

Cross & Keys

Winter 2023 – 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

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Scott's Spot

As this edition of Cross and Keys goes to print my mind is crowded with possibilities as I prepare to begin my upcoming Sabbatical (Long Service Leave). Mostly my thoughts are of places and people. Places I will spend time over the next month, the people with whom I will share those spaces and the people whom I will be missing as I go. Sarah and Georgia have given me a great gift in releasing me from my responsibilities at home and sending me on my way for an intensive time of rest and refreshment with their love and blessing. Thank God for video calls which will help us stay connected.



In many ways it feels like I am embarking on a form of pilgrimage. An opportunity in the context of a physical journey to engage more intentionally and intensely with God. Over the years I have come to feel a deep connection with particular parts of our beautiful country. Many of those places for me are in and around Central and South-East Queensland. They say you can take the boy out of Queensland, but you can't take the Queensland out of the boy. I think that's true. So my pilgrimage will take me to a few of those special and significant places. I also plan to spend time in some of those places with people who have had a profound impact on my formation and growth as both a person and a priest. I imagine there will also be times of stillness, silence and solitude.

As I have been reflecting recently on the whole idea of pilgrimage, I've been struck by the extent to which pilgrimage seems to transcend Christian denominations and even, I think, religion all together. Whilst there is a rich history of religious pilgrimages, often today people embark on pilgrimages seemingly without any religious intentions at all. Just think of those TV series often aired on the ABC or SBS. That is not to say that people don't have deep and sometimes spiritual experiences or awakenings on their journeys but often these experiences seem to come about as a by-product rather than a planned intention. I guess it doesn't really matter how it comes about as long as the experience is one that enhances a person's life and supports their well-being.

And I wonder if this might be a hint that points us towards what pilgrimage is all about. A tool that can assist to enhance a person's life and well-being. Something that helps them develop as a person, live their life with integrity and generally be better off for the experience.

I wonder what your thoughts or experiences are in relation to pilgrimage. When I return, I'd love to hear about them. Please pray for me as I go. I know that I will return better for the experience.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.
Scott

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

High Fashion



with a cup of Tea!



The 29th April was a very big day for the Op Shop with the amazing Fashion Parade and High Tea fundraiser.

What a huge success for the women who worked so hard to pull it together. Tickets were sold out weeks in advance and if only our Hall was bigger, we could have sold more!!

There were 14 tables of ladies all sipping tea, enjoying the company, eating delicious sweets and admiring the outfits worn by our supermodels. The girls strutted their stuff down the runway like professionals!

There was a huge flurry when it came time to purchase time as everyone wanted to grab a bargain.

❖ The event raised almost \$2,500 to support the ministry and mission of St Peter's Parish. It was truly a wonderful day!

Our Co-ordinator Bev says *"our little shop is doing well because we keep our prices low. It has become an important part of the community, we have some very loyal customers, and it makes such a difference to all those families who are doing it tough because of the cost of living."*

A big thank you also to our parishioners for their contributions and who make it all possible.



Recognising the Value of our Volunteers

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING IS IMMENSE AND IRREPLACEABLE

National Volunteer Week (15-21 May) was an opportunity to recognise the value of volunteering in our community.

Diocese Executive Director of People and Culture Nicole Klasen praised the work carried out by more than 1,000 volunteers across the organisation.

St Peter's nominated Richard Fellows as a long-time volunteer superstar who has worshipped with us since 1983 and has supported the Parish in many varied roles since that time.

He was part of our Pastoral Care Team since 1984 and served on our Parish Council for over 20 years. He has been a Server since 2000 and a member of our gardening team since 2013.

As we all know, Richard is the most selfless and caring person, always around the parish grounds working tirelessly in the garden and always available to support and care for parishioners.



We would like to thank and recognise Richard for his dedication to St Peter's and acknowledge all he does in the name of the Parish.



Congratulations to

Geoff Seccombe and Amanda Woodward-McCarter
Here's to a lifetime of weekends - enjoy!



CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs Margaret Anne Wood

Mrs Wood, an accredited Learn to Swim instructor since 1956, is currently the Vice President of Maitland Swimming Club, and received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to swimming.

(From the Swimming Australia website)



Birthday Celebrations
Petrus style!!



St Peter's Patronal Festival

25th June 2023



What a celebration we had on St Peter's Day!
It was lovely to see so many parishioners join in to commemorate our patron saint whom Jesus declared would be the rock upon which the Christian church would be built.



As can be seen by our photo gallery there were smiles all round as we enjoyed each other's company with a shared meal and very delicious cake.



Thank you to everyone who brought food and assisted with the setup and clean up.

Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Mission Lunch 29th April 2023

At our most recent Mission Lunch we welcomed Amorelle and Andrew Dempster from Slow Food Hunter Valley.



Amorelle spoke to us about the vital and important work being done in our local region through the Slow Food Network.

St Peter's distributes on average 50 meals each week which have been prepared by the Food Rescue Kitchen Project.

It was a great day and the curries were delicious!



In recent weeks there has been some activity in the St Peter's Grounds. New signage has been installed in various places which will assist visitors to St Peter's. The timber benches outside the west end of the Church have also been renovated.

Things are looking good!



Cursillo



Reverend Wendy explains how she will be part of the team for the next women's Cursillo at the end of August.

Cursillo is part of a movement of the Anglican Church that helps to equip and inspire Christians to be active apostles for Christ. It is a model for continuing the experience of the 'three-day weekend' for the rest of their lives within a supportive and encouraging community. They are encouraged "to bloom where they are planted."

Cursillo really needs to be experienced to be fully understood. Cursillo is a Spanish word as it originated in Spain. It simply means 'a short course'. It inspires people with on-going support and encouragement for their personal growth in Faith. They are challenged to live an active Christian life, wherever they may find themselves.

There are three phases of Cursillo:

- The pre-Cursillo when prayerfully the purpose of Cursillo is shared with others
- Attendance at a Cursillo three-day short course
- The Fourth Day, or rest of their lives, supported by Group Reunions and Ultreyas with others who have attended a Cursillo weekend to encourage them on their journey

The Fourth Day

Cursillo focuses on showing lay people how to become effective Christian leaders over the course of a three-day weekend which includes fifteen talks. Some talks by priests but most by lay people. The major emphasis of the weekend is to ask participants to take what they have learned back into the world. This is what is called the "Fourth Day". The method stresses personal spiritual development, as encouraged by group reunion (after the weekend).

Cursillo in Newcastle began in 1990. The Cursillo theme is:-

"Make a friend, Be a friend. Bring your friend gently to Jesus"

This sums up the experience of Cursillo and of how it has helped many people. If you would like to know more about Cursillo please speak to me - **Rev Wendy**

1st Session of the 54th Synod of the Diocese of Newcastle

All members of Synod were issued on arrival with a substantive number of ballot papers covering the various Diocesan panels, boards and representative delegations of the Diocese and given instruction on the scrutiny process.

Synod commenced with a Eucharist in which included an Acknowledgement of Country.

This was complimented by a later and successful supplementary motion, *'that this Synod strongly reiterates support for a First Nations Voice to parliament.'*

After a welcome and a brief explanation on the machinations of Synod, a series of reports from the various diocesan entities were tabled. These included:

- Diocesan Council (*included ordinances passed since the adjournment of the 3rd session of 53rd Synod*)
- Newcastle Anglican Corporation (*included Anglican schools reports and a schedule of endowment Funds*)
 - The Cathedral
 - The various chaplaincies
 - The various Diocesan organisations and bodies
 - The various financial reports of the Diocese

A motion was then put and passed with respect to the appointment the various officers of the Synod. This was followed by the Presidential Address (*this address can be accessed by parishioners from the Diocesan website*).

Following the Bishop's address, there were two 'short' information sessions, firstly regarding reconciliation with First Nations Peoples and secondly, to promote an understanding of the safety, health and wellbeing obligations of the Diocese. The latter included an explanation of the need within parishes to comply with these obligations.

A number of procedural motions followed. Following these procedural motions there were a couple of 'general' motions of interest.

Firstly, the 150th anniversary of the ministry of the Mission to Seafarers was acknowledged.

Secondly, an interesting motion from Nelson Bay parish was debated. It related to their (Nelson Bay's) charity outreach, *Hope Cottage*. Hope Cottage is a not-for-profit ministry of the Nelson Bay Parish, their concern being that monies donated to this work were being assessed as parish income and therefore subject to the usual diocesan contribution. Nelson Bay's concern was that much of the donated money was from the broader community and as such, there was an expectation from that community that the monies be used in their entirety for local outreach.

The alternative viewpoint expressed was concerned that an unsustainable precedent would be created which could have a negative impact across the whole Diocese. The motion was won and the matter was referred back to the Diocesan Council for further consideration.

The third general motion was from Archdeacon Arthur Copeman and his concern that the world-wide Anglican communion was being compromised by theological differences, the principle one being the blessing of long-term single sex relationships. He (the Archdeacon) sought understanding that it is 'okay' to disagree and referenced the Archbishop of Canterbury's commentaries: *'Different Course'* and in *'Being Together'*.

The Archdeacon's concerns were supplemented by the Dean (Katherine Bowyer):

Notes with distress The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu, the Anglican Archbishop of Uganda's praise of the Ugandan President's Assent to the Ugandan Parliament's Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 on 29th May 2023; and b. Joins our voice to the worldwide condemnation of this Act by religious leaders and government officials for further criminalizing homosexuality in the East African country and toughening punishments to include the death penalty ...

I don't think it needs me to further explain the Archdeacon and Dean's collective concerns with respect to the schisms that have developed in the world-wide communion.

Concern was also expressed for statistical information confirming that 'Anglicans' were just as 'guilty' as the broader community in gender bias and domestic and family abuse.

A motion followed concerning the transparency of the Newcastle Anglican Corporation Board and it's reporting procedures. It is possible that this motion was a *'Dorothy Dix'* question in that it provided a platform for an explanation of the organisational structure and operation of the Board.

Similar motions provided an explanation platform for the election process to Diocesan Council and that Council's reporting processes.

A number of the motions put were subject to amendment but were generally resolved by the president inviting the relevant persons to negotiate suitable and acceptable solutions.

Prior to the conclusion of the Synod, a few outstanding matters were referred to the Diocesan Council for resolution during the adjournment of this Synod.

Synod was adjourned until further summoned by the Bishop.



Kevin Short
East Maitland Synod Representative.



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, Belly Dancing and Tai Chi** classes.

Welcome to our newest group, the **Hunter Wine Tasting Club**, we look forward to hosting you.

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



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

- Bradley KEATING
- Shirley NEW
- Des RICHARDS
- Malcolm DAVEY
- Jannette LEEDHAM
- Una KING
- Margaret BELL
- Ian MACDONALD
- Debbie HAMSON
- Patricia SQUIRES
- Maxwell HIRD
- Ronald WAY
- Thea RUSSELL

May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory

Regular Giving

The preferred way of receiving peoples offering to support the ministry and mission of the Parish is by electronic bank transfer.

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 or on 4934 5303 if you would like to discuss this confidentially.

Memorial Flowers

Throughout the year we remember our 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

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