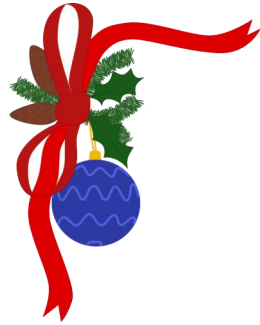


ST MATTHEW'S GRAPEVINE



PARISH OF ALBURY
*In the heart of Albury
Welcomes all people*

DECEMBER, 2016



Fr Peter writes :

Dear People of St Matthew's

*When others seem to break
When hope seems at an end,
We may be able to give hope just as a friend.
In Christ we share
A call to be in ministry,
To love and care.*

*Hope brings us back to life
In hope we can proceed;
God of the future calls to us if we but heed.
In Christ we view
How God can reign in our domain;
Make all things new.*

*This Christmas brings new hope
For justice, peace, goodwill;
This Advent time may bring with it a secret thrill.
With Jesus born
New hope can be reality
With each new dawn.*

George Stuart (Australia), Tune: Darwall (66.66.88) "Rejoice, the Lord Is King
George Stuart, as Sydney Carter before him, said that traditional hymns use lyrics and words that "express ideas which singers no longer enthusiastically or wholeheartedly endorse," resulting in "much personal irritation" from "a growing and significant number of people." Resulting in efforts to use traditional hymn tunes to be the vehicles of contemporary, progressive Christian ideas.
Discovering the Local reality can be challenging it would be easier to keep our heads down but life is very different to the days when ministry began here 160 years ago and it demands greater flexibility and a willingness to consider new models of sharing the good news in ways that are real.
Folk frequently say "Christmas is for the children", but it's not "sleeping beauty on ice" the real Christmas story is for adults, there are some parts we don't speak about in front of children because of its "X certificate" -an unmarried mother giving birth in an inconvenient place, it's about asylum seekers and the homeless, it's about the fellowship of outcasts, those considered queer or new age travelers, it's about a cruel government and policies that attack minorities and prejudice the welfare of children 'unless we discover the story today it will become dimmer and dimmer entangled in the "fairy dust of the past", **today** not yesterday is born a savior.

To connect all people of every culture and lifestyle with the rescue story is a contemporary challenge and we are deliberately revisiting community connections and themes that resonate with the world in which we live.

Christmas is a great opportunity to look back on ancient traditions without

getting bogged in the Christmas pudding or tangled in the Christmas stocking unable to emerge into the new year -we can't get an "app" for it we may have to ponder, and live it out -and in that regard a very special "Christmas thank you" to Fr Kevin at "Sacred Heart North Albury and the challenging ministry of welcome and friendship in ministry that he continues to model.

Albury Chamber Music Festival is the latest exciting child of our musical collaboration and outreach.

The sellout success of Albury's inaugural Chamber Music Festival speaks highly of the community and St Matthews church imagination and support that made it happen.

Save the date 17th to the 19th of November 2017 for a Albury Chamber Music Festival and a series of festival events to be announced.

NO Evensong – December and in January it will be on the 8th not the 1st January with Dr Allan Beavis and the theme of the music of Mendelssohn.

Interfaith **Carols and Readings** on 11th December at 5pm with the shared offering for St Matthews and the Rural Fire Service

Christmas service times –

CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00 pm Toddler Crib Service

(Children to dress as angels, shepherds, King, Mary or Joseph, Inn Keeper or wise boy/girl)

6.00 pm Family Christmas Mass

(Children to dress as angels, shepherds, King, Mary or Joseph, Inn Keeper or wise boy/girl)

10.30 pm Carols

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 am Family Christmas Mass

*Best wishes,
Fr Peter*



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Website. We are going to ask different businesses to pay to advertise in our website.

Food Room. 30 hampers were handed out during October.

Op Shop. \$487 was the takings for October.

Sorting Room. Mildred has joined the team of volunteers who help to sort the goods that come in for the shop.

Christmas hampers. It has been decided this year that only 400 hampers will be packed.

Pastoral Care. This is going well. Thanks to the everyone who are part of this team.

Christmas Tree Festival. number of trees have been entered.

Church Cleaning. This will take place on Saturday 3rd Dec from 8 am to Noon.

Finances. At the end of October the bank balance was \$1585.37

Secretary *Kaye Kennedy*



Christmas

CHURCH CLEANING WORKING BEE

SAT 3rd. DECEMBER
8am — 12 NOON



Please come, and help—many hands make light work!



Evening Group News

Our last meeting for the year was held in November. We meet before the meeting for Eucharist. This was followed by our AGM where Kaye Kennedy was elected as President, Dell Jenkins as secretary and Veronica Robertson as treasurer. We then enjoyed a meal together.

Our next meeting will be on the 16th February at 7 pm. Meetings are held at the rectory and new members are always welcome!

Kaye Kennedy President

ST. MATTHEWS CHRISTMAS SERVICE **TIMES**

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4.00 pm Toddler Crib Service

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M E D I T A T I O N

CHRISTMAS

While they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. (St Luke Ch:2 v:6-7)



At Myer Centrepont I once overheard two fairly harassed mothers talking. As they chatted, they were also keeping a watchful eye on three very enthusiastic youngsters. I overheard one of the mothers say, "I will be glad when Christmas is over".

Now that is a sad (but not uncommon) commentary on the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. The glitter, the rush, the crowds, and the expense of the Christmas season seem to have blotted out the simplicity of the Birth of Our Lord. Why is it common for people (maybe even ourselves) to make comments similar to the young mother ? Perhaps it is a protest against 2 things:-

- (i) The hustle and bustle that surround what should be a sacred season.
- (ii) A protest against the loss of what is sacred. The humble birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the true meaning of Christmas are blotted out by the commercial hype, spending and endless parties

that seem to be typical of Christmas these days.

The true meaning is that Jesus Christ comes into our world as the gift of God, and that gift is the greatest and most valuable of all.

When we give gifts we do so for a reason – to show our love to someone and that we care, or to show our gratitude. Such gifts don't usually last a lifetime. They are used up, or wear out. There is only one gift in this world that lasts for all time and that is the gift of Jesus from Our Heavenly Father. This priceless gift of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ was given out of a sense of love for us all. It promises eternal life with him where all sadness, suffering and sorrow have no place. Jesus said... **"I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."** (St John:10 verse 10)

There is however a challenge that goes with this gift. How shall we treat it when it arrives this Christmas ? Sometimes gifts are not gratefully received and are passed on, or put in a cupboard to gather dust. How shall we treat God's gift to us this Christmas ?? Helen Steiner Rice has shared her thoughts as follows:-

Christmas is a gift of love, that can't be bought or sold.

It's ours just for the asking, and it's worth far more than gold.

This priceless gift of Christmas is within the reach of all

The rich, the poor, the young, the old, the greatest and the small.

So take God's Christmas gift of love, reach out and you'll receive.

The only payment that God asks, is just that you believe.

May you find room in your heart and your home for Our Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas.

Father Colin

Children's Church IN NOVEMBER

Our theme for the day was 'Advent - Getting ready for Christmas'. There were 19 Mainly older children attending, and they were keen to address the subject of getting ready for Christmas! As the church was not decorated, the story was absorbed, without distraction, and the subject of preparing for a baby, with modern day bottles, dummy nappy rugs etc. and then 2000 years ago, was centre stage! The children were asked to relate the story of the Nativity, and gaps were filled in by Fr Peter. The children were keen to be involved by bringing the figures from the nativity story forward, from Mary on the donkey through to the Wise Men. Fr Peter mentioned that Jesus came to earth to help us in our lives, and cares about us. The Mother's Union which supports Children's church is putting a tree in the Christmas Tree Display, called 'Children in Church' so the children drew pictures suitable for Christmas decorations, on white card circles, which will be added to the tree, they were invited to come to the display and see their work! The communion was held, with lines of children being given the bread, and then the adults. Appropriate songs were sung, such as 'Away in a manger, Twinkle twinkle', 'He's got the whole world in his hands', Tom Summerfield played, with David Luxon nearby. The musical procession was held at the conclusion, and an Advent month colouring sheet set was handed out to each child. A generous morning tea awaited the congregation, after the service!

**PLEASE NOTE : THERE WILL NOT BE A
DECEMBER CHILDREN'S CHURCH
SERVICE. AS THE CONFIRMATION WILL
BE HELD THAT MORNING. Families are
encouraged to come to the Christmas Eve
4pm or 6pm services Or 8.30 am
CHRISTMAS DAY (See service times p. 5)**

Julie Scott

Spokesperson for Children's church.



Frankie, one of our young children's church members saying her prayers.



FOR A JOB WELL DONE !

At the recent AGM of St Matthew's Village,

President Yvonne Jackson did not seek renomination to a position on the Board. This ended in excess of 25 years of committed service to the residents and Board, the last several years spent in the role of President.

Yvonne's influence and considered opinions were much appreciated by the Board members, as was her care and concern for the well-being of the residents.



She joins a long list of previous Board members to whom we are most grateful for the stewardship of the village through many changes to bring it to the modern and well run village that it is today.

Fr Peter thanked Yvonne for all of her efforts and presented her with a china tea-for-two setting along with flowers to mark the occasion.

We hope that she will think fondly of her time given to the village when she sits down for a well-earned cuppa.!

MULTI FAITH READINGS AND CAROLS

St. Matthew's church



SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 5 pm.

A varied selection of Christmas music with St. Matthew's choir

Please bring a plate of supper to share afterwards

Interfaith Evensong Service



Below: Prof Geoffrey & Ann Blainey at the
Albury Chamber Music Festival Service at
St Matthews



Hospital Chaplain Catherine Dawson



St Johns Lutheran School children on a recent
visit to St Matthews



CONFIRMATION



St. Matthew's Church,

9AM SUNDAY, 18TH DECEMBER



JOKES FOR THE KIDS!

Q. What do you get if Batman and Robin get smashed

by a steamroller?

A. Flat man and ribbon.

Q. Why is Playschool dangerous?

A. Because there is a bear in there!

Q. What time is spelt the same forwards or backwards?

A. 'Noon'

Q. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A. Because he had low elf esteem !



H U M O U R for Lexophiles!

How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

Haunted French pancakes give me the cr?pes.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

When chemists die, they barium.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.

All the toilets in York's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

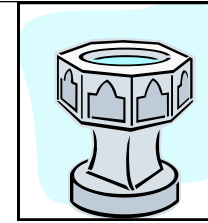


ON THE RECORD

Baptisms

We welcome into Christ's family

23 October Ethan William SCHULZ
30 October Clayton Angus BLAZELY-FOX
Freya Katrina-Joan COLLETT
6 November Alaric Lyle-Joel WOLFFENBUTTEL



Weddings

We congratulate those joined together in Holy Matrimony

22 October Trent William MERRIMAN & Nicole Leanne HARRIS
29 October Carl Edmund ROGALSKI & Anna PATSINA
19 November Eric Mark GUL & Kerry Anne COSTIGA



Funerals

We pray for those who have died and extend our sympathies to those who mourn

10 November Norma Mabel PENMAN



Years Mind – December / January

We pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time

December

Marjorie 'Joan' FYFE (4th), Bert WINSTANLEY (4th), Sydney William YOUNG (4th), Alan Barton FOSTER (6th), Shirley-Ellen TUCKER (7th), James SCOTT (9th), Gerald DIGBY (10th), Walter Alfred MORAS (11th), George JARDINE (13th), Teresa May NIEHUS (13th), Emily GLANVILLE (15th), Ivan Rex PIKE (15th), Stella Apphia POWELL, Kathleen JARDINE (15th), Betty Lorraine SULLIVAN (16th), 'Max' Maxwell Isaac JONES (19th), Clifford Harold MOREY (21st), Dolly YEOMANS (21st), 'Roddy' Roderick Broun DAVIES (22nd), Irene BREY (23rd), Maria WHITE (24th), Richard CRAMBROOK (24th), Nora DAVENPORT (25th), Annie BROOKS (26th), Ronald BRADDY (27th), 'Dick' Albert Alan EISENHauer (29th), 'Fred' Sidney Frederick THORMAN (30th), 'Harry' Henry Samuel DYE (30th), Laszlo LADI (30th)

January

Donnie DUGAN (2nd), Dorothy Jean STORES (2nd), Shirley RUTHERFORD (3rd), William Hamilton LESTER (4th), Olive WILSON (5th), Eric COLEMAN (7th), Katarina Vasilja FILIPOVIC (8th), Clarence Leonard RICHARDSON (9th), Frank BLACK (9th), Kevin Curnow (Priest)(9th), Lucy MAGRATH (10th), Harold SCHNELLE (12th), Ilma LESTER (12th), 'Les' Leslie BLEASDALE (13th), Kenneth Edwin CALLAGHAN (14th), Belle SHORT (16th), Henry HODGSON (17th), Shirley BULLIVANT (17th), Reginald PIPER (19th), Viva GABRIEL (20th), David DUNWOODIE (20th), Dorothy HEPPNER (20th), George EISENHauer (21st), Jean Roberta HABERECHT (21st), John Lester ROACH (21st), Bernard Joseph STORES (22nd), Elsie Evelyn FORBES (25th), Colleen SAMPSON (28th), Johannes 'Reinhard' Wilhelm BEIER (31st)



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ST MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

SERVICE TIMES

TUESDAY

8:00 am. Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

10:30 am. Eucharist

THURSDAY

No services

FRIDAY

10:00 am. Eucharist at Riverwood (except 2nd Friday). All welcome

SUNDAY

9:00 am. Sung Eucharist

10:30 am. Children's Church 3rd Sunday every month

5:00 pm. Evensong (only 1st Sunday of every month)

Please note no Evensong December & January on 8th not 1st

PARISH CLERGY:

Rector:	Peter Macleod-Miller	(02) 6021 3022
Associate Priest:	Rev'd Maureen Beattie	(02) 6026 8861
Associate Priest:	Fr Alan Kelb OAM	0418 464 053
Hon. Associate Priest:	Fr. Bill Ginns	(02) 6025 0556
Hon. Associate Priest:	Fr Colin Wellard	(02) 6021 0367
Hospital Chaplain:	Catherine Dawson	0466 324 435
Pastoral Care—	Carol Read	

PARISH OFFICE:

Rector's Secretary: Deb Davenport

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Monday to Friday

Phone: 6021 3022 **Fax:** 6041 3149

E-mail: office@stmatthewsalbury.com **Website:** www.stmatthewsalbury.com

Facebook: [St Matthew's Anglican Church Albury](https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurchAlbury)

GRAPEVINE EDITOR—

Julie Scott Ph. 6021 8897 Email: jazzer43@bigpond.net.au

PARISH BANKING DETAILS—

Bank: National Australia Bank (NAB) - Account Name: St Matthew's Church Albury No 1

Account—BSB: 082 406 Account No: 17053 2923

PARISH COUNCIL:

Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller—Chairman
Victoria Chick—Rector's Warden
Ken Curnow—Warden
Joe Nesbit—Warden
Cathy Carden—Assistant Treasurer
Kaye Kennedy—Secretary
Ray Fietz—Head Verger

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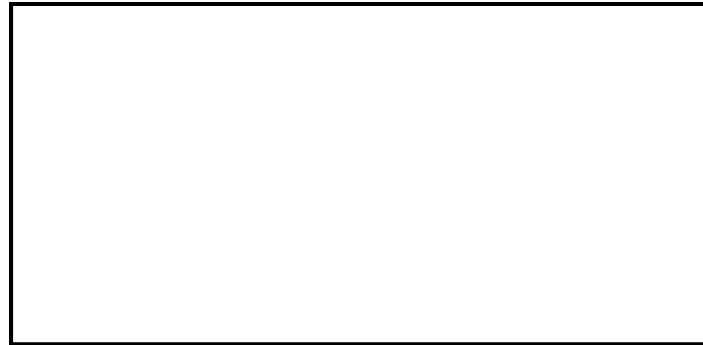
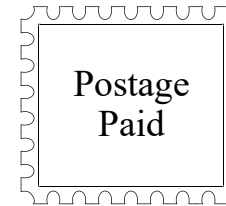
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PARISH OF ALBURY

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DATE: DECEMBER 2016

