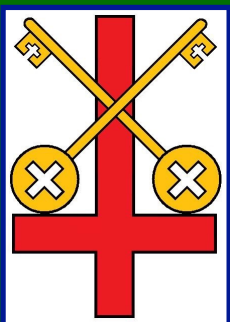


Cross & Keys

Christmas 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

Telephone: (02) 4934 5303 | email: office@eastmaitlandanglican.org | website: www.eastmaitlandanglican.org | mailing: PO Box East Maitland NSW 2323

Scott's Spot

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Cross & Keys.

Once again it has been an extraordinary year the likes of which most of us have never experienced in our lives. As we come close to our celebration of Christmas, we now have the added concern of the latest outbreak in the Greater Hunter region. Despite our deep desire to 'get back to normal' I think most of us now realise that normal is just a setting on our washing machine. What we have previously known in our lives continues to be quite different than anything we are accustomed to. The way that we move about in society, the way that we interact with family and friends, in fact much of the way that we live in the world has changed and has probably changed forever. As we come to a deeper understanding and acceptance of our new reality we will experience a certain amount of sadness and grief associated with that change. This is perfectly understandable and reasonable.



Our Christmas worship will continue to be different from what we remember from years gone by, with QR code check-in and physical distancing being the base level norms. As a Parish we will also be asking people to continue to wear a face mask when attending worship over the Christmas period as a way of working together to support our own health and the health of our community. We all have plans to gather with family and friends in the next few weeks and we need to do everything we can to make sure our plans are able to happen.

All of this contributes to our knowledge of the fact that we still are living in strange and turbulent times. Strange and turbulent times are nothing new in the history of the world or the experience of the Church. Jesus of Nazareth was born into a world that was both strange and turbulent in its own way. God stepped into our human experience in a profound and powerful way in Bethlehem all those years ago. Jesus' own earthly family experienced immense challenge and anxiety around the time of his birth. Afterwards things continued to be difficult. Yet in the midst of it all the most powerful expression of God's love for the world was made known in the fragility, humility and vulnerability of an infant. And this is how God continues to work in us and in our world today. In all of our fragility and vulnerability this Christmas, God will continue to break into our lives and the lives of so many across the world with a humility that almost defies our human understanding. Our work in this most holy season is to see God in the small stuff. We need to pay attention to God working in and through us in ways we may have never experienced before. We are invited to allow God into all parts of our lives today and every day. So that our hopes, our joys, our fears, and our loving relationships can be transformed and drawn into the cosmic symphony of divine love and blessing this Christmas.

Sarah, Georgia and I wish you and your family a very peaceful and holy Christmas and a blessed 2022!

Your Priest and brother in Christ.
Scott.

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 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.

Safe Ministry Training Safety of Children and Vulnerable People Policy Changes

In July 2021 Bishop Peter Stuart announced major process changes being made by the Diocese to bring improvement to the screening, training, support, and direction we are giving to our volunteers. It is designed to meet the requirements of regulators to ensure that volunteers are well prepared for the various roles they undertake, and to ensure that we are providing safe, effective and quality ministries to the people we are serving. The changes provide a framework for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm. Through the Parish Safety Policy, the Volunteer and Other Church worker Policy and the Safe Ministry Assurance Newcastle Anglican is ensuring you, our volunteers and the people we serve are safe.

In the roll-out process there is a requirement for all volunteers to meet the current screening standards which involve certain checks and training requirements, including a nationally coordinated criminal history check (police check) for various categories of volunteer. Early in the New Year, volunteers will be provided with a duty statement and asked to complete a volunteer engagement form and volunteer agreement. Your continued support of the Diocese as your parish undertakes this work is, as always, greatly valued.

The Bishop thanks all our volunteers for the work you are doing in Christ's name and for the difference you are making. Your support and cooperation to this rollout is integral to its success.

My Reflections on being a Priest

On the 28th November this year I celebrated my first year as an ordained priest and what a year it has been.

It was a great joy to be able to celebrate my first Eucharist the day after my ordination last year with so many of you being present.

Since then I have had the privilege to celebrate the Eucharist on many occasions mainly on a Wednesday morning or Saturday nights and of course at the Age Care Facilities when I was able to so.

Being able to celebrate the Eucharist is something that I cannot really be put into words as I am constantly reminded of what Jesus did on his last night before he was betrayed. I am very much aware that I am standing in Jesus' place. What an honor and privilege that is.

Celebrating the Eucharist has been the biggest change in my ministry as a priest as I have continued to conduct Funerals, Baptisms, Home Communions and hospital visiting..

Coping with Covid-19 restrictions has impacted on my ministry not only here at St Peter's but with Age Care Facilities as I had to adjust to the ever-changing changes Covid-19 has made it nearly impossible to establish any routine or even visit the Age Care Facilities for most of the year. This has meant unfortunately I haven't been able to conduct a Christmas service at any of the Age Care Facilities or even a visit them as visiting has been reserved for family only. I am hoping that next year I will be able to re-establish this ministry again as I miss it greatly.

Thankfully I have been able to help with Oz Harvest food parcels on a Wednesday which has helped to connect with those less fortunate in our community. This service continues to grow each week. Thanks to Oz Harvest for providing the food from Woolworths and Aldi which is greatly appreciated by those receiving this assistance.

A big THANK YOU to Fr Scott for his wonderful support, his encouragement, and his willingness to allow me to share in the ministry here at St Peter's. And to you all thank you for your love and encouragement as I continue my priestly ministry with you.

Have a Holy and Blessed Christmas.
Wendy



Celebrating Maryka

Finally, after a long COVID lockdown delay the parishioners of St Peters were able to get together and celebrate Maryka's wonderful 5 years of service and formally send her off into retirement.

Everyone was very happy to see Maryka and surprised her with a lovely vase from the local Maitland Art Gallery which will no doubt take pride of place in her home and remind her of fond memories of her time at St Peter's.



St Peters Pantry – OzHarvest Food Parcels

Woolworths 



St Peter's was able to support our vulnerable clients during the COVID lockdown by providing food parcels through the generosity of OzHarvest and other local providers.



In total we distributed **370** parcels, on average 40 per week between August and October. Our clients were very grateful for the volunteers who worked very hard with a skeleton roster to provide for those in need.



The grounds of St Peter's are looking especially picturesque after all our recent rain. A huge thank you to our mowing team and gardeners who work tirelessly to keep everything so beautiful.

Our team are always looking for Council tip vouchers so if any of our parishioners have any spare please drop them to the office!





ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION *Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

2021 ADVENT APPEAL

Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in North Queensland supports the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders through study programs leading to awards in theology, suicide prevention, addictions management and community development. The College provides culturally grounded training, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Wontulp is a transforming community that empowers people with the faith, vision and skills, and to be effective in building up their people, their church and their community.

Nungalinga College, based in Darwin, serves over 300 remote Indigenous students, most of whom are both church leaders and Elders with responsibilities in their own cultures. Indigenous Elders continually comment that they go there to grow in their faith, to be refreshed and renewed to go back home and continue to serve their people.

Donate @ <https://www.abmission.org/pages/2021-advent-and-christmas-appeal.html>

Craft Group Christmas Luncheon

The ladies of the Craft Group gathered together on 7th December for a lovely lunch to celebrate the year and enjoy each others company looking forward to Christmas.



Regular Giving

Boxes of giving envelopes are now available at the back of the church and we invite you to collect a box next time you are in church. The boxes contain sufficient envelopes for each week for the coming twelve months.

Would you be willing to give your regular offering electronically?



The Parish Council is asking all those who regularly give to the life of the Parish to consider doing so electronically. Giving regularly by bank transfer is simple to set up and saves having to remember your giving envelopes each week. It also reduces security risks on the church site.

There are two ways to set this up:

- ★ If you have access to the internet and already use electronic banking for other payments you can set this up from within your bank's website;
- ★ If not, you can visit your local bank branch and ask the staff to arrange it for you.

The Parish's bank details are:
Saint Peter's Anglican Church
BSB: 705-077,

Account Number: 00040464 Reference: St Peter's Giving.

It is important for you to know that your giving will remain confidential. Yvonne Hinde our Treasurer is available to help you. Please contact Yvonne at yvonnehinde@eastmaitlandanglican.org or on 0417 727 098 if you would like to discuss this confidentially.

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



Saint Peter's Columbarium

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 contact the Parish Office

Please pray for the souls of all those who have died recently, including

James Francis LLEWELLYN
Kim Linda HADLEY
Lillias MODINGER
Donald William PAXTON
George Reginald SUTHERLAND
Allan Henry HILLERY
Patricia Jane BUXTON
Kevin Hutchinson
Lyndsay Ann DITTON
Ross William TAYLOR
Jocelyn Faith ECKFORD
Alice Eunice Pauline HELPS
Anne Cecily ALLEN

May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory



Anglican Church Newcastle

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.

(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)

Saint Peter's Anglican Church

William Street, East Maitland



Christmas Services at your Church

Christmas Eve - 24th December

- 6pm:** Family Christmas Service
- 8.30pm:** Christmas Service with Choir
- 11.30pm:** Midnight Mass with Choir

Christmas Day - 25th December

- 8.30am:** Christmas Service with Carols

Boxing Day - 26th December

- 8.30am:** Regular Sunday Service with Hymns

More info from the Parish Office:
office@eastmaitlandanglican.org or Ph: 02 4934 5303