

Lent @ St Matthew's

Lenten living in a time like this.

Ash Wednesday

Lenten Services

Lenten Studies

2nd March 7.30pm

6th March 13th March 20th March 27th March 3rd April 10th April 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

15th March Luke's 'edge': (The public ministry of Jesus).

22nd March 'Forgive them for they know not what they do' (The passion narrative according to Luke).

29th March 'From an empty tomb to "heaven"'. (The resurrection and ascension according to Luke).

st. matthew's
BAULKHAM HILLS
UNITING CHURCH
growing together

Ash Wednesday Service
2 March at 7.30pm
Led by **Oliver Pearson**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent: it is a convention in many of the grand chapels and cathedrals for Ash Wednesday to begin with the singing of Alleghri's *Miserere Mei* – Psalm 51. At King's College, Cambridge people queue from early in the morning through to mid-afternoon to hear this Psalm sung (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX1zicNRLmY>). It is a sombre reading fitting for a season of penitence.

We acknowledge our transgressions and pray for God to 'create a clean heart' within us. It is set alongside a portion of Matthew's gospel which sits rather uneasily with the contemporary emphasis of the self, celebrity status and the desire for recognition. The Matthew passage privileges the hiddenness of the Christian life and reminds us that one of the great virtues that the Christian faith introduced to the world was that of humility.

Ash Wednesday Bible Reading
Psalm 51:1-17; Mt. 6:1-6, 16-21



Lenten Studies 'An Idle Tale' Tuesdays 15, 22 and 29 March 10.30am and 7.30pm

From the first days of the church the key season of the Christian calendar has been Easter and the preparation for such. It is a time of reflection on life, faith, the significance of the cross and the resurrection – and, indeed what is the gospel for the period in which we find ourselves. It is a time when many denominations commission Lenten study booklets. Every year the church press in the UK publishes the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lenten book.

Here at St. Matthew's we will continue on with the studies we began on Luke's gospel back in Advent. It does not matter if you did not come to those ones prior to Christmas. Copies of those studies are available from the office. There will be an opportunity to 'catch up' as we make ready to explore how Luke describes the public ministry of Jesus and then relates the passion narrative leading up to Jesus' death on the cross, followed by the distinctive way in which he gives an account of the resurrection.

1. **Luke's 'edge'** (The public ministry of Jesus)
2. **"Forgive them for they know not what they do"** (The passion narrative according to Luke).
3. **"From an empty tomb to "heaven"."** (The resurrection and ascension according to Luke).

Easter Services @ St Matthew's

Palm Sunday

Holy Week Reflections

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

10th April 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

11th - 13th April 7.30pm Online via Zoom

14th April 7.30pm

15th April 9.00am & 7.30pm

17th April 8.00am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

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A 'Big Welcome Back' to St. Matthew's Coffee & Discovery Senior's Group which is to commence on Thursday 3rd March 2022 with the program continuing on the first Thursday of each month, 10am – 12 noon from March to December.

Coffee & Discovery commenced in August 2000 as an initiative of a mission planning process at St. Mathew's where the need for a ministry for senior people of the church and local community was recognised.

21 years later, that need continues as the population of senior folk also continues, of which I am very aware, as I have become part of it myself! Also 21 years later, C&D continues to endeavour to fulfil that need.

C&D is structured to include a welcome and short devotion, a social time of fellowship over a great morning tea, plus the interest and stimulation of

learning and exploring through the many and varied experiences of the 318 speakers who have contributed so far.

Throughout the years, the consistence in attendance numbers along with comments and feedback received, have been an indications of the pleasure derived and of a need being met.

C&D is an outreach activity, with many of the regular attendees resulting from St. Matthew's people having invited friends from the community or from the villages in which they reside.

C&D is very much a team effort, consisting of the very much appreciated 'Welcome and Devotion' leaders, greeter in the foyer, sandwich makers, cooks, helpers with setting up, serving and clearing up, also drivers, when needed, all of whom have enabled this mission to function in a vital, caring and meaningful way. Also, much appreciated, has been the significant number of willing speakers from our St. Matthew's community.

There is always a warm invitation to all, to attend this relaxed and friendly activity.

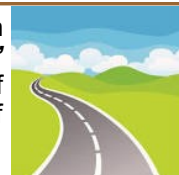
Dulcie Duncum



for 2022
will be commencing on
Thursday 3rd March
practising covid
safe procedures.

We will be meeting from 10am to 12 midday, beginning with a Welcome and Devotion delivered by Rev Clive Pearson in the Church after which morning tea will follow and will be served in the hall. Following morning tea, we will move back into the church for the Speaker presentation.

Our speaker will be **Barry Gregory** with his title being **"The Life of a 'Gypsy' Banker"**, where Barry will share some of the experiences of that particular part of his and his family's life journey.



Commencing this year, there will be a change from the previous regime of Coffee & Discovery which first commenced in August 2000. Each session will now be held on the first Thursday of the month from March to December.

With the disruptions of the last two years behind us, we look forward to meeting and enjoying time together, so do come along to join in this time of fellowship and friendship.

Dulcie Duncum
Group Coordinator

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

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

Blacktown UC's next annual Biblical day **"Journeying with Paul"**

We'll be looking at Paul's letters and mission. The focus will be twofold:

- How Paul's creative and adventurous "make-it-up-as-you-go" mission in the 1st Century helps us figure mission out in the 21st Century.
- Lectionary passages from Paul's letters and Acts from Easter onwards this year to help in preaching, worship-leading and Bible study.

Led by Rev Dr Rob McFarlane
Presbytery Ministry Leader

- **Saturday, 19th March.**
- **Blacktown Uniting Church.**
59 Bungarribee Road, Blacktown NSW 2148
- **Arrive at 9am for a 9.30am start.**
- **Sessions run 9.30am-3.30pm.**

Cost (only \$15 including lunch!)
Contact: Blacktown UC for more information and registration details.
(02) 9831 4121 bucoffice@gmail.com
0439 826 742 www.blacktown.unitingchurch.org.au

Registrations essential by Tuesday, 15 March, please.



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

Care and Prayer
10am, every first Saturday
in the lower hall.
This month: 5 March



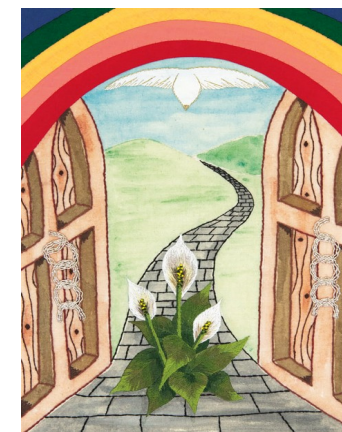
The Annual World Day of Prayer

for the local area will be held
at Wesley Uniting Church,
Showground Road Castle Hill
on **Friday 4th March at 7.30 pm.**

Featured Artist:

Angie Fox

Angie is an Embroiderer and Vestment Designer from Derby, England. She writes, 'Following the theme given, I have used several images to depict the key words as follows:



Freedom: an open door to a pathway across an endless open vista. **Justice:** broken chains **God's Peace and Forgiveness:** the dove of peace and a peace lily breaking through the pavement. **Over all:** the rainbow represents the overreaching love of God.

**** Everyone is Welcome ****

If you are unable to attend please join us on *live stream* on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQBfOZSX1pNj1rr4uNC46sw/>



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 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

Herb Garden

As you may be aware, there is a herb garden outside the upper entrance to the preschool in Edgar Street near the Street Library.

This garden was started by the play group and is producing herbs, fruit and flowers which are for the St. Matthew's community and our neighbourhood community to freely use.

Please use scissors or secateurs to take cuttings for your personal use.

Here is a list of what is available:

Rosemary, Thyme, Lemongrass, Oregano, Nasturtiums, Sage, sometimes Parsley and Basil and Common Mint - fresh plants will be planted this week.

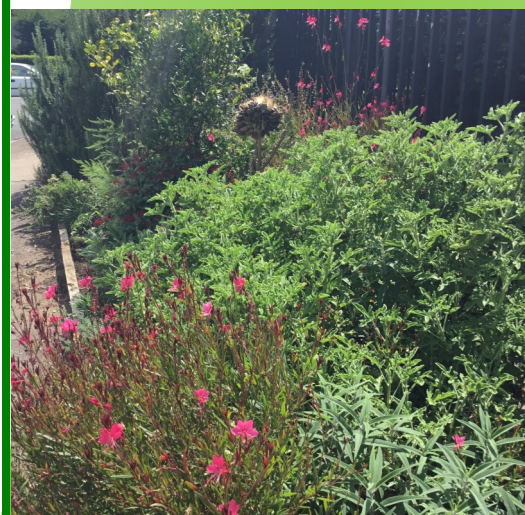


There is also a dwarf Lemon and dwarf Mandarin tree that will be ripe to use in winter.

Flowering plants available to take cuttings are the scented Geranium with small pink flowers. You will also find several Salvias around the perimeter of the property that attract bees. Please take small cuttings to grow in your gardens to help feed our bees and butterflies. I have noticed that butterflies love Strawberry flowers.

As part of the group that care for the gardens and grounds, I wish you happy cooking and happy gardening.

Katherine Pedersen



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and REGULAR GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.....

Second Wednesday of this month

Next event: 9 March at 10am



Enquiries: Dulcie Duncum

Meet in the upstairs hall and church

MEN'S MORNING TEA.....

Meet 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Next Event: 16 March 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 the lower hall @ 10am All welcome

This Month: 6 March

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.

YOUNG FAMILIES

KUCA.....

@ 9.30am service during term

for Preschool, Years K-2, and Years 3-6

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

Alive Youth Group.....

Years 9 to 12

Meet Friday evenings fortnightly at the church during term time. 7pm-9pm

Contact Daniel Gibb daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE BIBLE STUDY.....

year 11 up to the age of 25.

Fortnightly during term times.

Contact Daniel Gibb daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

THRIVE SOCIAL GROUP.....

Contact Daniel Gibb 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

Working Bee



Working Bee Saturday

19 March @ 8.30am

Please join us if you are able even if it is only for a little while.

Many hands make light work.

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

MINISTERS - EVERYONE

SUPPLY MINISTER

REV. CLIVE PEARSON 0409 523 024

Email: minister@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB

Part Time

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

SENIORS PASTORAL CARER

MICHAEL STRONG

Part Time

Email: 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 BULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

Weekly newsletter available on website

EMAIL: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

FACEBOOK:

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

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

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 634634

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
APRIL In Focus

St. Matthew's Monthly Newsletter

please send details to Robyn and Lynn in
the Church Office by 15 March.

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

Calendar of Events for MARCH 2022

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

	<p>1</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open </p> <p>9.30–10.30am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> 	<p>2</p>  <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>7.30pm—Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open </p>  <p>10am-12pm—Coffee & Discovery</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>7.30pm—World Day of Prayer at Wesley Uniting Church Castle Hill See inside for details</p> <p>7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE upstairs or lower hall </p>	<p>5</p> <p>9am-12pm—Op Shop </p>  <p>10am—Care and Prayer Meet in lower hall</p> <p>12.30pm–3pm—Netball upstairs hall</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>8am—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>9.30am—Worship includes Communion</p> <p>KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6</p> <p>5pm—Shine</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship includes Communion</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open </p> <p>9.30–10.30am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> 	<p>9</p>  <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>10am-12noon—Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall and church </p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>5pm-7pm—Youth Group FUSION Water Games</p> <p>Friday 11th March</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>13</p>  <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9am—Worship @ the Willow's</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–10.30am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>10.30am—Lent Study Week 1 in the church</p> <p>7.30pm—Lent Study Week 1 in the church</p> 	<p>16</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>17</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>7pm-9pm—Youth Group ALIVE upstairs or lower hall </p>	<p>19</p> <p>8.30am—Working Bee</p> <p>Working Bee</p> 	<p>20</p>  <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship</p> <p>KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6</p> <p>5pm—Shine</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–10.30am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>10.30am—Lent Study Week 2 in the church</p> <p>7.30pm—Lent Study Week 2 in the church</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>5pm-7pm—Youth Group FUSION Movie Night in the church</p> <p>Friday 25th March</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>No scheduled events</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>8am—Worship</p> <p>9.30am—Worship KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-6</p> <p>6.45pm—Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9am—Sorting & Pricing for Op Shop lower hall</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> <p>9.30–10.30am—Christian Meditation in the Church</p> <p>10.30am—Lent Study Week 3 in the church</p> <p>7.30pm—Lent Study Week 3 in the church</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>9am-2pm—Op Shop open</p> 		<p>st. matthew's UNITING CHURCH BAULKHAM HILLS growing together</p>	