



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

25 May 2025

Easter 6

Bible Readings



Acts 11: 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.

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



EASTER 6

Livestreaming at
8am and 9.30am only

8am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

Led by Jon Humphries
Followed by morning tea

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

5pm—Shine
Meeting offsite

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 26 MAY

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 27 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

7-8.30pm—Lectionary bible study

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

7.30pm—Church Council meeting
upstairs hall

THURSDAY 29 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 30 MAY

5-7pm—Fusion
'Music Night'

SATURDAY 31 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 1 JUNE

8am—Worship
Includes communion
Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship
Includes communion

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship
Includes communion



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

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

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
SUNDAY am, MONDAY, TUESDAY

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8AM-2.30PM
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

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Something to think about

25 MAY

6th Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

Being a Multicultural, Intercultural and Cross-cultural Church

In 1985, during its fourth national Assembly meeting, the Uniting Church proudly declared: 'The Uniting Church is a Multicultural Church'. As the 40th anniversary of this declaration approaches, the Uniting Church Assembly is inviting Uniting Church communities to mark 15 June 2025 as the date to commemorate, celebrate and reflect on this commitment. There will also be a vibrant national event in the lead up to 15 June. This means we recognize and celebrate the diversity of cultures and languages within our congregations and seek to live out our faith across cultural boundaries. We are the Uniting Church in Australia and Australia is a multicultural nation, it makes sense that we reflect this important aspect of community life.

The Uniting Church has an ethos of unity in diversity. We are all unique and diverse, yet we are one in Christ who is our source of unity. This unity is something that Paul

repeatedly called us to as a Church in his epistles. It stems from our understanding as God as Trinity, where God is three distinct persons who have different works and ways of being, but are one God.

Peter and the early Church had to come to a realisation that we are brought into one being in Christ. For Peter, as told in Acts 11:1-18, he had a vision of a cloth descending from heaven and having to break his religious rules at the command of God. The moral of this experience is that Peter understood that "The Spirit told me... not to make a distinction between them and us." [Acts 11:12].

As reflected on the ways that the leaders of the early Church learnt about the inclusive nature of God's love and grace I wrote the following prayer.

Not Them, But Us

God,
Give that log in our eye a big flick.
Make us aware of our stupid hypocrisy.
Humble us in our ignorant arrogance when
we seek to judge others,
And make the huge sin of seeing others as
"them" not "us".
Like Peter eating humble pie;
Like Paul being healed of his blindness,
Bring us into contrite repentance.
May we know the "we" of human-kindness,
That they are us and we are they,
And we are all the same kind,
Loved by you,
Blessed by you dwelling with us and within
us as Spirit,
And as created in your image,
Redeemed by you as Christ.
Tear down the walls of our divided thinking,
Where we hold ourselves as loved and held
in your grace,
But then create division in our minds by
cutting off others from being included in that
joy.

Continued next page

Re-member us in our brokenness.
Convict us of our wrong belief.
Join us in communion,
That we might be one in your love,
Each and every person,
We who are us and them.
Upset our religion when it fails to bring
unity in our diversity.
Help us to do think rightly,
Do justly,
Love with mercy and kindness,
And walk humbly with you, God.
Lead us into better human being we pray.
Amen.

The Assembly web page about being a multicultural Church <https://uniting.church/a-multicultural-church/> says the following:

The Uniting Church rejoices in diversity of races, cultures and languages as God's gracious gift to the human family.

On any Sunday, around 200 congregations within the Uniting Church gather to worship using a language or languages other than English. Around 45 languages, 15 of which are languages of our First Peoples, are used each week across our congregations. There is a growing number of ministers and lay leaders across the Uniting Church who have come from overseas or born here in Australia from migrant parents. Many of our Church properties are shared with congregations from across the diversity of ethnicities we find within Australia.

We continue on our journey to fully realise what it means to be a multicultural church, living faith and life cross-culturally.

We do this by:

- building relationships that are based on mutual respect, collaboration and recognition of the gifts and calling of peoples of diverse cultural and language backgrounds
- assisting the Church to fully utilise the gifts and calling of members from culturally diverse backgrounds
- continuing to develop respectful and reconciling relationships with First peoples across the life of the church
- developing culturally sensitive and appropriate policies that respond to the needs of UCA members
- fostering models of cross-cultural ministry and mission, outreach and evangelism that reflect the hospitality of God

We are blessed by our diversity. May we continue how to honour and celebrate our differences as we seek to be the Body of Christ together. The welcome God calls us to as Christ, gives us much to think about.

*God bless
Jon*

PEOPLE NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Thank You from the Women's Fellowship

We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who assisted us in any way with our catering for the afternoon tea following the Thanksgiving service for the life of Bruce Chivers. The family and friends of Bruce were most appreciative.

The Women's Fellowship Catering Ministry Team


SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (16 May 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly](#)

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle
25 —31 May


Indian Ocean Islands:
Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles

Combined MORNING TEA
9AM

15 JUNE 2025


BETWEEN THE MORNING SERVICES


HELP WANTED


CAN YOU DRIVE SOMEONE TO CHURCH - WEEKLY, FORTNIGHTLY, MONTHLY?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 8 AND 9:30 SERVICES

PLEASE CONTACT SARA

Candlelight Vigil

END THE VIOLENCE



Wesley Uniting Church, Showground Rd, Castle Hill

Friday, 30 May 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

**Join us and light a candle in remembrance honouring those
we have lost, those who have suffered violence and those
who still suffer.**

Stay for as long or as little as you like

Tea, coffee and conversation available



Thursday 5 June

10am—12noon

Guest Speaker: James Indsto

Forensics in Crime



A Forensic Scientist, James will largely focus on the forensic botany aspect as this is his main area. He will also mention the NSW Police Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO). These are mainly civilian staff with forensic training who investigate 'volume crime' cases, such as break and enter cases.

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

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

**13
JUNE**

**5 PM
FRIDAY**



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
belinda.schuster0709@gmail.com



Thank you to all who have
contributed to this
publication.

**The St. Matthew's Uniting Church
weekly Newsletter is available to view
at the end of each week for the
upcoming Sunday on the
St. Matthew's website
www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au
Click on the metal dove image /
publications or find in recent posts.**

FUSION

Youth @ St Matts Term 2, 2025

5-7PM FORTNIGHTLY ON FRIDAYS
Year 3-9 \$10 (includes supper)

WEEK 1
2 May
Movie Night

WEEK 3
16 May
Dude Perfect Night

WEEK 5
30 May
Music Night

WEEK 7
13 June
Spy Night

WEEK 9
27 June
ADVENTURE NIGHT
Rockclimbing @ The Edge

St Matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

For more information contact Jon Humphries
jonestmatthewsuniting.net.au 9686 3003

We have several 9:30am morning tea helpers away in the winter months and we would love to have some new volunteers to come along and join the team.

If you can help, please contact Amanda Manson

or

let Lynn in the office know and she can put you on the roster.



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



You can also make a donation by clicking on the link below or



You are invited to join with us for
'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of

Dulcie & Peter Duncum

at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills

Friday 30th May.

Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us

from 10.00 am

in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends
who have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.

We look forward to your company.

**We're hosting a
Biggest Morning Tea**

Please help us
support people
impacted by cancer!

Barry Gregory
0425 815 340

Dulcie Duncum
0417 070 848

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

Wednesday afternoon ONLINE Meditation Group

An Online meditation group catering for teachers, parents, carers.
Others are welcome to join.
Time: 4.25pm to 5pm

If you require a chat or introductory session. This is available from 4pm. Please contact
Penny on 0409 309 344

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85087024028?pwd=SUNFTjk5QlRLS21sQ3l5cGw4VXd1dz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8702 4028

Passcode: 042924

Christian Meditation Monday night @ 7.30pm and Tuesday morning @ 9am

During May at all Christian Meditation sessions at St. Matthew's there will be a 15 minute session of teachings preceding the time of Meditation named;

Christian Life in the Light of Christian Meditation *1: Discipleship By Laurence Freeman OSB*

Fr Laurence defines discipleship as being on the way to becoming one with Christ, and presents meditation as a way to discipleship. In the practice of Christian meditation we take our attention off ourselves and turn wholeheartedly to Christ dwelling in our hearts—we leave self behind. This shift from habitual self-fixation allows us to experience Jesus' gaze turned towards us. In the mutual recognition, a personal relationship develops that transforms us gradually to be more Christ-like.



From the book Silence & Stillness in Every Season Daily readings with John Main

The fullness of the life that Christ offers each of us is eternal life — life without limit. The mystery is that fullness of life is offered to us now. All of us have to learn as we live our lives that there must be a constant development. The invitation we have is to grow, to develop, to mature. One of the elements of that maturity is our growing capacity to enter the present moment more and more fully,, more and more perfectly, more and more generously. That is why it is so important that we continue to meditate every day, faithfully, every morning and every evening.

Each time we meditate and each time we say our mantra we are entering into that process of development, deepening our capacity to be wholly in the now. The invitation that we have is to build our lives on the eternal rock that is Christ. It is so easy for us for our lives to pass before our eyes in some sort of haphazard kaleidoscope. It is so easy for us to live our lives being tossed around by waves or mere fortune, never knowing where we will be landing up next or how long we will be there.

The challenge for all of us is to find the rock who is Christ, to find him in our hearts and then to respond to our lives, rooted in the knowledge that is love.

Door to Silence