IN FOCUS

st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together

DECEMBER 2026 JANUARY 2027

St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter



Christmas Services @ St. Matthew's

Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday 8 December 7.30pm

A service specifically designed for all those who experience a sense of loss at Christmas, especially those for who, this is the first Christmas without a loved one.

Carol Services

Sunday 21 December 8am, 9.30am

join our voices together to sing many traditional and contemporary carols.

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

Thursday 24 December 5pm

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

Christmas Eve Late Service

Thursday 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

Friday 25 December 9am

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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, "Glory to the Newborn King."



Hark! Christmas is coming! Soon we will be singing Christmas carols such as, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," which was written by Charles Wesley in 1739 and later modified by George Whitefield. Hark is an old English command meaning "listen" or "pay attention." The word is not really used in either Nativity story in Matthew or Luke. It is Luke which has singing angels. The lyric from the carol is a paraphrasing of the experience of the shepherds in the story.

"*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah – the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."* – *Luke 2: 8–14*

As Christmas approaches, what will we give our attention to. Many Christians will decry the commercialism and rail against the secularisation and proclaim such slogans as "Jesus is the reason for the season." These are fair enough concerns. However, the Christmas season brings much joy to a lot of people. There is a sense that there is more goodwill towards each other than at other times in the year. There is a really attractive aesthetic to the decorations that often come with Christmas. Is this so bad or wrong?

I think for us as the Church – as Christians who worship, celebrate and honour, God as Christ and God's incarnation in the person of Jesus – the message of the carol is a good place to start. Hark! We should attend to the season with a focus on what the angels point our attention towards, that is the newborn King who is Christ/Messiah and saviour. Let us also focus on the humble nature of the story, not just the wondrous and miraculous. Here are ordinary people hearing about a baby being born, in not too extraordinary circumstances – after all babies are born in a range of places every day – and the sign of the wondrous meaning is that they will find a baby wrapped in ordinary fashion – albeit in not the usual place babies are laid.

Jesus is the King of the Kingdom of God. He is the one who will grow up to be the messianic proclaimer of the good news that the Kingdom of God is near, at hand, present, amongst us, around us, upon us and even within us. (Mark 1:14–15; Matthew 4:17; Luke 10:9 and Luke 11:20) Ultimately, the focus is not just on the birth of Immanuel [God with us] (Matthew 1:23 & Isaiah 7:14), but on the coming of the Kingdom of God.

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I have introduced recently the idea of basilioception which is our ability as the Body of Christ to sense the Realm/Rule of God and sense our place in it in relation to our situation and circumstance. This is what we are primarily called by God to harken to. At Christmas time the primary question for us is where do we see God at work?
However, all the trappings and cultural traditions of Christmas are not bad in themselves. They bring people joy, give people hope, bring relief from the everyday struggles of life. This is true even those that don't ultimately have significant connection to the story which gave rise the celebration. For me I think of Jesus who was asked by religious leaders about whether it was lawful to give tribute (taxes) to the emperor. He asked for a coin and drew people's attention to the images on the coin and then instructed people to give to the emperor (whose face was on the coin) the tribute to the emperor that was required. He instructed them to use the thing that was made for such a purpose. Then all should give to God what is God's and give tribute that is right and good. So, we can give to Christmas what is Christmas' and we can give to God what is God's.

Our calling and work at Christmas is to celebrate the work of God in the world. We remember the special form that took when God took on our human being. There is good reason to celebrate at Christmas – both from a faith perspective and from a secular perspective. We are called, though, to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33) Even as we enjoy the good things at Christmas that come with the many traditions which have evolved, we are looking first to God and the coming of God's Kingdom – but more importantly even than that we are looking to the rule of God and welcoming that further into our lives. After all, the word that is often translated as Kingdom is βασιλεία (basileia) which refers to royal power, reign, or the territory ruled by a king, and thus is more accurately translated as "the Reign of God" or "the Royal Rule of God," referring to God's authority rather than a physical place.

With us harkening to this and looking at the celebration of Christmas with a sense of basilioception, we can participate in joyous traditions but also lift the deeper meaning at the same time. We can embrace the giving of gifts as an act of love, but not needing to do so slavishly to commercialistic expectation around extravagance of spending, nor simply just buying things for the sake of giving a gift. Christmas basilioception will lead us to also think about those in need, remembering the needy nature of Mary and Joseph as they welcomed Jesus into the world. We can celebrate with friends and family. Yet, with the compassion and love of God at the forefront of our thinking we can also honour those for whom loneliness or the loss of loved ones can be made more difficult at a time when there is much emphasis on connecting with others.

Hark! "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3: 16) I won't be long before we will move on from Christmas as the liturgical season progress to remember that love came at a great cost to God. As we look to Christmas and all its celebrations, let us also look to the rule of God which ultimately guides our life and witness. Let us employ basilioception to look for how God is at work now in our time just as God was at work in the time of the nativity story. Let us also then look to how we can love our neighbour as ourselves as we seek to love God with all our being, finding ways to share with others a glimpse of the realm of God.

Hark! Christmas is coming and it reminds us about a whole lot of important things to start thinking about.

God bless
Jon



BIBLICAL REFLECTION
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Bowl

Hope – Indonesia

Advent begins with hope. Not a hope that ignores uncertainty, but one that looks towards the future and chooses to prepare for what may come. For communities in flood-prone Indonesia, preparation can make an enormous difference when disaster strikes. In her community, Musdalia is Deputy Chair of a community-based disaster preparedness team. Alongside other local people, she helps ensure her community is ready to respond when floods come. Training, equipment and clearly defined roles help neighbours share early warnings, coordinate evacuations, prepare food and support those who need assistance. This is hope made practical. It is found in people coming together before a crisis, using their knowledge and relationships to care for one another. As we light the Candle of Hope this Advent, we are reminded that Christian hope also calls us to action. We wait for Christ not passively, but attentively — looking for where hope is already taking root and asking how we might help nurture it.





The Story of the Christmas Bowl

It began with one table, one meal, and one question. In 1949, Rev. Frank Byatt sat before a Christmas dinner heavy with food. Outside his family's home, the world was still scarred by war. Millions of refugees in Europe were hungry, cold, and displaced. The contrast was impossible to ignore.

Frank asked his congregation to place a simple bowl on their own Christmas tables, a "Bowl of Remembrance," and to fill it with gifts for those who had none. That first offering raised £1,808, a remarkable sum for a single congregation. More importantly, it sparked a tradition of generosity that has endured for generations.

From the beginning, the Christmas Bowl was not just about raising money, it was about embodying the Gospel in action. As Frank wrote nearly a decade later, "The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the Gospel." His vision was for Christians of every tradition to set aside differences and stand together in love for their neighbours.

Go to the website and donate directly.
with St. Matthew's Baulkham Hills donation page at this link
mycb.link/45881

If you want to give by cheque or credit card, please fill in the details in the envelope and PUT IT IN THE POST

Cash to Christmas bowl person at the back of the church. (if you want a receipt -put the cash in the envelope, fill out the form inside and hand it to the Christmas bowl person so that a receipt can be mailed to you).

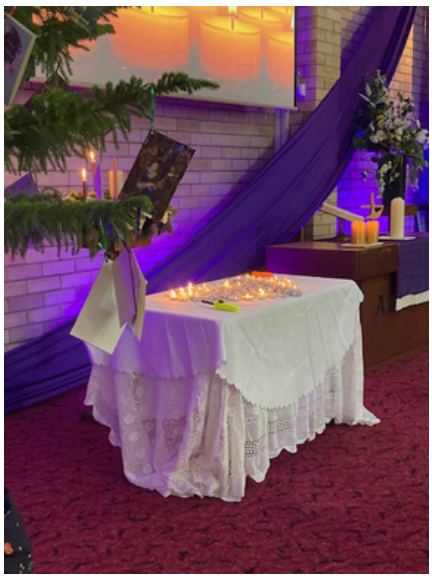
Christmas Bowl Coordinator:
Dean Drayton

Please watch out for the person in the white hat who will be handing out envelopes.

You are invited to a service of

Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Tuesday 8 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 my be phoned or emailed through to the church prior to the 8 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 we are thinking of you at this time of year.

Coffee and Discovery

Thursday 3 December

10am-12pm Final for 2026



Guest Musician: DAVID SHORT

Music with David

"From relaxing to Grand"

Come along and enjoy.

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

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

Community Carols Event

St. Matthews Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills

GUEST MUSICIANS

13 December

6.pm-7pm

BALLOON ANIMALS

Cnr Edgar and Charles Sts Baulkham Hills

Gold Coin Donation

Sausage sizzle supper and other fun activities following the event



All ages are welcome

From the St. Matthew's Social Action Ministry Team

'Doing little things can make a big difference'.

Topic: The Threat of rising sea levels in Tuvalu

Intro: "Climate change is more than an enviroment crisis. It is about justice, survival for nations like Tuvalu, and global responsibility." –Grace Malie, Tuvaluan climate advocate (National Aeronautics and Space Administration, 25 September 2024)

Imagine trying to keep water out of your house when it seeps up through the floor, making potholes rather than entering through the front door. A higher fence would not solve the problem.

Tuvalu features a unique picture of the climate crisis.

By 2100, rising sea levels are likely to flood 95% of Tuvalu, revealing the serious consequences of climate change for a country that produces less than 0.01% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In Funafuti, homes already sit only a few metres from the shore, leaving families exposed. Rising seas erode the coast as waves flow over the shoreline. High tides and seawater seep through porous coral, flooding homes, crops, gardens, and infrastructure, and contaminating groundwater with salt.

For Tuvaluans, land (fenua) is closely tied to identity, ancestry, and spirituality. Leaving home can mean losing a deep connection to ancestors, and forced migration brings spiritual and emotional pain. It also raises urgent questions about how language, songs, and traditions can endure when communities are uprooted. As survival becomes more urgent, many families now build homes on concrete stilts to keep water out during storms and high tides, and they rely on rainwater collection because the groundwater is too salty to drink.

Flooding is common during heavy rain and high tides. As shorelines erode, saltwater spreads into low-lying areas. At the same time, shifting weather patterns, stronger storms, and changing ocean currents worsen damage and impede coral atoll recovery. Warmer and more acidic oceans also cause coral bleaching, killing reefs that protect islands and create sand.

Rising sea levels also threaten traditional Tuvaluan crops such as pulaka (swamp taro), which is grown in pits. Flooding fills these pits, destroying crops and endangering a vital source for future generations. As the land sinks, Tuvalu is losing both natural wave barriers and staple food sources. Growing pulaka is a skill passed down through generations. Other foods include breadfruit, coconuts, and bananas. Saltwater intrusion has damaged both nutrition and cultural heritage. When crops fail, people rely on canned foods, which can increase the risk of health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.

As reef ecosystems deteriorate, the islands lose natural protection, and local fish stocks decline. Species such as red snapper are becoming harder to find, and the remaining fish are smaller as their habitats shrink. Fishing license revenues from Tuvalu's 749,800-square-kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) provide most of the government revenue, while subsistence farming and coastal fishing remain the population's principal livelihoods.

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Tuvalu's future is more complicated than a simple story of disappearing land. In contrast, its total land area grew by 2.9% over forty years even as sea levels rose. Waves and currents can transport coral sediment, causing some islands to grow while others shrink. The key issue is whether this new land is safe and usable. Unfortunately, in many cases, it is unsuitable for homes, farming, or other activities.

Polynesians settled Tuvalu about 2,000 years ago. The low-lying nation comprises five coral atolls and four raised limestone islands. Most of Tuvalu's population lives on Funafuti, the country's main atoll and capital, particularly on the islet of Fongafale. On average, Tuvalu sits less than two metres above sea level, and its current population is about 11,000.

To address severe groundwater seepage, Tuvalu rebuilt and upgraded the runway at Funafuti International Airport, its only airport. A new terminal opened in 2018, and a climate-resilient porous asphalt runway followed in 2025, strengthening the airport's role in the national economy. Previously, water bubbling through the coral damaged the runway and created dangerous potholes. When no flights are scheduled, the runway serves as a community space for walking, football, basketball, and social events. Air travel is vital because Fiji, the nearest country, is a three-day boat journey from Tuvalu.

The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) has a long history of engagement with the Pacific Islands, including Tuvalu, through ecumenical relationships, mission, theological education, community improvements, and regional church partnerships. It is worth distinguishing between the Uniting Church in Australia's activities and the work of Pacific churches, which have their own histories and governance. Tuvalu's Constitution names the Ekalesia A Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT), or Church of Tuvalu, as the state church while protecting freedom of belief. About 96–97% of the population identifies as Christian, and church values strongly impact public life. In September 2026, Uniting Church President the Reverend Charissa Suli joined Pacific women leaders in Tuvalu to explore the connections between faith, gender, and climate justice.

Tuvaluan leaders have become leading advocates for their nation's future, becoming influential moral voices on the international stage. In this context, the Constitution of Tuvalu Act 2023 confirmed the country's permanent statehood, maritime zones—including its Exclusive Economic Zone—and boundaries that, under international law, will endure even if rising seas submerge its land. Tuvalu also participated in the Pacific Islands Forum declarations in 2021 and 2023 supporting fixed maritime zones and the continuity of statehood. However, international law remains unsettled on whether a state can retain sovereignty without territory.

Tuvalu challenges major global emitters to establish a loss-and-damage fund for climate adaptation and permanent land loss. Specifically, youth leaders use international forums, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties, to push for climate justice. In October 2026, Fiji and Tuvalu jointly hosted the latest Conference of the Parties, COP31.

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Announced in 2022, Tuvalu's "Digital Nation" initiative forms part of the Future Now project. It preserves the country's geography, cultural heritage, and public services online, helping Tuvaluans maintain their national identity, sovereignty, and spiritual connection to home if displacement becomes unavoidable.

As a security measure, Australia and Tuvalu signed the landmark Falepili Union treaty in November 2023. It legally binds Australia to provide military, disaster, and public health aid if requested. It also provides pathways for Tuvaluans to live, work, and study in Australia, with mobility and security guarantees. Without a standing military, Tuvalu relies on its regional partners, particularly Australia and New Zealand, for defense and disaster support.

Conclusion:

"***When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you." — Isaiah 43:2***

For Tuvalu, "waters" signify rising sea levels and the threat of losing homes, land, culture, and identity. The verse does not promise that environmental danger will go away. Instead, it comforts us with God's presence amid uncertainty. In October 2025, the United Nations reported that Tuvalu had reclaimed eight hectares of land designed to remain above water levels beyond 2100. These initiatives, including coastal protection projects, offer opportunities for safer homes, robust infrastructure, and secure long-term planning, even as rising sea levels persist.

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

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St. Matthew's
Email Alexander at alexander.lawless7@gmail.com
Our next meeting is on Tuesday 23rd of February at 7pm in the lower hall

St Matthew's Op Shop

Important Dates

7th November 2026 – Garage Sale
5th December 2026 – Garage Sale

Last day of trading 2026:
Thursday 17th December 2026

First day of trading in 2027
Tuesday 19th January 2027

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
OP SHOP

Parramatta Mission's 'Plate for a Mate'

supports the annual Parramatta Mission Christmas lunch on 18th December.
Every plate donation also helps keep *Meals Plus* open throughout Christmas and New Year, providing meals, practical support and a place to turn during a difficult time.

$25 helps provide a full Christmas Day meal, incl breakfast and lunch, for someone in need.
To donate, go to the Parramatta Mission website.

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

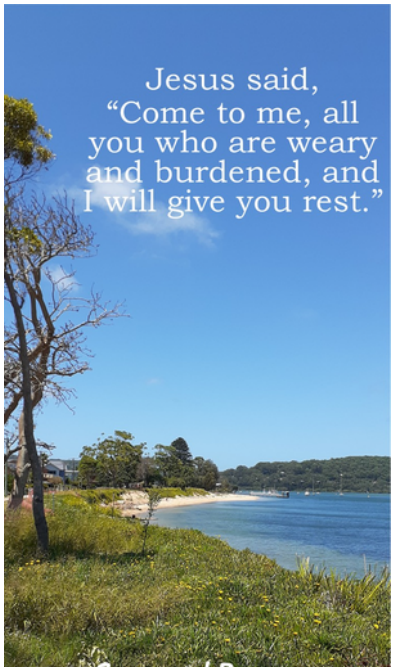


1st Saturday of the month
9am-12pm
Upcoming date Final for 2026

- **5 December**

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

ST. MATTHEW'S LOWER HALL



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





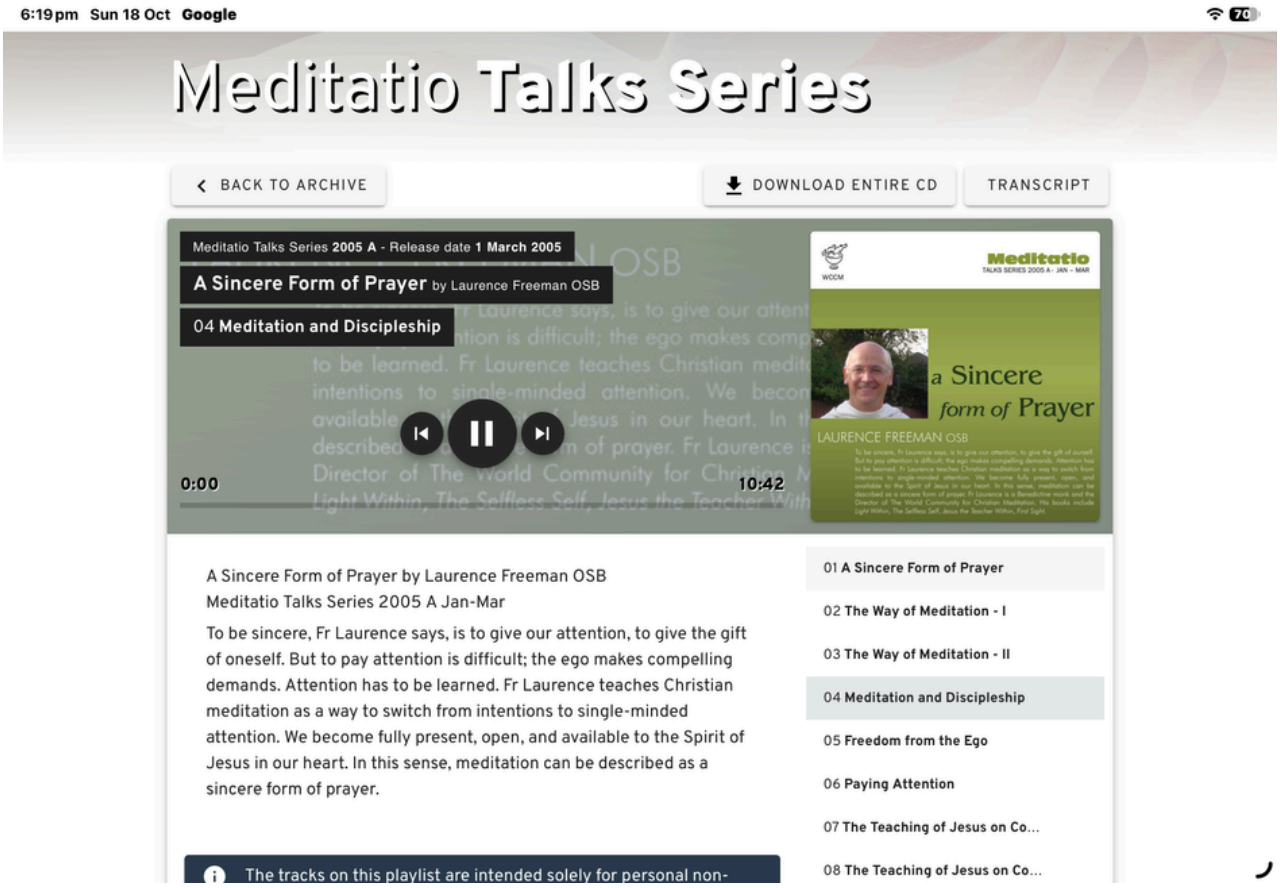
The roses are blooming and the area outside the lower hall has been transformed into a lovely oasis. Great space for staff and volunteers to take a break and have lunch. Looking for a quiet place to sit to have a chat, enjoy a tea or coffee, meet a friend or pray in a more quiet space. This is open to all to use.

Spirituality Leadership Group been offered to the congregation and the wider communtity

These 15 minute talks will be played in the first 30 minutes of the ***Christian Meditation*** sessions held at St. Matthew's on Monday evenings @ 7.30pm and Tuesday mornings @9.30am. People do not need to know how to meditate to attend and listen to the talks.

The talks are for peoples information and are a part of a spiritual practice that St. Matthew's offers to all. The sessions are freely offered, however a gold coin donation weekly would be appreciated.

Enquiries to Katherine Pedersen
kathped56@gmail.com



WCCM AUSTRALIA (NSW)
MEDITATION & COMMUNITY

The Blackheath Community invites you to a Community Day on 5th December 2026

Reverend Linda Chapman OAM is our guest and will present:

The Hidden Language of Nature: when the Trees say Nothing

These talks are in part based on the nature writings of Thomas Merton and address the 'language' of nature hidden in silence and how we might listen and engage.

During the day we will meditate together, share periods of silence and times of reflection

When: Saturday 5th December 2026 from 10am to 2pm

Location: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Books will be for sale and Community CDs will be available for free

Donation as you wish

BYO lunch, tea/coffee and morning tea provided

If you plan to attend please email Marilyn Jones – marilyn.jones5@bigpond.com or phone – 0401 637 759

The World Community for Christian Meditation Australia (NSW)
wccmaustralia.org.au

You can make your own way there or contact Katherine for car sharing or even make a weekend of it in the mountains.

Op-Shop In Focus: A Year of Blessings, Community, and Growth

What a wonderful and fruitful year 2026 has been! Our dedicated volunteer team has continued to grow and work tirelessly to ensure the St Matthew's Op-Shop remains a vibrant, welcoming place of trade, connection, and Christian care.
Living out our mission—"Serving the community and supporting the mission and Christian outreach of St. Matthew's Uniting Church"—has guided everything we set our hands to this year.

Fresh Faces and Exciting Additions

We are blessed with so many people who generously share their gifts. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Jenny Morgan, who works wonders behind the scenes managing our social media pages and keeping our wider community engaged.



We also warmly welcomed Sundar and Eric Nosa, and their family, who have revitalised the beloved tradition of our Saturday Garage Sale sausage sizzles. Reminiscent of the bustling church sales of years past, their delicious effort is quickly becoming a community favourite.

Our team has also been enriched by the energy of local high school students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Volunteering on Saturdays to complete their community service component, these bright young people have brought enthusiasm, fresh ideas, and wonderful energy to our sales days.

Behind the scenes, our diligent 'Auction Team'—Colin Booth and Jeff Cameron—has worked wonders researching and securing the best possible value for the unique treasures and vintage items donated to our care.



A Busy Year of Sales and New Rhythms

From January through December, our calendar was packed with events tailored to meet our community's needs:

- Seasonal Sales: Regular end-of-season clearances kept our stock fresh and affordable.
- Specialty Events: From our June Art Sale and elegant Formal Wear Sale to the festive Christmas Sale, our community turned out in force.
- Workshops: We were delighted to help promote the immensely popular Parallel Floral Workshop.
- Monthly Garage Sales: Held every month with wonderful community participation.

A significant turning point came in May, when we decided to try something new. Instead of packing away the Garage Sale after the first Saturday, we began opening the Lower Hall on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This initiative has been warmly embraced by local shoppers and has proven financially lucrative for the church's work.

Generosity in Action

The heart of our Op-Shop beats for outreach. Every single week, a car laden with clothing, kitchenware, and bedding heads to Parramatta Mission. Under Jane Cole's thoughtful coordination, our excess stock continues to bring comfort and practical help to hospitals, schools, and local villages in the Philippines.

We continue to support the Ukrainian refugees in Poland and Australia, as well as the Parramatta Mission.

Locally, we currently direct 10% of all Op-Shop income to The Sanctuary, a women's refuge supporting victims of domestic and family violence. In light of the steady demand and our strong trading year, we are formally petitioning Church Council to increase this contribution to 20% for the 2026/27 financial year.

With Gratitude for 2026, Looking Forward to 2027

None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of our volunteers. Without this extraordinary team, our doors simply could not open. Over the years, the St Matthew's Op-Shop has earned a cherished reputation across our neighbourhood—a place where anyone can find a warm smile, a friendly word, and a good bargain.

Thank you to everyone who has shopped, donated, sorted, served sausages, or lent a listening ear this past year. May we continue to work together as a family into 2027, faithfully sharing God's love and joy with all who walk through our doors.

Pamela

On behalf of the Op-Shop Volunteer Team



Silence and Stillness in every season

Daily readings with John Main

By the Incarnation God has touched our lives in Jesus, and the great importance of the fest of Christmas is that it is the celebration of our humanity, redeemed by being touched by God. God assumes the mortality of the human condition in Jesus so that we can burst through the bonds of death in him. Indeed, he bursts through all the chains that keep us bound by the earth.

What we learn from his life is that the destiny of each one of us is to begin to live our lives fully now, in our present earthly, mortal condition. To live our lives now, as free men and women, not bound by fear or enchained by desire, but utterly in harmony with the liberating power of God's own energy. This energy of God cannot be bounded by any human limitation. It is the eternal life-source, not just constantly renewed in each one of us but always expanding in each one of us.

Our invitation, our destiny, is to place our lives in complete harmony with this divine energy. And so, the Christian experience cannot be contained by any set of propositions, by any library of books, by any formulas or any creeds. It can only be adequately expressed in the humas experience of Jesus himself. He alone, of all human beings, was able to say of God, 'Abba, Father.'

The Way of Unknowing

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Calendar of Events December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 
	9am–2pm Op Shop ***9.30am–11.30am Christian Meditation*** ***12pm–3.30pm Preschool using hall***	***9am-2pm Op Shop*** ***10am–12pm In Stitches***	***9am-2pm Op Shop*** ***10am-12pm Coffee & Discovery Guest Musician "David Short"*** ***12.15pm- Preschool in hall***	**No Scheduled Activities**	**9am–12pm Op Shop** **9am 12pm Garage Sale lower hall** **9am– Upstairs hall in use**	***8am Worship*** Includes communion ***9.30am Worship*** Includes communion followed by morning ***KUCA*** Preschool year K–2& years 3–8 ***6.45pm Worship*** Includes communion
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 
9am Sorting & pricing Op shop & garage sale lower hall ***7.30pm Christian Meditation*** Community room	***9am–2pm Op Shop*** ***9.30am–11.30am Christian Meditation*** ***730pm– Remembrance & Thanksgiving service*** in the church	***9am–2pm Op Shop*** ***10am–12pm Women's Fellowhip Final for 2026***	***9am-2pm Op Shop***	fUSION YOUTH GROUP END OF YEAR POOL PARTY	**No Scheduled Activities**	***8am Worship*** ***9am Worship @ the Willow's*** ***9.30am Worship*** followed by morning tea ***KUCA Preschool year K–2& years 3–8*** ***5pm– Shine setup from 3.30pm*** ***6–7pm Community Carols event @ St. Matt's***
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall ***7.30pm Christian Meditation*** Community room	***9am–2pm Op Shop*** ***9.30am–11.30am Christian Meditation***	***9am-2pm Op Shop*** ***10am–12pm In Stitches***	***8am–Pest spraying whole property*** ***9am-2pm Op Shop FINAL FOR 2026***	***No Scheduled Activities***	**No Scheduled Activities**	***8am Worship*** ***9.30am Worship*** followed by morning tea ***KUCA*** *in Recess for school holidays* ***6.45pm Worship***

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Calendar of Events December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
21	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**
7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	***9.30am–11.30am Christian Meditation***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***Christmas Eve*** ***5pm Family Service*** ***11.15pm late service*** 	***Christmas Day*** ***9am Service*** 	***No Scheduled Activities***	 ***9am–Summer Worship*** ***KUCA*** in Recess for school holidays ***6.45pm Worship***
28	**29**	**30**	**31**			
PUBLIC HOLIDAY ***No Scheduled Activities***	***Church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activities***	***Church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activities***	***Church Office Closed***  ***No scheduled Activities***			

The Church Office will be closed from Christmas day and will re-open on Tuesday 19 January from 8am.
Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy and safe 2027.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Calendar of Events January 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	**2**	**3** 
				New Years Day **Public Holiday**	**No Scheduled Activities**	***9am Summer Worship*** Includes Communion followed by morning tea ***KUCA*** in recess for school holidays ***6.45pm Worship*** Includes communion
4	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10** 
7.30pm Christian Meditation	***Church Office Closed*** ***9.30–11.30am Chistian Meditation***	***Church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activities***	***Church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activites***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***9am- Summer Worship*** followed by morning tea ***KUCA in recess for school holidays*** ***6.45pm Worship*** Communty meal
11	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17** 
7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	***Church Office Closed*** ***9.30am–11.30am Christian Meditation***	***church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activities***	***Church Office Closed*** ***No Scheduled Activities***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***9am- Summer Worship Followed by morning tea*** ***KUCA in recess for school holidays*** ***6.45pm– Worship***

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS Calendar of Events January 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24** 
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall ***7.30pm Christian Meditation*** Community room	***Office Re-opens*** ***9am-2pm Op Shop returns for 2027*** ***9.30-11.30am Christian meditation***	***9am-2pm Op Shop***	***9am-2pm Op Shop***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***No Scheduled Activities***	***9am-Summer Worship*** *followed by morning tea* ***KUCA*** in Recess for school holidays ***6.45pm Worship***
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** 
9am Sorting & pricing Op Shop & Garage sale lower hall 7.30pm Christian Meditation Community room	***Australia Day Public Holiday*** ***9.30am-11.30am Christian Meditation***	***9am-2pm Op Shop***	***9am-2pm Op Shop***	**No Scheduled Activities**	**No Scheduled Activities**	***9am-Summer Worship*** *followed by morning tea* ***KUCA*** in Recess for school holidays ***6.45pm Worship***

Sunday Summer Services

Our Sunday Summer services will be running from
Sunday 27 December
to
Sunday 31 January

Our normal 8am & 9.30am services will resume
on Sunday 7 February 2027
KUCA will also resume on this day

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

Women's Fellowship

Wednesday 9 December
@ 10am
Christmas presentation



Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum, Margaret Gray

SHINE

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

In Stitches
St Matthew's Craft Group

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

Garage SALE

SATURDAY
5 DECEMBER
9AM-12PM

Pre-loved household items
Electrical, Toys & Books
(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 of each month** at St.Matthew's
February to November

next meeting
2 February
2027



MEN'S MORNING TEA

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH 10AM 12NOON
Mckel's Cafe, Shop 14, Circa Boulevarde
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
February In Focus
St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter please send details to Lynn in the Church office by
15 January
Thank you

MINISTER
REV JON HUMPHRIES
Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
jonh@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 OX 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS PUBLICATION.