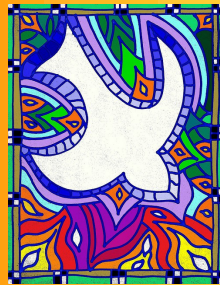


## Mid-Winter Spirit

This year Pentecost coincides with the winter season. In terms of the Christian calendar the season of Pentecost for 2022 begins on the first Sunday of June and runs right through and – believe it or not – it runs right through to the 13<sup>th</sup> November! That is a total of 23 Sundays. It is by the far longest 'season' in the Christian year



Pentecost is surrounded by and attracts a number of key moments in the development of Christian belief. It is preceded by Ascension Day where we observe how the resurrected Christ returns to the presence of God. In so doing – and with the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost – the reconciling work of Christ becomes available across time, across cultures, across land. It is no longer bound to first century Palestine. Pentecost itself is followed by Trinity Sunday. This is a distinctively Christian understanding of God that arose over a period or time as the church sought to make sense of the biblical witness to the 'Father', the Son and the Spirit. Pentecost is sometimes reckoned to be the birthday of the church. That is a rather misleading claim. Those who found themselves called to follow the resurrected and ascended Christ were initially called followers of 'The Way'. To begin with they were like a sect within the Jewish faith before there was a 'parting of the ways'. We can see in the book of Acts and the letters of Paul how the gospel moves out into the Gentile world.

Pentecost is about the coming of the Spirit. It is not the same as pentecostalism. It does not depend upon speaking in tongues. As a matter of fact what happens in the book of Acts is not a speaking in tongues in the sense that people do not understand what is said. According to what is reported in Acts those assembled hear the gospel proclaimed in their own language.

The season of Pentecost allows us to reflect on the Christian life. It does so partly because of the way in which the epistles will emphasize some key themes, beginning with the fruits of the Spirit. Those lists of 'fruits' and 'gifts' are set alongside references to what it means to be baptized. – for us to 'die' to the 'old self' and put on the 'new clothes' that bear witness to new life in Christ. We are reminded of how the gospel is call to freedom (a word that Paul uses a lot) from the law and the summons to conform to the image of Christ. This season becomes a time for us to reflect on what it means for us to be the church – not so much in terms of our participation in the life of St Matthews but in the sense of how we are a part of 'the body of Christ', 'a fellowship of the Spirit', and 'belong to the Lord' (which is what the word 'church' signifies).

This life in the Spirit is not just about our personal life of faith nor the church. Our readings in these first two months of the Pentecost season – June and July – invites us to answer the question, 'who is my neighbour?' and 'do good to all'. The ending to the parable of the Good Samaritan has Jesus saying to 'the expert in the law', 'Go and do likewise'.

In this season of Pentecost, then, why not reflect on life in the Spirit, being conformed to the image of Christ, noticing the fruits of the Spirit and paying attention to the neighbour?

## (Uniting for) The Common Good

For the past ten years or more members of the Uniting Church have often appeared at social justice functions wearing black tee shirts with the words 'Uniting for the Common Good' emblazoned upon the chest. Quite often, if you are attending an event like the recent Pasifika election forum held at Penrith, the organizers ask you to wear the shirt. They are wanting you to be making a statement. Sometimes there is a lot of passion for the cause but less awareness of where this idea of the common good comes from.

It has its roots way back in the classical past and into medieval times where some lands were regarded as 'the commons'. Pope Francis has used this idea in his encyclical to do with climate change, *Laudato Si'*. He speaks about the planet being 'our common home' and climate itself as a 'common good'.

The idea of the common good assumes that we should be seeking to create a civil society where everyone flourishes. It is an ideal, a hope, an aspiration that can at the very least asks us to consider how we contribute to the well-being and flourishing of others. In terms of its Christian roots it is indebted to many of the themes and readings that emerge in this season of Pentecost. The most obvious has to do with the query about who is my neighbour and that Galatian reference to doing good to all. But it is there present also in the readings to be found in the lectionary taken from the book of Amos.

The book of Amos is the first of the prophetic books to have been written – sometime in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. Amos lived in Judah but preached in the northern kingdom of Israel at a time when the Assyrian empire was bearing down on the nation. Amos is the first to use the phrase 'the day of the Lord'. What is so distinctive about Amos' prophecy is his call for social justice and how that is bound up with honouring the covenant with God and caring for the most disadvantaged.

At these various events to do with social justice and the common good there is seldom much time spent on what the Christian foundation for such might be. This season of Pentecost allows us to make the necessary connections.

## Pentecost anthems / songs

Hail thee, festival day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kZtMnCiFw>

'Holy Spirit', Goretta Girls,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDhWLF6MC0c>

'The Holy Ghost song' (Black African American)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyBo1DBfq5U>

'The Holy Ghost' (Black African American)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65C4pn8Lskk>

'Enemy of apathy',  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EmkyT6uUZE>

'She Flies On',  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqvSEA2Tr\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqvSEA2Tr_s)

*Yours in Christ, Clive*



## Coming Soon

**Over the next few months I would like to offer a number of events and workshops that might help deepen our grasp of the faith.**

### Why?

Each one is designed to help those interested explore key aspects of our faith in a time and place where the Christian faith is often on the back foot. It is easy to lose confidence and become uncertain as to what the gospel is and how it might be received. The surrounding society is much more diverse than it used to be: sometimes the Christian faith is treated with indifference; sometimes the response is very negative. And sometimes people have been hurt along the way and do not know how to negotiate that awkward space what the church professes to believe and do and what their own experience tells them.

### Timing:

One of the most challenging things about running workshops and studies is to find the right time. No one time suits all who would like to attend. The intention is to offer two face to face times and one zoom session. If you would still like to participate in some way and none of these options, please let the office know and we will see how we can meet your needs.

### What's On?

#### (a) On liturgy:

Have you considered helping lead worship? Have you never been asked? Or, if you have been asked, were you a bit uncertain as to how you might manage?

Would you just like to know more (without any strings attached)?

This workshop will be a one-off (a couple of hours at most). It will be designed to explain

- why worship takes the shape it does: there is a reason to the order;
- how do we 'balance' the liturgy in the language we use;
- what is the role of music; how important are lyrics as well as the tune?
- how you can write your own prayers for worship (rather than going on-line) – and why that is important for the life and witness of the local congregation?

There will be a brochure produced on 'Worship'.

**Times: Tuesday 14 June:  
10:30am; 7:30 pm.**

**Wednesday, 15 June zoom:  
7:30pm:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>**

### B) 'Who do you say that I am?'

This is a very important exercise. It allows us to talk about (in a guided way) how we understand who Jesus is, how he helps us, and how we reflect that in our everyday lives. It will include some input from a programme that Clive has devised and used in the past – but also be very conversational.

It is designed to help this congregation in a time of being in-between ministers. We might say it supports the profile with which the JNC will be working,

This question put by Jesus to the disciples has been described as a 'continuing interrogation'. How we answer may change from one period of our life to the next. The purpose of this study (over three weeks) will be to consider

- how we answer that question for our individual selves;
- how we might negotiate a common congregational understanding (you can still have your own personal response, but it will now be placed within the fold of the congregation as a whole).
- Finally we will note that Jesus prefaced that core question with another, 'who do people say that I am?' We will set out to explore how our understanding of Jesus addresses life in our neighbourhood.

**Times: 3 sessions in July  
Face to face:  
Tuesday 5, 12, and 19 July  
10.30am and 7.30pm**

**Zoom:  
Wednesday 6, 13 and 20 July  
7:30 pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

**The two workshops below will take place a little later in the year:**

**C) Believing'**. In days gone by there used to be confirmation classes where people might be given instruction on the core beliefs of the Christian faith. We will come at this a little differently. It will be a chance to chat about what Christians believe and what they find difficult – or hard to believe. We will do this for a couple of weeks.

**D) How did we get the Bible?** Later in the year we will have a chance to examine the absolutely fascinating story of how the Bible came into being, how it was translated into vernacular languages (like English) and at what cost, and why have we got so many different versions. Most of the time we simply stand before the lectern and read from the Bible without realizing what its history is. Some parts of this story are X rated due to violence!

*Clive*





**Thursday 2 June**  
**9am-2pm**  
**and**  
**Saturday 4 June**  
**9am-12pm**

**Electrical and Books**  
 (Fiction, Non-fiction & Children's Books)

**St. Matthew's Lower Hall**

st. matthew's  
 BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
 growing together



Ecumenical training recognised by churches across Australia

**SAFE CHURCH AWARENESS TRAINING**

Provided by the Safe Church Unit

**A SAFE Church for All People**

**Where Everyone Has a Part**

**Saturday 18 June 2022**  
**Auburn Uniting Church**  
**Uniting Church**  
 Helena Street Hall  
 Arrive from 9.15am for 9.30am start  
**Full Workshop:**  
 9.30 am-4:00 pm  
**Registration at:**  
<https://nswact.uca.org.au/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>



This Safe Church Awareness Workshop run by the Uniting Church is endorsed by the National Council of Churches, Australia Safe Church Program

**Who needs to attend?**  
 Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders, Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers, including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in schools,  
**Workshop Topics:**  
 Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People, Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy and Procedures.

**Cost:**  
**Full:** \$25 pp  
 Light refreshments provided.  
 Please arrange/bring own lunch.

**MASKS are Required**





"Come, all who labour and are heavy burdened and I will give you rest."

Care and Prayer  
 10am, every first Saturday in the Church.  
**This month: 4 JUNE**

**Women's Fellowship**  
**Wednesday 8 June**  
**@ 10am**




We will be having an auction with proceeds to go towards postage and goods for the Philippines.

**Please join us**

Enquiries: Barbara McIntosh





**MEN'S MORNING TEA**  
**Wednesday 15 June**  
**10am to 12noon**

**Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard Bella Vista.**

We are allocated external seating to ensure compliance with the current Covid restrictions.

Enquiries  
 Alan Wright



**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**  
 You are invited to come along to the church on  
**Tuesdays at 9.30am—10.30am**  
**All are welcome**

"The important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are"  
 John Main.

[www.WCCM.org](http://www.WCCM.org)    [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)  
 The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM)

Katherine Pedersen. Facilitator of the Tuesday 9.30am sessions and for information.  
[kathped56@gmail.com](mailto:kathped56@gmail.com)





All are welcome at  
Coffee & Discovery

Our speaker will be **Clive Pearson**

**Topic: Confessions of an  
Accidental Theologian**

Just a reminder we will be continuing on the  
1st Thursday of each month and will run from  
March to December.

10am until 12 noon

**Our next meeting  
Thursday  
2nd June**

No one chooses to be a theologian. It happens. You might say it's an accident waiting to happen! Clive gives an account of a journey from being an 'altar boy' through working with alcoholics and drug addicts through to the formation of ministry – and beyond to teaching theology. Every theologian must engage with the basic beliefs of the Christian faith and interpret them in the light of the world in which we now live. That means every theologian is inclined to focus upon certain contexts – and so Clive explains why he has sought to relate how we understand Christ to the following: climate change, the encounter with Islam, liveable cities, living in diaspora, the cross-cultural church. In process he will explain why he was one of the three founders of the Global Network of Public Theology and now edits the *International Journal of Public Theology* – all by way of a number of 'accidents'.

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

\*\*\*\*\* ALL WELCOME \*\*\*\*\*

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....

Second Wednesday of this month

Next event: **8 June at 10am**



Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum

Meet in the upstairs hall and church

### MEN'S MORNING TEA.....

Meet 3rd Wednesday  
of each month.

Next Event: **15 June at 10am**

Contact: Alan Wright

Mckel's Café, Shop 14, Circa Boulevard Bella Vista. We are allocated external seating to ensure compliance with current Covid restrictions.



### CARE & PRAYER.....

Meet on the 1st Saturday of each month  
in church and Community room @ 10am

All welcome

This Month: **4 June**

Contact: Rosemary Sexton

### CHRISTIAN MEDITATION.....

Tuesdays in the Church  
9.30am-10.30am

All welcome.

For more information or to express your  
interest in attending please contact  
Katherine Pedersen 043 777 2011.



### 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.

## YOUNG FAMILIES

### KUCA.....

@ 9.30am service during term

for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-8

### YOUTH and YOUNG ADULTS

#### Fusion Youth Group.....

Years 3 to 8. Meet Friday evenings at the

church during term time. 7pm—9pm

Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### Alive Youth Group.....

Years 9 to 12

Meet Friday evenings at the church during

term time. 7pm—9pm

Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### THRIVE BIBLE STUDY.....

year 11 up to the age of 25.

Fortnightly

Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### THRIVE SOCIAL GROUP.....

Contact Daniel Gibb [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### SHINE.....

is a special needs social group for all ages from high  
school up. Meets Sundays fortnightly for dinner & fun.

We are *still collecting in 2022* for their shoebox  
appeal supporting a school in the Philippines.  
**Donations of small educational items, soaps &  
combs are greatly appreciated.** Please place  
donations in the box provided at the top of the stairs  
in the church foyer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

**If you are interested in any of the  
above groups or activities please  
contact the church office.**



The Hills Mens Shed Inc  
Eric Mobbs Reserve Ferguson Ave Castle hill 2154

**First Saturday Of The Month  
May – September 8:30 – 12:30**

**Men's Shed Products At Great Prices COVID SAFE MARKET WITH EFTPOS**

**AVAILABLE** PHONE STANDS | HAND CRAFTED PENS | CHILDREN'S WOODEN TOYS AND PUZZLES

**CRAFT AND CAKE STALL | SLICES | JAMS | SPREADS Knitted Beanies and Scarves**

**ALL PRICED TO SELL**

ADULT & CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**SUCCULENT BOXES &**

**GARDEN ACCESSORIES**

**Giving** From time to time, we receive  
questions on how someone can make donations to  
St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills, to  
further support God's work through the Ministry team  
and congregation, in the wider Community.  
To assist with this, we have set up the following  
account with Uniting Financial Services:

Account Name: Baulkham Hills Uniting Church  
– Giving Direct  
BSB: 634634  
Account Number: 100025924

If required a Direct Debit Request Form is  
available in the foyer or speak with Barry Gregory.

**For your support of God's work here at  
St. Matthew's, a big thank you!**

**If you wish to find out more, please contact  
the Church Office.**

\*\*\*\*\*  
To include your activity in the  
**JULY In Focus**  
**St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter**  
please send details to Robyn and Lynn in  
the Church Office by **15 JUNE**.  
Thank you  
Please check St. Matthew's weekly Newsletter for  
details of Worship on Sunday and last minute  
changes to scheduled activities.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Maintaining contact with you and  
your family is very important to us.**  
We would be grateful if you change your address,  
phone/mobile or email details that you let us know  
by phoning and leaving a message on 9686 3003  
or by email: [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

### MINISTERS - EVERYONE

#### SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON **0409 523 024**  
Email: [minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB *Part Time*  
Email: [daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG *Part Time*  
Email: [mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:mike@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS** 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

**OFFICE :** 9686 3003

#### LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS  
BAULKHAM HILLS

#### POSTAL ADDRESS:

BAULKHAM HILLS UNITING CHURCH  
PO Box 773 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

**WEB SITE:** [www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

**Weekly newsletter available on website**

**EMAIL:** [office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au](mailto:office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au)

#### FACEBOOK:

[@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills)

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA  
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** [director@stmatthewsps.net.au](mailto:director@stmatthewsps.net.au)



# Calendar of Events for JUNE 2022

Monday

Tuesday









Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

 <p>Pentecost</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>&amp; Mini Mart in the lower hall</p>  <p>10am-12pm—Coffee &amp; Discovery</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>7pm-9pm—Youth Group <b>ALIVE</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9am-12pm—Op Shop &amp; Mini Mart in lower hall</p>  <p>10am—Care and Prayer Meet in the Church</p> <p>10am-3pm—St. Matt's Endurance Series contact Brad Turner meet in the upstairs hall</p>	 <p>Pentecost</p> <p>8am—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>9.30am—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship includes Communion</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p>  <p>7.30pm—Thrive in lower hall</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall and church</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5pm-7pm—Youth Group <b>FUSION</b> upstairs</p> 	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9am—Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>5pm—Shine</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p> 
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>PUBLIC HOLIDAY</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>10am-12noon—Men's Morning Tea at McKels Café Bella Vista. See back page for details</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>7pm-9pm—Youth Group <b>ALIVE</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>2pm-4pm—Church and Community Room in use</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>  <p>Pentecost 3</p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p>  <p>7.30pm—Thrive in lower hall</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>8pm—Church Council Meeting in the upstairs hall</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>5pm-7pm—Youth Group <b>FUSION</b> upstairs</p> 	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>  <p>Pentecost 4</p> <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 &amp; Years 3-8</p> <p>5pm—Shine</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9am—Sorting &amp; Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p>  <p>9.30-11am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>		