

Cross & Keys

August 2019 - Newsletter of
Saint Peter's Church



Anglican
Church

Saint Peter's East Maitland

Patronal Festival 30th June 2019



Louise Hay receiving her Licence as Families & Children's Worker

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



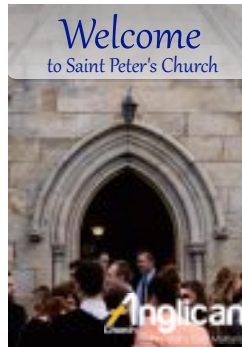
Parish Office & Parish Information The Parish Office is normally open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and is the first point of contact for all parish enquiries and bookings. If the office is unattended please leave a message. Contact details and information about our regular 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.



PLAY GROUP

Come and join us for our relaxed neighbourhood playgroup for new borns, toddlers and pre-school children with parents, grandparents and carers

We meet on Friday mornings during school term time from 10 am to 12 noon in St Peter's Parish Hall, Banks Street, East Maitland

Contact Ph. 4934 5303
www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

St Peter's Playgroup East Maitland



Parish Office Telephone: (02) 4934 5303
E-mail: office@eastmaitlandanglican.org
Parish: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org
Weddings: www.huntermvalleyweddings.info
Mailing: P. O. Box 662 East Maitland NSW 2323

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

“Treasure in Clay Jars”



What a beautiful church is St Peter's. Standing on the hill, our beautiful sandstone church, in which we worship, has been drawing people in, providing with its stillness and beauty a place to feel close to God, a place to pray both in times of joy and sadness.

But the word church, *ekklesia* in Greek, originally had nothing to do with a building – it derives from the first democracy in Athens – albeit a very limited one where voters had to be land-owning male citizens in a place where most people were slaves. But *ekklesia* meant the community gathered.

So, the actual church is us – we are the church. Not the building we worship in, though it bears witness to the beauty and truth of what we teach. What we need to do, then, is to also be beautiful.

This building has been built and added to over the years. – We, too, need to grow in beauty over the years. We come to faith and to worship in many different ways:

- some people have a day of conversion in their lives – it is essential to who they are, a moment in which eternity breaks into their lives – a timeless moment they will never forget.
- for others it is a gradual growing in the knowledge of the love and power and presence of God transforming their lives from childhood up.
- yet others come, often invited by friends, after years of seeking and longing for meaning.

But we must not to be static, stuck in a ditch, so to speak. We are, every day, every week, to be trying to be more Christlike in our living.

A small candle, lit from the Paschal candle, is given to the newly baptised to call them to follow the Light of the World, Jesus, and shine with some of the Christ light in their time and place. To be a baptised person, one who follows the Lord Jesus, recognises the love and generosity and compassion and mercy and inclusion which were so central to Jesus, and to try to live out these same characteristics in their lives. This is not something achieved in a moment of time, but one we must strive over days, weeks, months, years to grow as God's people.

Let me tell you about David from Iran – a refugee who had arrived by boat– first to Christmas Island, and very fortunately for him, with a bridging visa to Australia before the present regime, locking people up interminably, was instituted.

He came to me at St Paul's in the Perth parish where I was rector. Coming from Iran he was Muslim but wanted to become Christian – all a long story, not time here, but we found a group at a nearby Anglican church which offered a class for people from Iran preparing for baptism, taught in Farsi, his language, and, then back with us at St Paul's, Mirrabooka, and, in time, baptised and confirmed. All the while struggling with so many challenges from learning English till eventually getting a visa that enabled him to work.

When he had been with us at St Paul's for a few years, he was summoned by the Immigration Department – a very scary time. I went with him to his interview as his support person (security checked, but no right to speak). There was the immigration interviewer. I can't say she was dreadful, but she was certainly not friendly or welcoming, a threatening figure for the two-hour interview. All the questions and answers were relayed through the Farsi language interpreter so I could follow it all easily. The interviewer made clear to David she was deciding whether he would be sent back to Iran. As David had fled because he had fallen foul of the Secret Police, to have gone back, and as a Christian, it would have meant arrest at the airport, then imprisonment.

The thrust of many questions ran to whether he was genuinely Christian, the crucial issue. I sat in fear through the whole process. She asked David at one point, what was his favourite verse of the bible. I wondered what this new Christian would say. How much of the Bible did he really know, sitting in Church struggling to learn English?

What would you say if your future, your freedom, maybe your life depended on your favourite verse in the Bible? What verse would you offer? I held my breath for this new Christian, to hear his answer.

He said, "My favourite verse is when they throw the woman who had committed adultery before Jesus, demanding he condemn her for breaking the law. And Jesus says, 'Let the one without sin cast the first stone'".

You will recall the story. All the hostile, angry voices shouting at Jesus. He just stooped to the ground and drew in the sand. Then he stood up and faced her hostile opponents. And what did Jesus say? "Let the one without sin cast the first stone." He went back to his drawing in the sand, and one by one the crowd dispersed. For who could cast the first stone?

And here for David was the crucial point. The mercy and compassion of Jesus was what he wanted – not the narrow and judgmental, punitive kind of Islamic practice that existed around him in Iran, that which he had experienced and been terrorised for not supporting.

After the interview, the weeks passed stressfully, and then confirmation of his visa to great rejoicing in the church!

And in the succeeding years, David has gone from strength to strength.

So, as we worship in a beautiful church, let us each strive to learn more of our Christian faith, to grow in love for others, to strive for justice and peace, always working to grow to be more and more like Jesus, and show his beauty in our lives.

We know how fallible we are, how prone to say and do the wrong thing, yet we are to find our strength in God, and in following the way Jesus shows us. I always love the words of St Paul in 2 Corinthians:

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. (2 Cor 4.5-7)

Clay jars are faulty and fallible, just like us, yet God entrusts us with the beauty of Christ to show forth in the world. Let us grow in faith, learn more about Jesus, and show the community, compassion, love, generosity and unity our Lord teaches us. May we let Christ's light shine through us, that others may be drawn to know God's love for themselves.

Mthr Beatrice Pate

A New Incumbent for St Peter's

We were delighted to hear that a new Incumbent has been appointed for Saint Peter's Church. Rev'd Scott Dulley, together with wife Sarah and daughter Georgia, will take up residence at Saint Peter's from Monday 25th November, the date of Fr Scott's commissioning.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Scott to Saint Peter's and to extending the hand of friendship to him and his family.



Parish Diary

Special Events in August

Please join us and invite your friends!

Saturday 3rd August - 10.00 am
GAPS High Tea
St Peter's Parish Hall

Sunday 4th August - 12 noon
Pub Lunch
at The Bank Hotel

Special Events in September

Please join us and invite your friends!

Tuesday 3rd September - 10am
Anglican Womens Service

Sunday 15th September - 4pm
Sunday Afternoon Entertainment with
Movie "Three Summers"

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 **Levi Terrence Power and Nixon Lorton Douglas**. 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 **Maureen Ling, Edward Stashynsky, Reginald Clack, and Judith Mitchell**.

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 **Del Finch, Peter & Doug Terry, and Olivia Sharp**. Please pray for their souls, and for all who continue to mourn.

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| 3rd Aug | 10.00 am: GAPS High Tea |
| 4th | 12 noon: Parish Pub Lunch |
| 5th | 10 am: Cursillo Group
(and 1st Monday each month) |
| 5th | 2 pm: Enlightenment Group
(and first & third Monday of each month) |
| 5th | 7 pm: Esther Community
(and every Monday) |
| 6th | 10 am: Craft Time
(and 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month) |
| 6th | 7.30 pm: Man Talk
(and 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month) |
| 7th | 10 am: Enquiring Minds
(and every Wednesday in school term time) |
| 7th | 6 pm: Companions of Saint Peter
Eucharist and Chapter Meeting
(and 1st Wednesday each month) |
| 8th | 4.30 pm: Talitha Community
(and every Thursday in school term time) |
| 8th | 4.30 for 5 pm: Community Meal
(and every Thursday) |
| 9th | 10.30 am: First Friday Eucharist
(This month only due to works in Church) |
| 11th | 8.30 am: Farewell Tea for George and
Barbara Williams |
| 11th | 5 pm: Petrus Community Church
(and 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month) |
| 19th | 10 am: Mothers' Union Meeting
(and 3rd Monday of each month) |
| 21st | 6 pm: Supper with the Saints &
7 pm Compline
(and 3rd Wednesday each month) |
| 21st | 7 pm: Parish Council Meeting |
| 23rd | 6 pm: Stations of the Cross
(every 4th Friday of each month) |
| 28th | 6 pm Men's Fellowship Dinner with Partners |
| 1st Sept | 12 noon Parish Pub Lunch |
| 3rd Sept | 10am Anglican Womens Service |

Welcome to Aurelia Brown

Many congratulations to Elizabeth and Aaron Brown on the safe arrival of their daughter, Aurelia Margaret Joy Brown, on Friday 19th July 2019. Aurelia arrived in quite a hurry by Emergency Caesarean but both Mother and Baby made a quick recovery and are doing well.



Proud grandparents having their first cuddle



Aurelia means 'golden' and is the name of a hymn tune. Her middle names are in honour of her Grandmothers, Margaret is Elizabeth's Mother, Noelene's, middle name, and Joy is a variation on Joyce, Aaron's Mother's middle name.

Congratulations are extended to Aaron's parents, Lee Atcheson and Kim Brown, and Elizabeth's parents and now proud grandparents, parishioners Noelene and Peter Robinson, on the birth of their first grandchild – no doubt cuddles are the order of the day at the Robinson and Brown homes.

New Generation of Servers

The East Maitland Guild of Servers was pleased to welcome Ethan Hay to the team as one of the newest altar servers. Ethan is 8 years old and will be serving as crucifer every third Sunday at the 9.30am Eucharist. The Guild is also pleased to welcome James, Sage, Sofia, Anna and Karla as altar servers on the First Sunday at the 9.30am Eucharist and James on the 5th Sunday at 8.30am. Sage is 8 years old, Anna and Sofia are 13 and James is 6 years old.

All of our new recruits will be serving as crucifer and acolytes. It is a great privilege to welcome families and young people from our 9.30am Eucharist and Petrus Community Church to serve at God's Altar in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining the Guild of Servers, please talk to Kim!



Visit our Website: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

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

Anglican Women's Service

The 2019 Anglican Women's Service is scheduled to take place at Saint Peter's Church on Tuesday 3rd September, commencing at 10am with Morning Tea prior to the Eucharist at 10.30am led by Bishop Charlie.



The theme of the service is "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast" (*Ephesians 2.8*).

Anglican Women "exists to celebrate and support women, both lay and ordained, in their ministries and in their witness by providing opportunity for fellowship and the concrete expression of their unity in Christ". (The Most Rev'd Philip Aspinall, 2009).

It is an 'umbrella' organisation for ALL women who belong to the Anglican Church, those who belong to a group such as Mothers' Union, Guild, Choir, etc, as well as making provision for those not included in such groups. It aims to work toward the extension of Christ's Kingdom through encouraging worship, study, service, fellowship and giving.

Ladies - please mark this date in your diary and join other women of the Diocese at this very special day of service and fellowship.

Families and Children's Ministry

- an update from Louise Hay

We are back for another term of Music Time and Playgroup. Already we are welcoming new families to our activities which is so nice to see. We have so many new resources and toys the kids are having so much fun. We were lucky enough to have David Burton, Site Maintenance Manager at Saint Peter's make us two new art easels. He did a beautiful job making them, the kids loved them. We had so many paintings drying last Friday.



Music Time continues to be popular. We have purchased a new music program so we can introduce new songs to the kids. This will not only help to keep them interested but they will be able to learn the words to the new songs, the rhythm and playing their percussion instruments along with the music.

I am working on some new projects regarding our family ministry, so stay tuned for more information!



The Parish Hall set up for Playgroup with different areas for different age groups

Men's Fellowship Dinner

Saint Peter's Men's Fellowship meets monthly for dinner in the Parish Hall on the fourth Wednesday of each month, usually welcoming a guest speaker.

Our guest speaker this month was Joanne Fellows, a Social Worker with the Transitional Care Program with Hunter Primary Care.

Joanne spoke to us about her work in the Mental Health sector, where she focuses primarily on the Community. Joanne works mainly with older people where very often an experience of loss and grief leads to heightened levels of anxiety and depression.



Sadly there is a high demand for Mental Health support across all ages. By way of example, Joanne's workload allocation is 60 people per year, however she noted that in the first six months she had already worked with 47 people.

Joanne provided an interesting insight into the work of a health care professional and the demands placed on them by the ever increasing level of mental health issues.



The next Men's Fellowship Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday 28th August and will be a Partner's Night.

Please contact Father Peter Rothnie or the Parish Office for more information.

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 July meeting included:

- Possible removal of the ramp to the northern door to the church - parishioners to be canvassed for their opinions.
- Renovation work in the Rectory prior to the arrival of the new Incumbent and his family.
- Remediation work to the Northern Aisle of the church at the end of July.
- Compliance with Safe Ministry Training and Safety of Children and Vulnerable People.



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

Parish Office Hours

The Parish Office is open from 9.00am to 4.00pm Tuesday to Friday for all enquiries related to Parish matters. For urgent matters please phone 4934 5303 - in the event that the Parish Office is closed, the phone will divert to another number where a message can be left. Please allow sufficient time for the diversion to activate.

Fond Farewell to George & Barbara Williams

by John & Kathleen Waddell

The departure of George and Barbara Williams to Sydney will bring to an end one of the longest time links of East Maitland families with our Saint Peter's Parish. Both Barbara and George grew up here and moved to Sydney for their tertiary education. Their fathers were both school teachers and both the Williams and the Frater families were active in the parish.



After high school George studied for Arts/Law degrees at Sydney University and Barbara did her nursing training at St Luke's Hospital, Darlinghurst. They became regular attenders at Saint James Church, King Street, and this

provided an opportunity for their relationship to develop. At the end of her time at Saint Luke's Hospital Barbara worked for a year or more in the UK and in Vancouver, Canada. On her return to Australia they became engaged and then married. Their first home after marriage was a rural property at Thornton and their landlord was Milton Morris.

As a child George developed an attraction to music. He learned to play the piano from Miss Vin Smith of Lawes Street, East Maitland. He then learned to play the pipe organ from the Saint Peter's organist of the time, Mr Tom "Taffy" Pritchard. George has since then played regularly on the Saint Peter's organ roster with other sub-organists of the parish. George and Barbara have lived for many years at their cattle property at Hillsborough. They had there a high quality electronic organ, which among other things George used for practice of his church music at Saint Peter's.

Another role which George undertook for many years was membership of the Parish Council. That task fitted well with George's professional life as a Solicitor and his legal advice was readily available when required.

Throughout her long service to the church Barbara has belonged to a number of church organisations. One of the longest of her parish commitments was service to the East Maitland Samaritans Emergency Relief team as their Purchasing Officer. This continued for many years as she handled the role single-handedly.

We of the Saint Peter's parish are especially grateful to George and Barbara for their presence among us and we thank them with our hearts and souls. We express our good wishes to them both for their future lives in Sydney and we wish them God Speed in all things.



If you are a user of Facebook please like and share our Facebook Pages:

- East Maitland Anglican
- Petrus Community
- St Peter's Playgroup East Maitland

We are finding that Facebook is a very useful way to keep people informed about activities at Saint Peter's and has had a good response from young families interested in coming along to join Music Time and Playgroup.

Grandparents as Parents

An update from Peter Mullins

The annual Grandparents as Parents (GAPS) raffle was held on 25th June in the Bruce Street Hall where the weekly GAPS meetings are held. Many thanks to Jenny Aitchison MP who was kind enough to draw the winning ticket, which went to Delika Green. The raffle raised \$2,456 which will go towards sending all the grandparents and grandchildren for a three day break at Soldiers Point in November and for the Christmas Party. As always, a very big thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket.

East Maitland GAPS now has 32 grandparents. The leadership provided by Bev Steggles and Marilyn Seccombe is awesome and sincerely appreciated, as are all the volunteers who give of their time to support the group.

East Maitland GAPS has now teamed up with The Hunter River Hotel at East Maitland to conduct Friday Night Meat Raffles, which is working well. Every Friday night carers and volunteers sell tickets from 6pm onwards for the 7.30pm draw. This not only raises much needed funds for the camp in November, it also helps to raise awareness of GAPS. Please consider coming along to support the Hunter River Hotel on a Friday evening and say Hello to the GAPS team. A big Thank You to Michael and Maddie and their staff at The Hunter River Hotel for their support.



Mary Sumner Day - 9th August

Mary Sumner, the wife of an Anglican Clergyman, was the founder of Mothers' Union. With three children, back in the 1850s in England, Mary found motherhood a difficult task. In 1876 she devised a plan - quite radical in its day - to call together women of all social classes to support one another and to see motherhood as a profession as important as those of men, if not more so. From her first nervous meetings in the Rectory, where she encouraged women to pray, to be good examples to their children, and to uphold the sanctity of home life, Mary went on to address a Diocesan Conference and the National Church Congress, and in 1885 the Mothers' Union became an Anglican Diocesan Organisation.



Today, 140 years later, Mothers' Union has over 4.1 million members worldwide and is a powerful force, speaking to governments about such issues as gender equality and the rights of the child, and working towards the education and empowerment of women and the protection of children.

At Saint Peter's Church the Mothers' Union meets on the third Monday of each month in the Parish Hall Meeting Room, with Winter meetings being held in various member's homes. New members are always welcome - for further details please speak to Judy Redden.

Mission Partnerships

Church Partnership Program PNG

ABM have partnered with the Anglican Church of PNG and Anglicare PNG since 2004 as part of the Church Partnership Program. The Church Partnership Program brings together seven denominations and their Australian NGO partners to work together to improve service delivery and build resilience in rural communities, with support from the Australian Government.



Women from Sorovi community in Popondetta,

The Anglican Church of PNG and Anglicare (the Church's social and development arm) are focused on the areas of adult literacy, health, disaster risk reduction, gender equality, and child protection.

Key objectives include:

- improve the quality and standard of literacy programs, leading to increased opportunities for transition to formal education and employment
- promote healthy lifestyle messaging through schools and partner with the National Department of Health in supporting communities to self-assess healthy practices
- increase capacity and integration of gender equality and social inclusion through all church programs through gender equality theology and youth mentorship
- increase community awareness of potential disasters and work towards resilient and ready communities.

The Church Partnership Program is supported by the Australian Government through the Papua New Guinea–Australia Partnership.



Sunday Afternoon Entertainment

Mark the date in your diaries - Sunday 15th September 2019 at 4pm - Sunday Afternoon Entertainment in the Parish Hall with the movie "Three Summers". The cost of \$20 includes Food and Drink.

Three Summers is an Australian romantic comedy, written and directed by Ben Elton. Filmed and set in Western Australia at a fictional summer musical festival, over three consecutive years two musicians meet and fall in love at the festival amidst a microcosm of Australian society. The star studded cast includes Magda Szubanski, Michael Caton, Deborah Mailman, Jacqueline McKenzie and John Waters.

This acclaimed Australian film is sure to entertain.

The Parish Hall will be filled with laughter and great entertainment - please invite family and friends - all are welcome.



Anglican
Church of PNG
Sunday 15th September 2019
4pm to 4.30pm
St Peter's Parish Hall
52 Banks St, East Maitland

YOU'RE INVITED!

Sunday Afternoon Entertainment with Movie "Three Summers"

Cost: \$20 per person - includes Food and Drink

Parish Ministry & Staff Team

...we are here to help you

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A letter from Rev'd Angela

My dear friends at St Peter's East Maitland

It was such a delight to see so many of you at the Cathedral on the night of my ordination. I am very grateful to you all and also to those of you who could not be there but were praying for me as I prepared for ordination to the diaconate.



I have been very conscious of the support of the parish of St Peter's both during my time as your Ministry Apprentice and since my transfer to Christ Church Cathedral.

Thank you, from the depths of my heart!

My ordination service was one of the most special moments of my life and such a joy to share with my friends and family. I am excited about what the future holds for my ministry journey and I am looking forward to what God might have in store for me...

May God bless you all! Please know that you are very much in my prayers and I give thanks for your friendships and your prayers for me.

Peace and all good

Rev Angela

Nankeen Kestrel Returns

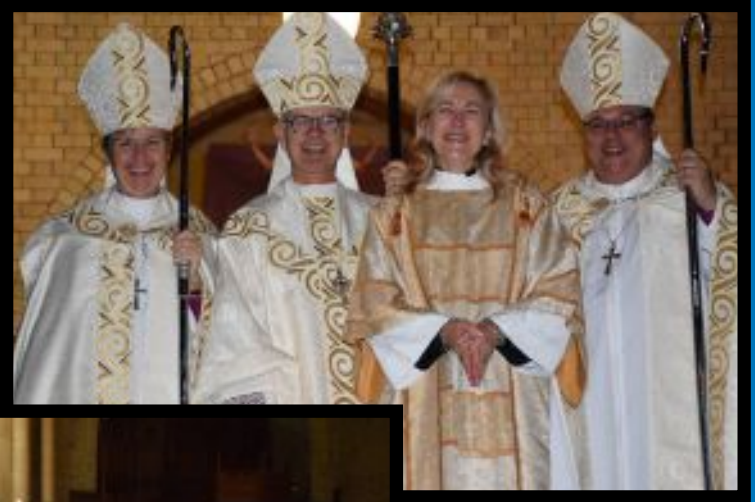
(See photograph on back cover - courtesy of Neville Foster)

After an absence of many years, the Nankeen Kestrel has returned to its roosting spot underneath the eaves at the Western end of the church. We are reliably informed that this was a permanent roosting spot for the kestrel until the year that the exterior of the church was painted, at which time it moved away. It was therefore very exciting to see that the kestrel has now returned to its favoured spot.



The nankeen kestrel is a raptor native to Australia and New Guinea. It is one of the smallest falcons, and unlike many, does not rely on speed to catch its prey. Instead, it simply perches in an exposed position, but it also has a distinctive technique of hovering over crop and grasslands.

Thank you to Neville for his sharp eye and his photography skills - and for having his camera at the ready.



Ordination of Angela Peverell



Nankeen Kestrel
roosting at Western end of church