



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

23 November 2025

Christ the King Sunday

Bible Readings

Colossians 1: 11-20



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



twitch.tv

Livestreaming at

8am and 9.30am only

**9.00am—Combined worship
50th Anniversary
Church & preschool**

Led by Jon Humphries
and team

**Please join us for morning tea
afterwards and a BBQ lunch.
Enjoy the photos & memorabilia
display in the hall.**

4pm—Shine setup

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Daniel Gibb
and Chris Eagles

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

**9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation**

community room and church

11am—Preschool in Church

**4.30pm—Preschool end of year
concert** in the church

WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10.30am—Preschool in Church

7.30pm—Church Council meeting

THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

11am—Preschool in Church

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER

11am—Preschool in Church

**4.30pm—Preschool end of year
concert** in the church

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

**9.30am—Worship
Includes Baptism**

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

Followed by morning tea

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

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

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

SARA WIENAND
SUNDAY am, MONDAY, TUESDAY
Email: saraw@nswact.uca.org.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARY

LYNN SAMUEL

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

OFFICE : 9686 3003
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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

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CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY
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BAULKHAM HILLS

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Something to think about

23 November

Pentecost 24 Christ the King Sunday

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

Looking Back Looking Forward

November 22 marks fifty years since the opening of our current centre. In that time we have seen much change and much stay the same. We have seen changes to the building, to programs offered, levels of attendance, members of the congregation come and go. We have experienced a range of leadership and ministry from people lay and ordained. We have been blessed to have many former ministry leaders come back during this month of celebration and lead us in thinking and reflection. A common theme has been looking forward and how we will continue to hear God's ministry as we seek to live out our life and witness, faithfully growing together as a community of faith.

We have had much that has stayed the same. We have faithful members of the congregation who have been a part of our community from before and continuing onto this site. We have faithfully gathered each

Sunday to connect with God and be encouraged together towards love and good works. We have continued to seek to faithfully serve the community of the hills in ways that we feel called to and are able. Some of these ways have changed, the names of things might have evolved, different leaders have come and gone, but all of this being a part of faithful discipleship has been a constant element of our life and witness.

As we look forward to what might be our life and witness for the next fifty years and beyond, it is good to look back and remind ourselves of some foundational understandings. The Basis of Union is the statement which set the groundwork for coming into the Uniting Church. We will celebrate being the Uniting Church in two years' time. This statement is helpful even today as we seek to build upon fifty years of life and witness in the Hills area. <https://uniting.church/basisofunion/>

As the Uniting Church, we believe, "that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries." We believe, "That the Church is able to live and endure through the changes of history only because its Lord comes, addresses, and deals with people in and through the news of his completed work. Christ who is present when he is preached among people is the Word of God who acquits the guilty, who gives life to the dead and who brings into being what otherwise could not exist. Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command people's attention and awaken faith; he calls people into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way Christ constitutes, rules and renews them as his Church."

We look to the future affirming that we are part of, “the people of God on the way to the promised end. The Uniting Church prays that, through the gift of the Spirit, God will constantly correct that which is erroneous in its life, will bring it into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use its worship, witness and service to God's eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord.”

As we seek to be the Church today, celebrating fifty years of ministry to our local community and beyond, let us remember that we are the Church. It is not the building or an institution. It is us, the living disciples of Jesus who form the Body of Christ. We are the Body of Christ and each one of us is a part of it [1 Corinthians 12:27] We each have ministry to do. We are all ministers as Dirk van Doorene reminded us in his sermon in the 8am service, and we even used to have that on the top of our newsletter. “The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. It acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of Christ's Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ.”

As we seek to continue to faithfully grow together as St. Matthew's Uniting Church Baulkham Hills let us remember that we are the Church. Christ calls us into faith and ministry as we seek to bear his love, the love of God, to our local community and beyond. “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may

spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.” [Hebrews 10:23-25]

What God is calling us to next, having looked back and celebrated fifty years of life and witness, is something to look forward to and really do some good thinking about.

God bless

Jon

Election of Elders and Church Council

The election of members to Church Council and Elders will take place on ***Sunday 7 December*** in each of the three services . *8am, 9.30am and 6.45pm.*

Voting for an indication of preference for allowing or not allowing same-gender/sex weddings in our buildings at St. Matthew's will also happen at the same time



**Sunday 23 November
Anniversary service at
9am**

**Afterwards please join us for morning
tea (please bring a plate to share) .
Following this there will be a BBQ lunch.
(gold coin Donation)**

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Sandra Drayton
Bruce MacWilliam
Pamela Leslie

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

23—29 November

East Timor, (Timor-Leste) Indonesia, Philippines

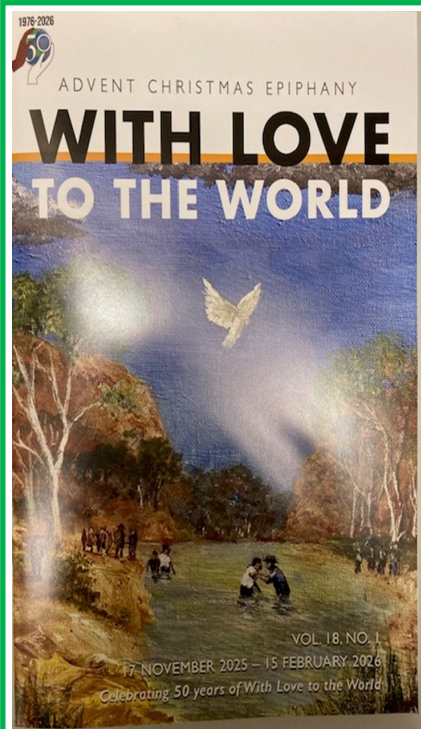
SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (14 November 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 14 November](#)



Advent Christmas Epiphany

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common
Lectionary

**Volume 18,
Number 1**

**17 November 2025
To
15 February 2026**

is available
in the church foyer.

**Please place \$7
in offering bag
to cover costs.**

**Can you
help us?**



**St Matthew's
Netball Club**

St Matthew's Netball Club would like someone to voluntarily review this year's accounts. This is not a huge job. Please see Belinda Schuster if you can help.

Choir Practice

There will be a Choir practice at the church on

**Saturday 22 November
From 10.30am to 11.30am**

Morning Tea Help Required

There will be a special Morning Tea following the Anniversary Service on ***Sunday 23 November***

If you are attending the Service, it would be appreciated if you could bring a small plate of food to assist with the catering.

Help will also be required to set up, serve and pack away – if you will be available to help can you please either contact Barbara Gibb or the Office.

With Thanks from the 50th Anniversary Celebration Planning Committee



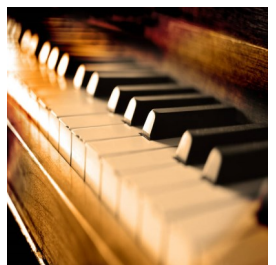
Thursday 4th December

10am—12noon *Final for 2025*

Guest Musician: **DAVID SHORT**

David will delight and entertain with his amazing music performed on both the piano and organ.

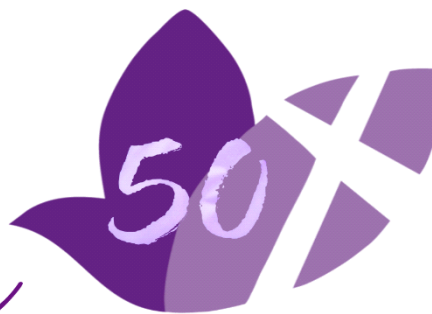
Come along and enjoy.



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

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

st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



*Celebrating
50 Years*



*Caring for and serving the Baulkham Hills Community and Beyond
in the Name of Christ*

YOUTH SERVICE

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A WORSHIP CELEBRATION
TO MARK THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS.**

6:45 PM SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP LEAD BY CHRIS EAGLES AND DANIEL GIBB

YOUTH BAND LEADING MUSIC

SHINE GROUP PARTICIPATION AND GIFT GIVING

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL TIME OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC
SHARE STORIES OVER SUPPER AFTER THE SERVICE**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO RSVP CONTACT

GREG GIBB ON 0414 764 437

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Modern Slavery

The latest Media Release from the Office of the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner states that reports of modern slavery to the 1800 FREEDOM hotline run by the NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner have surged 116% in the past financial year. Around half of these calls come from temporary migrant workers.

The NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner, Dr James Cockayne stated that "People are being deceptively recruited, trapped in debt bondage, pushed into forced labour and trafficked, many of them by dodgy labour hire companies that operate much more easily in NSW than neighbouring states, because there is no licensing requirement here." He has called for urgent, whole-of-government action in NSW to tackle modern slavery. A priority is closing a legal loophole that allows unlicensed labour hire firms to operate freely in NSW, unlike in Victoria and Queensland, where licensing schemes are already in place. This makes NSW a target for dodgy labour hire operators.

The 2025 U.S. Trafficking in Persons Report, recently published by the US State Department, backs the call, highlighting persistent risks for migrant workers in Australia and urging stronger labour hire regulation.

The most recent report from the Office of the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner mentions gaps that must urgently be addressed by the NSW Government, including:

- The absence of labour hire regulation

- That not a single dollar is formally earmarked in the state budget for anti-slavery efforts, though more than 450 public agencies and councils have anti-slavery obligations

- The failure by the Department of Communities and Justice to meet a statutory expectation for the development of a system of support for victims of forced under-age marriage, one year after being notified to do so by the Commissioner

- The absence of any formal Direction relating to procurement activities.

Link to the full media release: https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/legal-and-justice/our-commissioners/anti-slavery-commissioner/news-and-media/modern-slavery-rises-as-labour-hire-escapes-scrutiny--says-nsw-a.html?mc_cid=c2f1f5c560&mc_eid=a5de9055d8

What can I do?

We can write or email our local state politicians to ask for urgent action on the issues mentioned in this media release. Another way to raise public awareness is to call talk back radio shows about these issues.

*Blessings,
Alexander
Social Action Missional Ministry Team (SAMMT)*

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 17th February 2026
7pm in the Lower Church Hall