 August 2024, a disastrous glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) devastated the traditional high-altitude Sherpa village of Thame in the Everest region, after a massive rock avalanche.

Global warming continued

Heavy and erratic rainfall routinely causes tens of millions of dollars in agricultural damage, particularly to vital crops such as rice. Floods, landslides, and rising temperatures raise serious concerns about food security, while the risk of waterborne diseases is high.

Because the Himalayas are warming twice as fast as the global average, the entire region spanning the Himalayan region, including Nepal, India, China, Bhutan, and Pakistan, is at growing risk, including the Hindu Kush–Himalaya range. Rising temperatures permanently melt and destabilise frozen mountain slopes, thus increasing the likelihood of avalanches, landslides, and floods. According to the United Nations (2023), Nepal's ice and permafrost mountain regions have lost close to one-third of their ice in just over 30 years due to global warming.

The dramatic irony is that Nepal contributes very little to global emissions, around 0.027%–0.1%. It remains one of the most climate-vulnerable nations on Earth. Yet, its population bears a disproportionate burden of global climate impacts. The country is a small-scale example of climate injustice and compounding disaster hazards, driven by higher global emissions in wealthier countries.

Nepal is an innocent bystander, paying the price for industrial emissions from wealthier countries. This inequity makes a strong case for justice through international loss-and-damage funding. This tragedy underscores the urgent need for international support, including greater financial negotiations through the United Nations.

What happens when there is nowhere safe to return to? Adaptation has limits when land itself becomes unsafe. When an earthquake destroys a house, communities can rebuild; when a climate flood washes away the underlying bedrock and soil, adaptation thresholds are breached, forcing permanent internal displacement. This is especially difficult for survivors, who must start all over again.

Survival becomes a lottery.

Nepal is a spiritual homeland and a popular destination for tourists and pilgrims, both from around the world and within Nepalese communities. It does not deserve to be reshaped by a crisis it did little to create. The landslide is a wake-up call about the climate crisis and global warming. What happens in the Himalayas serves as an early warning system for the water security of more than a billion people downstream across Asia. The world must focus on aggressive measures to curb global warming, strengthen support for vulnerable countries, and prevent future disasters.

Blessings,
Dr Sandra Morell
Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMT)

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 27th October 2026 @ 7pm in the lower Church hall.

FUSION

Youth @ St Matts

Term 4. 2026

5.30-7.30PM

FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS

Upper Primary -
High School

\$10
(includes supper)

WEEK 1

16 Oct

Mr Beast Night



WEEK 3

30 Oct

**Mark Rober
Night**



WEEK 5

13 Nov

Custard Night



WEEK 7

27 Nov

Mystery Night



WEEK 9

11 Dec

**POOL
PARTY**



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

For more information contact Jon Humphries
jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au 0432940847

Garage

SALE

1st Saturday of the month

9am-12pm

Upcoming dates

- 3 October
- 7 November
- 5 December

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LOWER HALL

JOIN OUR NEW CARING MINISTRY TEAM

Help us care for our community and share God's love through practical support, kindness and prayer.

Please speak to Sara if you are interested



MESSIAH

CHORUS CALLOUT

Join Beecroft Orchestra & Gente, Gente! for an abbreviated Handel's Messiah this December

- Rehearsals – Monday evenings
- Reduced run time <90 mins
- Work with conductor Dr Joanna Drimatis & sing with live orchestra
- Email gentegente productions@gmail.com with your name and voice type to register your interest.



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

GARAGE SALE

& GOURMET SAUSAGE SIZZLE

**SATURDAY
3RD OCTOBER**



**GOURMET
SAUSAGE SIZZLE
8AM – 11AM**

FOR THE FIRST TIME!

PROUDLY DONATED BY



**GARAGE SALE
9AM – 12 NOON**

**PRE-LOVED TREASURES
FOR EVERYONE!**



Books



Clothing



Homewares



Toys



Décor
and more!



St Matthew's Uniting Church
Cnr Edgar & Charles Streets
Baulkham Hills NSW 2153
Lower Church Hall



Silence and Stillness in every season

Daily readings with John Main

When you come to your evening meditation, the whole of the day is gathered together. It is summed up in Jesus and in his presence in your heart. All the tensions, worries, as well as the joys, everything good and ill, is brought together in Jesus, But this is all dependent on practice. There is no way anyone can learn to meditate by reading books about meditation or by listening to talks on meditation. The only way we can learn is by meditating. That is why it is essential to meditate every day, each morning and evening. It is a considerable demand but one that leads us into the wonder of everything the gospel reveals. We discover in the experience of truly silent prayer what Jesus has achieved and what he has given to each of us.

The Secret of meditation is to be relaxed and alert, silent and simple. If you want to know why, then read St Paul writing to the Colossians where he speaks about the essence of the Christian message. This core teaching is what meditation is about and in coming to understand the essence of Christianity in your own experience you find God in your own heart.

The Heart of Creation

Parramatta Mission

Thanks everyone who has contributed to our beanie drive. Pictured is the last donation for this year.

Our tally from May to September is 187 beanies, 32 scarves, 13 pairs of gloves and one jumper.

Our thanks also to Doug Mathewson who volunteers at Parramatta Mission and has been able to deliver the beanies as well donations of clothes, kitchen equipment, toys and books from the op shop.

Christine Haines

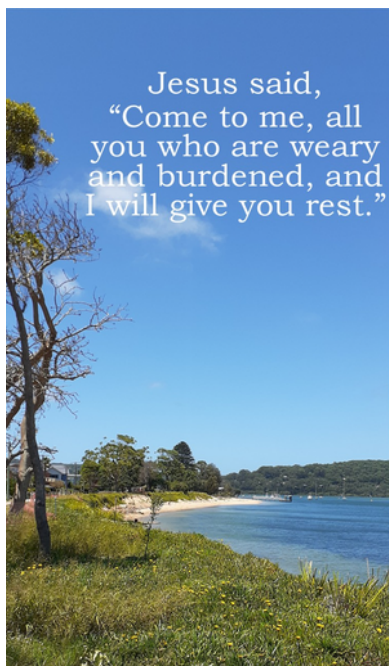


Calendar of Events October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD	Sunday
 st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together			1 9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12pm Coffee & Discovery Guest speaker Ross Abraham Coffee Discovery	2 No Scheduled Activies	3 9am-12pm Op Shop 9am 12pm Garage Sale lower hall Includes Gourmet sausage sizzle 8am-11am Garage SALE	4 8am Worship Includes communion 9.30am Worship Includes communion followed by morning KUCA in Recess 6.45pm Worship Includes communion
5	6 	7 	8 	9	10	11 
Public Holiday 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30am-11am Christian Meditation 11.30am Care & Prayer Community room & Church	9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12pm In Stitches	9am-2pm Op Shop	No Scheduled Activies	No Scheduled Activities	8am Worship 9am Worship @ the Willow's 9.30am Worship followed by morning tea KUCA in Recess 6.45pm Worship Communtiy meal
12 	13 	14 	15 	16	17	18 
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30am-11am Christian Meditation 7.30pm Property meeting	9am-2pm Op Shop 10am-12pm Women's Fellowship Women's Fellowship	9am-2pm Op Shop	5.30pm -7pm Fusion Youth Group "Mr Beast night" 	No Scheduled Activities	8am Worship 9.30am Worship followed by morning KUCA Preschool year K-2& years 3-8 6.45pm Worship

Calendar of Events October 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19	20 	21 	22 	23	24	25 
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30am-11am Christian Meditation 	9am-2pm Op Shop 10-12pm In  Stitches upstairs hall 10am-12pm  Men's Morning Tea Mckel's Cafe Bella Vista	9am-2pm Op Shop	No Scheduled Activities	No Scheduled Activities	8am Worship 9.30am Worship followed by morning KUCA Preschool year K-2& years 3-8 5pm Shine set up from 4pm 6.45pm Worship
26	27 	28 	29 	30	31	
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room 	9am-2pm Op Shop 9.30am-11am Christian Meditation  7pm SAMMT meeting	9am-2pm Op Shop	9am-2pm Op Shop	Fusion Youth 5.30pm-7.30pm Mark Rober Night 	No Scheduled Activities	



Jesus said,
 "Come to me, all
 you who are weary
 and burdened, and
 I will give you rest."

Care and Prayer

Our Care and Prayer group meets in the church at 11.30am on the first Tuesday of each month from February to November.

These are quiet, reflective meetings. We begin with songs of worship, followed by a bible reading and reflection on Jesus' healing ministry then sharing about any answered prayers we have had. There is opportunity for healing prayer when we break into small groups to share needs and pray together.

Everyone is welcome.

Christine Haines

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS



**Wednesday 14 October
@ 10am**

“Active Games”

Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum, Margaret Gray



SHINE

Is a special needs social group for all ages after High School.
Meets Sundays Monthly for dinner & fun.
cost \$5

Still collecting for a school in the philippines.
Donations of small educational items,
soaps & combs are greatly appreciated.
Please place donations in the box provided in the church foyer.



1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays of the month in the upstairs
hall 10am-12pm

Bring your craft along to do.
Share fun and fellowship
with other crafty ladies.

Morning tea supplied. Enquiries: Jane Cole



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION
MONDAY EVENINGS 7.30PM-8.30PM

TUESDAYS AT THE CHURCH 9.30AM-10.30AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST IN ATTENDING PLEASE CONTACT

Katherine Pedersen Faciliator
kathped56@gmail.com
ALL WELCOME



SATURDAY Pre-loved household items
3 OCTOBER Electrical, Toys & Books
9AM-12PM (fiction, Non-fiction & children's books)

ST. MATTHEW'S LOWER HALL EDGAR STREET



OP SHOP

Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am -2pm
and 1st Saturday of the month 9-12pm

Pre-loved clothes & accessories, books, haberdashery, bric-a-brac, pot
plants.

CARE AND PRAYER ALL WELCOME

11.30am on the first **TUESDAY** next meeting
of each month at St. Matthew's 6 October
February to November



**MEN'S
MORNING
TEA**

**EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE
MONTH 10AM 12NOON**

Mckel's Cafe, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard
Bella Vista
Enquiries: Alan Wright

YOUNG FAMILIES

KUCA...

@ 9.30am service during term
for preschool, years k-2 and years 3-8

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

FUSION YOUTH GROUP....

Upper primary-High school Meet Friday
evenings at the church during term time
5.30-7.30pm contact jon humphries

jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE BIBLE STUDY....

for young adults meeting fortnightly on
Tuesday evenings

contact: Jon Humphries

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

MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND

email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
lynns@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8AM-2.30PM

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

OFFICE: 9686 3003

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES 7 EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH
PO BOX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE:

WWW.STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkam
hills

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CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PUBLICATION.**