



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

Weekly Newsletter

12 October 2025

Pentecost 18

Bible Readings

2 Kings 20: 1-6, Mark 11: 24

John 15: 7, Hebrews 11:6

Matthew 21:22

Response after Bible Readings

Leader: In this we hear the word of God

Response: Thanks be to God who speaks to us as spirit.



8am—Worship
Led by Vanessa Williams-Henke

9am—Worship @ the Willow's

9.30am—Worship
Led by Vanessa Williams-Henke
Followed by morning tea

KUCA in Recess for School holidays

6.45pm—Worship
Community Meal

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

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

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

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

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

7.30pm—Christian Meditation

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

9.30am-11am—Christian Meditation
community room and church

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open
9am-12pm—In Stitches
upstairs hall

10.30am—Community Cuppa
lower hall

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

9am-2pm—Op Shop open

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

No Scheduled Activities

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

8am—Worship

9.30am—Worship

KUCA Preschool,
Years K-2 & Years 3-8
Followed by morning tea

2pm—Welsh Choir & Bones of Contention



6.45pm—Worship



MINISTER

REV JON HUMPHRIES

Email: jon@stmatthewsuniting.net.au
jhumphries@nswact.uca.org.au

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

OFFICE : 9686 3003
Email: office@stmatthewsuniting.net.au

CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

MIKE UNDERWOOD
Email: mikeu@nswact.uca.org.au

CHAIRPERSON OF ELDERS

HELEN OLLEY
Email: helen.olley@optusnet.com.au

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

FACEBOOK:

@stmatthewsunitingchurchbaulkhamhills

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR 9639 8570

SONALI WANIGESEKERA
PO Box 321 BAULKHAM HILLS 2153

EMAIL: director@stmatthewsps.net.au

Something to think about

12 October

Pentecost 18

Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

Christian Enlightenment

I was buying a light globe the other day and was faced with the choice of whether or not to go with dimmable one, or the standard on/off version of the globe. To me this spoke a little of the notion of Christian enlightenment or enlightenment in general. Many in the world see enlightenment like the on/off light globe. In this way there is a moment when we are switched from unenlightened to enlightened as if some spiritual or mystical switch in our minds and souls gets activated. Yet, the reality is that even if one experiences a moment of such epiphany or mystical enlightenment or conversion, the reality is that enlightenment is actually a process that takes a longer time to unfold in us and transform our spirits and being.

In one of his meditation talks, Father Laurence Freeman explores the symptoms of enlightenment. Whilst symptoms suggest it might be an ailment rather than a blessing, and we might otherwise describe them as stages, he speaks about what might be observed in someone who is undergoing enlightenment. He says, "The symptoms of enlightenment, what are they? They're rather like what Evagrius and the Desert Fathers called apatheia. It means literally 'being without disordered passion', but it's a highly energised state. In the way that we understand it and they taught it, it's part of a cycle that we pass through regularly. We are always in this cycle of spiritual growth as we move from acedia, which is discouragement and dryness and depression, to apatheia when things bloom as they do in springtime and in the height of summer and everything is fully alive. And it's also a state of peace, of joy, being without fear, high energy, and the ability to actively participate with the people in the world around you. And this overflows then into the third stage, which is agape or the boundless love of God."

You can listen to the full talk about enlightenment by Laurence Freeman on the World Community for Christian Meditation website



<https://meditationtalks.wccm.org/cd/2YV0yOgQfsINx5tR1Lso>

Continued next page

Even if we have a conversion experience, a mountain-top revelation or an epiphanic experience of enlightenment, we still need time to process and come to understand what that means for us. So, the reality is that enlightenment, at least from the Christian perspective, is tied with our redemption and transformation that God is working within us as the Holy Spirit. We are always being redeemed as new aspects of our understanding and our living are transformed in metanoia [the radical transformation of heart, mind, soul and being which is often referred to as repentance].

Another way of thinking about our enlightenment as followers of the way of God, which we learn from God as the person, Jesus, the Christ, is to look at the word literally. Enlightenment is the process of lightening in us. We are called to be light of the World as we seek to become more Christlike – the Christ being “The true light, which enlightens everyone.” [John 1:9] So, as God works within us, God helps us unbushel or reveal and uncover the light of God which shines within us so that others might see the light of God and come to find that same God and light within them.

Enlightenment can also be seen as lightening in the form of us being less burdened. In this we need to be careful not to view the lightening of our burdens as about them being removed or lessened. In fact, the reality of us taking up our crosses and following God who is Christ and embodying the agape love of God means that we will experience some greater burdens as we share the burdens of others and join in the heavy lifting of God to raise humanity to higher being. What enlightenment means in this sense is the lightening is actually a strengthening of our faith and discipleship. It is not that the burden become lighter, but we become stronger as God does the actual heavy lifting within us so that burdens seem lighter.

When Jesus says, ““Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,” [Matthew 11:28-30] we need to note that is still a taking on a yoke and burden, but at the same time we find rest. The burden of God is light. This might mean that we don't feel it as being heavy, but it can also perhaps be about literally being light. We are called to be light of the world, and we need to let God work in us to unburden us of all the stuff that gets in the way of God's light shining into and out of our lives.

Enlightenment is a process of the evolution of our souls. It is the renewing our spirits. It is the symptoms or signs of us allowing ourselves to submit to the work of metanoia which God works within us. That is why disciplines such as contemplation and meditation are important but also paired with such work as manifesting the fruit of the Spirit and the big stuff of just engaging in love and good deeds. In this way, enlightenment is a symptom or sign of how “,,, it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill God's good purpose,” [Philippians 2:13] “and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” [Romans 8:28] How we are working to seek enlightenment, or more importantly, letting God enlighten us is something important to think about.

God bless

Jon

Let's Make a Banner!!

To Celebrate the 50th Anniversary, we will be creating a banner which will be hung in the church. Everyone is invited to participate in creating this special reminder of a great celebration of us all still Growing together.

This Sunday 12 October

2-4pm at the Church

**Will be meeting in the hall
to construct the banner.**

**Please make sure all the letters
have been returned**

**Everyone is welcome, the more hands we have
the quicker it will be finished!!**

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's effort come together hanging in the church in November.

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.

PEOPLE NEWS



Ted Page
Geoff Benoit
Sandra Gordon
Phil Bunn
Jiwon MacWilliam
Michael Strong

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

12-18 October



*Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua,
Panama*

SYNOD SPOTLIGHT

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

Uniting Church Synod Spotlight Newsletter

For (3 October 2025) please see link to Synod weekly:

[Synod Weekly Spotlight 2025 - 3 October |](#)

Choir Practice

There will be a Choir practice at the church on

**Saturday 22 November
From 10.30am to 11.30am**

This practice is to prepare for the Anniversary service on Sunday 23 November



Your Help is needed

50th Anniversary
celebrations



Your help is needed to sort and create power point presentations from the many photos that have now been received.

Please contact Greg if you can spare some time to help.



Please complete the form in the foyer if you know of any past St. Matthew's members that we could invite to our celebrations.

Afternoon tea help required

The Women's Fellowship ladies will be catering for afternoon tea on Sunday 19th October following the performances of the Welsh Choir and Wesley Trombone Choir which commences at 2PM.

It would be very much appreciated if there are any ladies attending the event who would like to bring a small plate of food to assist with the catering.

With Thanks from the Women's Fellowship Catering Ministry

Willow's Service on 9 November

June Davey is asking for help to play the piano at the Willow's service on Sunday 9 November at 9am. You will be playing traditional Hymn tunes.

If you are able to help on this day, please contact the church office or June Davey.

Thank you

**BAULKHAM HILLS & WESLEY UNITING
CHURCHES**

Present the
**SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR & THE BONES OF
CONTENTION [TROMBONE CHOIR]**

Sunday 19 October 2025 @ 2.00pm
**at St Matthews Uniting Church
Baulkham Hills**

Adults \$15, Concession \$10

Afternoon tea will be provided after the concert.



Please come
along for a little
while or the
whole time. Many
hands make light
work and would
be most
appreciated.

The property committee will be holding
the next working bee over 2 days to
make it easier for volunteers to attend.

**Friday 24th October
and
Saturday 25th October**

**8.30am to 12noon
Both days**

St Matthew's Social Action Missional Ministry Team

How doing little things makes a big difference.

Topic: Modern slavery in fashion industry supply chains

From Oxfam Australia's email of 13th Sept 2025:

"Together, we're calling on the Australian Government to prevent imports that encourage forced and child labour, exploitation and abuse, all of which amount to modern slavery.

It's hard to believe modern slavery could touch our lives, but our research shows that clothes made by forced labour are making their way into our shops. Other slavery-like practices including servitude, deceptive recruiting, debt bondage and the worst forms of child labour.

By adding your name to our petition to the Attorney General of Australia, you're calling on the Australian Government to:

Amend the Modern Slavery Act to require companies to undertake human rights due diligence — preventing forced and child labour before harm occurs.

Introduce strong responsible business laws so companies must prevent harm, address damage caused and be held accountable for human rights and environmental impacts. These laws should put workers at the centre, not an afterthought and include strong enforcement mechanisms.

Establish an import ban on goods made using forced labour, with the burden of proof on companies and remediation for affected workers built into the framework.

This petition is part of Oxfam's 'What She Makes' campaign, which demands big clothing brands pay the women who make our clothes a living wage. Together, with your voice demanding action, and Oxfam's direct engagement with brands, we urge clothing companies to take the crucial next steps to create a fairer fashion industry.

Further reading and action:

Oxfam's latest report, with contributions from the Human Rights Law Centre *Explore Unravelling Exploitation — Exposing the Need for Responsible Business Laws in Fashion Supply Chains today*. Link to the pdf: <https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/14662-What-She-Makes-Modern-Slavery-Report-WEB.pdf>

To sign the Oxfam petition: https://you.oxfam.org.au/unravelling_exploitation.html

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

To ask about joining the Social Action Group at St Matthew's
email Alexander on alexander.lawless7@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 28th October 2025 at 7pm in the Lower Church Hall



Celebrating 50 Years

St. Matthew's Uniting Church & Preschool's 50th Anniversary

Celebrate with us in November 2025!!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

9 NOVEMBER 2025

9:00 AM

**FOLLOWED BY
MORNING TEA**

BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE

**GUEST PREACHER
REV NICHOLAS FRIED**

PICNIC LUNCH

9 NOVEMBER 2025

FROM 11:00 AM

**JOHN CURTIN RESERVE
HUXLEY DR WINSTON HILLS**

**BBQ AND KITCHEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE
BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH**

**FOLLOWED BY GAMES AND
T10 CRICKET MATCH**

GAMES NIGHT

PLUS TRIVIA AND OPEN MIC

INCLUDES DINNER

15 NOVEMBER 2025

FROM 4:30 PM

TICKETS

\$ 20 ADULTS

\$40 FAMILIES

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE
OR AFTER CHURCH SERVICES**

**COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN
SHARE FOOD STORIES AND GAMES**

50TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE (CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL)

23 NOVEMBER 2025

9:00 AM

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

**BRING A PLATE OF FOOD TO SHARE
AND BBQ LUNCH - DONATION**

SHARE WORSHIP FOOD AND STORIES

**A SHOWCASE OF CHURCH AND
PRESCHOOL HISTORY ON DISPLAY**

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF PLANNING TO
ATTEND FOR CATERING (02) 9686 3003**



st. matthew's
UNITING CHURCH
BAULKHAM HILLS
growing together

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrate with us In October/November 2025!!!

PHOTOGRAPHS REQUIRED

IF YOU HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OR STORIES FROM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS FROM THE LAST TEN (10) IN PARTICULAR WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPIES THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IN OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWCASE TO BE PRESENTED DURING NOVEMBER'S CELEBRATIONS. IN PARTICULAR WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES:

- DIRK VAN DOORENE CLOSURE OF MINISTRY SERVICE & MORNING TEA
- JON HUMPHRIES INDUCTION SERVICE
- ACTIVITIES & EVENTS DURING COVID
- VARIOUS CHURCH GROUPS ACTIVITIES AND PEOPLE
- SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES AND MORNING TEAS
- ANY OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 50 YRS)
- SHORT STORIES IN THE LIFE OF ST MATTHEWS (LAST 10 YRS)

**IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORABILIA TO CONTRIBUTE,
PLEASE SEE GREG GIBB OR CALL HIM ON HIS MOBILE 0414 764 437**



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growing together

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

ST MATTHEW'S UNITING CHURCH
AND PRESCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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SAVE THE DATES

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025

SYDNEY WELSH CHOIR PERFORMANCE 2:00 PM

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE – FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA 9:00 AM

PICNIC LUNCH AT JOHN CURTIN RESERVE WINSTON HILLS FROM 11:00 AM

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2025

SOCIAL EVENTS AT CHURCH

- DINNER, OPEN MIC & GAMES NIGHT FROM 5:30 PM
(SHARE FOOD, STORIES & GAMES)

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP SERVICES WITH GUEST PREACHERS 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 6:45 PM

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2025

50TH ANNIVERSARY - CHURCH & PRESCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 AM

- CHURCH & PRESCHOOL SHOWCASE (AFTER WORSHIP)
- MUNCH (SHARE FOOD & STORIES) (AFTER WORSHIP)
- YOUTH SERVICE (INCL SHINE CELEBRATIONS) 6:45 PM