

# Cross & Keys

Christmas 2022—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](mailto:office@eastmaitlandanglican.org) | website: [www.eastmaitlandanglican.org](http://www.eastmaitlandanglican.org) | mailing: PO Box East Maitland NSW 2323

## Scott's Spot

Welcome to the Christmas edition of Cross and Keys.

Through the season of Advent we have been preparing for the coming of the Christ Child of Bethlehem. Of course, we know that in the weeks leading up to Christmas we are preparing ourselves for the wonderful celebration of the events that took place at that first Christmas – angels, shepherds, a mother and baby all gathered together in what we might nowadays recognise as a shed behind the local pub. So we have, at an ever increasing, frantic pace made our Christmas preparations. Buying gifts, gathering food and drink and making arrangements to gather with family and friends in various ways.



Alongside all of this hustle and activity our Advent liturgies and in particular the weekly readings have directed us towards a larger picture, the more cosmic aspect of Advent and Christmas which is a slightly different picture - the second coming of the Christ.

Both of these realities, the back then and the yet to come help to inform our present lives and give us a fuller picture of the significance of incarnation, God coming to dwell with us, to be with us. Both help us to live fully in the here and now and to make sense of our current reality. Both are part of our Christmas celebrations in the here and now and if we place too much emphasis on one and neglect the other I think we do ourselves an enormous disservice.

When we reflect on the incarnation – God coming to be with us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth - we can easily fall into the trap of imagining that God only decided to come and be with us later in time to fix a problem or to correct an error. At some level we can be forgiven for believing this as it has been one the classical understandings within Christian theology for generations.

Recently I have been reminded by Dr Samuel Wells, the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields in London, in his book, “Humbler Faith, Bigger God”, that it is possible and perhaps likely that God always intended to incarnate and be with us because relationship is the very essence of God. God has never existed in isolation. The Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit exist in a dynamic relationship of love. So why then wouldn't God want to share that love with us and draw us into that dynamic relationship. Why wouldn't that have always been God's plan?

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. The joy and privilege of being invited into the very heart of God which is a dynamic relationship of love. It is in this relationship that we can find the peace we so yearn for in our lives. It is in this relationship that we can experience the deepest joys that we so desire. It is in this relationship that we most fully live out who we are as human beings and share that love with others.

May God bless you and those who are near and dear to you this Christmas and in the New Year.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.  
Scott.

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

- East Maitland Anglican
- Op Shop St Peter's East Maitland



Parish Office hours are as follows;

- **Tuesday 9am – 1pm**
- **Thursday 9am – 1pm**
- **Friday 9am – 1pm**



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.



# First Friday Service

First Friday has been in recess since early 2020 due to COVID-19 however on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December it was wonderful to restart our First Friday Service and Morning Tea.



We will be continuing this each month in 2023 and look forward to being able to see everyone more regularly again.

It was great to see so many familiar faces back with us after a long break and we are grateful to Bev and her team of volunteers who organised transport and also provided a lovely Christmas themed morning tea.

# She's Spectacular!

Parishioners from St Peter's & St Mary's gathered to watch the 2022 NSW Schools Spectacular starring the one and only **Georgia Dulley** as a featured vocalist representing the Hunter School of the Performing Arts.

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening of entertainment and were amazed by the talent of all the artists involved.



*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December - St Peter's Hall*

# Christmas Cheer



Our marvellous mowing team met on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to celebrate their year at the Hunter River Hotel to get into the festive spirit!

*(L-R George Pullin, Peter Wood, John Osborne, Dave Burton, Fr Scott)*



The Op Shop has had a very successful year with the Vintage Market Day and our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations. The Volunteers have worked very hard and given their time to help our little shop become so popular within the community.

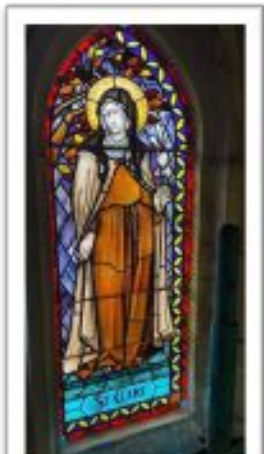
I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and especially Fr Scott for his faith in me to run the shop and provide a safe and happy environment for volunteers and customers.

Next year plans to be even bigger. Our repainting and renovations are already underway. The volunteers are very excited about the reno and coming back the first week in February to a revamped shop. So, I extend an invitation to all to come and visit us at the re-opening. Please stay safe over the festive break and have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

*Bronwyn O'Keefe*  
Op Shop Coordinator



## St Francis and St Clare Window Dedication



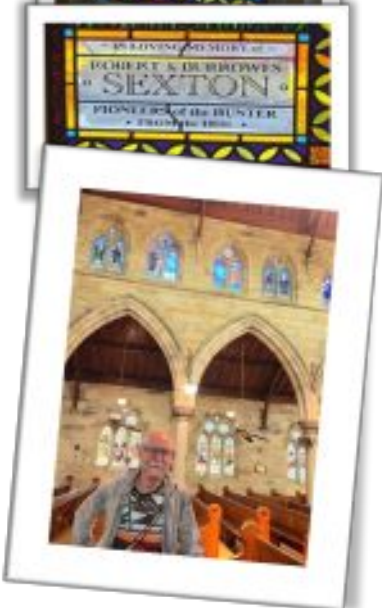
**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2022** was a big day for our Parish and for all the donors of the long-awaited St Francis and St Clare windows.

We were very fortunate to have Bishop Sonia with us to preside and preach and then dedicate the windows at our Parish Eucharist which are now a permanent part of the fabric of St Peter's.

A huge thank you to the families and individuals who have contributed to their Parish in this way, their legacy will live in our magnificent church always.

It was wonderful for Jeff Hamilton to be in attendance with us and to witness the appreciation from all for the skill and effort of his team.

After the service the Parish Council met with Bishop Sonia to reflect upon the past year and to look ahead with hope for St Peter's in 2023. The council then shared a lunch in the Hall and finished the day feeling very grateful for all the blessings of the day.







# Parish Pantry Christmas Giving!



Slow Food  
HUNTER VALLEY INC.

*Amorelle of the Slow Food Network thanks her team at their Christmas party attended by Fr Scott, Sarah & Georgia.*

It has been a **HUGE** year for our Parish Pantry with almost 2,000 food parcels being distributed to people in need within our community.

Each Wednesday our group of volunteers unpack the truck and sort through a tonne of donated food which is a mixture of frozen, fresh and pantry items.

Our recipients register and pickup each week and are extremely grateful for all they receive.

Our sincere thanks also go to the **Slow Food Network** who supply us with pre-packed cooked meals prepared in their kitchen which can be easily reheated by our clients, they are a huge hit with everyone!

This Christmas we will distribute 60 Christmas Hampers filled with all sorts of goodies for Christmas lunch or dinner. **Woolworths at Rutherford** have provided much of the hamper food items and we are very thankful to them for their continued generosity and support of our Parish Pantry.

In addition, this year we have also received a very generous donation for each hamper and have included a surprise \$50 food voucher. We know this will go a long way and help people who are already doing it tough, but especially in these times of high inflation where everything is on the rise.

We cannot finish the year without thanking our kind and giving **parishioners** who answer our call each week and donate pantry items which help us to supplement the food received from OzHarvest, Slow Food and U1R Patisserie at Maitland. Your donations also support our emergency parcels which are available 24/7 for those in special and urgent need.

These parcels are so important as we help the most vulnerable people at their lowest, escaping a violent situation or homelessness. Your giving goes a long way towards supporting our Parish Pantry ministry.



*OzHarvest volunteers preparing Christmas Hampers – Wendy, Carol, Rachel, Gill, Damian, Greg, Fr Scott, Vicki, Bill, Noela and Peter*



# Hall Hire

Our Parish Hall is available to hire for community or family events and functions.

We currently host a number of local groups running weekly Yoga, Meditation and Belly Dancing classes.



We are also host U3A Tai Chi classes who will return in 2023.

If you would like to hire the Hall, please contact the Parish Office.

## 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. Christine Simpson-Morgan our Treasurer is available to help you. Please contact Christine at [office@eastmaitlandanglican.org](mailto:office@eastmaitlandanglican.org) or on 4934 5303 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 since our last edition and their lives celebrated at St. Peter's

Daryl Alwyn BATCHELDOR  
Grace Eileen WILSON

May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory

## Parish Office Hours 2023

Our Parish Office will be changing our office opening hours in 2023 as follows;

- Tuesday 9am - 1pm
- Thursday 9am - 1pm
- Friday 9am - 1pm



Messages can be left on the Parish Office Phone (4934 5303) outside of hours and will be responded to as promptly as possible during opening.



# **Saint Peter's Anglican Church**

**William Street, East Maitland**



## **Christmas Services at your Church**

### **Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th December**

**6.00pm: Family Christmas Celebration**

**8.30pm: Christmas Service with Choir**

**11.30pm: Midnight Mass with Choir**

### **Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December**

**8.30am: Christmas Day Service with Carols**

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

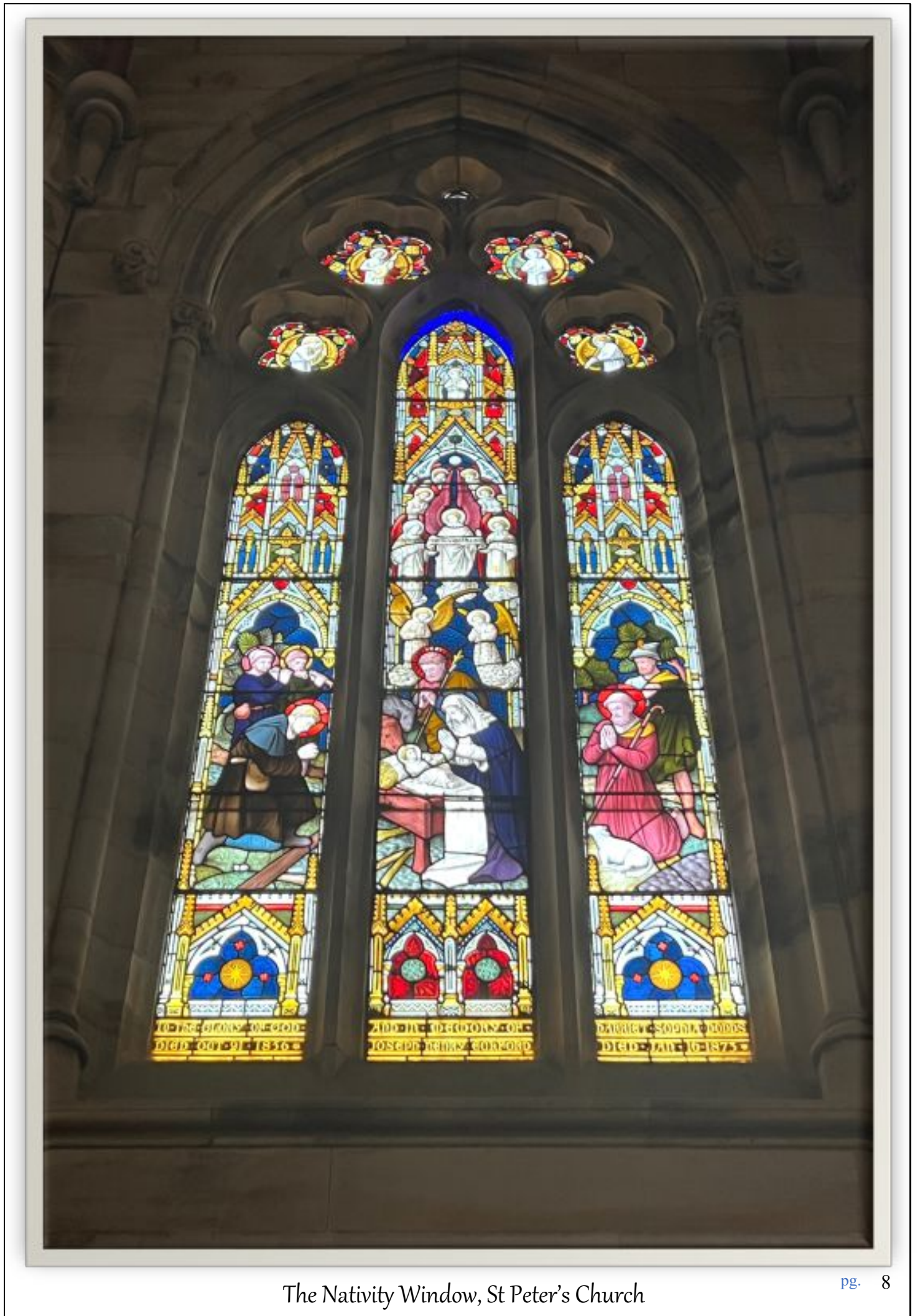
**8.30am: Regular Sunday Service with Hymns**

More info from the Parish Office:

[office@eastmaitlandanglican.org](mailto:office@eastmaitlandanglican.org)

Ph: 02 4934 5303





The Nativity Window, St Peter's Church