



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together



Weekly Newsletter

7 December 2025

Advent 2

Bible Readings

Romans 15: 4-6



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

8am—Worship

Includes communion

Led by Michael Strong
and Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Includes communion

Led by Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool,

Years K-2 & Years 3-8

followed by Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship

Includes communion

Community meal

Led by Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian
Meditation

community room and church

7.30pm—Remembrance &
Thanksgiving service

WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

10-12pm—Women's Fellowship
FINAL for 2025

Church & upstairs hall

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

2pm—Shine setting up for Sunday

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

8am—Worship

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
FINAL FOR 2025

Followed by morning tea

5pm—Shine setup from 4pm

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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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

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CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD

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Something to think about

7 December

Advent 2

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

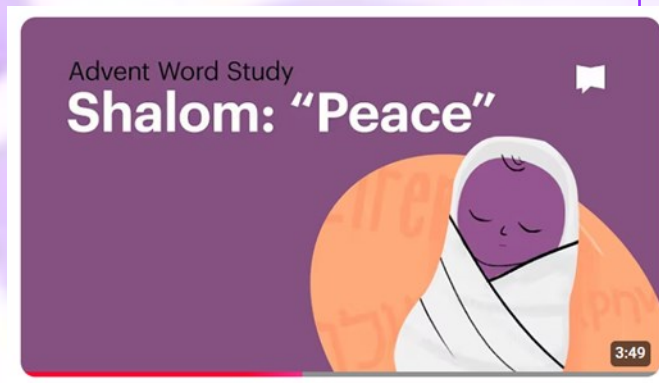
Peace

This is the week of peace in Advent. Peace is a big work to do. We should be working for peace in our spirits, in our relationships, within our communities, and in the world. There are many definitions of what peace is. Peace is about calm and stillness, but this should be seen as internal not external when we are thinking about peace in our spirits or souls. “It does not mean to be in a place where there is not noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.” – Unknown. Peace does apply externally when we are thinking about relationships and the world. “Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through human ways.” – The Dalai Lama. “Peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the presence of

justice.” - William Faulkner ““Peace is not just the absence of conflict. Peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, class, caste or any other social markers of difference” – Nelson Mandela. These lead us into thinking more deeply about this word which is easy to say but hard to put into practise.

It is interesting that there is a recurring theme in these quotes that peace is not an absence of all the stuff we might think about as being unpeaceful. Peace is a power or ability, and/or a gift from God which helps us in the midst of what would lead us into unpeacefulness. Many will know that the greeting of ‘peace’ in Hebrew is shalom. “Shalom” in Hebrew is written as שלום and means “peace,” but also implies a deeper sense of completeness, wholeness, and well-being. It is like a stone that is whole without any cracks or a brick wall without missing bricks or cracks. This understanding of wholeness helps us to understand that peace is centred in a sense of unity. In our church, our society, our communities and even in our families, this understanding that peace is about completeness and wholeness, not the absence of conflict, disagreement, noise or busyness, can be an aid to having a different mindset around what peace is.

The Bible Project has a great video which widens our understanding about peace, at least in terms of these words used for peace in the Scriptures.



Shalom – Peace : The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLYORLZOaZE&t=101s>

This idea of wholeness is important when we think about peace. It sets us in a mindset that sees the work of peace not to make everything calm or still, or not busy but to focus on the reality that the stillness we can look for is that in the midst of the chaotic aspects of life, God is still present with us. God is still at work for good. God is a resource we can access even when there isn't peace in our hearts, minds or souls. The presence and work of God with us as Holy Spirit means that we can be in a place where there is noise, trouble and hard work, and in the midst of such a state of being still be calm in our heart. This connecting with God takes work. It requires spiritual disciplines such as mindfulness, contemplation and meditation. This may mean taking a break and stepping away to practise this, or simply pausing long enough to recall the power of the presence of God. Peace is not just a state of being. Being one of the Fruit of the Spirit, it is also therefore a work and practise. In fact, the more we work at it and practise peace it becomes a habit of mind and soul.

Part of the work of peace is to enter into conversation with God and others. It can be conversation with someone we are in conflict with, or conversation as a community about how to work for peace together, or prayerful conversing with God. The Latin word "conversatio", is

from the verb "conversari", meaning "to turn together". Its original meaning was closer to "behaviour," "conduct," "frequent association," or "way of life," especially monastic life. The sense of spoken "conversation" came later, developing from the idea of social interaction and "turning together" with others. So, given that peace is about wholeness of being within ourselves and with others whom we are in relationship with, peace requires the work of turning together; to find our harmony even as we sing different tunes. It is about unity in our diversity, and such unity always requires work.

Having said all this, our peace, like our hope, is most of all found in God. God is the ultimate source of our peace. Even so, with God as our focus, then we need to use the tools of grace, forgiveness, faith, hope, patience and love to work for peace. We need to work to use these tools because they are part of nature and work of God.

So, there is maybe more to peace than we might normally understand. Peace not only something to think about but a work in progress which helps us to flourish.

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



**Four ways to give to those in need
beyond Australia**

***Cash in the Christmas Bowl
envelope given to the person in
the WHITE HAT at the back of
the Church each Sunday
Service.***

***Give credit details in the form
in the Christmas Bowl envelope
and tie it to the person in the
WHITE HAT and receive a
receipt later.***

***Give directly to a letter sent to
you from Christmas Bowl to
your address. Put that you are
at St Matthews on the form***

**A St. Matthew's page
Just for us at**

[Mycb.link/45881](https://mycb.link/45881)

Check it out!

**Envelopes will be
available as usual at
each service.**

PEOPLE NEWS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



Dulcie Duncum
Rosemary Sexton
Lyn Booth
Evelyn Medcalf

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

7—13 December

Myanmar, Thailand



SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (28 November 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 28 November](#)

Sympathy to the family and friends of Charlotte Kahane who passed away on Friday 28 November at the age of 93. Charlotte volunteered in our Op-Shop for many years.

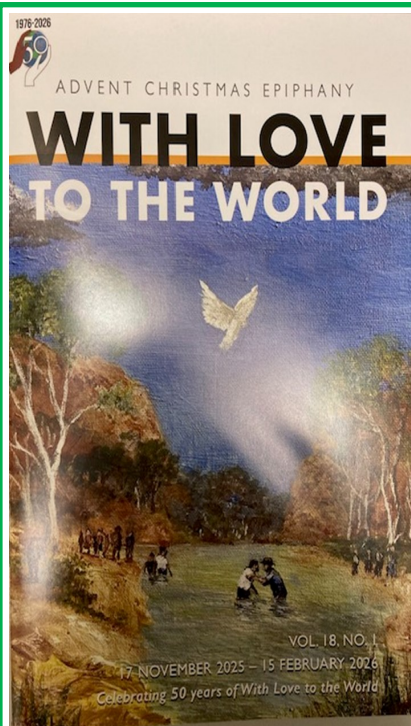


**Can you
help us?**



**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.



**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.**



You are invited to a Service of Remembrance and



Thanksgiving

Tuesday 9th 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 may be phoned or emailed through to the church prior to the 9th 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 that we are thinking of you at this time of year.

Christmas Services @ St. Matthew's

Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday 9 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 and 6.45pm

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

Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

Wednesday 24 December 5pm

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

Christmas Eve Late Service

Wednesday 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

Thursday 25 December 9am

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



**The Bill Crews Foundation
is need of these items for
their food Hampers:**

- Tinned Foods (ring pulls)
- ◊ Spaghetti
- ◊ Baked beans
- ◊ Tuna/Salmon
- ◊ Meats/chicken
- ◊ Soup
- ◊ Fruit & Vegetables
- Rice
- Dry Pasta
- Pasta Sauces
- Supermarket & store gift cards
- Noodles cups/packets
- Chips
- Crackers
- Biscuits
- Cereals
- Muesli Bars
- Up & Go breakfast drinks
- Fruit juices/poppers
- Tea/coffee
- Long life milk
- Bottled water (600ml)

Please donate to the St. Matthew's collection for the Bill Crews Foundation Christmas Food appeal.
Please leave items in the containers in the upstairs foyer by 15 December.

LOST PROPERTY BOX

**PLEASE CHECK THE LOST
PROPERTY BOX IF YOU HAVE
LOST ANY ITEMS WHILE
AT THE CHURCH.**

***THE LOST PROPERTY BOX IS
LOCATED ON THE CABINETS AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS.***

***ALL UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE
DONATED TO THE OP SHOP AT THE
END OF THE YEAR.***

**The St. Matthew's
Uniting Church
weekly Newsletter is
available to view
each Thursday 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.**

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Climate Change and Adaption

'Renew Australia for All' is part of an alliance that Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN) are supporting. They have just released a 'Climate Safety Plan' to encourage governments at all levels to help prepare for the changes ahead, including the response to the increasing number of natural disasters. Renew Australia for All is a new movement backed by faith groups, social services organisations, unions, environment organisations, community groups and industry working together to deliver a fairer, better and more secure future for all Australians. Their website is <https://renewaustraliaforall.org/>

From the Renew Australia for All – Climate Safety Plan:

Climate change is already reshaping our lives in Australia. We see this when heatwaves make our work, schools, and homes unsafe; when doctors and nurses are stretched responding to climate shocks (especially in extreme heat events); when disasters disrupt travel and supply chains, raising prices at the grocery store. Storms, floods and fires are already fuelling homelessness and financial hardship, with lasting harm to our health and wellbeing.

For every dollar we spend building our resilience and preparedness, we save \$10 that would otherwise need to be spent on response and recovery, which is already costing Australians billions of dollars each year. It is time we invest in climate resilience and adaptation so we can reduce the impact of whatever comes and recover faster. Australia needs a coordinated plan that ensures no one is left managing the impacts of climate change alone.



What can I do?

- Read the link to the Climate Safety Plan <https://renewaustraliaforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FINAL-Climate-Safety-plan-at-a-glance-2-pages.pdf>
- Subscribe to the 'Renewal Australia for All' emails
- Email your local member of Federal Parliament advocating for the Climate Safety Plan

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