

Cross & Keys

Winter 2025 – Newsletter of
Saint Peter's Church



Photo courtesy Scott Dulley



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 FINAL SPOT



Welcome to the Winter Edition of Cross and Keys and my last Scott's Spot.

It seems like a long time ago that I wrote my first Scott's Spot. At the same time it seems like the time has passed in the blink of an eye. As I have been reflecting back over my time in the Parish and experiencing things in the Parish for the last time I have been overwhelmed with a deep sense of gratitude to God for his many blessings. Naturally there has been a sense of sadness and grief mixed in as well.

I was commissioned as Rector of the Parish 2,068 days ago on what I recall was a relatively warm late spring evening. A short time later in my first Scott's Spot I highlighted the fact that I was commissioned on the feast day of a Pastor and how in the transition period from Muswellbrook to East Maitland I had been reflecting on the Exhortation to a Priest at ordination which has very much shaped the course of my life, work and ministry. In part it reads:

"I now exhort you, in the name of Christ, to take up your calling with joy and dedication. As the Lord's messenger, proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. Seek the lost, announce God's justice, warn and correct those in error. You are to encourage and build up the body of Christ, preaching the word of God, leading God's people in prayer, declaring God's forgiveness and blessing, and faithfully ministering the sacraments of God's grace with reverence and care."

I have once again been reflecting on those words in this period of transition. As best as I was able I have tried to live up to that high calling as your Parish Priest. As I commenced ministry with you and among you I hoped that over time we would get to know each other better. Learning what you are passionate about and how you hear and live out God's call in your lives. I was hopeful that we would learn how to minister together in this place in a partnership for the sake of the Gospel. I am deeply grateful that these hopes have become a reality. Both the joy and sadness being experienced around my leaving, is for me clear evidence of this.

It has been a privilege for me to be so warmly invited into your lives as your Priest and brother in Christ. It has been a delight to lead you in worship and to break open God's word together week after week. I have really enjoyed working together with you in ministry and mission as we have done our best to serve our local community. Your friendship and prayers have nourished and sustained me through the challenging times and being with you in the happy times has multiplied my joy. I am delighted that we are known as a welcoming and inclusive community of faith.

As I turn my face towards the borderlands of the south and life and ministry in the parish of Corowa I have no idea what God has in store for me. I hope that I will find people who are open and receptive to my particular style of priestly ministry, as you have been. I hope that I will establish partnerships for the sake of the Gospel as have been established here with you.

As we each continue on our journey of discipleship, albeit on diverging pathways, my prayer is as it was when I first arrived here in East Maitland. That we will look to the future with the hope of Christ firmly in our minds, the peace of Christ ever present in our hearts, the joy of Christ evident in all that we say and do, and the love of Christ holding us and prompting us to acts of kindness and mercy.

As I sign off for the last time I am reminded of the immortal words of Johnny Carson as he signed off on his last Tonight Show after more than thirty years, *"And so it has come to this: I, uh... am one of the lucky people in the world; I found something I always wanted to do and I have enjoyed every single minute of it..... I wish you a heartfelt goodnight."*

I very much share his sentiments as I conclude my ministry among you.

Go well and may God continue to bless you all!!

Your brother in Christ.
Scott.

Pentecost 2025 was celebrated on Sunday, June 8th, on the 50th day after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

This event is considered the birth of the Christian Church and we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon together as a Parish, complete with a St Peters celebration cake.



Pentecost



There were lots of smiles as our youngest and oldest shared in the spirit of fellowship whilst the colour red was the theme of the day.





Goodbye and Thanks for the Memories

Commissioning 25th November 2019



On Monday, 25 November 2019, Fr Scott Peter Dulley was formally commissioned as the Parish Priest of St Peter's.

Reflecting at that time he observed the significance of Priest's being appointed to defined roles within the Church and their duty to serve their respective communities.

Throughout his ministry Fr Scott has maintained that integrity in priesthood is rooted in authenticity. Complimentary to this he has consistently highlighted the importance of nurturing a faith-based community and advocating that collective participation in discipleship can enhance communal outcomes.

During his tenure Father Scott's leadership has left a lasting positive impact on the Parish through his approach to worship, compelling thought-provoking preaching, welcoming hospitality, openness and transparency.

His connection and personable way with parishioners, baptism families, wedding parties and those who are suffering grief have helped see the increase of people back to Parish. There is a sense of belonging and renewed enthusiasm within the congregation. Many people comment on the warm, inclusive atmosphere and our programs and community events have continued, providing opportunities for connection, support, and spiritual growth. From shared meals, group discussions and charity drives, the spirit of fellowship is reflected parish life.

Notable accomplishments during his time include the installation of a new church roof and the addition of the St Francis and St Clare windows. As significant as these have been, the establishment of St Peter's Pantry during the Covid pandemic in 2020 remains very close to his mission as a Priest. This initiative has played a vital role in supporting vulnerable members of the community and aligning with the Parish's duty with both a spiritual and social imperative, expressing compassion for others. This ministry is flourishing and is a testament to the guidance and direction given by Fr Scott along the way.

We express our sincere gratitude for the five and a half years Fr Scott has dedicated to St Peter's, and the congregation extends its best wishes as he transitions to his new assignment in Corowa.



Letters to

the Father

Wow! Scott sure is a force to be reckoned with! He has pushed me so far out of my comfort zone over the past few years. He first Church encouraged me to help with the banking then reading in Church (very scary for me!). Then he asked me to take on the role of Churchwarden and helping a great team in providing food for the needy in our Pantry. All of it has been a great experience. I will miss you Scott, you have helped me grow so much under your Leadership.

Kerry Priestley
Churchwarden & Pantry Co-ordinator

I have worked with Scott for more than five years as our Rector, in the Pantry as a volunteer then later as Coordinator and now as a Churchwarden.

We worked together in the Pantry during lockdown, which was not really the best welcome for him to our community and family but we all survived.

Scott has the enviable ability to put people at ease and talk to him about anything, whatever it is he is always willing and able to do whatever he can to help.

As he leaves us to go south he will leave a hole in our parish family that we just have to live with and then we will have to break in a new Rector.

Scott you will be missed.

Bill Griffiths
Churchwarden



Father Scott has been an important part of our lives over the past 5 plus years. We have grown in our own walk with God and have been part of a living church engaged with the local community in many different ways.

Scott has been a good leader in all these ministry features and has been giving much of himself in everyone. Through the COVID experience Scott was able to adjust his own life to accommodate the disruption and provide meaningful services via the internet that kept us engaged until we could meet again.

The church roof project was finally completed, and Scott played a crucial role in getting the project to what we see today which will be an enduring testimony to God's care for St Peters.

We pray that Scott will know God's continuing care, guidance and blessing as he relocates to Corowa. – **Graham Webb, Rector's Warden**



FATHER SCOTT, THANK YOU
FOR YOUR MINISTRY TO US
AND WITH US AT ST
PETER'S. I'VE ENJOYED YOUR
SUPPORT, FRIENDSHIP,
SINGING AND SERMONS.

PLEASE KNOW TOO JUST HOW MUCH ALL
ENJOYED AND APPRECIATED THE FIRST FRIDAY
SERVICES.

THANKS FOR YOUR EARLY MORNING DRIVES
TO THE FLOWER MARKETS TO COLLECT THE
FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH, ALL
APPRECIATED. ENJOY COROWA.
BEST WISHES AND GOD BLESS

DAWN MORRIS

Five and half years where has the time gone. As I reflect on Scott's ministry, I can see many and varied innovation that Scott has brought with him to bring our parish together especially during Covid pandemic by zooming services for us to join in. So, we did not feel left out. Inclusiveness, compassion, hard work and hospitality are words that for me sums up Scott's ministry. These are now the hallmark of our parish, making us a very welcoming parish where everyone is welcomed.

We only have to look at the roof of St Peter's to be reminded of all the hard work Scott did in restoring both the physical and spiritual needs of the parish in his friendly, caring, supporting and compassionate way. He truly has left us a great and lasting legacy.

To Fr Scott how can I thank you for sharing your ministry here at St Peter's during the last five and half years with me. Your encouragement, support and friendship has enriched my life to the person I am today. I will be forever indebted to you for discerning and encouraging me to be priested so I could fulfill my vocation as an ordained Priest.

We have worked well together for the betterment of the Parish, complimenting each other with our strengths and thus allowing each of us to reach out to both the parishioners and wider community, thus making St Peters such a great parish.

I am sad that you are leaving, and I will miss you greatly but the many happy memories of working with you will last for ever. May God bless you greatly on your next stage of your Priestly journey.

Rev Wendy your Associate Priest

Congratulations Deacon Stephen!

'The journey has been long, uncertain and sometimes hard, but it all became pure joy (and some relief) on the Ordination night. The week began when the other ordinands, my good friends Deb, Amanda and I, gathered for a few days of prayer, reflection and rest at Wangi Wangi in a retreat led by The Rev'd Cathy Trimby. God blessed us with amazing hospitality from the Sisters at Wangi and we emerged with many new insights into the lives we about to enter.'

While we were a little bit nervous, an atmosphere of peace and joy overcame us at the cathedral. The warm love of the assembled clergy, the personal assurances and prayers of Archdeacon Rod and Bishop Peter and the knowledge that our loved ones were in the cathedral, or watching online, were each a source of calm and anticipation. It was amazing to feel the love and warmth of everyone from St Peter's who came to the service.

I was truly humbled and was reminded of what a godly and hospitable community you are.



But in the end, it's not about me, it's about God and His plan for all of us, of which I am but a very small part. To Him, be Glory, Honour and Praise!'



as Fr Scott chaired his last Parish Council meeting we reflect on the achievements over the past 5 ½ years and the great work done by all those who have served.

St Peter’s Parish Council 2020 – 2025

Thanks to the dedication of current and past Council’s for driving and delivering these key initiatives during Fr Scott’s tenure;

- ❖ 2020 Church Sound System Upgrade
- ❖ 2021 Master Key System Implementation
- ❖ 2021 Volunteer and Church Worker Rollout
- ❖ 2022 St Francis and St Clare Windows Install
- ❖ 2023 Op Shop Painting and Refurbishment
- ❖ 2023 Replacement Altar Frontals
- ❖ 2023 Establish Children’s Church Safe Space
- ❖ 2023 Return of Carols on the Hill
- ❖ 2023 New Church Signage
- ❖ 2024 Solar Panels
- ❖ 2024 External Lighting Upgrade
- ❖ 2024 Church Roof Upgrade
- ❖ 2025 Op Shop Sorting Room Replacement
- ❖ 2025 CCTV Project Implementation
- ❖ 2025 New Parish Hall Chairs



PANTRY PALACE

Thanks to the team of Bill, David, Richard, Maurie and Warren for their amazing work to extend the Pantry. The old, small storeroom has been opened up to become one big room. The masonite was replaced and a new concrete floor laid to ensure it safely takes the weight our heavy pantry shelves.

The A Team is very happy
WHAT A GREAT PROJECT



Wedding Bells Friday 20th June '25



Fr Scott was delighted to preside as Marriage Celebrant at the wedding of Joel and Shantell at Millers Forest Uniting Church. As his last in the Hunter, it was a glorious occasion and he give thanks the family for the honour.

Saint Peter’s Columbarium

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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.



Robert WOOD
Brian BICHARD
Graeme KNOX
Judith ARMSTRONG
Kay LORD
Julianne MITCHISON



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 + Morning Tea
Wednesday 8:00am – Eucharist
1st Friday 10:30am – Eucharist

“The Last Service”

Sunday 27th July 2025



The Homily



The Congregation Gather

The Feast of St James served as a fitting farewell for Fr Scott who was ordained a Priest on the same Feast Day 19 years ago.



The Eucharist

It was a joyous occasion as Scott presided over a double baptism during the service, celebrating with a very special family, bringing two loved ones into the Church as Sisters in Christ. There was a short break for a delicious morning tea before a few surprises then back to work for his last Baptism at St Peter's. At 11am he welcomed baby Phoenix who, at 2 months old, is the second child of Kim and Trevor whom Fr Scott married in 2023!

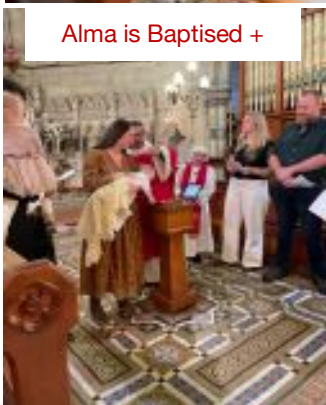
IT WAS A MORNING TO REMEMBER – THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES FR SCOTT!



Gifts from the Parishioners



Ellyn is Baptised +



Alma is Baptised +



The Sending Hymn

Photos courtesy Chris Holwell