



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

8 May 2022

Easter 4

Bible Reading

8am & 9.30am:

Psalm 23, John 10: 22-30

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God



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 9.30AM



Livestreaming

at all	. 8am
three	. 9.30am
worship	
services	. 6.45pm

8am—Worship
Led by Clive Pearson



9am—Worship at the Willows
Led by Warren Arthur

9.30am—Worship
Led by Hugh Darling and Clive Pearson
KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8

6.45pm—Worship
Led by Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 9 MAY

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 15 MAY

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Campout
No KUCA today

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship

TUESDAY 10 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am—Christian Meditation
in the church

WEDNESDAY 11 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

10am-12pm—Women's Fellowship in the upstairs hall

THURSDAY 12 MAY

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 13 MAY

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group upstairs hall

SATURDAY 14 MAY

KUCA Campout



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 BAULKHAM HILLS 1755

WEB SITE: www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au

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SONALI WANIGESEKERA

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Sheep and the cure of souls.

So many sheep! They're everywhere. Of all the animals in the Bible sheep appear to get the star billing. It seems as if they are paying the price of being one of the first animals to be domesticated. They become a major source of income in agrarian societies. Though that may have been so keeping watch over sheep was never a high profile career. Wealthy landowners would hire boys and men unfit for more elevated positions to tend the flock. Quite often it was the youngest child – as was the case with David – who was given that task. For Jesus to describe himself in John as the 'good shepherd' is a sign of humility and lowliness, though the shepherd here is attached to the 'I am' style of saying which is associated with Yahweh (God's) response to Moses at the burning bush.

The first appear in the Bible at Genesis 4:4 where Abel sacrificed "fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock" to the Lord. This theme of the lamb being a sacrifice is clearly evident in the Torah - that is, the first five books of the Bible and especially during the Passover. In due course Jesus will be regarded as 'the lamb of God'.

All this provides background for the way in which the Bible applies the term to the people of Israel. The image is one of a covenanted people who form a flock. It is possible this apparent attraction of sheep was due to their relative inability to defend themselves against predators, their tendency to wander off flock and maybe the tendency to follow a leader led to thoughts about their being gullible. Handel picks this theme up on the Messiah with his chorus, 'All we like sheep have gone astray'. Perhaps we should set alongside this habit the parable Jesus tells of the lost sheep.

In the gospel of John Jesus is the 'good shepherd' as well as being the 'gate' for the sheep. The sheep are those entrusted into his care. Their familiarity with him is such that they recognize his voice. That this should be the case can throw some fresh light on the story or Mary Magdalene meeting the risen Christ in the garden. She confesses who he is when she hears his voice say her name.

The link through to us today comes via the words pastor / pastoral. At face value it looks like it has little to do with us being sheep! But it does! The word pastor is derived from the Latin word for shepherd and the verb *pascere* which means 'to lead to pasture', 'set to grazing', 'cause to eat'. It is very suggestive.

Often times today care is very good and highly professionalized. Within the context of the church it seems rather removed from us being a flock of sheep! Perhaps it is worth a second look in order to get some idea of what is distinctive

about the Christian practice. After all, many businesses today exercise their own forms of pastoral care. For us in the church the key feature is that it is Christ who is the shepherd. The purpose of pastoral care is not merely one of comfort and support: it is that ... but more. It has to do with how we hold together this community of Christ – how we tend it, feed it, how we nourish its worship, its education, its life. It is big picture stuff.

In the service of such a vocation I rather like the traditional interpretation of pastoral care to be found in our Reformed tradition. Here the language becomes 'the cure of souls' -or, as Alan Jones, formerly Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, would say 'soulmaking'. It seems like an antiquated term today and conjures up a picture of needing to take some medicine or elixir. And yet this idea of the 'cure of souls' is making a comeback: it is doing so because of the way in which it lends itself to the pastoral purpose being one of reconciling 'the sheep' to the love of God, the breaking in of the kingdom of God and participating in the mission of God.

On this Mother's day Sunday now note how Paul describes his pastoral relationship to the church which received his very first epistle that we have: 1 Thessalonians.

'But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.'

Some pastoral music:

Bach, 'Sheep May Safely Graze'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hT60f3t75kg>
piano

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YRn_bu_vnIM
organ

The Vicar of Dibley.

'The Lord is my shepherd' (theme).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAZN1oVir5A>

The Lord is my shepherd (Brian Bonniwell)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sZaJpllj_c <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozRQKMiaY7g>

Yours in Christ,

Clive



PEOPLE NEWS BIRTHDAYS

Barbara McIntosh
Sue Campbell
Lachlan Wood

Martin Anderson
Barbara Brenden-Cook

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

8—14 May



India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

All Group Leaders and Others

Please remember to **ALWAYS** lock and activate the security alarm at the conclusion of your gatherings at the church.

Please also **ALWAYS** turn off all lights, close windows, **turn off air-conditioners and fans.**

And leave the space neat and tidy ready for the next group. *Thank you.*



**Being prepared for
next week's worship:
15 May 2022 Easter 5**

Crossing cultures

15 May 2022 Sunday:

**8am, 9:30am and
6:45pm.**

Bible Readings:

Acts 11: 1-18

John 13: 31-35

One of the great tensions facing every community is the one that exists between inclusion and boundaries. The church is not exempt from this tension. It is a confessional community that is defined by its call to discipleship and a set of claims surrounding the risen Jesus. It is thus a particular kind of community – and, yet, at the same time it is also marked by a call to hospitality and a crossing of boundaries. The classic text for this organizing principle is the Galatians' reference to baptism through which we are all one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, free nor slave, male nor female. It is a baptismal formula easily taken for granted. That is unfortunate: it was a radical initiative in the ancient world and continues to be so for the Uniting Church.

We have a statement to the effect that we are a church for all God's people; we seek to live cross-culturally and aspire to a multicultural kingdom of God. It is an outstanding vision and entirely consistent with Peter's strange vision where he is called upon to eat food that no self-respecting Jew of his day would have done. Through this dietary breakthrough the welcome is extended to Gentiles – that is, to other cultures. There is still a lot of work to be done in order to ensure that our life together 'in Christ' demonstrates cultural respect and hospitality. The placing of the John text alongside the one from Acts is well-timed. It invites us to recognize the other who is not from the same culture as myself is nevertheless one of those 'sheep' who recognize Jesus' name. In the Christian community we are called to love one another across cultures and customs.

Church Property News

I'm excited to announce that after many months of meetings, conversations with Synod, Presbytery and building experts, the Church Council has approved the decision to replace the existing tiled roof of the Church, Hall and Preschool with Colorbond Steel sheeting. This has been a tough, but essential decision as we have advice about the poor condition of the roof. Due to the low pitch of the roof, the existing tiles have caused a lot of leakage and damage to both the roof and ceiling.

The Preschool will be undergoing a small extension to increase their storage facilities and extra staff facilities. This will be funded by the Preschool. The Preschool have also very generously offered to cover the cost of replacing the tiles on the Preschool roof.

A big thank you to both Terry Oliver and David Porter for the time and energy they have given to ensure that this project can proceed.

Barbara Gibb

Saturday Administration & Office Support

Opportunity for career progression!
A supportive environment where progression is encouraged!
A new position has become available for a Junior Receptionist and all-rounder to join our very busy team.
No experience is necessary as full training is given & support
If this sounds like something that is of interest then please do not hesitate to apply or contact us for a confidential discussion.

Call Trevor or Maddison
on 9686-7999



Trevor Leslie
Real Estate
1/20 Old Northern Road
Baulkham Hills

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery Communications Officer

Contract, Casual or part-time permanent position (can be negotiated)

A friendly, supportive, professional dedicated to excellence
A role with purpose - work for a socially driven Australian organisation

The Presbytery of Parramatta Nepean covers south-west, north-west and western Sydney and works to strengthen 60+ congregations in their mission and community engagement in one of the most geographically and demographically diverse areas of Australia.

Their vision is to generously share themselves and mobilise resources to support God's Mission so that, in 2055 and beyond the Uniting Church has a strategic, vibrant Christ-centred presence in Western Sydney in all its diversity.

Main areas of responsibility

Presbytery Communication

- Manage the Presbytery website and social media strategies and keep its content up to date and focussed on PNP Vision and Mission Strategy
- Provide support for communicating regular newsletters, Presbytery stories & Presbytery decisions, strategic goals & latest news
- Ensure that communication is culturally relevant (ethnic, age, socio-economic and gender) and linguistically appropriate for all people across the Presbytery

Presbytery IT Support and Management

- Manage and maintain a presbytery directory key contacts and email distribution lists ensuring that this is kept regularly up to date
- Develop & manage all registrations for Presbytery events)
- Develop on-line forms to help staff effectively interact with congregations
- Assist congregations as they engage in IT and online mission and ministry via websites and social media , to give advice and point them in the right direction

Essential requirements

- Cert IV or higher qualification in a Communications & Marketing related discipline and relevant experience
 - Experience managing databases, social media platforms & websites
 - Experience coordinating and/or facilitating corporate type activities and programs
 - Well organised and efficient time management skills
 - Quality writing, verbal and computer skills
- Understanding of, and agreement to work within the ethos of the Uniting Church in Australia

How to Apply:

If this sounds like something that you would be interested in, please apply directly to the advertisement with your full resume and a tailored cover letter.

There is no closing date for this role, all applications will be reviewed as they are received, and successful applicants will be contacted.

Please email applications to dale@pnpuca.org.au

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 bird image / publications.