

KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

THEME: LOOKING FOR THE CALM AND BRIGHT

December 2022



Christmas 2022 with a message of God being with us and peace and joy for all people comes at a time when there seems so much bad news on one side of the balance sheet. There is obvious Global anxiety about war and conflict and locally between Covid and the floods there is a tension in the air. Economically and politically the environment is unsettled but a plain reading of the original Christmas story includes all these elements and so perhaps the messages of Christmas have never been more timely or appropriate. The first Kings' Christmas message will be widely anticipated and this year our Christmas Services will try to have in mind the traditions that have helped to shape the society in which we find ourselves. We can look forward to wonderful words and music and perhaps our gift to each other might be to share tidings of great joy rather than the latest bleak mid-winter headline. You may like to take the opportunity to give a gift to our Music Association, St Matthew's Emergency Care, our Garden or Pastoral Care or to restore the recently vandalised statues of St Francis or the Angel to our garden. Above all on behalf of St Matthew's a huge THANK YOU to our congregation and community whose practical assistance has allowed us to bring Christmas cheer through hampers and Children's Gifts across our region. And a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped to spread the message of HOPE, JOY, and GOODWILL to all not just at Christmas but throughout the whole year and may God Bless us all and our loved ones at this very special time.

Advent Sunday at ST MATTHEW'S



Remembering our loved ones through the St Matthew's Garden



Donations are welcomed for the continued beauty of our gardens. Planting the Queen Elizabeth Rose in remembrance of Her Late Majesty and Daphne's and Rosemary in remembrance of our loved ones.

Money Donations can be left at St Matthew's Office between 10 – 12 Monday – Friday.

Or you can donate online (details below) and, in the reference, include for 'St Matthew's Garden'.

ALBURY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2022 A Huge Success!





PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

(Anglican Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell)



Updates St Matthew's

With the current increase in number of COVID cases, we strongly encourage wearing of masks in Sunday Services, please continue to sanitise your hands on entering St Matthew's, and maintain a safe distance in order to best protect our friends and community. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home and watch our service on YouTube when posted during the following week. Social distancing and sanitising remain for everyone's safety. Please check Facebook and website for updates, and we thank you for your continued support.

St Matthew's Services

Sunday Eucharist Service 9:00 am each week.

Wednesday Eucharist Service 10:30 am each week.

Evensong is the first Sunday each month at 5pm.

Sunday Service - We now have rosters for Eucharist Assistants (EAs) and Presenting Gifts. Rosters have been emailed to those involved, if you have received a roster, please take note of the dates you are rostered on for each month. If you are unable to attend the date given, please organise a swap with someone else on the roster.

You can continue to keep connected via the St Matthew's website: www.stmatthewsalbury.com and Facebook. If you have a SMART TV you can tune in to St Matthew's Sunday Service through YouTube. If you need help connecting to YouTube or your Smart TV, please contact St Matthew's Office 6021 3022 and we will be happy to assist.

The **Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter** is now a two-monthly production and is also available on the St Matthew's website: www.stmatthewsalbury.com on homepage, News and Events. If you have any news or articles that you would like featured in the monthly Keeping Connected Newsletter, please email to nettie.gorham@gmail.com

Contact details: If you have recently changed your email address or have a new email address, or a new mobile number, please inform St Matthew's Office 6021 3022.

St Matthew's Office will be CLOSED from 12 noon Friday 23rd December - Tuesday 3rd January 2022.



ST MATTHEW'S MEMORY TREE

Remembering our loved ones no longer with us but so close and precious in our hearts.

Or remembering someone you are unable to be with during the festive season. In memory, write their name/s on a blue tag and hang on the small silver tree in the Church. The tree will remain during Advent.



ST MATTHEWS CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Advent Carols	4 December	5.00 pm
Carols and Lessons	18 December	5.00 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December

4.00pm Toddler Crib Service
6.00pm Family Christmas Service
10.30pm Carols followed by
11.00pm Midnight Service with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December

9.00am Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion

CHILDREN'S CHURCH Sunday 18th December 2022 at 10:30am Theme: Christmas



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 2023

Sunday 9:00 am Services – will continue each week.

Wednesday 10:30 am Holy Communion Service – No services in January,
 Wednesday **services resume 1st February 2023**

The **Office** will be closed from midday 23rd December 2022 – 3rd January 2022
Pastoral care, Emergency care, weddings and funerals will continue, through
 contact via email or our website.

Emergency needs please send an email: office@stmatthewsalbury.com

Please check Facebook and website for updates, and we thank you for your
 continued support.

St Matthew's Retro Op Shop will re- open 3rd January 2023



The **Murray Concert Choir** presents its **40 Year Anniversary Concert**, with Guest Conductor, Guy Noble, featuring the music of Charpentier, Bach, John Ross the choir's founder and other local composers. Get into the Christmas spirit and Join in some traditional carols.

DATE: Saturday 17 December 2022 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM (UTC+11)

LOCATION: St. Matthews Anglican Church Kiewa Street, Albury NSW 2640

ST MATTHEW'S RETRO LANE OP SHOP MISSION STATEMENT

To raise funds for the work of St Matthew's Albury for the most vulnerable in our community, to provide cheap clothes and goods for sale and to offer a socially inclusive environment to volunteers regardless of race, sexuality, ability or beliefs.

Op Shop Facebook page please like and share it.





MOTHER'S UNION

MU Global Day 2022

The Mothers' Union's Global Day of Action this year is a response to a call for activism against Gender-Based Violence, which is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. Spanning many societies, it can affect anyone at any time and takes many forms. It can be part of a cultural 'norm' or hidden behind closed doors. It is

suggested that this action may be a theme during Advent. You can find more information and resources at www.mothersunion.org/global-day-2022

For Advent Service: Lighting the Advent Wreath in the Tradition of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

This year praying with the Mothers Union across the world for an end to violence against women and vulnerable people; that we might share the light of peace, joy and hope looking forward to a world where all God's children will enjoy respect and equality, security and safety. Amen

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Photos - October and November Services



November we did some thinking about Kings. In particular Kings who do things backwards. Crowns but not made of Gold. No palaces here. Just a stable with some straw. No fancy

schmancy carriages just a Donkey. We decided that Jesus was the only King who would be a king like that!

We also did some singing and marching and craft and had a lovely morning tea.

December Children's Service is 18th DECEMBER at 10:30 am

DECEMBER Children's church we will be looking at Christmas and where do stories, music, dancing and food all fit together See you then Children's Church team.

Thoughts for the month:



We do not remember days; We remember moments. Make moments worth remembering. Cesare Pavese

Never lose a chance of saying a kind word. William Makepeace Thackeray

When you are filled with joy, it will spill over to those around you.

Rejoice! Be glad! Celebrate!... Joy is one of God's gifts. Elyn Sanna

Lord in the midst of chaos, help me remain organised and focused. Amen. Unknown

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. Marcel Proust

It's not what the world holds for you; it's what you bring to it. L.M. Montgomery

It's faith in something and enthusiasm for something that makes a life worth living.

Oliver W Holmes

Somehow not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give others is the joy that comes back to you. John G Whittier

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS



Sharing the vouchers! If you have any spare vouchers for the tip, they would be greatly appreciated please drop into the retro op shop or St Matthew's Office 10 – 12 Monday – Friday. Thank you in advance.

The Ute Brigade continues to bring practical help wherever they are needed and have a good time doing it. Thank you!

Emergency Food Room Appreciation: A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed towards food hampers throughout the year. Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Emergency Food and personal Room needs: Christmas treats such as chips, tins of fruit, mince tarts, bought biscuits. Tins of vegetables, spaghetti and baked beans, packets of pasta and bottles of pasta sauce, small jars coffee, long-life milk, Tea bags, packet Cereal, toothbrushes and toothpaste, new shampoos and conditioners, ladies and men's Deodorant. Towels in good condition. Re-usable bags.



CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

30+

Christmas Hampers have been packed ready for distribution Wednesday 7th December.



MOFF-IT - IT Specialists

470 Swift Street Albury

Phone Aaron or George

0417 080 872

For all your mobile phone, iPad, computer problems.

TRINITY ANGLICAN COLLEGE THUGOONA



Commissioning Assembly for DR Adrian Johnson Was held Friday 23rd November 2022

BAPTISMS



Recent Baptisms:

Philippa Hutchinson, Edward Fisher, Frankie Bullock, Marlo Bullock, Alma Hutchings, Matilda Joseph, Caleb-Iqbal-Giles, Lucas Forrest, Vinnie Packer, Max Altass, Olly St Clair, Lenny St Clair, Isabella Warren, Alexander Warren

WEDDINGS:



Fergus and
Meaghan
Little



Recent Weddings:

Olivia and Alexander Rowe
Brooke and David Appleyard
Therese and Andrew Toth
Tamsyn and Aydan Nowak
Meaghan and Fergus Little
Elizabeth-Anne and Brendan Celi
Wedding Bells 2023!
Grace and Matt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL celebrating a birthday in NOVEMBER:

1 st Valerie Ratcliffe	3 rd Catie Inches Ogden
5 th Graham Power	6 th Denise Farrington
11 th Fr Bill Ginns	12 th Liz Pike
15 th Veronica Robertson	21 st Simone Summerfield
25 th Janette Kettle	26 th Jack Hall, Catherine Dawson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL celebrating a birthday in DECEMBER:

1 st Julie Scott	8 th Stevie DeAthridge, Erica Grimes
9 th Amanda Lovekin, Michelle Wood	
11 th David Murray	12 th Nance Grant
15 th Sally Morris	17 th Annie Snow
20 th Robyn Coleman	22 nd Stephanie Stephenson
24 th Zeke Radcliff	25 th Graham Steven 26 th David Martin



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes TO ALL celebrating a birthday in JANUARY:

3 rd Jenny Prince, Lyn Winnell	6 th Sandra MacLeod-Miller
16 th Kathy Cherry, Necia Searle	
18 th Margaret Wright	24 th Julie Ling
28 th Kerrie Wilkinson	31 st Helen Voogt



Fundraiser book for St Matthew's - makes you laugh and might even 'save your sanity'!
 'Beware: Old Age Ahead in Albury' is a unique take on steering family members or yourself through the complicated realities of getting older, by Marie Lee. The book includes a wealth of easy-to-read information, local resources and wonderful illustrations, 100% of the proceeds go to the church's Homeless Fund. On special for only \$20.00, Available at St Matthew's Office (10 – 12) and Retro Op-Shop (10 – 2).



An Amateur performance Spoon River Anthology was held 28th and 29th October in Adamshurst Gardens. It featured several members of the St Matthew's Parish.

Valerie Ratcliff The Other Theatre Company

OUT AND ABOUT





St Matthew's Craft Group

The St Matthew's Craft Group meet the first Wednesday each month

1:00 —4:00 pm

The CRAFT and Cake STALL

Sunday 4th December was very successful raising \$1285.00. Great work!

Great News! Another **Craft Stall** will be on **Sunday 18th December** at the Carols and Lessons Service at 5pm.

PASTORAL CARE



The Pastoral Care Team meet the first Wednesday of each month at the rectory (except January). We continue to stay connected phoning and visiting friends in our Parish and community. The 'Phone Tree' is a great way to keep in touch. If you would like one of our team to phone you, or if you know of anyone who would appreciate being contacted, please phone Annette 0413 938 541. A visit can also be arranged. If you know of anyone who is sick or in hospital, please phone Annette so a visit from Fr Peter can be arranged. Thank you for your kind donations throughout the year and to those who have knitted and crocheted rugs that brighten people's day when not well. A big Thank you to the

Pastoral Care Team – Fr Peter, Robin Wellard, Gill Mackay and Karen Buchner for their commitment and caring in helping so many people in our parish and community.

Our friends in Riverwood, Dellacourt, Marianella and Murray Gardens, Borella House Services



CHRISTMAS SERVICES RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND NURSING HOMES December



Tuesday 6th Yallaroo
Friday 9th Service (Holy Communion) and 23rd Riverwood
Tuesday 13th Mercy 11am and
Thursday 15th Murray Gardens
Monday 19th Dellacourt 3pm
Tuesday 20th Borella House

Please Note: There will be no services in Aged Care in January, however, we are happy to visit on request. Please contact Annette: 0413 938 541 to arrange a visit.



MEDITATION across the world and in Albury we are using new ways to stay in touch. There are growing numbers using ZOOM to connect with a meditation group at 6:15 each Thursday. At a time of great stress and isolation this could be just the tonic we need! Connect with Michelle and Paul on:
Zoom: www.quietcommunion.org



A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

*Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be Thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.*



*Our thoughts and prayers
are with all who are sick or unwell at home, or
in hospital.
Also, remembering our loved ones whose
years' mind is in November and December.
We remember with love those special people
who have recently died.
Forever in our hearts.*



Recent Funerals:

Norman Halburd, Angus Macneil, Jeffrey Smith, Jeffery Smith, Ray Williams, Edith Harris, Susan Miller, Andrew Milton, Dawn Lindner, Roma Jones, Joan Trescowthick, Christine (Kik) Watson, Rupert James (Sandi).



In Loving Memory Fr Bill Ginns

TUNES ON TUESDAY RECITALS AT ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, ALBURY



Tunes on Tuesday has been an outstanding success with growing numbers enjoying great quality and friendship. We look forward to even greater things in 2023.

Thanks so much to James Flores for the coordination as well as some thrilling music from our heroic Pipe Organ.



SWELL VOX is a small ensemble of musicians from Albury, NSW, Australia. They primarily focus on repertoire featuring the organ and voices, including both sacred and secular music. Their goal is to provide high quality music and anecdotal entertainment, primarily in the online music space.



Silver Celebration James Flores, organist and St Matthew's Organ Scholar is pleased to announce the release of a CD to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Matthew's, Albury, Létourneau organ.

Own a part of Albury's history by ordering a CD! Buy for \$20.00

<https://silvercelebration.jamesfloresorganist.com/>



St Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ – John Scott has written detailed information about the St Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ, available on the St Matthew's website. Great Organs of Australia *Masterworks at St. Matthew's* Sydney organist David Drury Premiere Recording of the Letourneau Organ. Limited copies of this CD available at reduced price of \$15.00 **Every cent raised from the sale of these CD's goes into the Organ Fund.** Purchase from St Matthew's Office or from the Church organists: David Luxon, Malcolm Halford or John Scott.

PARISH FINANCES: St Matthew's is looking to the future and working out how we can continue to service the community without going into a financial panic. A huge 'thank you' to the increasing number of people who are making a regular donation to the work of St Matthew's it is so encouraging. If you haven't managed to Direct Debit, make an enquiry at your bank and it's surprisingly easy to organise.

Bank details are: Bank: Westpac Account name: St Matthews Church Albury

BSB: 032736

Account no: 392189

Reference: 'Giving' and your name.

Please help us reach all our Parish Members: If any of your friends have recently got an email address, could you please send an email to St Matthew's Office, with their name and email address, so we can add it to our emailing list. Share the news and connection by emailing the Keeping Connected Newsletter to family and friends.



"May the Joy, Love and Peace of the Christ Child be God's Gift to you and yours this Christmas and throughout the coming year."