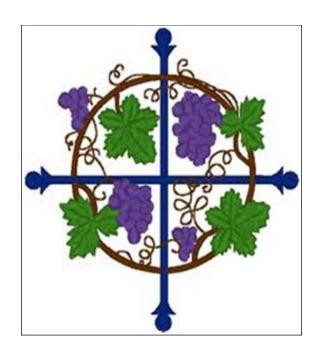
ST MATTHEW'S GRAPEVINE



PARISH OF ALBURY

FEBRUARY 2014

Fr Peter writes:

Dear People of St Matthew's

Love Divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heave, to earth come down, Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown. Jesu, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all thy life receive; Suddenly return, and never, Never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above, Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.



This famous Wesleyan hymn on the subject of real love, comes at a time when florists and chocolatiers are in a frenzy over matters of the heart with Valentines day exploding in a deluge of hearts and flowers. Christmas is a time when we celebrate Gods reality breaking into ours, real need is met with real action, so Christian faith is about connecting with reality not hiding from it. In Australia as of late we are not trusted to know the reality of our treatment of those literally washed up on our shores, communication between young people increasingly happens in a virtual way through Facebook or in cyberspace, but the realities come home to roost in violent behaviour fuelled by drugs and alcohol by a generation who can't exist in society without that sort of armour and the range of mask and courage they provide.

At St Matthews together we are attempting to interact with local realities, through the indigenous focus in our Lady Chapel in the light of real needs of local indigenous people. Christmas saw record numbers of people interact with the real story of the incarnation through a sometimes challenging living nativity and many opportunities for children to play a real part.

Integral to the liturgical offerings were new offerings in terms of pastoral care and outreach, fresh focus on the homeless and needy and fresh opportunities to engage new people in practical ways of helping. Musically there was a buzz of excitement as our organists and choir thrilled us with music from the medieval to the modern with percussion and passion that spoke to every age, how fortunate

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we are to have such a range of people taking such a range of risks in a local faith adventure the result will reverberate throughout the year, thanks also to those who support our tax deductible music foundation, and welfare operations through St Matthews crisis care.

Looking back on the last year, reaching forward to the new one I would love to thank you all, outstanding office, liturgical, pastoral, musical, youth, congregational and practical support and ask that you continue to suggest ways that we can be Christ's feet, heart, hands and voice in this new year that also commemorates the commencement of the Great War and so calls us to new steps of peace and reconciliation.

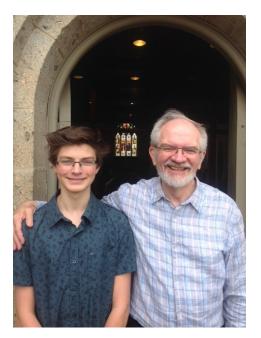
Fr Peter



Standing room only for Christmas services



Auntie Nancy and friend at the Car boot sale at Adamshurst



Organ scholar off to the big city after winning scholarship to scotch

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

<u>Youth Group.</u> Owing to the school holidays and that Clinton is in India and Morgan is also overseas, the group hasn't met.

Safety Issues. New globes have been put in the lights in the choir gallery.

Advertising sign. We are looking at ways we can improve the sign on the notice board.

<u>Outreach & Pastoral Care.</u> The Aged care Christmas service was well attended. The Eucharistic Ministry at the Mercy is going well. Rev'd Maureen has made a huge difference to the pastoral care team.

Anglican Food Room. 36 hampers and \$20 fuel voucher were given out in December along with 257 meats that came in. 310 Christmas hampers were distributed, a new record \$6891 was spent on purchasing items for the hampers. The hampers were packed by students from Albury High as well as people from the Parish. They were packed in a little over one hour. Thank you to everyone who helped in some way.

<u>Website</u> This needs to be revisited, to see what can be improved.

The Coffee cart man. He has good and bad days, at present he is on holidays.

<u>St Matthew's Village</u>. The new community centre at the Village is completed. There are tenants in one of the new units. Construction of the others is coming along slowly.

<u>Car Boot & monster Garage sale.</u> will take place on Feb 1st at Adamshurst.

<u>Finances</u> No1 a/c Balance at end Dec \$30,295.22 less cheques to be paid \$21,059.24. Balance \$9235.98

Kaye Kennedy Secretary

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

Will return next month

Direct Deposit into St Matthews Bank Account is available for those wishing to make a donation or for your planned giving. 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

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St. Matthew's Parish

A.G.M

(Straight after 9am service) **Sunday 2 March**

(Report s to be submitted to office before 16th Feb.)



Fr Peter and the Independent schools team in front of the military chapel



Dedication of the Indigenous Chapel

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Children's Church For January

Christmas story, as it is still in the church's season of

È Epiphany. We had a good turnout of 16 children, 10 of whom dressed up as
 ☆ 'Kings', which they always enjoy doing at this time, and the large Christmas star
 ☆ was ably carried and held aloft by children.

↑ Three of these 'Kings' bought gifts to Jesus, and left them at the foot of the ↑ manger. The sub-theme was to talk about stars in general, and about gifts we ↑ all receive at Christmas, Reverend Maureen involved the children in this ↑ discussion and there were some very thoughtful and amazing facts revealed by ↑ some of the children. A mysterious be-ribboned gift was on the children's ↑ altar, and opened to reveal silver stars, with 'gifts' we can give back to God, ↑ for his goodness to us, such as being loving, patient, forgiving, taking turns etc. ↑ There were also blank stars which the children were invited to write other ↑ gifts we can give back to God. The stars were then pinned on the altar frontal, ↑ to remind us. There were several action songs, one being 'Twinkle, Twinkle

little star" which were enjoyed by all, Tom Summerfield played several of the songs, with David Luxon being there to oversee, and also add his special touch on the piano. The church was blissfully cool, and as the weather was only in the mid 30's!! after our musical procession, our excellent helpers were able to serve drinks and yummy eats in the shade of the church.

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★ Julie Scott, Children's Church
★ spokesperson



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☆

☆

Tom Summerfield with David Luxon as support, shared playing at Children's Church



"Kings' participate at the Epiphany Children's church, January

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EVENING GROUP NEWS

Evening Group had a planning meeting 20 January – watch this space!



Children's church children after the January service



All the wise women kept well out of the way



Christmas music and Christmas fun



The wise man wished he'd followed a star to a church with pretend animals

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MEDITATION

(The Hard Sayings of Jesus 1)

"If anyone would follow me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. (St Mark 8:34)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a Lutheran Pastor in Nazi Germany. One of his books "The Cost of Discipleship" has been labelled "a modern classic".

Bonhoeffer knew what it was to 'deny himself and take up the cross of Jesus', for taking up the cross and following Our Lord can involve great cost. For him it was imprisonment in 1943 and execution in 1945. Why? because he vehemently and actively opposed the Nazi Government and the official Nazified State church.

Following Our Lord can involve suffering for Him. The early Church knew the ultimate suffering as it faced persecution and death under Roman Emperors for the sake of Jesus. St Peter was crucified, St James was beheaded. Today many thousands of Christians "bear the cross" particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Many have had to flee to refugee camps to escape persecution for their faith.

We in Australia are spared this sort of suffering for Christ, but it can still be there in more subtle ways. Denying ourselves is not just a matter of giving up something, whether it is for Lent, or for the rest of our lives. It is a decision which says "no" to ourselves, and sometimes to our hopes, plans and ambitions and how we hope to achieve them – for the sake of Our Lord. To follow His wisdom and His way can literally lead to a cross. This is His challenge to us. The person who denies himself, no longer follows his own will, but the will of Christ.

Today we live in a secular society where God, even if He is thought to exist, has no part to play in the ordering of that society. In that society, what is "good" is that which is commendable, or at least acceptable. This can often come into conflict with the wisdom of Jesus. In that conflict lurks suffering such as sarcasm, ridicule, scepticism and even hostility – which can be directed at the Christian.

The old, well known hymn sums it up for us

"Take up your cross the Saviour said, If you would my disciple be... For only he who bears the cross May hope to wear the glorious crown."





Aged Care Christmas service

Lighting a pre-Christmas candle



Family and friends with some Confirmees from 2013



Christmas Angels

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Coralie Williams one of our tireless gardeners!



Homeless at St Matthews



Journalist Howard Jones tries the coffees from the coffee man, at front of church



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HUMOUR

THE IRISH CHRISTENING

Paddy's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and went into a deep coma.

After nearly six months, she woke up and saw that she was no longer pregnant. Frantically she asked the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replied, "You had twins, a boy and a girl. The babies are fine. However they were poorly at birth and had to be christened immediately, so your brother Paddy came in and named them."

The woman thought to herself, "Oh suffering Jesus, no, not me brother.

He's a clueless idiot."

Expecting the worst, she asked the doctor, "Well, what's my daughter's name?" "Denise," said the doctor.

The new mother was somewhat relieved and thought to herself, 'Wow, that's a really beautiful name. I guess I was wrong about my brother, I really like Denise.'

Then she asked, "What's the boy's name?" The doctor replied, "Denephew."

REVELATION!

Edinburgh man Wullie McTavish is on his deathbed, knows the end is near, is with the nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons.

"So", he says to them: "Bernie, I want you to take the Braid Hills houses."

"Sybil, take the flats over in Morningside and Bruntsfield."

"Tam, I want you to take the offices in Charlotte Square."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings in the New Town."

The nurse is just blown away by all this, and as Wullie slips away, she says, "Mrs. McTavish, your husband must have been such a hard working man to have accumulated all this property".

Sarah replies, "Property? ... the bugger has a paper round!"

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ON THE RECORD

Baptisms We welcome into Christ's family

14 December Ellie Rose GILLETT

15 December Madeline Daphne Jane BLACK 21 December Carla Margaret BARNES

> Sienna Rose LEITCH Ruby Jean LEITCH

Jackson James TROLLOPE

Alby Jack CLARK

4 January Samuel Alexander BROWN-HOVELT

5 January Ivy Tucker KREUTZBERGER

Flynn Simon LARACY

Jorian John Raymond BLANCH

Weddings

22 December

We congratulate those joined together in Holy Matrimony

9 November Cameron Charles GILCRIST & Katherine Ann ALLEN
16 November Jason Paul MUSIL & Lauren Maree TOROCSIK
23 November Jae Thomas DRUETT & Alishya Elain PURSS
23 November Trent Aaron PERRYMAN & Jayde Marie KING

7 December Thomas Douglas STRONG & 'Ivy' Yuan Yuan LI
21 December Alexander George HAWKE & Amelia Julija McMANNUS



9 December Sydney William YOUNG

20 December Lorna Marjorie LIVINGSTONE

7 January Elizabeth Mary Ann HOWSAM 17 January Kenneth Edwin CALLAGHAN



Years Mind - February

We pray for those whose anniversary falls at this time

Betty BRADDY (1st), Isabel Maggie BROMFIELD (1st), Syd PIPER (2nd), Craig Leigh WHITE (4th), Ivy Adelaide GRANT (7th), Stanley Victor RUDD (7th), Mavis Jean SMITH (9th), 'Bill' William Joseph MOFFITT (11th), Eva STRACHAN (13th), Dot CLAY (14th), Grahame LING (16th), Crisostomo FRANCISCO (18th), Warren Littlewood JONES (19th), Reginald Clark STAR (20th), Sandra Jean RIDE (20th), Douglas Campbell COLLING-WOOD (21st), Keith Dalwyn HORE (21st), Clifford Raymond MEARS (22nd), Livinia Amaya Joy DUGGAN (22nd), Betty Lyall KIRKWOOD (23rd), Joan HENSHAW (24th), George Henry Hales COLEMAN (25th), Geoffrey James COLQUHOUN (26th), Ross Littlewood JONES (26th), Helen CHESHIRE (28th).

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Benjamin Fifield B Pharm., (Hons) MPS Pharmacist

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ST MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

SERVICE TIMES

Weekdays

7.00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

TUESDAY

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

10:30 a.m. Eucharist

THURSDAY
No services
FRIDAY

10.00 a.m. Eucharist at Riverwood (except 1st Friday). All welcome

SUNDAY

9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Last Sunday of every month—Matins with Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. Children's Church 3rd Sunday every month 5.00 p.m. Evensong (Only 1st Sunday of every month)

PARISH CLERGY:

Rector: Peter Macleod-Miller (02) 6021 3022 **Associate Priest:** Fr Alan Kelb OAM 0418 464 053 **Associate Priest:** Rev'd Maureen Beattie (02) 6026 8861 Fr. Bill Ginns Hon. Associate Priest: (02) 6025 0556 Fr Colin Wellard (02) 6021 0367 Hon. Associate Priest: Rev'd Arthur Martin Ph: 0414 575 875 **Hospital Chaplain: Pastoral Care** Deacon Heather Matthews 0402 900 777

PARISH OFFICE:

Rector's Secretary: Deb Davenport Book keeper/Accounts: Cate Kirk

Open Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Phone: 6021 3022 Fax: 6041 3149

e-mail: office@stmatthews.com.au Website: www.stmatthews.com.au

Facebook: St Matthew's Anglican Church Albury

PARISH COUNCIL: Councillors

Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller—Chairman Angie Barney Cathy Carden Victoria Chick—Rector's Warden Mark Carden Ken Curnow Ken Curnow—Warden Ken Davenport Ray Fietz Joe Nesbit-Warden Robyn Gibbs Kaye Kennedy Cathy Carden—Treasurer Joe Nesbit Carol Read John Satchell Robyne Slade Kaye Kennedy—Secretary Stephanie Stephenson Kay West

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ST. MATTHEW'S GRAPEVINE

PARISH OF ALBURY
If undeliverable, please return to:
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DATE: FEBRUARY 2014



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