

Cross & Keys

November 2020 - Newsletter of
Saint Peter's Church



Anglican
Church

Saint Peter's East Maitland

Confirmation of Olivia, Darcy & Mia Hickey by Bishop Sonia on 11th October 2020



Sponsor (& Great Aunt)
Jenni Wyper



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



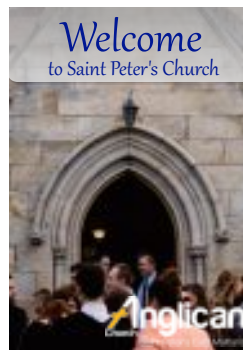
Parish Office & Parish Information The Parish Office is normally open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 4 pm and is the first point of contact for all parish enquiries and bookings. If the office is unattended please leave a message. Contact details and information about our regular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

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

A photograph of a clothing store interior with racks of clothes. Overlaid on the image is the text 'OP SHOP' in large, bold, red letters.

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

Parish Office

Telephone: (02) 4934 5303

E-mail: office@eastmaitlandanglican.org

Parish: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

Weddings: www.huntermvalleyweddings.info

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.



Scott's Spot

I love a road trip!! In recent weeks in our household we have been trying to make a decision about what to do for our Summer holiday. It's fair to say that our thinking has been seriously influenced by whether a certain Premier to the north would relent and open her borders and if so, when. A year with limited meaningful face to face engagement with family and friends has been difficult for us, as I know it has been for many of you as well.



We had to have a plan that did not include trying to run the border illegally, as exciting as that might sound! As we worked towards having plans in place to cover all eventualities, one suggestion put forward by me was a great road trip through western New South Wales. A highly romantic folly to be sure, traversing the great highways and byways and a few of the roads less travelled for good measure. So many towns, so many sights, so many opportunities to tick things off my bucket list, and only two weeks to get it all done. My sense of adventure was piqued and in my mind I was ready to go. Sadly the response from my potential fellow travellers was, shall we say, less than enthusiastic. And that would be an understatement. Something about the blazing Australian sun beating on our backs in the height of summer was somehow less than appealing. I attempted to give inspiration, recalling stories of the pioneering spirit of the early Europeans whose names are given to the very highways we would travel. But my efforts came to nothing. It was not going to happen, at least if we as a family still intended to be friends at the other end. So for a day or two melancholy prevailed as I once again went back to the map desperately seeking divine inspiration.

Then in a stunning example of the grace of God, and a fair amount of scheming by my beloved, an opportunity emerged for us to secure a patch of ground for our camper trailer on the cool and breezy north coast. Somewhere that I am assured is more our style at that time of year. Time with family in Queensland followed by a week sitting with our toes dangling in the South Pacific, sipping from a drink with one of those tiny little umbrellas. Ah yes that will do the trick. But I will still hold out for my romantic western adventure, perhaps in Autumn or Winter.

In reflecting on this whole planning ordeal my mind has been taken to a greater question. What is it about a road trip, a significant journey, that is so appealing to me? It's as if the need for that type of travel is imprinted in my DNA, because this is not the first time that I have entertained such high romantic notions. Perhaps it is the promise of encounter with God through journey that we see in scripture which so much informs my world view.

The challenge and ordeal of God's people wandering in the harshness of the wilderness gave way to the realisation of promise and transformation for them as a community of faith. Jesus' own time in the wilderness following his baptism was a time of deep affirmation of his identity and his divine mission. And then there is the reality that most of Jesus' earthly ministry was undertaken while he was on the way to somewhere else.

The road to Jerusalem was a long one for Jesus. It was at times spectacular and no doubt it was at times fairly mundane. Along the way there was so much joy, so much love, so much blessing and so much growth for him and his fellow travellers. I want this too. I think perhaps we all long for it. I am learning to encounter God in the smaller, less spectacular parts of the journey. But if I'm honest I still long for that one big, amazing adventure. Perhaps the task at hand is to remember that I'm always on the big, amazing adventure and I just have to learn to see it in its parts.

May God bless you as you walk your own journey of faith. And be assured of my ongoing prayers for you as a fellow traveller.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.
Scott

Parish Diary

The majority of Parish activities are on hold at the present time due to the Covid-19 situation. We continue to be guided by Government guidelines and advice from the Diocese.

Registers

Holy Baptism

During November baptisms are scheduled for **Xander John Wells, Alora-Lee Marilyn Dries, Willow Louise Eliot, Alexandria Lee Hickey, Georgia Claire Hickey, and Millah Rose Green.** Baptisms now take place on Sundays at 1pm.

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the souls of all those who have died recently, including **Edith Row, Isabel Skinner, and Neville King.** May they rest in peace.

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. There will be no flowers in church during Lent.

If you would like to organise memorial flowers for a loved one, please contact Flower Co-ordinator, Liz Brown. on 0422 101448 or Maryka in the Parish Office on 4934 5303.

Farewell to Louise

Our Families and Children's Worker, Louise Hay, will be leaving Saint Peter's at the end of November. Louise and husband Rod, together with their children, James, Liam and Ethan are moving to Trentham in Victoria, where Louise's family live.



Louise has done a wonderful job at Saint Peter's in developing the Play Group and Music Time, and been actively involved with families at Petrus Community Church, all of which unfortunately have been on hold since March 2020 when Covid-19 affected all church activities. She has also been actively involved with the weekly OzHarvest deliveries each Wednesday, and taken an active role as Sidesperson at weekend services.

Louise and Rod are both members of the Parish Council, where they have brought their experience and professionalism to the decision making process.

We will miss Louise and the Hay family and the vibrancy they bring to the Saint Peter's community. We look forward to hearing from them as they start their new life in Victoria, and know that they take our very best wishes with them on this new journey.

Parish Governance

Covid-19 has had an impact on most aspects of Parish Life, however our Church Wardens have been actively involved in ensuring that we are all kept Covid safe and that the ongoing work of the Parish continues.

Thanks are extended to all parishioners who continue to provide financial support at a time when many are opting not to attend services in person, but are still making online donations. Your financial support has been instrumental in ensuring that we are able to continue to maintain the church and the grounds and that Covid-19 has not affected the work of the Parish.



Church Wardens - Anne Page, Geoff Seccombe and Kevin Short

Parishioner in Profile - Bev Steggles

St Peter's Op Shop will celebrate its third anniversary on the 23rd November, having begun its work in 2017

What is interesting to recall is that it only took three weeks to bring the Op Shop from a "dream" to a reality!! Generally it was felt that it would not happen – that it was impossible to do all that had to be done in that short space of time. But that just shows what can be achieved with a "never say die" leader and a small band of dedicated volunteers.

Think about it – you need racks to hang the clothes on (of course you need the clothes too) It had to be decided how the hall would be configured. What else was needed – bric a brac; toys; clothes, clothes and more clothes, and anything else that made up an Op Shop that would attract people to visit. You would need rosters for the volunteer work force, and countless other matters to attend to.

So why an Op Shop? To serve the community – to help those who need the most help – to provide support and encouragement to families – and to support the work of the Church.

It is important to pay tribute to the fearless leader who, when it was suggested that the Op Shop could not possibly open by the suggested date of 23rd November 2017, basically replied "well just watch this space". And watch we did at the Official Opening (performed by the Mayor of Maitland) as the Op Shop began its work under the guidance and co-ordination of Bev Steggles.

Over the next two years Bev led the growing number of volunteers and the Op Shop in a spiral of growth and development. New clothes racks were found – a new kitchen was installed - toilets replaced – sorting rooms set up – air conditioning units installed – different sections established, including a library of books etc. and new operating systems implemented. The client base grew – and an endless supply of merchandise, bric a brac, etc donated.

In other words – St Peter's Parish Church had a very successful, financially viable, and highly regarded Op Shop established on the Church grounds.

Bev decided to step back from the co-ordination and leadership functions this year, and recently resigned from the Management Committee. But you will still see her working in the Op Shop and helping to sort clothes when needed, so her interest and compassion is still very much evident.

A grateful and heartfelt thanks is extended to Bev Steggles for her tenacity, hard work, and grass roots approach to getting the Op Shop off the ground – despite the odds – and for ensuring its ongoing success.

We are indeed fortunate to have as her successor Jane Hall – who has been a volunteer for a good part of the previous three years – and who is also dedicated, hard working, and has the continued support of the wonderful volunteers who make it all happen.

So thank you to everyone who has played a part over the past three years and we look forward to the continued success of this important part of the Parish profile.



Thank You Bev for helping to make the Op Shop a Reality

OzHarvest Parcels

Despite many of the Parish activities continuing to be on hold as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, one of the success stories from this time is that of the OzHarvest delivery every Wednesday that brings surplus supplies from the local Aldi and Woolworths supermarkets to Saint Peter's. When the big yellow truck arrives each week there is a flurry of activity to unload the truck and evaluate what has been received before this is all sorted, ready to go into over 40 food parcels that are put together for issue to people in the local community. This is no mean feat as we do not know until the truck rolls up to our door exactly what goods will be received and can mean sorting out tomatoes from mangoes, potatoes from bananas, zucchini from cucumbers, and checking on the condition. This all needs to happen in a limited time frame. Once sorted, the produce is then divided as evenly as possible for pick up by those people who have requested assistance.



Neighbouring churches are also involved. It has been great to develop a stronger working relationship with the Anglican Parishes of Telarah Rutherford, Beresfield Thornton, Morpeth, Maitland and the Uniting Church in East Maitland and Morpeth.

Due to Covid-19 guidelines recipients are asked to come to the side window of the Parish Hall at a designated time to collect their food parcel so that this is all undertaken in a "contact less" environment to ensure the safety of all involved.

If you would like assistance, or know someone who would benefit from this, all that is required is to phone the Parish Office on 4934 5303 on a Tuesday to have a name added to the list for the next day's delivery.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with this work - if you have a few hours to spare on a Wednesday (usually between 11am - 3pm but this can vary) then we would love to hear from you.

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.

Mission Partnerships Covid-19 Global Emergency Response

ABM is helping to equip partners with the resources they need to help communities during this crisis, both in Australia and around the world.

By late April 2020, the COVID-19 had infected more than 3,000,000 people around the world and killed more than 200,000. In most developing countries, the nightmare is only just beginning. Widespread lockdowns have taken away precarious livelihoods, and informal markets are drying up. Many are living in cramped conditions with no tap water – perfect conditions for a virus to spread. Those who fall to COVID-19 may not even be able to find a hospital bed, let alone a well-equipped hospital. To escape cramped urban conditions, many are returning to their home villages, but it is likely some are taking the virus with them.

In this time of turmoil, ABM and our supporters stand in solidarity with our church partners and the many millions in developing countries who face this approaching peril.

During these uncertain times, and as we seek to understand and as we feel the impact of COVID-19 ourselves here in Australia, ABM continues to be in contact with our Overseas Partners to assess and respond to this crisis. Partners are working hard on information campaigns including the distribution of handwashing and hygiene kits to prevent COVID-19's spread. We anticipate the loss of livelihoods and lack of basic services in many of the communities where we work.

Key responses to the pandemic from ABM's partners include:

In **Myanmar**, the Church in the Province of Myanmar (CPM) is forming and training village health committees, raising awareness of COVID-19 based on government health messaging, and providing basic health and hygiene items such as soap, masks and thermometers.

In **the Philippines**, strict government lockdowns continue. Once the lockdowns are eased, E-CARE will engage in COVID-19 awareness-raising, and assisting people to move into alternative livelihoods where these have been curtailed by the pandemic.

In **Kenya**, Anglican Development Services Eastern are reprinting and distributing government COVID-19 health information leaflets, and training communities to erect simple handwashing "leaky kits" in key locations.

In **Zambia**, ZACOP is integrating health messaging into its gender equality and gender-based violence awareness-raising.

In **Papua New Guinea**, Anglicare and the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea have procured personal protective equipment to enable them to continue to operate their clinics safely, and are planning to introduce COVID-19-related health education into the Anglican schools.

ABM seeks your support so that together we can support our partners to help those less fortunate who lack resources to combat this disease.

Please note that all donations are **tax deductible**.

HOW TO DONATE

You can phone 1300 302663, Sydney 02 9264 1021 or email info@abmission.org.au



CPM development project staff distributing COVID-19 prevention posters and hygiene kits in a Hpa-an village, Myanmar.



Op Shop Update by Jane Hall



It is exciting times for our St Peter's Op Shop in November! We have lots happening with our **Monster Christmas Raffle!** We have a wonderful first, second and third Prize with something for everyone! Win one of these fantastic prizes and your Christmas will be sorted! Tickets are just \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5 and drawn on Thursday 12th November in the Op Shop. The video raffle draw will be posted on Facebook and winners will be notified by phone if you are not in store for our Raffle Draw. Come in for a browse, we have some beautiful Christmas Decorations for sale at bargain prices, and of course you will always find something to buy with our weekly Specials!

Remember our hours are Thursday and Friday 9am to 3pm; and Saturdays 9am – 1pm. Under our Covid Regulations donations can only be received during our open hours at the garage near the Op Shop.

Do you have 3 hours a week, fortnight or month to spare? And would you like to meet and spend some rewarding time with our valuable team of Op Shop Volunteers? Then give Op Shop Co-ordinator, Jane Hall, on 0421 550615. We are seeking more volunteers and would be most grateful if you can spare the time to help.

Confirmations at Saint Peter's

As part of Bishop Sonia's official Episcopal Visit to Saint Peter's on 11th October, three young people were confirmed by Bishop Sonia - siblings Olivia, Darcy and Mia Hickey, who received their First Communion supported by family, friends, and the Saint Peter's community. (See photos on inside front cover).



Prior to the Confirmation Service Olivia, Darcy and Mia attended a series of Preparation Training under the guidance of Rector, Scott Dulley, and Ministry Assistant, Deacon Kim Hodges.

Parish Office

Saint Peter's Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9am - 4pm. Our Parish Office Administrator, Maryka Gibson, is available to assist with all administration matters related to Saint Peter's. Phone enquiries can be made to 4934 5303, where a message can be left if the phone is unattended or busy.

Visit our Website: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org

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

Ordination to the Priesthood

Bishop Peter has indicated that he intends to ordain the Reverend Wendy Brack and the Reverend Sarah Dulley as Priests in the Church of God at 10.00am on Saturday 28th November 2020 at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle. Details regarding pre-registering for this service will be available shortly. Please pray for Wendy and Sarah as they continue to prepare for their ordination.

FIRST EUCHARIST OF OUR NEW PRIEST

To celebrate this new beginning in Wendy's ministry among us as a Priest we will join together on Sunday 29th November for a Combined Parish Eucharist at 7.30am.



Please note: There will be no Eucharist at 10.30am on 29th November.

The Vigil Eucharist on Saturday 28th November will go ahead as normal at 6.00pm.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE TO BE ORDAINED PRIEST

Great Shepherd of your people,
bless those called to priesthood in your Church.
Fire their hearts with passion for your word and care for your people,
that they may joyfully proclaim your gospel,
and faithfully minister your sacraments.
Guide them in their prayer and study,
that they may be discerning and loving pastors,
enabling all to minister to the glory of your name
and the benefit of your people and world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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



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.



