

Cross & Keys

June/July 2021 - Newsletter of
Saint Peter's Church



Anglican
Church

Saint Peter's East Maitland



The Anglican Parish of East Maitland

Saint Peter's Church

49 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, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 3 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 provide a mobile phone number for a member of staff who can assist you, or you can leave a message.

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 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.

A background image for the Op Shop section showing a variety of clothing items hanging on racks in a well-lit room.

OP SHOP

Bargains Galore! Clothing, Household items, Books, Bric-a-brac - something for everyone.

Thursday 9am - 3pm
Friday 9am - 3pm
Saturday 9am - 1pm

Located at rear of St Peter's Parish Hall, Banks Street, East Maitland

Contact Ph. 4934 5303
office@eastmaitlandanglican.org
www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

Op Shop St Peter's East Maitland

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.

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

Scott's Spot



Only a few weeks ago I made my annual retreat with other clergy of the Diocese at St Joseph's Spirituality Centre at Kincumber South. As always making the preparations to be away from the Parish and our normal life took some coordination. This year for the first time it included arranging for my parents to travel from Queensland to stay for the week with Georgia and keep the home fires burning as Sarah and I were both on retreat at the same time. Once we arrived at the retreat centre, having negotiated afternoon traffic on the Central Coast, it was finally time to allow myself to enter into the space and the rhythm of the next few days.

I always look forward to and appreciate the rhythm of a retreat. The shared silence, the regular communal offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, talks from the retreat leader, a daily Eucharist and wrapping things up each evening with Compline. What struck me most this year is how much I was yearning for even a short time of a predictable routine. Life in our household for the past few months has been quite hectic at times and full of new experiences for the three of us. We have been learning to be family in a new way with both Sarah and I being engaged in leadership of three Parish communities between us. Our reality recently has been that the demands of our ministries has been fairly relentless and also fairly unpredictable at times. This is often the case for all clergy, for us it has just become multiplied. Learning new ways and establishing new routines in any situation can be draining. That has certainly been my experience of late.

You see I'm the type of person who works better within a reasonably consistent and steady pattern of life. I can be spontaneous and I'm told at times quite unpredictable, however for the most part I need things to be 'steady as she goes'. What became evident for me during the course of the retreat was the importance of regular and planned time apart from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. This is the time when I am reminded of who and whose I am. When my primary identity as a much loved child of God is affirmed. When as a person I can be reintegrated when I am at risk of becoming disintegrated. I am called to be a priest, husband, father, son, brother, friend and many other things to many other people. I am most fully able to be who I am called to be and do what I am called to do when I am well grounded in the deep and abiding love of God.

In numerous ways over the course of the retreat I was reminded of the fact that Jesus regularly took time aside from his work and ministry to maintain the deep connection he had with his father. I am encouraged by the fact that even the Son of God himself couldn't just keep on going all the time with what would have been a relentless and unpredictable experience of life. If Jesus needed that, how much more do I need that, and in fact how much do we all need that time?

I pray that you may find those bits of time in your life when you can be refreshed, reintegrated and renewed. And will you pray for me and Sarah and Georgia as we continue to discover and live into with integrity this new rhythm for our life.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.
Scott

Parish Diary June - July 2021

Special Events in June

Saturday 19th June - 8am - 10am
Men's Breakfast

Sunday 27th June - Patronal Festival

Special Events in July

Please join us and invite your friends!

Friday 2nd July - 10.30am First Friday Eucharist

Date for your Diary

We are delighted to advise that we are planning to hold Carols on the Hill this year - and the date is Friday 3rd December at 6pm in the grounds of Saint Peter's Church. This is still in the early stages of planning and we have not yet secured sponsorship, however we are working hard to make this happen. So, mark the date in your diary and don't miss out on what has previously been a wonderful community event for us all.

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|-----------------|--|
| 1st June | 2pm: Craft Group
(and then 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month) |
| 1st | 4pm: Pastoral Care Team Meeting |
| 1st | 7.30pm Man Talk
(and then 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month) |
| 6th | 4.30pm Petrus Community Church
(in St Peter's Church)
(and then 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month) |
| 8th | 10.00am Kinship Group (formerly GAPS)
(and then 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month) |
| 8th | 1pm Ministry Team Meeting
(and then 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month) |
| 19th | 8.00am - 10.00am Men's Breakfast
Parish Hall |
| 27th | 8.30am Patronal Festival Combined Service |
| 2nd July | 10.30am First Friday Eucharist |
| 28th | 7pm Parish Council Meeting |



Working with Children Checks & Safe Ministry Training

Throughout the Parish we have many people who volunteer to assist with a variety of roles. In order to comply with both legal and Diocesan requirements in regard to volunteers, many of our volunteers have been asked to provide Working with Children Checks and to attend Safe Ministry Training. For many of the volunteer roles this is an essential and necessary requirement.

Working with Children Checks

To get a Working with Children check requires you to apply online by going to the website at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/check and completing the online form. At this point you are provided with an Application Number - this then needs to be taken to the local Service NSW office together with proof of identity. For volunteers this check is free. You will then be provided with a Working With Children Check number - please advise this number and your date of birth to Maryka in the Parish Office so that she can complete the process.

Safe Ministry Training

Safe Ministry Training workshops are scheduled at various times during the year, however the training can be undertaken via online training via the following weblink:

www.openlearning.com/courses/safe-ministry-online-induction. The cost is \$30 per person payable directly to Openlearning.com. When you have completed the training please bring a copy of your certificate to Maryka in the Parish Office and a copy of your receipt for reimbursement.

Registers

Holy Baptism

During June and July baptisms are scheduled for **Connor Cameron Cassidy, Henley Buchan, Elijah Risby, Logan Risby, Evelyn Krake, Mia Edwards, Charlie John, Benji John, Caddy Macdonald, Charlotte Wilkins, and Kinsley Douglas**. Baptisms now take place on Sundays at 1pm.

Holy Matrimony

Please pray for those who have been married recently or who are preparing to be married in coming months.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all those who have died recently, including **Ian Hipwell, Joyce Bailey, and Father Paul O'Neill**. May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.



Memorial Flowers

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.

This is a lovely way to remember loved ones and to help Saint Peter's maintain a supply of fresh flowers throughout the church.

The cost of flowers is determined by the family making the donation, however as an indication this is usually in the order of \$150 - \$200.

If you would like to organise memorial flowers for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office on 4934 5303.



Change to Sunday Service Times

One of the suggestions that came out of the Parish Visioning Day was to combine the two Sunday services into one service at 8.30am each Sunday. In recent weeks a combined service was held for both Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday with feedback from parishioners being very positive. It was particularly noted that the increased numbers at the one service created a strong sense of parish community and that it was an excellent way to meet with other parishioners. The next combined 8.30am service is scheduled for the parish's Patronal Festival on 27th June with a view to making this a permanent arrangement from July onwards.

It is important that everyone has an opportunity to discuss what is an important change to the weekly calendar of services at Saint Peter's. Fr Scott is happy to discuss this further - please speak to him at any of the weekend services, or phone the Parish Office on 4934 5303 to arrange a convenient meeting time.



Happy 80th Birthday Bev ...

At one of their April meetings the East Maitland Kinship Care Support Group (formerly GAPS) celebrated Bev Steggles' special birthday. The Support Group has had Bev as their Facilitator for the past eight years and Bev is well liked and respected by all the Carers and Volunteers. Bev always has ideas on the agenda for fundraising and support to assist our Carers, especially our well-loved High Teas.



Bev's enthusiasm for volunteering and personal giving has seen her establish an upmarket Op-Shop for St Peter's Church with the assistance of a great team of volunteers. Bev also sponsors upmarket entertainers for St Peter's Carols on The Hill each December. Bev has a kind and generous heart that I appreciated by everyone.

As Bev's late husband Alan Steggles once proudly remarked to me in conversation "Bev is a very kind lady", that she is. Bev, we admire your energy and enthusiasm and wish you many more special birthdays.

God Bless

Marilyn Seccombe

East Maitland Kinship Care Support Group

Heritage Fencing for Rectory

Those with an eye for detail may have noticed that the Rectory fencing in William Street has recently been replaced. This was made possible thanks to a Maitland City Council Heritage Grant that allowed us to replace a very old section of unsightly paling fencing with picket fencing to match the fencing already in place. Historical documents seem to indicate that this style of fence was in place from quite early times.

We are grateful to Maitland City Council for their support in helping us to maintain the heritage appeal of St Peter's Church and its surrounds.



A Seat for Reflection

For those of you who visit the Memorial Garden at Saint Peter's you may have noticed a new stone bench. This was donated in memory of Father Rod Galagher. Many people enjoy the tranquility of the Memorial Garden and the additional seating will be appreciated by those wishing to sit and reflect on their loved ones, and just take time to relax in the shadow of the church.



Pictured here is Fr Rod's wife, Coral,

Mission Partnerships - Gaza Emergency

Conflict in Gaza has escalated in recent weeks, with at least 67 Gazans killed during Israeli air attacks. At least seven people have also been killed by Hamas rockets fired into Israel. Hundreds more have been injured and many homes destroyed.

The escalation was triggered by two recent developments. Firstly, Israeli settlers have lodged a case in Israel's Supreme Court to evict a number of Palestinian families from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, a mainly Palestinian neighbourhood of East Jerusalem. Secondly, Palestinians and Israeli police clashed at a Muslim holy site, al-Aqsa Mosque, last Monday.

The escalation of conflict occurs as Gaza struggles with a new wave of COVID, reaching 1000 new cases per day in April. As ABM partner Al Ahli Hospital observed, 'There are not enough beds or oxygen for patients.'

For those ABM supporters wishing to assist families affected by the latest conflict, ABM has launched an appeal. Funds will go to ABM's partner, the Al Ahli Hospital, for services for those affected in Gaza.



Samaritans Winter Appeal 2021

In May, Samaritans launched its annual Winter Appeal. As the organisation's key to delivering the social justice mission of our church, Samaritans work is deeply valued by our Diocese.



Samaritans is raising funds for its crucial work with youth facing homelessness across our diocese. Tonight, 26,000 Australians aged 12-25 are homeless.

Samaritans understands the challenges of housing young people who are disconnected from their families because we have provided government-funded youth homelessness refuges since 1993.

"Many of the young people coming to us have been couch surfing; moving between friend's couches. That's such a hidden form of homelessness and it's so unstable; at any time that person's friend can turn around and say they've overstayed their welcome. It's no way for a young person to live." - Kate, Samaritans youth support.

In 2012 Samaritans purchased a former school building which had previously been converted it into 21 residences. Now known as Samaritans Student Accommodation, this program is a mix of self-contained studios, one-bedroom units and two-bedroom units.

"It's a remarkable program. One of the young people living here has been here since she was 16. She's now 20, enrolled in university, and she's got herself a job and a car. She's kicking goals. To me that's a program that's doing wonders." - Kate, Samaritans youth support.

Each student is supported to complete their education with wraparound services that facilitate independent living skills, training and employment opportunities. Residents manage their own finances, transport needs and do their own cooking, cleaning and laundry.

This crucial program does not receive government funding and so relies completely on community donations to continue operating.

Donate today through your parish, or direct to Samaritans by phone 1300 656 336 or via the Samaritans website at [samaritans.org.au](https://www.samaritans.org.au).

Parish Governance

The Parish Resourcing Team meets monthly, with the Parish Council meeting every 2 months. At recent meetings the following topics were discussed:

- Master Key System to be installed across site. This has now taken place with every lock on site replaced.
- Church Roof - planning for replacement is in process and the Bishop has agreed for this to go forward to the next stage of planning.
- Emergency Management Plan update. This plan clearly details the action to take in an emergency and who is responsible for the various site roles. An Emergency Team Member has been nominated to take control in the case of an emergency and issue instructions for evacuation. The Team Leader will be identified by wearing of a Hi-Viz vest and hard hat. A list of Emergency Team Members will be placed at the back of the church.
- Incumbency Board Members nominated for the next three years. These are Anne Page, Graham Webb, and Kerry Bruce. Reserve Incumbency Board Members are Evanne Sherringham and David Wheeler.
- Return of Chalice at Communion.
- Visioning Day Feedback - priorities noted as being Liturgy, Families and Children, and Seniors.
- "Being Together" - update received from Diocese (copy included at back of this Cross and Keys)



*Churchwardens (l to r)
Anne Page, Kerry Bruce, Graham Webb*

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
- Op Shop St Peter's East Maitland



Parish Office Opening Hours

From 1st March 2021 the Parish Office opening hours have changed. The new Opening Hours are as follows:

Tuesday 9am - 3pm
Thursday 9am - 3pm
Friday 9am - 3pm

Outside of these hours messages can be left on the Parish Office phone (4934 5303) and will be responded to as promptly as possible during opening hours.

Vintage Market Day

by Jane Hall

The St Peters Anglican Op Shop Vintage Market Day held on Saturday 1st May 2021 Oh my Goodness! What a day it was!

They came, they saw, they bought!

The anticipation of a great day in the making started very early with volunteers and stallholders setting up their stalls of wares with excitement and precision. Everyone pitched in to help each other and as the sun started to spread its rays across our beautifully manicured grounds, the coffee beans at our Tunza Coffee Van were brewing, the BBQ was sizzling with the yummy aroma of sizzling bacon & egg rolls. Our GAPS Cake Stall, ceramic doll collection and vintage clothing stalls on the Op Shop verandah were ready and waiting, along with our amazing choices of beautiful donated plants with our very own "Nick the Plant Man Stall". The Op Shop Racks were full of our lovely array of winter clothing for everyone and all our usual bargains to satisfy all tastes & ages.

The Creme-de-la-Creme of our Vintage Day Wares lay in wait for the crowds in our Parish Hall, along with other Vintage related Stalls and Crafts from some pretty clever people. From the unusual to the just plain gorgeous, everything a vintage bargain hunter could wish for, we had it all!

After signing in on the NSW Covid App on entry, the crowds, and I mean CROWDS!, were treated to a fantastic day wandering our grounds enjoying all we had to offer for that day. There were many happy faces pretty satisfied with all their purchases and their newly acquired goods and chattel!

It was an amazing day which totally exceeded all our expectations! Everyone involved in getting this day up and running (so much work behind the scenes), setting up and working so hard on our Vintage Market Day is to be applauded. Thanks just doesn't seem enough. That's what makes our St Peter's Parish so wonderful. The hard work and support which you can rely on from our volunteers on days such as this is very uplifting. It is an honour and a privilege to work with our wonderful volunteers and have such an amazing result for our Vintage Market Day!

A huge big thank you to all!



Op Shop Update

by Jane Hall

I am sure we are all still reeling from the success and community support at our wonderful Vintage Market Day which exceeded all our expectations. None of this would be possible without the support of our amazing Parish Volunteers! It was such a great day.

For Mothers' Day the Op Shop ran a Mothers' Day Raffle with 7 lovely Prizes. The raffle was very well supported by many of our regular Op Shop Customers and Parishioners. A huge thankyou goes to Mr Kevin Jeans who is one of our biggest supporters of any raffle we have in the Op Shop. Kevin bought some tickets for Maureen and also wanted to shout the wonderful Op Shop Volunteers some tickets in the Mothers' Day Raffle! Such a wonderful gesture.

We continue to have wonderful support from the Community in the Op Shop. Our Facebook Community is growing every week. With this in mind our Op Shop philosophy remains the same:

1. Providing a community Service
2. Raising funds for the work of our beloved Saint Peter's Church
3. Reducing landfill through recycling.

If you are interested in joining our amazing team of Op Shop Volunteers for 3 hrs a month, fortnight or week, contact Jane on 0421 550615. We are open Thursday & Friday 9am – 3pm, and Saturday 9am -1pm.

Take care all!.



The Parish of Kempsey welcomes Reverend Jesse Poole

Macleay Valley Anglicans gathered at All Saints' Church Kempsey on Friday 14th May to welcome their new priest, Father Jesse Poole who was commissioned by the Bishop of Grafton, the Right Reverend Dr Murray Harvey.

Born in Maitland, Fr Jesse is excited to get back to his country roots, saying "I have enjoyed driving around the beautiful countryside and speaking with the locals – everyone has been warm and welcoming".

Baptised and confirmed at Saint Mark's Church in Islington in 2014, Jesse served as Ministry Apprentice at Saint Peter's Church, East Maitland until he was called to ordination by Bishop John Ford of South Australia in 2017. He moved to Kempsey from Victor Harbor on the Fleurieu Peninsula, SA, where he served as Priest for Saint Augustine's Church in Victor Harbor.

Father Jesse has a passion for advocating for social issues such as youth mental health, homelessness, food insecurity, disability inclusion, and working alongside people from all walks of life.

The Parish of East Maitland community was proud to hear of Father Jesse's appointment in Kempsey and wishes him well in his new role.



Farewell Reverend Kim

The Day of Pentecost coincided with Reverend Kim Hodges' final day at Saint Peter's as we bid our farewells to Kim who is moving to the Parish of St John's Cooks Hill as Honorary Assistant Deacon.

A combined 8.30am service was a fitting setting for Kim to preach her final sermon at Saint Peter's.

A morning tea was then held to provide an opportunity to present Kim with a gift from the parish, and for Kim to say her farewells.

We are confident that Kim will be a great asset to St John's Cooks Hill and look forward to hearing of her future achievements.



Welcome to the World Zephaniah

We were delighted to hear of the safe arrival of Zephaniah Peter William Brown on 10th May. Weighing in at 3.88kg Zephaniah was welcomed by parents Aaron and Elizabeth Brown and sister Aurelia.

Zephaniah's name is derived from the following bible verse that resonated with Aaron and Elizabeth when selecting a name:

"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing".
(Zephaniah 3.17 NIV)



Welcome to the world little man, may you know God's richest blessings!

Craft Group

The ladies of the Craft Group took on the challenge of making a Kokedama at a recent meeting. A Kokedama is a ball of soil, covered with moss, on which an ornamental plant grows. The idea has its origins in Japan, where it is a combination of the nearai bonsai and kusamono planting styles. Today, Kokedama is very popular in Japanese gardens, and is about to make its mark in East Maitland if our craft ladies continue their efforts.

Whilst at first appearances the table is set for a meal, the craft ladies were in fact laying out the “ingredients” needed to create their own Kokedama. Something a bit different to embroidery and knitting, but most definitely a craft that everyone was keen to learn more about.



Being Together

Expectations of behaviour in our church community

Jesus told us to love one another as he loves us. As Christians we know our life together is strengthened when our behaviour is consistent with our faith.

However, our experience of being together can be difficult, particularly when there are differences. So, it is important to be clear about how we will behave towards each other.



Being a community

- ✓ We will value the wellbeing and safety of others, especially children and other vulnerable people.
- ✓ We will encourage each other to participate in the life of the church.
- ✓ We will consider the impact of our behaviour on others.



Relating to each other

- ✓ We will protect the safety of all, especially children and other vulnerable people.
- ✓ We will treat each other with respect and dignity, irrespective of ability, gender, sexuality, race, age or contribution to the church.
- ✓ We will act with integrity and honesty in our interactions with each other.



Communicating with each other

- ✓ We will communicate respectfully with others, and not in a way that threatens, belittles or humiliates.
- ✓ We will speak with integrity and honesty, and refrain from speculation and gossip.



Acknowledging difference

- ✓ We will respect those who are different from us and not isolate or ridicule them.
- ✓ We will listen to and seek to understand the beliefs, opinions and practices of others, even when we do not share their views.



Responding to conflict

- ✓ We will accept responsibility for our part in a conflict.
- ✓ We will be willing to play our part in resolving a conflict.

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA





Anglican Church Newcastle

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(Approved by General Synod July 2014, revised on 17 April 2020)

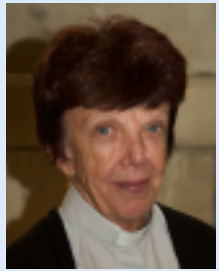
(Approved by Newcastle Diocesan Synod October 2015, Revision adopted by the Diocesan Council from 15 May 2021)



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Churchwarden



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Stephen McKinnon
Parish Councillor



David Wheeler
Parish Councillor



Barry Sherringham
Parish Councillor



Kevin Short
Parish Councillor

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PARISH
LEADERSHIP
TEAM
2021

