



st. matthew's  
**UNITING CHURCH**  
**BAULKHAM HILLS**  
growing together

## Weekly Newsletter

20 November 2022

Christ the King

### Bible Reading

8am, 9.30am & 6.45pm

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Luke 23: 33-43

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 . 6.45pm  
services

### 8am—Worship

Led by Clive Pearson  
includes special choir item to  
celebrate Church Anniversary  
on Tuesday 22 November

### 9.30am—Worship

Led by Dean Drayton  
and Clive Pearson

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

### 6.45pm—Worship

Led by Abbey Sim  
and Daniel Gibb

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

#### MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER

9am—Sorting & pricing for

Op Shop lower hall

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

#### TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

in the church

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

7.30pm—Thrive lower hall

#### WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

#### THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop

12pm—Upstairs hall in use by Preschool

#### FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

5pm-7pm—Fusion -Youth Group

upstairs hall

#### SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER

No Scheduled events

#### SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

Followed by

Slice Morning Tea

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

6.45pm—Worship

Includes New Year

Advent Feast



#### 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

Weekly newsletter available on website

**EMAIL:** office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

#### FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

**PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR** 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA

PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

**EMAIL:** director@stmatthewsps.net.au

# The reign of Christ Stocktaking

**Jeremiah 23: 1-6 Luke 23: 33-43**

**This** Sunday is the last Sunday in the Christian year. We have travelled through the past 12 months since last Advent in the company of Luke. Like each one of the other gospels this one has its own distinctive themes. I wonder what our life together would look like if we evaluated the past year through the lens of Luke's themes and how this gospel bids us to follow. There is a good reason to do that kind of exercise / stocktake. The Uniting Church likes to weave together worship, witness and service. In other words, how does our worship inform and reflect the practice of the Christian life.

**I** wonder what has stood out for you in this year of Luke? Would it be the way in which this gospel balances 'stories' to do with men and women? Or, maybe it was its emphasis on cultural inclusion? There are certainly some parables that stand out that are peculiar to this gospel – the good Samaritan and the prodigal son and other stories that 'wee little man, Zacchaeus'. What may have stuck in your mind were Jesus' words from the cross, 'forgive them, for they know not what they do?' Maybe you will recall how that reading from the scroll of Isaiah where Luke effectively lays out for us the agenda of Jesus' public ministry: 'the spirit of the Lord is upon me ....'

**The** year ends in what might seem like a strange place. The reading set down turns our attention to the last temptation that Jesus faces in this gospel – and it takes place while he is on the cross. It begins with 'If you are the king of the Jews ....'. It is placed alongside another question 'are you not the messiah?'

**This** reading is set down for the Sunday that marks the transition from the season of Pentecost to Advent. It goes by the name of the Feast of Christ the King. There is an irony here. Jesus does not really call himself a king and yet he teaches many parables which have to do with him seeking to convey what the kingdom of God is like. The idea that Jesus is 'the king' only emerges in the trial scenes and here on the cross. This kingdom is unlike the pomp and majesty that we might associate with earthly kingdoms and empires. It presumes an understanding of life that is often at a far removed from the politics of our day.

**The** Jeremiah reading looks to a time beyond the distress of Israel's captivity. It is a time and culture that assumes that the people of Israel are like the flock of God's pasture. Their well-being and future will come through new shepherds who will be raised up. The link is made to a 'righteous branch' of David who tended the sheep as a boy and will become Israel's king.

**These** two readings together invite us to consider how we lived out our personal lives and our lives together in the kingdom and how we have allowed ourselves to be shepherded by Christ through all its ups and downs.

**The** epistle for this Sunday is Colossians :11-20. It enlarges the horizon further for it professes how all things were made in, through and for Christ. That reading is reflected in the music and poems below in Alana Levadoski's 'The Christ hymn'.

## Online:

### Music:

Benedictines of Mary

Hymn to Christ the king

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U78lqNWO21A>

'Christ is the king'

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

Alana Levadoski

The Christ hymn'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGe5wJBDjoo>

Ukrainian Choir

'Bless the Lord, o my soul'

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

Bryan and Katie Torwalt

'Christ the king'

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

## Reflection:

Rowan Williams

'Who is Jesus for you?'

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

N T Wright

'What is revolutionary about the kingdom of God?'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6ZK\\_9FEr0Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q6ZK_9FEr0Q)

'God's kingdom on earth'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNsMN9RWC0Y>

'Jesus' gospel about the kingdom of God'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXgLCK5ogOo>

*Yours in Christ,*

*Clive*

## Nomination and Voting of Elders

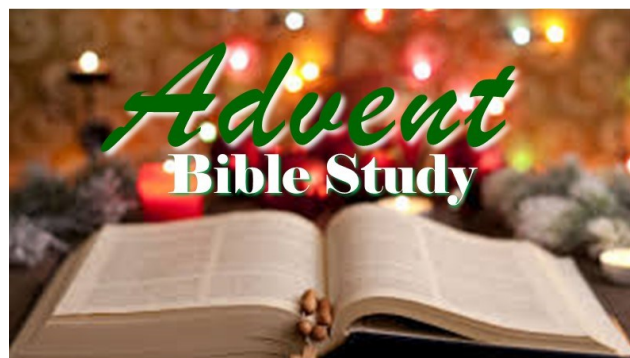
Nominations for Elders will close on 20 November; The election of elders will take place on site next Sunday 4th December - If you are not at Church on that Sunday, you may vote in the week from 4th December through to Thursday 8th December. We would be looking to also have another 2 or 3 new Elders be nominated from each congregation so as we will have a balance of representatives from each.

If a congregation member feels someone in the congregation may be interested or would be ideal as an Elder of St. Matthew's please nominate them.

If you need further information regarding the role of an Elder, please feel free to speak with Clive, Helen Olley or Melissa Gibson Darling.

Advised they do not wish to renominate	George Haines Christine Haines Anne Oliver Ken Caldwell Jan Caldwell Marijke Prinsloo
Advised they are happy to renominate for less than 3 years	Sandra Drayton (1 year) Melissa Gibson Darling (1 year)
Advised they are happy to renominate for a 3 year term	Jane Cole Robyn Burn Vivienne Strong Erin Mathewson Robyn Mathewson Eulalie Herat Pamela Leslie Helen Olley

**Nomination Forms available from the church foyer.**



## Advent Studies for this year

The coming Season of Advent in the Christian calendar commences on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November. We traverse from a gospel year in Luke into a year featuring Matthew. This means that we move from a year featuring gentiles and the needy to a focus on Jewish people, the chosen people of God as viewed by Matthew.

We will be engaged in Three studies this advent, at weekly intervals.

The first will be led by Clive Pearson who will provide us with much food for thought. He will draw comparisons between the Advent story of Christmas as presented by both Matthew and Luke and provide some clues about what will follow in Matthew as we explore this Gospel in 2023.

Drawing on the information provided by Clive, the following two weeks of the study will be led by Michael Strong and will first involve reflections on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The second will consider the entry of Herod and horrid actions he inflicted on male children in Bethlehem and the flight of Jesus and his family to Egypt. This exploration will continue through to the exchanges between John the Baptist and Jesus.

The studies advertised above will be held at the following times:

**Onsite at the church at 10.30am**

Tuesday — 29 November

Tuesday — 6 & 13 December

**Or ZOOM online 7.30pm**

Wednesday — 30 November

Wednesday — 7 & 14 December

**Zoom link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3602745736>

**Anyone that will be participating in Clive and Mike's study via Zoom Online and would like a copy of the study, please contact the Church office and a copy will be sent to you.**

ST MATTHEWS

# TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

NOV 19 7:30 PM

TABLES OF 8  
\$15 PER PERSON

ST MATTHEWS  
UNITING CHURCH  
BAULKHAM HILLS

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT  
DANIEL@STMATTHEWSUNITING.NET.AU





## PEOPLE NEWS

Ruth Garbutt  
Sandra Drayton

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

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle 20 November—26 November

*East Timor, (Timor-Leste),  
Indonesia, Philippines*

**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](http://www.stmatthewsuniting.net.au)  
Click on the metal dove image / publications.**

## *A message to all groups and individuals using the Church property*

When using any part of the Church property at any time, please ensure that when you leave, you turn off all lights, fans, air con's and properly lock and alarm the premises if required. This is the responsibility of all groups and individuals, please don't think that someone else will do it for you. There have been too many times in the recent past that things are getting left on and unlocked.

## From St. Matthew's Op Shop:

Do you have a 'stash' of knitting yarn that you would like to declutter? St. Matthew's Op Shop needs donations of knitting yarn to sell in the Op Shop, for creating items to sell and also to donate to the charities we support in The Philippines and Ukraine.



We would also appreciate donations of buttons and quality second-hand children's clothing. Donations can be left in the lower church hall.

*Thank you for your support of  
St. Matthew's Op Shop.*

## *Being prepared for next week's worship:*



**27 November 2022**

## *Advent 1 Hope*

### **Theme:**

The coming (again) of Christ  
Candle of Hope  
Christmas Bowl

**Sunday**

**27 November:**

**8am, 9:30am &**

**6:45pm**

**Bible Readings:**

**Isaiah 2:1-5  
Matthew 24:36-44**

O come, O come, Emmanuel ..... today is the first Sunday in the Christian New Year: it is the first Sunday in Advent ... and we change our script. This year our focus turns to the gospel of the Matthew. The way in which its account of Jesus unfolds is a little different from Luke and so we will gradually become more aware of who Matthew's audience was and his distinctive understanding of the gospel and what the good news might mean for us as seen through his lens.

It is rather strange in some way that every year our readings for Advent come from towards the end of the gospel for the year rather than the beginning. That is because Advent is a season when we approach (again) the Christmas stories and also because Advent has to do with the expectation that Christ will come again.

The spirituality of the Advent season is often signified by the call to be 'watchful', to expect, to hope. Our Matthew reading for this week likens the coming of the Son of Man (Jesus) to the days of Noah. In the early church the Noah cycle played a more prominent role in understanding the gospel than it does today. In a way the Noah imagines a 're-set': in these stories from the early chapters of Genesis God begins again with a new humanity and a rainbow covenant with 'all flesh'. The

second coming of Christ presumes the fulfilment of hopes that the kingdom of God that he proclaimed will be fully realized. The Noah saga nevertheless carries words of warning: Noah's advice to his fellows is ignored; he prepares for the floods that will come but they disregard these gloomy prophecies and do not turn away from their wrongdoing and turn again to God. Our reading from Matthew captures something of that apocalyptic mood when the purposes of God break in unexpectedly on a seemingly unprepared humanity. Life, like it was in the time of Noah, was carrying on 'normally' ... But the apocalyptic breaks in ...

It is a standard convention for the Advent New Testament readings to be accompanied by verses from the book of Isaiah. This book is written over an extended period of time and falls into three parts. The Advent / Christmas readings tend to come from the first part, the Easter readings from the second, the season of Pentecost from the third. In this reading from (first) Isaiah there is an expectation of people 'from all nations' (an Isaiah trait) seeking out the ways of the Lord and the prospect of an end to war. The Isaiah reading presents a counterbalance to the apocalyptic urgency found in Isaiah.

## Christmas Services At St. Matthew's

### Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service

\* Monday 12 December 7.30pm

### Carol Services

\* Sunday 18 December 8am & 9.30am

### Children's Christmas Eve Celebration

\* 24 December 5pm

### Christmas Eve Late Service

\* 24 December 11.15pm

### Christmas Day Worship

\* 25 December 9am

## The Galston Concerts 2022

Sunday afternoon **20 November**

1.30 organ prelude - concert 2 till 3ish,

in Galston Uniting Church, 11 School Road, Galston

## The NSW Police Big Band

with vocalist **Belinda Parsons**

Bookings on-line at <https://www.trybooking.com> (search Galston)

Adults \$30; Seniors \$25; High school & tertiary undergrad \$10; 12 & under FREE

Enquiries to Galston Uniting office, 9653 2039 (Tuesdays & Fridays)

or to Robert Harris, Artistic Co-Director, 0428 248 348

*Our final concert in 2022, with five concerts planned for 2023.*

*To join our audience database please forward your email info to 0428 248 348*



Grantham Heights  
Uniting Church



## Safe Church Awareness Workshop

Presented by the National Council of Churches  
in Australia as part of the Safe Church Program

*(A NCCA workbook will be provided)*

### Details

#### Location:

Grantham Heights Uniting Church

19 Nipigon Rd, Seven Hills NSW 2147.

Google Maps: <https://goo.gl/maps/XiPRkrqT728o88in7>

**Date:** Saturday 26 November 2022

**Time:** 9.00 am to 4.00 pm

**Cost:** \$35 per person

Morning Tea provided, **please bring your own your own food for lunch.** *(No food for lunch will be provided)*

RSVP by 19/11/22 to [TrevorS@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:TrevorS@nswact.uca.org.au)

Enquiries 0414886527

\*\*\*Places are limited\*\*\*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

## WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



VOL. 17, NO. 1

14 NOVEMBER 2022 - 12 FEBRUARY 2023

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/  
EPIPHANY

## WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading  
guide based on the  
Revised Common Lectionary

Volume 17,  
Number 1

14 November 2022  
to  
12 February 2023

is available  
in the church foyer.

**Please place \$5  
in offering bag  
to cover costs.**

## A Sydney Alliance-Parramatta Mission forum

will be taking place at the

Fellowship Centre on

**Wednesday 30 November, 6 - 8pm.**

Matt Kean, the NSW treasurer, will be special guest. The evening will include information/discussion on topics such as inequality & cost of living, affordable housing/ renter's rights, affordable and renewable energy, and climate change. A team of congregation helpers is being organised.

If you would like to help, please let us know.

NB: Attendees (inc. congregation volunteers and general participants) need to register in advance:

<https://events.humanitix.com/parramatta-assembly-with-nsw-treasurer-matt-kean>