



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

19 May 2024

Pentecost

Bible Readings

8am and 9.30am

Acts 2: 1-17

John 15: 26-27, 16: 4b-15

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
8am and 9.30am only**

8am—Worship

Led by Roland Bryant
And Jon Humphries

9.30am—Worship

Led by Sharon Underwood
and Jon Humphries

KUCA Preschool, Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by Morning Tea

6.45pm—Worship

Led by Abbey Sim
and Jon Humphries

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 20 May

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

lower hall

7.30pm—Finance Meeting

lower hall

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

NEW GROUP STARTS

All Welcome

in Community room and church

TUESDAY 21 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation

community room

WEDNESDAY 22 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

7.30pm—Church Council Meeting

upstairs hall

THURSDAY 23 May

9am-2pm—Op Shop

FRIDAY 24 May

5pm-7pm—Fusion Youth Group

upstairs hall

SATURDAY 25 May

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 26 MAY

8am—Worship

Followed by morning tea

9.30am—Worship

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

Followed by morning tea

5pm—Shine

6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

MINISTRY WORKER

DANIEL GIBB

Part Time

Email: daniel@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH OFFICE SECRETARIES:

ROBYN MORRALL AND LYNN SAMUEL

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MON-FRI

OFFICE : 9686 3003

Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

LOCATION:

CNR CHARLES & EDGAR STREETS
BAULKHAM HILLS

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Thank you to all who have
contributed to this publication.

Something to think about

19 May Pentecost Sunday

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 2: 1-21

Ps 104: 24-34, 35b

Rom 8: 22-27

Jn 15: 26-27; 6:4b-15

Swings and Round-a-bouts

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Many of us have been through many of these celebrations. The problem is that they all start to blur a little in our thinking over time, and like much of the stuff to do with the Church, there's a chance that we haven't necessarily been taught well or right.

Here are some things to either remember if you have heard them before or learn for the first time if you haven't.

Why the name?

Pentecost is fifty days after Easter. The name comes from the Greek word Πεντηκοστή [pentekoste] which means fiftieth.

Whitsunday

Whitsun (also Whitsunday or Whit Sunday) is the name used in Britain, and other countries among Anglicans and Methodists, for the Christian holy day of Pentecost. It is a derivative of White-Sunday, because it became a popular time for people to be baptised

and people have traditionally worn white for baptism (It is also technically/sort-of still in the Season of Easter, for which the liturgical colour is white.)

What are its Jewish roots?

Pentecost is a long-standing Jewish harvest party. Pentecost has strong connections to the Jewish celebration of שבועות [Shavuot] which in English is called The Feast of Weeks (Because Shavuot literally means 'weeks' in Hebrew). Celebration of Shavuot occurs on the 50th day, or seven weeks, after the sheaf offering of the harvest celebrated during Passover. The holiday is therefore also called Pentecost from the Greek pentēkostē ("50th"). of the three Pilgrim Festivals of the Jewish religious calendar. It was originally an agricultural festival, marking the beginning of the wheat harvest.

What is Pentecost About for Christian People?

Pentecost commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples/Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks.

Check out this great information from the Bible Project about Pentecost and Why it is important <https://bibleproject.com/articles/what-is-pentecost-and-why-is-it-important/>

Or just watch their video 'What Happened at Pentecost and Why It is Important?'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQhKWmFJKnA&t=3s>

Continued next page

Swings and Round-a-bouts - continued

What is Your Understanding of Pentecost?

Most of us have different, although similar understandings of what Pentecost means. It comes after Easter. There is the story of the disciples hearing a rushing wind and being touched by tongues of fire, and then speaking in different languages. This is the story told in, Acts Chapter 2. Of course if we read carefully, it only seemed as there were tongues of fire which rested on the disciples.

Of course, we should also remember that John has a different telling. In Chapter 20 Jesus appears to the disciples in a locked room, commissions them as apostles by saying, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." (John 20:21) – remember the main Greek word for send is ἀπόστολος [Apostolos].

So, what does it mean for the Holy Spirit to come to the disciples? Well, it is not that God, who is the person of the Holy Spirit [remember just as Jesus is the incarnation of God as a human, so the Spirit is a person of God, not separate from God] is not always with us. God didn't just show up to the disciples at that moment, but yet they experienced God in a very special and powerful way. The "coming" of the Spirit changed the way they were. Sometimes it is described as the birth of the Church.

I am not the theological expert in this. I am not a pneumatologist (person who studies the Holy Spirit – The Greek for spirit is pneuma). However, I do notice that the witness of Scripture is complex. Thomas wasn't there when the others received the Spirit, but he was the one who declared Jesus to be his Lord and his God. Our theology and Scriptures would tell us that one can only do that through God working as the Holy Spirit in someone. My point is that in all this what exactly happened when and to whom and how it happened seems less important than the reality that God works in us all and does so in different ways. The Season of After Pentecost is the longest of all the liturgical seasons. It is a

season of growth and action. Perhaps, in all this we should be focusing on discerning how God is working in us as the Spirit. Maybe we can recall our own 'Pentecost' when God touched us in some special way and set us on a new course/direction in life. Maybe, like Thomas in John and the many the other disciples who weren't counted in the Twelve, some of whose stories are told in Acts, we will look to experiencing the coming of God as Spirit to us yet in the future. Maybe, like some in those stories we need to seek to get baptised to activate the Spirit in us (See 8:36-38) or find that God calls to us through others like Lydia (Acts 16:13-15).

What Might it Mean for Us?

In the Uniting Church, in our Basis of Union, in Paragraph 13, it states, "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." Pentecost, however we choose to understand it, or whatever stories we focus on, sits within our liturgical calendar. That is why we remember it. The season which it bring on is about growth in faith, discipleship. Let us celebrate this great occasion. Let us wear red and do all sort of creative things. But in all this, let us remember that we are called to be the Church for God's purpose. We have gifts and ministries, to discern and take up as we continue in discipleship.

So maybe once the red of Pentecost changes to green, we can settle into the rhythms of life, slightly changes and more intentional about how God is working in us as Spirit. It is certainly something to think about.

God bless

Jon

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

19—25 May

Indian Ocean Islands: Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles



PEOPLE NEWS

Jane Jenkyn
Trevor Leslie
Christopher Gibb

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

JUNE 2024 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES at the church

2nd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
includes Communion

9th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm
Community Meal

16th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

23rd June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

30th June - 8am, 9.30am, 6.45pm

Live streaming at morning services



Christian Meditation Books

If you have borrowed any Christian Meditations booked from the table in the church please return ASAP. Also if you have taken any of the books for purchase, please give the money to Katherine.

Many thanks

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.

Please ensure you correctly turn off the automatic door when you leave, it is easy to set it to the wrong setting and it has been left open a few times lately.

If you have used the automatic door for your group, you are responsible for ensuring that it is locked when you finish. *Thank you*



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Op Shop Support Needed

People to help with:

- Sorting and Pricing 'trash and treasure' for the Garage Sales
- Washing pre-loved 'treasures'
- Sorting & Pricing second hand clothing
- Serving customers
- Creating shop displays



For more Information please contact the church office.

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

For Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter for 10 May 2024 please see link :

[New Insights \(uca.org.au\)](http://uca.org.au)

St Matthew's

HAPPY HOUR!

At The Winston

170 Caroline Chisholm Drive, Winston Hills

7
JUNE

5 PM
FRIDAY



COME AND SHARE IN SOME HAPPY
CONVERSATION, A DRINK AND SOME FOOD
WITH FRIENDS FROM ST MATTHEW'S.

RSVP to Belinda or just come along
bdschuster@optusnet.com.au



ROSTERS

Worship Rosters for 8am and 9.30am,
for June, July and August 2024
have been emailed.

If you do not have email or would like an A3 copy please
collect a copy from the table in the church foyer.

**If you are able to help with any of the gaps
please contact the church office.**

*Thank you to everyone who has helped on the
last 3 month roster and to those who have been
able to help on this roster.*



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

NEW GROUP

MONDAY

Evenings

7.30pm—8.30pm

Starting 20th May

Tuesdays at the Church
9.30am-10.30am

For more information or to
express your
interest in attending
please contact

Katherine Pedersen (Facilitator)
for more information
kathped56@gmail.com

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea



**You can also
make a
donation by
clicking on the
link below or**

Scan to Donate



Unique ID: 48251631

<https://www.biggestmorningtea.com.au/fundraisers/DulcieDuncum/biggest-morning-tea-nsw>

You are invited to join with us for

'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'

being held at the home of

Dulcie & Peter Duncum

at 53 Sarah Crescent Baulkham Hills

Friday 31st May.

**Everyone is welcome,
so please come and join with us**

from 10.00 am

in support of the work and fundraising of
The Cancer Council and of our many friends who
have journeyed with cancer.

Bring your friends also.

We look forward to your company.

**We're hosting a
Biggest Morning Tea**

**Please help us
support people
impacted by cancer!**

Barry Gregory
0425 815 340
Dulcie Duncum
0417 070 848

Community Presentation Uniting Church Wentworthville

23rd May 2024

Wentworthville Uniting Church are hosting (on behalf of Presbytery) a Face Dementia presentation led by Dr Meredith Gresham, a Research fellow in the school of Health and Society in the University of Wollongong.

Worried about dementia and brain health?

- Learn about dementia and how to recognise the early signs and changes.
- Learn how to reduce your risk of dementia.
- Get tips to improve your brain health.
- This is your chance to have all your questions answered.

TIME: 10:00am

VENUE: Uniting Church 115 Station Street, Wentworthville

 Face Dementia



Free Community Presentation

Meredith writes:

"We are 7 Australian Universities working on the ['Face Dementia'](#) project, which aims to reduce stigma of dementia and communicate with the public to help them recognise the signs, ask a GP and get the right treatments and support. Currently it is estimated around 50% of all people with dementia never get a diagnosis. We are focusing on Western Sydney in this campaign where population statistics indicate there should be between 9-12,000 people with dementia, whereas only a little over 3,300 people have diagnosis are registered with their GP.

I am delighted that Dirk is keen to utilise our services to help your congregations better recognise people with dementia to get the right support. We are targeting older people (over 65) and adult children who may be concerned about a parent or older relative.

Our team are happy to provide talks (tailored to audience), run information tables at events, write article and blogs for newsletters, speak to welfare staff/lay staff or other ways to get positive messages out that there are benefits to diagnosis... not least getting help and support to live well. We can use our Dementia Australia Advocates to speak from lived experience of dementia as well".

You are warmly invited to attend this event.

PENTECOST

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD



VOL 17, NO. 7
13 MAY - 11 AUGUST 2024

PENTECOST

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

a daily Bible reading
guide based on the
Revised Common
Lectionary

Volume 17,
Number 7
13 May
To
11 August 2024

is available
in the church foyer.

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

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.***

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 dove image / publications or find in recent posts.