

Cross & Keys

Spring 2024 – 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



Earlier this year the national Anglican Church launched Hope25. Hope25 is an intentional season of evangelism between Easter and Pentecost 2025. It is an opportunity for every Anglican Church across the country to share with their local community the good news and hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Each of the 23 Dioceses of the Anglican Church of Australia have committed to be part of Hope25. At our last Parish Council meeting we began our first conversation about what Hope25 might look like for us as a Parish and how we can take part. There have also been conversations at a Deanery level around the possibility of a regional event that all of our Parishes might be part of.

There is no set thing to do or way of participating in Hope25. Each Parish or worshipping community is encouraged to do something that is within their own capabilities and is relevant for their local context. It may be a bible study or a concert, a church open day or a special church service. The possibilities are endless!

So what are we talking about when we think of hope. Hope can be defined as a 'feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen'. For us as Christians our hope comes from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

As followers of Jesus we commit ourselves to work for a world where God's love is known and shared with everyone, where everyone is valued, and where every single person has a place.

There is also a transcendent aspect to hope for us as we remember and live out the reality that Christ's light shines through all of the world's darkness. With that comes a deep and abiding belief that death is not the end and at the end of our earthly life there is something even more amazing promised to us and waiting for us, eternal life and love with God. This is the hope that we are called to share with others. This is what we seek to share through Hope25.

As we begin planning for Hope25 our first step is to pray. Pray that God may guide us, that we may be more aware of the hope that is in us, and that we may be inspired to share the hope we have come to know for ourselves with others. You might choose to pray the following prayer each day:

***God of Hope,
 you call on us to be your witnesses
 in this uncertain world; by your Spirit
 awoken in us a true vision of your kingdom,
 a greater certainty of our salvation,
 and a deeper dedication to your service;
 that through our words and actions
 the same Spirit may bring many who are lost
 to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope
 that we can only have in Jesus Christ,
 in whose name we pray. Amen.***

Watch out for more info about Hope25 in the weeks and months ahead.

Your Priest and Brother in Christ.

Scott

OP SHOP Spring Fair

7th September 2024



The Op Shop volunteers opened the doors to all comers to celebrate the arrival of spring.



The Op Shop is continuing to grow and our sales reflect the increased turnover at the shop. We recently held our Spring Sale and Market Day. It was a huge success both from a financial and community perspective.

The customers started arriving early with continued traffic throughout the morning. I am always getting positive feedback from customers about the presentation of the shop and also the friendly and helpful staff.



We are now in preparation for the Christmas Market and Toy Sale which is promising to be bigger and better than last year.

Thank you to the parish community for their support of our little "oppy".

I would also like to give a huge thank you to the op shop committee and volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

Bron O'Keefe
Op Shop Co-Ordinator



Garden Glory!



The St Peter's team of green thumbs, our gardeners, flower ladies and lawn mowers have been working hard through the cooler months planting, pruning, fertilising, mowing and tending to our magnificent grounds so we all get to enjoy an array of colour at this time of year.



It has been lovely to show off their great work, not only to our regular parishioners each week, but also for our many upcoming spring and summer weddings!

2024 Roof Project Transformation

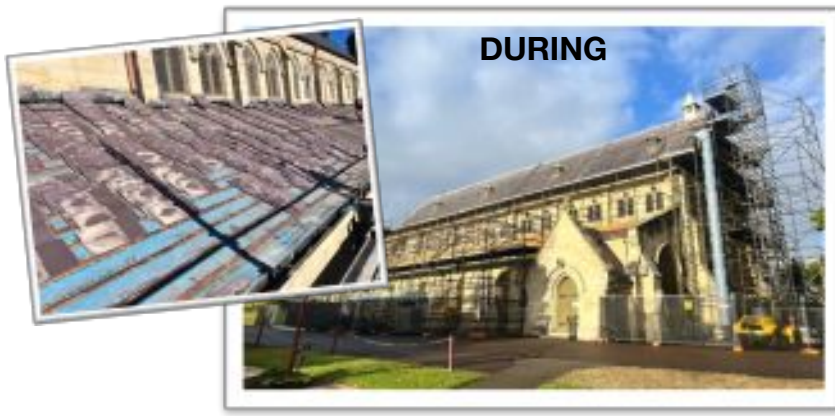
It has been a major project from start to finish and our parishioners have waited a long time for this to become a reality. Finally the wait is almost over.

We spoke to Jamie McCulloch of East Coast Slate Roofing about the project, read all about his experience in our Q&A.

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



Where are you based and how long have you been working in slate roofing? Northern Beaches in Sydney. I started slate roofing in 2000, so 24 years ago.

Where did you do your training? In the UK with a guy who is now in his 80's. He had been in roofing since the 60's.

Can you tell us about any notable buildings or projects you've worked on in the past? I was part of the team who restored the slate roof at the home of The Codebreakers, Bletchley Park. It was done in stages and took approximately 3 years.

Have you worked on other Church buildings? Lots! We replaced the entire copper roof at St Michael's Anglican Church in Vacluse and replaced the slate roof on St John's in Maitland. Another was the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew in Canberra.

What is the tallest building you've worked on? 1 Greenknowe Ave Potts Point - 10 storey building. We replaced the slate and the copper. The scaffold alone was over \$1M just to get up there!

What was the oldest building you've worked on? St Michael's and All Angels, Waddesdon UK. We carried out repairs to this Church in the village where I grew up and went to school, it is more than 800 years old.

What's the strangest thing you've ever found on a roofing job? No treasure chest or anything, but a lot of birds and old newspapers.

What's it been like working on St Peter's? An absolute pleasure - the building is so impressive. The space onsite is such a luxury, we don't often get to have a forklift onsite for the entire job.

Can you briefly explain the process used on St Peter's roof? We erected approximately 80 tonnes of scaffolding for access. Removal of the existing slates exposed horse hair which was used in some buildings before sarking was available. The new slate roof has taken 14 weeks from start to finish.

Do you know how many pieces of slate have been used on St Peter's roof? Approximately 20,000 slates

What about the copper and lead? Approximately 160 metres of copper gutters and flashings underneath 40 metres of copper downpipes. Each dormer consists of 25 handmade custom pieces of copper. 100 metres of copper ridge and hip capping plus around 3 tonnes of lead.

St Michaels and All Angels - Waddesdon UK



Lectio Divina - Scripture and Prayer - Listening Prayer

The Reverend Bosco Peters
Priest in the Anglican Church of New Zealand

“Speak Lord; your servant is listening” 1 Sam 3:10

God speaks to us in many ways: nature, people, and events... In listening to God in prayer, we focus on Scripture as God's word to me here and now. What the text meant to the original writers/ hearers, to others throughout history, may be helpful – but it can also distract from what God is saying to me now. We are not trying to preach mental sermons to ourselves, nor discover insights that will be helpful to others.

In any relationship, there is a great difference between hearing the words and really listening. So being attentive in this form of prayer is essential. Inner quiet, relaxation, attentiveness, total honesty: “God I feel bored, angry, excited, scared...”

Use only a small passage of scripture. This is not drinking beer it is sipping a liqueur. Taste God's goodness. Ignatius of Loyola called this form of prayer an “application of the senses”. If you wish, you can use the same passage again and again, simplifying, returning to and resting at that point where you met God. Where God spoke to you. Savouring one phrase, one word. Resting “like a child quieted at its mother's breast” (Ps 131:2)

Scripture is food. It needs to be taken in, chewed over, tasted, to be nourishing.

- **PICK** a passage, eg. Can have it ready the night before, go to sleep with it, wake up with it...
- **PLACE** solitude, can be uninhibited about our response, maybe a “special place”, a “prayer corner”...
- **POSTURE** relax, do a relaxation exercise, music, flowers...
- **PRESENCE** of God. “God you are here, you love me into being, you love breath into me, you wish to speak to me ...”
- **PRAY** eg. Begin with the Collect for Purity; ask for God's Spirit, for grace to listen, to hear God's word to me now...

Use imagination, **PICTURE** the scene, become involved, with whom do I identify? “That person is me” (2 Sam 12:7)

Read very slowly. **PONDER**. Can read aloud. Repeat. Read, Ruminare (Reflect) Respond (PROMISE), Rest. If a word or phrase touches your heart, savour it, repeat it, rest in it, return to it in a later prayer period, carry it in your heart for the rest of the day – for the rest of your life. Don't hurry. Don't try to look for lessons or profound thoughts.

Some scriptures: Gods covenant with me Isaiah 54, Isaiah 55; Deuteronomy 7:7-11
 God loves me and calls me Romans 8:28-30

The choice to respond to God's love Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Any favourite passages, one that suddenly comes to mind, a gospel passage, a psalm, a prayer.



Lectio Divina



First Friday Service



September was the last month for our First Friday services to be held in the Hall as our roof is finally complete.

The small but close knit congregation has very much enjoyed being able to get up, close and personal with Fr Scott and Reverend Wendy, being able to see and hear in a more intimate setting. With that said all will be very happy to get back to their beautiful Church service in October.



Anglican Women

A gathering of around 75 Anglican Women from all over Newcastle Diocese came together at St Peter's Church Hall East Maitland on Tuesday 3rd September to celebrate our Annual Spring Celebration 2024.



Dean Katherine presided and preached over the Eucharist and the amazing Dr Andrew Browning was the guest speaker. Dr Andrew works with the women of Africa, supporting Safe Birth and Maternal Care, and works with women through the **Barbara May Foundation**, building hospitals and conducting life-saving Fistula surgeries giving these women dignity and empowerment from their isolation.

Our AW thankyou box collection this next year will be in aid of the foundation to afford more hospitals and services in Africa and to support Dr Andrew's work with these women.

Please pray for the women of Africa and the work of the **Barbara May Foundation** and of course Dr Andrew.

Find out more at: <https://barbaramayfoundation.com/>

Who was Barbara May?

Barbara May Browning (1916 – 2004) was the mother of **Valerie Browning** and grandmother of **Andrew**. She lived an altruistic life based on her Christian values, placing little value on material possessions and always looked to improve the lives of others. She endeavoured to reflect the love of Christ to others, the love that she had known in her life.

The Foundation was established to honour her and the values she instilled in her large family. She was a great supporter of Valerie and Andrew's work, and travelled to Africa in 1999, when aged 83, to see Valerie's work first-hand. Two of Barbara's sons, retired obstetrician, David Browning, and retired Bishop, George Browning are founding members of the Board.



School Visit

On Thursday 19th September Fr Scott went back to school with the children of Linuwel who are studying the lives of the Saints and visited St Peter's to prepare for a school play.

There were some very well-read students who both impressed and put Fr Scott to the test when discussing our stained-glass windows.



Wedding Bells!



Fr Scott has been very busy this month officiating wedding after wedding! September is certainly the month of love and he could not have been more excited than to unite Shane and Septiana in holy matrimony.



After a very long engagement you could not take the smiles off their faces, and to make it even more special they were joined by some fellow parishioners in celebration! The St Peter's family wish them all the very best for a long and happy life together 🍀

Our Parish Pantry Process



2024 has been very busy for the Pantry. We follow the same process each week to help our clients and so far have helped over 2000 families.

PICKUP Tuesday and Saturday evenings 4 pairs of volunteers (*David & Carol, Dan & Leanne, Glynnis & Chris, Deb and Janice*) alternate collecting unsold food from the U1R Bakery in Maitland. Our team, along with the friendly staff, pack hot pies, sausage rolls, quiches, cakes, buns, pastries, bread and bread rolls into our vehicle then onto the Church. Fr Scott picks up meals from the Slow Food Network on Friday's then we are almost ready for Pantry Day.



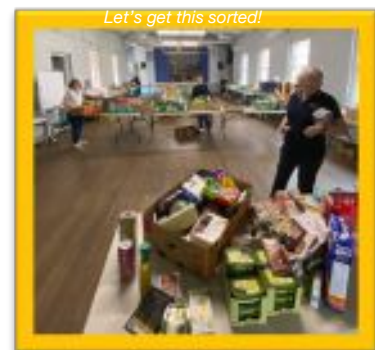
Janice pickup at U1R

UNPACK Wednesday and Oz Harvest deliver the bulk of the food and the team are ready on hand to unpack the truck. This has been an important partnership but with the increased number of families needing help we have noticed a reduction in the supply of the goods that we receive as the food needs to go further across the community.



OzHarvest truck unpacked

SORT The food collected from the bakery and delivered by OzHarvest is then sorted into parcels based on the number of people and families who have registered their name.



Let's get this sorted!

DISTRIBUTE Clients are listed on the whiteboard and are assigned a time for collection. They are greeted at the Hall window by our friendly 'front of house' team who hand over their parcel with a kind word, a smile and a 'see you next week' wave.



Whiteboard for distribution



Some of our amazing 23 volunteers

The Pantry team cannot thank the parishioners of St Peter's enough for the support you give them every week. Without it we would not be able to continue the work we do with all of the families needing help. Christmas is just around the corner and with the ever-growing number of families you can be assured that your pantry team, with your help, will be doing their best!

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. 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.



Mary BERRY
Terrance (Tex) PRESTON
Janice WALKER
John LATIMORE

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



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, Thursday and Friday 9am – 1pm

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



WEEKLY SERVICES

- Saturday 6:00pm - Vigil Eucharist
- Sunday 8:30am - Parish Eucharist and Morning Tea
- Sunday 5.00pm - Petrus (1st and 3rd Sunday only)
- Wednesday 8:00am – Eucharist
- 1st Friday 10:30am – Eucharist