

Cross & Keys

May 2019 - Newsletter of
Saint Peter's Church



Anglican
Church

Saint Peter's East Maitland



The Anglican Parish of East Maitland
Saint Peter's Church
47 William Street East Maitland

Serving the Communities of Ashtonfield,
East Maitland, Four Mile Creek, Louth Park,
Metford, Pitnacree, Tenambit and the Hunter Region



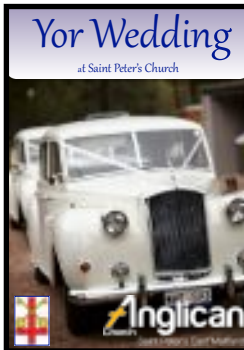
Parish Office & Parish Information The Parish Office is normally open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and is the first point of contact for all parish enquiries and bookings. If the office is unattended please leave a message. Contact details and information about our regular activities can be found in our *Welcome Guide* available at the back of church, on the parish website, or through the Parish Office.

Pastoral Care Please advise the Parish Office of any pastoral needs and especially if someone is in hospital. If you need the assistance of a priest at any time please contact the Parish Office. After hours the office telephone will automatically re-direct you (without charge to you) to a member of staff who can assist you.

Baptisms and Weddings Information about baptisms (christenings) is available on our parish website. Information about holding a wedding at Saint Peter's is available in our *Wedding Guide* and on our wedding website. The best way to make an enquiry about baptisms or weddings is through our websites.

Site Hire The Parish Hall is available for hire for one-off or regular community and commercial events.

School & Retirement Living We commend to you our Anglican College at Fletcher and our Retirement Village in Tenambit.

A large graphic with the text 'CHURCH TIME' in large, bold, black letters. The background is a photograph of a person's hands holding a small object, possibly a flower or a piece of fabric, with a rainbow-colored border at the bottom.

Come and join us for traditional Anglican worship with special activities and learning for children during the service

We meet on the First and Third Sundays of every Month during the Sung Eucharist at 9.30 am

in Saint Peter's Church, William Street, East Maitland

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Weddings: www.huntermvalleyweddings.info
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Saint Peter's Columbarium

The mortal remains of many of our friends and loved ones rest in the columbarium niches and memorial garden.

We invite all members of our local community to consider our columbarium as the final resting place for their cremated remains, where family members and descendants can visit.

For further details about purchasing a columbarium niche please speak to Maryka in the Parish Office.



Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College is a co-educational independent school that focuses on the development of the whole child within a caring, Christian environment.

Enrolments are now open.
To find out more visit our website www.btac.nsw.edu.au or contact our Registrar on 02 4979 8488.



A Message from Mother Beatrice Pate

Greetings to all, friends from our time at St Peter's in the 1980's and new friends we look forward to making.

One of the great joys of St Peter's is the love of music here. Thinking of music, and of Easter, and of the sense of returning as Dennis and I are with you for these months as I serve as your locum priest, this hymn came to mind.



*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.'*

The beautiful words about true simplicity, and about love and delight, lead to the final line: “by turning, turning we come ‘round right’”. To me this is bound up in our Christian hope of heaven, and fits with this season of Easter.

But coming back to St Peter's does hold a sense of turning and return, a return after thirty-five years to where I first began in public ministry. It is going to be lovely to catch up with so many parishioners from that time, and to meet so many others who I have not yet had an opportunity to meet.

Just a short recap of our history: In 1985 I came to work at St Peters as a Lay Parish Assistant. The previous year I had completed my Bachelor of Divinity at Sydney University. As this was before, well before, women could be ordained, I was unclear how ministry would unfold, but believed in my heart that ministry was what I was called to. It was then a great opportunity when I was invited to meet Fr Greg Holmes with the view to working here as a lay assistant and a huge thing for not just me, but the whole family, as we moved from Sydney to East Maitland and I took up my position as Lay Parish Assistant.

My husband, Dennis, was able to get a transfer to work in Newcastle. He was a Senior Technical Officer in what is now Telstra. Transfers were as rare as hen's teeth, so we saw this transfer as very providential.

Our three children, Alister, Heather and Kathy (aged then from 8 to 13) also had big changes to make, to new schools, friends, connections. One of my responsibilities was the Youth Group, a large group at that time. One of the members of the group is known to you all: Bishop Sonia. Friendships our children made in that group have continued to this day.

In 1988, deaconing was now possible for women, I, along with the Rev'd Audrey Fuller was ordained Deacon. The picture shows us all outside the Cathedral on that very special day. By that time, Fr Rod Turner was Rector at St Peter's and I continued as honorary Deacon, until in 1989 I went to St Augustine's Merewether, once more to work with Fr Greg Holmes as Deacon Assistant.



So, as I did not go to Theological College, rather educated in the academic environment of Sydney Uni, what I learnt of ministry, of worship, of pastoral care, I learnt here at St Peters under the excellent examples of Fr Greg and Fr Rod, and I will always be so very grateful to what they, and you, here at St Peter's taught me.

A quick run through the remaining years, after serving at St Augustine's for three years, Bishop Alfred sent me as Deacon in Charge to the Church of the Transfiguration at Windale. Later that year, 1992, the General Synod of Australia passed legislation to allow for the priesting of women, so that year, I and the other women deacons, were ordained priest at Christ Church Cathedral, coming after so many years, a powerful and beautiful occasion.

Following my years at the Church of the Transfiguration, I moved as Rector to St Paul's, Kurri Kurri, and then to St John's, Raymond Terrace, during most of those years serving also as Archdeacon of Maitland. I retired from St John's, when I turned 65, and retirement age in this Diocese. But then, Archbishop Roger Herft offered me a parish in Perth Diocese where the retirement age is 70, and I served my last parish appointment as Rector, for 5 years there at St Paul's, Mirrabooka.

So, this is where the hymn comes in with its motif of turning, turning! Here I am, for a few months, turning up to serve as your locum priest. As I said, my formation in ministry was here at St Peter's, and I am very much appreciative of the opportunity to be with you for this time, renewing old friendships, and making new.

And this Easter, the reminder that hymn gives that in our worship, week by week, "turning, turning," till all comes out right – and that is the promise of heaven. So, during these Easter weeks, let us worship with joy and hope and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who promises he is with us always.

Mother Beatrice Pate

Men's Fellowship

Each month the menfolk of the Parish get together for the Men's Fellowship Dinner where they enjoy a social evening that usually includes a guest speaker but always involves an opportunity to socialise and enjoy each other's company.



The next Men's Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday 22nd May at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. This will be a Partner's Night as we welcome Colonel Neil Moddermon as our Guest Speaker. Colonel Moddermon will be talking about his long and varied career in the military.

There is a sign on sheet at the rear of the church - please ensure that this is completed as we need numbers for catering.

Families at the Foot of the Cross

Our Good Friday service for Families, “Families at the Foot of the Cross” has been a beautiful part of our worship for the past four years and this year was no different. Designed to be a simplified version of Stations of the Cross, we created an interactive experience of the last week of Jesus’ life, so that families and children could walk in Jesus’ footsteps, and understand the events of this most holy week in a more practical way. Our ‘stations’ included Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Trial and the Crucifixion. Between each stage we paused for prayer, and even sang songs as we moved from place to place.

An important consideration for us was to ensure that this experience would be appropriate for children, while staying true to the essential truth of what Good Friday is really all about. The most potent way we are able to do this was through the flower-cross. An important feature of each of the past three years, the flower-cross accompanied and illuminated the idea that the cross is in many ways a sad symbol, (and that it is okay to feel sad when we think of what Jesus experienced), but that it is a symbol of joy too, as it is in the cross we see what Jesus was prepared to go through for our sake – He loved us so much that He would willingly go through this for us. Not only was it a beautiful symbol but it was a great deal of fun! Young and old had a wonderful time placing the flowers (some of them brought along from their own gardens), and creating something beautiful that could remain through the entire weekend.

This special family gathering was an incredibly vital part of our Holy Week observances. Although children are more than welcome at any of our services we feel that it is important that they have space in this week to learn in their own way, and to grow into an understanding of Christianity that we pray will stay with them as they move through life. It is important for the adults too – as we deepen our understanding of faith, it helps to come back once again to the simple, childlike faith that undergirds our beliefs, and the way we live them out in our lives.



Palm Making

In traditional Christian services Palm Sunday is used to observe the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. One way people have given more meaning to the palm leaf is to form it into the shape of a cross, thereby symbolising Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Making the palm crosses in readiness for Palm Sunday is part of the tradition of the church. Many thanks to our team of Palm Cross makers who worked hard to produce a large quantity of palm crosses that were handed out on Palm Sunday to all who attended.



Parish Diary

Special Events in May

Please join us and invite your friends!

**11th May - 10am - 12 noon
Baby Shower for Liz Brown
In Parish Hall**

Special Events in June

Please join us and invite your friends!

**2nd June - 12 noon
Mission Lunch
In Parish Hall**

Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome all those who will be baptised into the Body of Christ at Saint Peter's in the coming weeks, amongst them **Violette Margaret Christensen, Dakodah Maree Edmonds, Ziggy Mitchell Field, Imani Jade Dillon, Zara Louise Brown, Karli Lee Asquith, Huxton Keith Joseph Walker, Archie Nicholas Rowe, Evie Grace Edwards, and Wyatt James Collins.** Please pray for them and for their families.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all those who have died recently, and amongst them for **Elsie Heather Jean Pearson, Grant Foster, Una Edith Owens, and Donald Bell.**

In Memoriam

Throughout the year we pray for the souls of loved ones on the anniversary of their death. Each year families remember loved ones who have died by dedicating memorial flowers in the church on the weekend in which they are included in our prayers.



In the coming weeks flowers will be placed in church in loving memory of **Alan and Georgina McNelis.** Please pray for their souls, and for all who continue to mourn.

- 1st May 6 pm: Companions of Saint Peter Eucharist and Chapter Meeting**
(and 1st Wednesday each month)
- 2nd 4.30 pm: Talitha Community**
(and every Thursday in school term time)
- 2nd 4.30 for 5 pm: Community Meal**
(and every Thursday)
- 3rd 10.30 am: First Friday Eucharist**
(and 1st Friday of each month)
- 6th 10 am: Cursillo Group**
(and 1st Monday each month)
- 6th 2 pm: Enlightenment Group**
(and first Monday of each month)
- 6th 7 pm: Esther Community**
(and every Monday)
- 7th 10 am: Craft Time**
(and 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month)
- 7th 7.30 pm: Man Talk**
(and 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month)
- 8th 10 am: Enquiring Minds**
(and every Wednesday in school term time)
- 11th 10 am Baby Shower for Liz Brown**
- 12th 5 pm: Petrus Community Church**
(and 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month)
- 15th 6 pm: Supper with the Saints & 7 pm Compline**
(and 3rd Wednesday each month)
- 15th 7 pm: Parish Council Meeting**
- 18th 9 am Disaster Recovery Meeting**
- 20th 10 am: Mothers' Union Meeting**
(and 3rd Monday of each month)
- 22nd 6 pm Men's Fellowship Dinner - Partners Night**
- 24th 6 pm: Stations of the Cross**
(every 4th Friday of each month)
- 2nd June 12 noon Mission Lunch**

Mothers' Union Visit to Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle



On Monday 15th April a number of members and friends of Saint Peter's Mothers' Union paid a visit to Christ Church Cathedral. On arrival we were met by The Dean, The Very Reverend Katherine Bowyer, who took us on a guided tour showing us various items of interest including the stained glass windows, Saint Michael's Chapel (also known as The Warriors' Chapel), the Tyrrell Chapel (also known as The Bishops' Chapel), and many other treasures including The Bishop's Throne (Cathedra) and also sharing the history of The Cathedral with us.

After the tour we shared morning tea with The Dean. A lovely visit enjoyed by all.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets each month - including Church Wardens, Parish Councillors and members of the Ministry Team. Meetings cover a range of topics to ensure that all aspects of Parish life are considered and addressed in a timely fashion. Topics discussed at the April meeting included:

- . Safe Ministry Training to be scheduled for Saint Peter's - a tentative date of 22nd June 2019 to be confirmed.
- . A new Heritage Consultant to be engaged to conduct work on remediation of ramp to Northern Door of the church, including handrails.
- . We have been fortunate in getting a Volunteer Grant that will cover the cost of a new Fridge and Freezer to assist with storage of food for the Community Meal.
- . A Faculty is currently being prepared to remove the rear four rows of pews from Saint Peter's Church and remediate the floor within heritage guidelines.
- . A combined 8.30 am Sunday service to be held on the 5th Sunday for months that have 5 Sundays.

Update. - Following the resignation of Beth Wood from the Parish Council and her role as Church Warden, Kevin Short has been appointed as Church Warden/Rector's Warden.



Church Wardens - Anne Page, Geoffrey Seccombe (Chair) and Kevin Short

Families and Children's Ministry

Louise Hay provides an overview of her ministry and how much it is enjoyed by all

I would like to thank everyone who has kindly supported and encouraged me in my new role as Families and Children's Worker. It has been a busy first term for Play Time - we had a special day where the children were involved in making cupcakes. This drew a lot of attention with some new families coming along to check it out. The children had a great time and all took turns adding ingredients and filling up the patty cases. They then got to ice their cupcakes and eat them for morning tea. It was a very busy but enjoyable morning.

The play dough table continues to be a favourite for the children. They make so many things from shapes to fake food, which we have to pretend to eat. We also do art and craft projects so the children can take them home to show their family what they have done at Play Time that morning.

We have also been lucky enough to purchase new toys. These have been welcome additions as we start to replace our older and worn out toys. We have had a lot of great feedback from the children and mums.

Play Time is a busy and fun two hours. I think it is important for each parent or care giver to feel welcome and comfortable. With this in mind, Margot Miller volunteers her time twice a month to sit with the mums and chat with them. Margot also enjoys cuddles with the babies. Alan Moir volunteers his time with the set up of the hall and this is a wonderful help as it gives me more time to set up the art and craft activities and get all of the toys out. We also have Katrina Priestly who sets up the tea and coffee every week. These volunteers are invaluable as it not only demonstrates the wonderful community of the church but these mums, dads and care givers feel welcome and relaxed when they arrive.

If you have ever thought about volunteering your time, I encourage you to contact me. There are many roles with Play Time, Music Time, and Petrus that just may suit you!



Visit our Website: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

Latest News and Events + Information about the Life of our Parish

Mission Partnerships

Because of her, we can! was the theme of the 2018 NAIDOC week celebrations. One of the inspiring women recognised was the Reverend Gloria Shipp from Dubbo. Gloria was the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained as a Priest in the Anglican Church of Australia. She has been involved in parish ministry but felt a calling to explore new forms of culturally appropriate ministry which led to the establishment of Walkabout Ministries.



Walkabout Ministries encompasses chaplaincy at the Orana Juvenile Justice Centre in Dubbo, Women's camps, Men's camps (led by Gloria's husband, Eddie), an Elders' outreach group, Women's dinners and 'Women of the Bible' days, baptisms, an annual Christian rally, and a Reconciliation lunch.

On top of her busy local program, Gloria is also Chairperson of NATSIAC, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. In 2018 Gloria joined with the North-West River Convention Circuit run by Australian Indigenous Ministries to host a Dubbo rally during Easter. Gloria took some of the men from the rally to lead a singalong and share their testimonies with the boys at Orana Juvenile Justice Centre. This connection has led to a group from Moree continuing to come once a month to share time with the boys.

In seeking assistance to continue her work, following are just a few examples of where this funding is needed:

- Women's camps cost \$1,300
- Outreach trips cost \$1,500
- The Dubbo Rally costs \$1,500
- The Reconciliation Luncheon costs \$1,600
- Women's dinners and bible studies costs \$500
- Elder's lunch and craft costs \$700
- Outreach Family Fun Day costs \$1,200
- Men's Culture weekend costs \$1,300



Mission Lunch

We are delighted to welcome Graham Webb who has taken over the role of Parish Mission Giving Secretary at Saint Peter's from Kerry Bruce who looked after this role in 2018. Graham will be organising the 2019 Mission Lunch and has asked if you can consider items that can be donated to the trading table and raffle.

The 2019 Mission Lunch is scheduled for Sunday 2nd June at 12 noon in the Parish Hall. We will again be having a "Trading Table" with donations of items that can be sold on the day. Always popular are craft items, plants, and homemade cooking.



Donations for the trading table can be brought into the Parish Office.

Samaritans Disaster Recovery Training

Saturday 18th May at Saint Peter's Parish Hall

An Information Day is being held by the Samaritans Disaster Recovery Team on Saturday 18th May at Saint Peter's Parish Hall from 9.30 am – 12 noon. This will include a presentation on "Disaster Recovery and You" and the "Role of the Volunteer in Disaster Recovery". Morning Tea will be provided. For those who are keen to learn more, you are welcome to stay and participate with other members of the Disaster Recovery Team meeting for a training session from 1 pm – 3 pm.



During State-declared disaster events, a coordinated State Emergency Management Plan rolls out across affected areas. Disaster Recovery Teams are a part of that response. Disaster Recovery volunteers are often the warm, friendly face offering a helping hand in what can be a chaotic time for communities who are temporarily displaced. A number of Saint Peter's parishioners are members of the Maitland Disaster Recovery Team and know the value of helping at a time of need.

If you would like to hear more and think that this might be something that you could be involved with, come along to the meeting on 18th May.

Saint Peter's Emergency Relief Winter Appeal

With Winter fast approaching, Saint Peter's Emergency Relief is seeking donations of food items for Winter, including tins of soup, cuppa soup, packet pasta with sauce, pasta, pasta sauce, instant noodles, rolled oats, tins of stew, custard, and tins of tuna (large and small).



Food donations can be left in the basket at the back of church at our weekend services, at the Parish Office, or brought to Samaritans in the Parish Hall on a Thursday morning.

We are grateful to the group of volunteers who are members of the Emergency Relief team and work hard to ensure the smooth running of this program.

Lay Training Day

A Training Day is being held for Lay Leaders, Lay Liturgical Assistants, Lay Leaders and all who are interested in the Craft of Preaching and the Spirituality of Leadership, on Saturday 25th May, from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. Lunch is provided. If you would like to attend please RSVP by Wednesday 15th May to events @newcastleanglican.org.au or phone 4926 3733.

Parish Ministry & Staff Team

...we are here to help you

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Fond Farewell to Erica

On 27th April Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson and husband Rev'd Dr Ray Williamson were farewelled at a well attended Afternoon Tea on their final weekend at Saint Peter's. There is no doubt that Erica and Ray had taken on the Locum role at Saint Peter's with an enthusiastic and kind approach and will be missed as they return to their home in Sydney. A very special book had been produced for Erica with a range of photos taken during Erica's stay at Saint Peter's and it was evident that Erica was very moved by this very generous gift.



Community Meal

Saint Peter's Community Meal is held every Thursday afternoon, providing a delicious and nutritious meal at no cost for community members.

Volunteers are always needed, in particular Cooks and Assistant Cooks (no need for formal qualifications). If you have a few hours free on a Thursday please speak to Fr Peter and he will be happy to explain the available roles and what is required. He will certainly be grateful for any extra assistance.



Memorial Service for the Hon Milton Morris AO

Saint Peter's Church was packed to capacity on 13th April for the Memorial Service for Hon Milton Morris AO. With tributes from the NSW Premier, Hon Gladys Berejiklian, CEO of Wesley Mission, Rev Dr Keith Garner, Chair of Hunter Valley Training Company, Robert Cameron AO, and family members, there was no doubting the outstanding contribution Milton Morris had made to the community both in Maitland and across NSW.



Milton Morris became the State Liberal Member for the Seat of Maitland in 1956 and retained this Seat for a record term of 24 years until 1980, being re-elected at nine consecutive elections during that time. It was during this time he became Minister for Transport for a record term of 10 years where he introduced Provisional Licences, Breathalyser, Radar Speed Cameras and established the Traffic Accident Research Unit, compulsory wearing of seat belts and banned "supercars" from public roads, as well as commencing the Eastern Suburbs Railway.



With numbers in the order of 1000 people, additional seating was provided outside the church, and in the Parish Hall where the service was streamed for those who could not find a seat inside the church. Sophisticated audio/visual systems were in place with giant TV screens both inside the church and outside, and in the Parish Hall.

A wonderful tribute to a very special and highly regarded man. RIP Milton Morris.

A Prayer as we await a new Incumbent

Bountiful God,
give to this parish a faithful pastor
who will faithfully speak your word
and minister your sacraments;
an encourager who will equip your people for ministry
and enable us to fulfil our calling.
Give to those who will choose,
wisdom, discernment and patience,
and to us give warm and generous hearts,
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.





