



ST MATTHEWS ALBURY

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

28TH NOVEMBER 2021

This meeting will be subject to covid-19 restrictions. All those wishing to attend will need to register on the day supplying their name and contact details and proof of double vaccination. Hand sanitising and social distancing rules will apply. Masks should be worn.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021 AGENDA

ST MATTHEW'S ALBURY

Chairman: Father Peter MacLeod-Miller

1) Welcome; Prayer

2) Apologies

3) Minutes of previous meeting

4) Matters arising from minutes

5) Correspondence

6) Annual reports:

Parish AGM 2020 minutes

Rosalind Brown

Rector's Report including

Mission Action Implementation

Fr Peter Macleod-Miller

Safe Church Report

Mark Carden

Treasurer's Annual Report

Mark Carden

Albury Courthouse Coffee Service

Fr Bill Ginns

St Matthew's Bell Ringers

Pam Thorman

Children's Church

Julie Scott

Choir & Music Report

Malcolm Halford

Craft & Embroidery Group

Sadie Moffitt

Emergency Food Program

Barbara Hoodless

Flower Guild

Helen Martin

Mother's Union

Janette Kettyle

St Matthew's Op Shop

John Schuberg

Pastoral Care

Annette Gorham

Christian Meditation

Michelle & Paul Wood

St Matthew's Village

Vicki Chick

St Matthew's Music Association

Father Peter

Maintenance & Tech Management

Paul Hare

St Matthew's Garden incl Memorial Garden

Father Peter

Parish Office Organisation

Annette Gorham

7) Motion: *That the tenure of the current members of St Matthews Parish Council, and Church Wardens, be extended until November 2022 when new elections will be held.*

Motion by Mark Carden

Seconded by _____

Motion

That the tenure of the current members of St Matthews Parish Council, and Church Wardens, be extended until November 2022 when new elections will be held.

Background to Motion

In November 2018 elections were held for Parish Council and Church Wardens for a 3-year term. Parallel with this, was a requirement that all elected members needed to obtain Safe Church Clearances which were also valid for 3 years.

In 2019 a new Parish Administration Act was passed by Synod which required new elections in November 2019 and a term of 1, 2 or 3 years.

Confusing or misleading advice was received from the Registrar at time suggesting that the original Safe Church Clearances would still only be valid for 3 years and hence the recommendation to the Parish Annual meetings at the time was to set a 2-year term for the elections. This would mean that the elected members term would expire at the same time as the clearances i.e., October 2021.

It has now transpired that a number of Parishes elected Councils in 2019 for 3 years and the Bishop has now extended Safe Church Clearances until Oct 2022. The Diocese has mandated that all Parishes elect new Parish Councils in November 2022 to coincide with Synod cycles and elections.

Given St Matthews in 2019 elected its Parish Council members for 2 years, a motion is being made that the current members have their term extended for 12 months thus eliminating the nomination and election process and also the need to revisit Safe Church Clearances (which is problematic in itself given the previous process has been suspended and a new process is being rolled out but yet to be fully implemented – see Safe Church report).

Bishop Clarence has endorsed this suggested course of action, provided members agree to a motion at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Mark Carden 21 November 2021c

- 8) Elect one or more persons to audit the Annual Statements of Account for the current year
- 9) General business as permitted by the Chairman

St Matthew's Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on

28 March 2021

I. Welcome & prayer

Facilitator Name

II. Attendance & apologies

Secretary Name)

III. Minutes of previous Annual meeting

Father Peter suggested the minutes of the previous Annual meeting be accepted

Moved by Mark Carden

Seconded by Kathy Cherry

IV. Matters arising from minutes

Nil

V. Correspondence

Nil

VI. Annual reports

(see listing for Annual Parish Meeting 28 March 2021)

Moved by Vicki Chick

Seconded by Kathryn Sutherland

Father Peter's report:

- Father Peter referred to the extraordinary year that 2020 was, with the physical closure of the church building due to the COVID19 Pandemic, the first time the church was closed since the Gold rush in 1862.
- He pointed out that St Matthews had responded to terrible things in the past with great outcomes, like the rebuilding of the church after the fire in 1991.
- He described the new ways of engaging with the community as dynamic, with clergy, assistants and parishioners alike embracing technologies to bring weekly services and God's message of comfort and hope into loungerooms. This helped prevent people from being cut off & isolated. Virtual services had 900 in attendance at times, more than could be packed into the church building.
- Father Peter relayed that the new Bishop, Clarence Bester observed we had stepped out of our comfort zones to stay connected, and this was a demonstration of the faith of the church community.
- Finally, Father Peter said the response was a tribute to the parish, the Parish Council and to the wardens.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Carden

- Mark outlined that, due to an increase in direct debit giving, some generous donations by parishioners and some cuts in costs during the COVID-shut-down, the financial position of St Matthews is currently fairly good.
- However, he did point out that the parish need to be cautious as people are ceasing to contribute via direct debit and are returning to only putting money in the plate when they are at a service.
- He said the projection is for a very modest surplus to be reached by September, but this will be dependent on how giving goes in the next six months.
- At the time of the previous Annual meeting (November 2019) Mark said the Parish had a debt with the Diocese of about \$26000.00, with a projected deficit for 2020 of \$35500.00.
- He said Job Keeper payments amounting to \$45000.00 (which finish on the day of this meeting) helped reduce this, as did the contributions of parishioners and various cost cutting measures (a list of these shown on page 3 of the budget).
- He added one main contribution to savings is that Kay Kennedy has been doing the job of running the office voluntarily, saving in the order of \$30000.00-40000.00.
- Similarly, Father Peter taking a 20% pay cut and not claiming mileage has been a big contributor.
- Mark continued, saying the Op Shop is slowly picking up, but is not bringing in as much income as it did before the pandemic. Traditional fund raisers like high teas, fetes etc. are not allowed to be run.
- Mark asked people to contact him with ideas for future fundraisers.

- He cautioned that the parish is looking at a reduced budget of only \$243000.00 for the coming year compared to \$322000.00 in the previous year.
- Mark said a small committee will need to form to manage about \$50000.00 worth of donations made to St Matthew's Care for emergency accommodation and food distribution. On the accounts, it looks like this money is in the parish budget, but it can only be used for this purpose.

Father Peter spoke to Mark Carden's Treasurer's report:

- He acknowledged the generosity of the community and observed, if the parish keeps on top of giving & keeps expenditure down, we won't have to talk about finances & can concentrate on more important things.
- He continued by thanking Kaye Kennedy for her tremendous voluntary contribution in running the office alongside Annette Gorham who heads up the Pastoral Care team & produces the fortnightly "Keeping Connected" newsletter. The pastoral care network and phone tree kept people from being isolated at home & reconnected with people that hadn't been coming to church & are now back.
- He mentioned the tireless efforts of David Sutherland, Matthew-Paul Fowler and the Ute Brigade in managing the building & grounds, amongst other things.
- He also thanked Barbara Hoodless for her work in Emergency care, the people who kept the gardens looking beautiful, inviting and inspiring and the Sanctuary team.
- He mentioned the efforts of the talented members of the choir in uplifting people's spirits with their beautiful singing and those who contributed inspiring musical performance clips used in virtual services.
- He acknowledged that some families went through a terrible time but still stepped forward and dug deep to help at St Matthews.

VII. Audit

Mark Carden proposed ATS Partners Wodonga be appointed as auditors for 2021.

Moved Mark Carden

Seconded Vicki Chick

VIII. General business

Facilitator Name called for General business:

Terrence Fornby suggested if parishioners had flowers in their garden's they were willing to donate, he would be happy to sell them in Dean St to support St Matthews. Father Peter thanked him for the idea, and it will be discussed at the next meeting along with other fund-raising ideas the parish are able to do amidst COVID constrictions.

Julie Scott asked if the Op Shop rent is going up.

Mark Carden explained Bellbridge Hague had not charged rent for a time during the initial COVID lockdown last year, but the charging of rent had now resumed.

Vicki Chick thanked all parishioners, saying they were a "fabulous lot of people" and in particular thanked Kaye Kennedy for her extraordinary voluntary contribution as Rector's secretary, Annette for her tireless efforts as Pastoral Care leader, Mark for doing an admirable job as Parish Treasurer, the "Virtual-Services Choir" (Sally, Corrine, Beth, Elspeth & Malcolm) for their beautiful music and Father Peter who worked flat out, seven days a week connecting with people, filming clips and putting together the Virtual Services.

She concluded that, on behalf of the Parish, we are incredibly fortunate to have Father Peter as Archdeacon, leading and co-ordination of the compassionate mission at St Matthews.

Father Peter responded by thanking Vicki for the terrific job she does in what was a difficult past year. He mentioned the excellent music department and the way that, what are essentially ancient services are run at St Matthews, makes them what Bishop Clarence described as “real” and relevant in this present day.

Wari Williams thanked the whole St Matthews family for all the help and care they provided since her husband passed away late last year – in particular she thanked Vicki Chick, Annette Gorham, people who had visited & Father Peter.

Father Peter praised the vision of Betty Atkinson and the generosity of the donation in her memory by her family of the glass sliding door – he noted it allows people to see in, lets in the light, says that St Matthews is open and says “Welcome”.

IX. Synod

The dates for Synod are 21-22 May

X. Pentecost -May 23rd – visit by Primate with Bishop Clarence

Father Peter advised the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia is to visit St Matthews with Bishop Clarence at Pentecost. He said we will dedicate the restored Vox Humane organ stop on the St Matthew’s organ (the Letourneau Pipe Organ being used by more and more skilled musicians) during the Pentecost service. David and Fran Luxton unfortunately will be away that week (incidentally the 33rd birthday of the choir wearing red gowns at Pentecost service), but Father Peter will arrange a way of including them in some “virtual” way into the service.

XI. Adjournment

Facilitator Name adjourned the meeting at 11.05am.

Minutes submitted by: Rosalind Brown

Minutes approved by:

RECTORS ANNUAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

I would first like to acknowledge the first peoples of our land and paying respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. This is the year when nothing happened.

Our **Pastoral Care network** is part of the Covid learning curve has been the importance of pastoral care. Even while the building has been closed the care of the people who are actually the church of St Matthew's Albury of which the building is an expression has emerged as the primary responsibility of all the activities of the parish. It is the people that provide the mission to our community and so our Mission Statement the goals for the future are very simply and essentially grounded in the care of our most precious resource. While we have administrative responsibilities to the Diocese of Wangaratta it is to the people of the parish and our community that we are principally and spiritually responsible. Our pastoral care and interest in the personal stories of our congregation beyond their position in the pew has been enriched through our Keeping Connected Newsletter and the livestream services which have given a window into the gifted individuals that make up the St Matthew's team.

James Flores for his technical expertise, and he has also included the many musicians who have continued to encourage us in a time of lock down and the growing number of contributors and with their own encouraging momentum continue an active role with both our presence online and through Facebook and Tunes on Tuesday. The gift of virtual services has been a new ministry outreach to people who through infirmity or geographical limitations would otherwise be unable to be part of the St Matthew's story.

Digital sign onto Kiewa Street continues to bring a contemporary message because of Father Paul Wood, whose wife the Reverend Dr Michelle Wood has also been a great gift to our Parish and community in the work that she does with children and families.

Quiet Communion by weekly Zoom has engaged people from our parish and beyond and has linked us with an international movement adding a new dimension to our parish life.

Reverend Bryn has had a long effective ministry through his Chaplaincy at Trinity Anglican College, and we congratulate him and thank both Bryn and Jenny for their fellowship at St Matthew's as they move to his next ministry as Chaplain at Trinity Grammar School in Kew.

We continue to enjoy an important connection with our local Albury High School.

Cathy Carden's long ministry as a teacher and her many gifts in Christian Service will be recognised by the Diocese in Ordination to the Diaconate early in 2022.

Many thanks to our **Bell ringers** who continued to ring in our virtual services via recordings, how wonderful to have them back now ringing in the service every Sunday morning at 8.30 am.

St Matthew's Craft Group have continued to meet and produce a range of handcrafted devotional items which will assist both financially and in the enormous personal contribution that this small group enables others through the gift of giving.

Helen Martin for her never-ending care of the flowers in the Church, and especially the Pascal Candle that she refreshes for each funeral despite her enormous personal commitments. Helen also provides a steady supply of devotional finger crosses which are widely used in palliative situations.

Reverend Catherine Dawson, our Hospital Chaplain has been a valuable link in Albury Wodonga Health at a time when so many places were in lockdown. Her leadership of Children's Church with their wonderful team, supported by The Mother's Union remains a special gift to St Matthew's.

Retro Lane Op Shop has gone from strength-to-strength John and Lyn and their committed team have been the flagship of St Matthew's even when the church has been closed. They have truly made the op Shop great again! This year it has been improved by Vicki Gray giving the op shop a Facebook presence and it enjoys a well-earned reputation across Albury and beyond.

St Matthew's music is one of the cornerstones of our outreach and community life. It's amazing that covid has actually given our instruments and musicians a wider audience than was possible before. Our organists are continually available for virtual services, actual services, funerals, weddings, as well as practicing and caring for our valuable instruments.

While many activities have been curtailed in this covid period St Matthew's music association has continued to train young musicians at a really critical time in their lives and we can be very proud that we have supported some of the borders most promising talents as a launching pad as they take off into a new future. Many thanks to the supporters who have made this possible **and the idea of a Christmas gift to enable even more young people to benefit cannot be underestimated.**

Albury Chamber Music Festival which falls under the umbrella of our association has been on hold awaiting the time in the near future when it is safe to gather, and the Governor General is able to visit. At this stage we are planning a Festival Concert in March and a Festival weekend in November.

St Matthew's Garden When the church has been closed, the garden has given a special message of hope and a growing future and have never looked more beautiful and yells a welcome to all who pass by. Many thanks to Robin

Gibbs and her helpers for their continued hard work in the garden. The new Memorial Garden is another pastoral opportunity to remember those precious individuals who have passed ways in these last couple of year. The very imaginative assistance given at Anzac Day and Remembrance Day to transform the fence into a poppy field was a gift to the wider community and I am sure will continue in future years.

The Office is currently being run by an efficient group of volunteers following a long period when she single-handedly dealt with daily matters in a very difficult environment. The office emails are accessed by the church wardens and myself remotely. Deb Davenport has returned on Tuesday's particularly to deal with weddings and the registers and data collection for the Diocese. The services both actual Sunday services, funeral preparation and the virtual services are coordinated by Annette Gorham who also coordinates the information to be sent to James Flores in time to premiere Sunday mornings. Annette has also been seen tying poppies to the fence and making video clips as the sun went down and in all weathers is seen either going to the church or leaving the church at a high velocity often armed with Keeping Connected newsletters or care rugs. Many thanks also to Shaun for his support and patience and no doubt they will look forward to catching up when they are safely overseas.

In acknowledging all that keeps us connected it has been a blessing that Aaron Moffat whose grandfather is Ross Altass in the bell tower and Riley, have stepped forward to deal with a wide variety of computer and technical problems both in the Office and increasingly across the parish. Whether it is a phone, Smart TV, iPad, computer he is able to wave his magic ability across total chaos and produce a wonderful sense of calm, so we are not just calm and collected but calm and connected.

Sandy Bobisch and our Sanctuary Team have continued their support to make Sundays and funerals, baptisms and weddings work smoothly.

Matthew-Paul has continued his fine work as Caretaker and Verger and continues to coordinate so much that goes on behind the scenes.

David Sutherland continues to assist in a wide range of practical capacities and with David Murray and Paul Hare make up the St Matthew's Ute brigade. There is no end to their capabilities and sadly for them no end to the jobs. If St Matthew's Albury owned the Sydney Harbour Bridge they would be in charge of the painting!

St Matthew's Emergency Care has continued to be made possible through the work of Barbara Hoodless and some very generous family donors.

New opportunities through new parishioners have enabled bread deliveries courtesy of Milawa Bakery which have had a pastoral dimension as well as making money to provide emergency care.

More new parishioners have helped to re-organise the rectory so that the important work of the provision of emergency bedding, clothing and personal care items can more effectively be delivered.

The **Wardens and Parish Council** have done an exceptional job and others who have been good enough to give up their time to assist our parish in a time of great need. There is much to be grateful for including assistance from the media with a program on ABC National TV Compass to be shown during May and the real joy of the connection with our new Bishop Clarence Bester and his family both through our virtual services and their visits when the borders were reopened. His genuine pastoral concern has been appreciated and felt across the Parish.

I should note that Holy Communion has been suspended through this period for the safety of the Parish and the community. Last year Advent saw the reopening of the Church and this Advent will see the recommencement of Holy Communion in both kinds. It would be important to say that the Holy connection between God and us as individuals and as a community has been in no way diminished but has increased in very practical and long-lasting ways by practicing God's Presence through this covid period in so many other ways.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals continued in a COVID safe way, and there has been an explosion of joyful bookings in our parish diary which is a wonderful Advent gift.

The COVID protocols banned passing round the plate, but the giving has shifted to direct giving by direct-debit and our Tap and Go facility many thanks to those who continue to share the load. I think it needs to be said that if you don't cry poor people imagine you are rich and there is nothing more draining than talking about needing money. Please reflect on all the parish continues to do and the financial miracle that that represents considering how little actually comes in on the happy side of the balance sheet. Do you think we could quietly decide to give as much to the service that St Matthew's gives to the community as we would pay for tea and coffee during the week? I think if we did this it would solve our current financial problems, it's actually not rocket science and we are not asking for an organ donation. Could we just give it a little go this Christmas?

Safe Church and care of vulnerable people special thanks to Mark Carden who has liaised with the Safe Church Officer of the Diocese to ensure compliance with the protocols for the important work of the safety of young and vulnerable people. We are relieved that the processes are being streamlined and hopefully put online to enable greater access and effectiveness.

St Matthews Village continues to be well served by the committee, most of whom come from the St Matthews family, and we continue to explore new ways of making it part of the total Parish mission with the resident owners and regular tenants being part of the interesting mix that make it such a positive community. During the past 12 months, we have lost very significant people in our Parish family and community and others being farewelled from St Matthew's or by our ministry and pastoral care teams with all the love that we can show them and their families at the time, 'Rest eternal grant to them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them'.

Best wishes
Fr Peter

SAFE CHURCH REPORT - Annual Meeting November 2021

It is with a feeling of relief that I can report that the Diocese has signed off that St Matthews has obtained the necessary safe church clearances to cover the activities of the church.

It has been a long haul with a process that commenced in September 2018 which was cumbersome, verbose, complicated, and seemed to keep changing. As of November 2021, 73 parishioners have submitted NSW Working with Children Checks.

Father Peter and the Church Wardens greatly appreciate and value the effort that parishioners have undergone in gaining WWC clearances, police checks and completing questionnaires etc. In the past three years the Diocese has placed immense pressure on Father Peter and Churchwardens to ensure all our church workers had the necessary clearances and it is great that our Parish has stepped up to provide a safe environment for ministry.

Unfortunately, the process is not a one-off static exercise and we will need to keep processing clearances for new church workers or where someone takes on a new or different role.

Good News moving forward!!!

- a) I attended a presentation last week where a new on-line Safe Church application process was demonstrated. Instead of completing the paper forms and having to return these to the church office, you can now complete a form on-line which is securely sent to the Safe Church Officer at the Diocese. The best feature is that the form is responsive (dynamic) and as answers are completed, ONLY further relevant questions are asked. This will make it simpler and quicker to complete. For people without computers there will be someone who can assist.
- b) The 6-hour training workshops are NO MORE!! Instead, there are two online training modules that you can complete at your pace at a time and place convenient to you. You can even stop a module halfway and come back at a later time. For people who prefer a group environment, then the modules can be run in for small groups in someone's home or the Rectory etc. The modules have also been customised specifically for the Wangaratta Diocese, so they are more relevant than the past workshops which were generic and covered many denominations and multiple states. I have also been assured that NSW regulations have been incorporated in the training for parishes north of the Murray River.

The new forms and training will be available in the new year.

For people with current clearances, these remain in place at least until November 2022 and the past training workshops remain valid for 3 years from when these were originally completed. WWCC are valid for 5 years. The best I can tell is that the Diocese is still in the process of rolling out the new application and training processes and the process and timing of renewal of clearances is something that will become clearer in the second half of 2022.

Mark Carden
Church Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report is brief as it is only for the 6 months from March – September 2021. There was a detailed report in late March 21, and the attached minutes record the information provided at that time.

Highlights for the past 6 months include:

We were able to finish the Financial Year in September, with the Parish in a positive financial position. This was largely due to Job Keeper support and government grants. However, with the recent Covid outbreak in Albury Wodonga, the closure of the Church and Op Shop, and subsequent low attendances in October and November, what little reserves we have are reducing as outgoings continue regardless of whether the church is open or closed.

We are now paying Father Peter his normal wage but are yet to recommence paying his allowance for car mileage. We again thank him for offering and accepting a reduced salary during Covid times. The most significant saving has been made by not having a full time Office administration person. The team of volunteers who work in the office throughout the week represent a saving of \$35,000. We have however found it necessary to employ Deborah Davenport for 3 hours per week to

complete the necessary government registration work for funerals, weddings and baptisms. The volunteers who maintain the gardens, cleaning and maintenance around the church also represent a significant saving and we greatly appreciate this. The presentation of the church and grounds brings joy and peace to many people and it is a credit to the workers that quietly make things happen.

In the attached budget the contribution to the Diocese has been maintained at the 2019 rate and a small increase in the minister's stipend has been approved by the Diocese. We have been advised that the insurance costs for 2022 have increased markedly due to recent fires and floods, however the Diocese has undertaken to subsidise these costs for 2022.

The budget figure for giving has been set as the same as last year even though it has been reducing in the last 2 quarters as many people are only giving when they attend services and, as we are aware, attendance is down at the moment. To offset this, a letter will be sent in the near future encouraging those who are not already doing so to give to the church via direct giving.

Income via fund-raising has been set in the budget as a modest target due to the uncertainty of holding events.

To achieve a balanced budget, a 12-month target of \$40,000 has been set for the Op Shop.

Parishioners are encouraged to make quality donations to the OP shop and also make a purchase of a pre-loved bargain.

The Highgrove rental property owned by the parish became vacant earlier in the year and we took the opportunity to carry out much needed maintenance which cost in the vicinity of \$15,000. While there was a loss of 2 months' rent as work was carried out, we have now been able to rent the property at an increased weekly rate. Our thanks to David Murray who oversaw the works and coordinated tradesmen. Our thanks also to the team of St Matthews workers who cleaned and rejuvenated the garden etc. The \$13,413 increase in drawdowns from investments was to cover, in part, these renovations as a one-off expense.

In 2020 the Parish received Job keeper payments. In 2021 we applied for a NSW Government Covid Business grant and were fortunate to receive \$15,000. For 2022 we are not expecting any further government assistance.

Whilst the cost of utilities in 2020 and 2021 were marginally reduced due to the church being closed, the budget for 2022 provides for these to be at the 2019 levels. Postage, printing and web costs all increased in 2021 largely due to producing the Keeping Connected newsletters and maintaining an online presence which has been well received and deemed a valuable use of funds. The attached financial reports are from the MYOB accounting package and have not been audited. The Audited Financial reports will be circulated as soon as these have been received.

Mark Carden

Church Warden and Treasurer

ALBURY COURTHOUSE COFFEE SERVICE. Annual Report 2020-2021

A service of the Anglican Parishes of Albury & Northern Albury

Since the last Annual Report, Rowena and I have visited the Courthouse to enquire as to the possibilities of resuming our activities. There, we spoke with The Registrar, Wendy Howard. She advised us that because to the Pandemic, and the rules regarding it, together with the extensions and the changes to the Courthouse building, which would take at least eighteen months, we would not be able to do so.

When "normal life" resumes, another meeting will be called to get us started, hopefully with some new members.

The need for our service seems to be as great as it was as it was when we started on 20th September 2010 – I sometimes wonder if our community is becoming more naughty when I see the large number of people around the courthouse, but yet the total number of cups of coffee, tea, milo does not appear to be getting any greater.

Whatever, our service continues to provide a much-needed corner of calm and support in a busy and sometimes frightening place. It never ceases to surprise me how a cup of Coffee or Tea or Milo and a biscuit together with a bit of a chat can be so helpful!

I wish to thank the Executive of Rowena (Secretary), Laine & Anne (Statistics & Finance), Jill & Don Fielder (Rosters) for the special effort they make.

AND to wish you all a great New Year in 2022! AND, of course, without the efforts, the constancy and commitment of the whole team would be no Courthouse Coffee Service. It truly is Christianity in Action.

Fr Bill Ginns

Chairman

REPORT FOR 2020/21 OF ST. MATTHEW'S ALBURY CHILDREN'S CHURCH

As with everyone, Children's Church has experienced a disrupted couple of years, but as far as we were able to operate, here is a

Report of our activities!

December 20th, 2020, Children's Church was included in the 9am service on the 20th December.

January 17th, 2021, Children's Church resumed - With theme; 'New beginnings'. Each child made and decorated a 'Friendship box'

February 21st, 2021, Theme; 'Noah's Ark'. Kids participated in a fun 'storm event with dark blue sheet and musical instruments and torch, creating a storm which was very popular. Children each created a rainbow and coloured it in.

March 21st, 2021, Theme; 'Getting ready for Easter'. Children decorated plastic cups and added soil and seeds.

April 18th, 2021, Theme; 'Walking with Jesus'. Children were given a pair of coloured footsteps to decorate and stick on a winding yellow road

May 16th, 2021, Theme: 'Pentecost'. Each child decorated a Pentecost Banner with flames, and each made a flame headdress.

June 20th, 2021, Theme: 'Jesus calms the storm'. Each child created a 3D paper boat with sail and sailing passenger.

July 18th, 2021, Theme: Feeding of the 'Five Thousand'. Children made a 'concertina' of loaves and fishes.

August 21st, 2021 Theme :21st BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATIONS. (CANCELLED)

On Saturday night 20th, as we were poised to go and decorate the Church, we got the call that we were in lockdown, so all our plans were suspended which came as a rude shock!

Each subsequent month we have hoped to have the party, however this has not happened.

The 21st birthday banner has been put up on the wall the week previous to the November Children's Church and can be seen by everyone.

The funny thing is that the November Children's Church date is the 21st November!

November 21st, 2021, Theme: Christ the King. The children will be making crowns and creating flames to go on individual cupcakes for each child.

December 19th, 2021, Christmas theme to be organized.

We hope this year hasn't been too difficult for our children and their parents. We have missed seeing the Children's Church family, and hope that Christmas 2021, and the year 2022 will be a much more settled year for everyone.

Love and wishes from, Catherine Dawson, Janette Kettyle, Julie Scott, Golda Quinlivan, Gill Mackay, Judith Frew-Kleeman, Matthew-Paul Fowler Father Peter MacLeod Miller.

Julie Scott

Spokesperson for M.U. St. Matthew's Albury. (Sponsors for Children's Church.)

ST MATTHEW'S CHOIR REPORT 2021

Like all other organisations and groups, for St Matthew's Choir 2021 has been a "broken" year.

We sang at all Sunday services from the beginning of January until Pentecost Sunday, May 23rd. Then increased Covid restrictions meant we were unable to function, a situation which lasted until just recently.

In anticipation of promised relaxation of some NSW restrictions from the beginning of December, the choir began to rehearse again as from Thursday 21 October. However, the relaxation of restrictions came earlier than expected, and we were able to resume singing for the Sunday services from Sunday November 14.

We look forward now to being able to share in the church's celebrations of the Christmas season, and especially with an Advent Lessons and Carols service on Sunday December 5, and the Christmas Carol service on December 19.

And we remain hopeful that 2022 will be a year with less interruptions!

Malcolm Halford

Principal Organist and Choir Director

CRAFT AND EMBROIDERY GROUP REPORT

The past year has been one of uncertainty world-wide. Albury has been more fortunate than many other places in Australia, but with the group of dedicated parishioners who have presented the Keeping Connected news, and video links of church services, St Matthews has still been accessible to parishioners. Many thanks to all those who have spent hours preparing and presenting both the Newsletter and church services.

The craft group has met when the restrictions were relaxed and we held three craft stalls after the 9am services last November and December, raising \$500.00 from each stall. In all we raised \$1,500. Our group consists of 6 women and we are all well over 80 years of age. This means that in the near future we are looking for a new co-ordinator and some new participants if this group is to continue.

Thirty years ago when the church burnt down, a group was formed to co-ordinate the replacement of embroidered kneelers.

Over the following years, busy fingers completed the task, which was shared by parishioners and many other Albury residents, who wanted to help bring St Matthews back to its original beauty.

Jean Linder was in charge then, and when she had to move to Lutheran Aged Care, I was asked to replace her. Over the 30 years the group has made craft for sale at the Fetes, and from the Church, when we had parishioners on duty during the day.

I am making a recruitment appeal for some new people to join and rejuvenate our ageing group, so that the interest can continue with new ideas and energy.

Many thanks to the women who have joined me each month to sew, glue, and talk a lot sharing ideas, problems and laughter.

Sadie Moffitt,
Co-ordinator.

EMERGENCY FOOD ROOM ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been a busy one for emergency food despite COVID lockdowns and disruptions.

The monthly average of hampers given out until October is 38.

Fr Peter has personally delivered food to some community members unable to visit the Parish Office to collect a food hamper.

During this year St Matthews registered with Foodbank NSW and in doing so is now able to purchase food hampers, packed and delivered to us in Albury. This has been an enormous advantage to us because the hampers provide a range of food similar to what we would purchase but less expensive and delivery means less shopping, unpacking, and repacking.

Regular visits are also made to Foodshare Wodonga particularly for frozen meals and some non-perishable food items.

I very much appreciate donations of food given throughout the year by parishioners and service groups within our community. In addition to Foodbank hampers I am still packing our regular hampers. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you, Annette, and office volunteers, for taking care of the distribution of food hampers and frozen meals.

Thanks to Fr Peter, always so caring and considerate of the needy in the Albury community and his interest in our food room operations.

Thanks also to Matthew Paul for being at the ready to assist with packing, receiving of deliveries and opening of gates during lock down.

This Christmas we are purchasing from our friends at Foodbank pre-packed Christmas hampers. The prices per hamper are very reasonable and I am looking forward to their delivery and distribution. Additional Christmas food items and care packs donated to us will also be distributed during the Christmas period.

Regular hamper recipients from St Matthews are eligible to receive a Christmas hamper. Please let the office know if you are aware of anyone in our local community who may be in need of a Christmas food hamper.

Thank you,
Barbara Hoodless

FLOWER GUILD REPORT

This has been a very different year for us all, but I have managed to supply and maintain all floral arrangements for funerals and Baptisms. There is more I would like to do prior the festive season, the Brass Vases are in need of a Brasso clean, and the flowers need re doing. Previously we were given some beautiful flowers from Betty Weidner's family, some which I have already used. For these we thank her girls.

Just a reminder that it is a special thought if families wish to donate in memory of a loved one on the anniversary of their death.

It has been my pleasure to support St Matthews in this way, although at times I have not known that there is a Funeral or Wedding.

Sincerely
Helen Martin

ST MATTHEW'S MU 2021 Annual Report

This year has been extremely challenging; however, we have managed stay afloat in a different way.

We currently have 27 paid up members, there are more people on our members list but for varying reasons have not paid their subs this year, however we still consider them members and show love and care to them.

We have not been able to implement a planned program but have adapted over the year. In February we met in the church for a planning meeting. Our annual Shrove Tuesday activity, pancake day, was different this year. We held a pancake lunch in conjunction with a church musical concert, it was extremely well attended and everyone enjoyed the sweet and savoury pancakes, made by our members. It is always challenging for us to run events without a parish hall, so we use the church when it is appropriate.

During March we had a number of activities including a speaker Helen Evans, who is the daughter of one of our members. Helen is a speech pathologist and works at community health particularly focusing on supported young mothers, her talk was interesting and inspiring.

For Mothering Sunday, we made cards with a sprig of rosemary attached that were handed out along with simnel cake.

We also held our annual quiet day in March at a property outside of Albury. It has a beautiful peaceful garden, perfect for spiritual and physical refreshment. The quiet day was led by Fr Paul Wood, a welcome introduction to Easter.

On the first Friday in March some of our members attended the annual World Day of Prayer service this year held at St Luke's in Albury, the country being Vanuatu.

Our April meeting was a sausage sizzle at a local park, a lovely environment especially for the young children in attendance.

On the Saturday before Mother's Day, we held a flower stall in the front of the church and sold bunches of Chrissies, along with home-made lavender bags. As a result of the pancake day and the mother's day stall we were able to send \$1,000 to overseas and northern outreach.

On Mother's day we attached a white chrysanthemum to a card and these were handed to parishioners after the Sunday church service, this is not to be part of the commercialism of Mother's day but to acknowledge the importance of motherhood.

Due to the fact that St Matthew's does not have a hall nor a suitable place for us to meet when the weather turns cold the committee at the St Matthew's retirement village kindly allow us to meet in the Martin Centre. This is a very comfortable venue which we have been using since June.

Our June meeting saw our member Helen Voogt speak to us about a stained-glass window that had been found under the floorboards during renovations at St Paul's Euroa. Due to Helen's diligence the window was retrieved and restored and is now installed in the shrine of remembrance in Melbourne, the window was a war memorial and not a religious one. Her story was most interesting.

We now meet in the daytime and finding a suitable time gave us another challenge, after a few trials the most popular time seems to be over lunch time, and July we had soup and byo sandwich and lots of good old fashioned much needed fellowship. We always begin our meeting with a service from our MU prayer and worship book, led by our prayer co-ordinator.

During September we were able to acknowledge Father's Day by sending a Father's Day card to members and parishioners via email.

Sadly our October birthday meeting had to be cancelled along with the children's church 21st birthday celebration in August Our annual meeting should be held on the third Tuesday in November, however it remains to be seen if this will happen, we can only hope and pray that life will return to some kind of what we call "normal", soon.

We still attend baptisms and give to each child/ adult a book of prayers suitable to the age, and a hand knitted (by our members) teddy bear. We have a new welfare officer Belinda Wilkinson who sends cards to members, families and friends in time of ill health, bereavement, or happy occasions e.g., birthdays, anniversaries. We no longer have secret friends, so this welfare role is very important in our group.

Keeping in touch this year has been tricky, however on the 1st Tuesday of each month (not during lock down) we gather for a "coffee and a chat " at a venue in central Albury called The Purple Chicken, it is a facility set up as a cafe to train young people with a disability to work in the hospitality industry with the aim that they will get a job in local community with their acquired skills. We have a monthly newsletter which keeps all members in touch with the group and most important we have a prayer chain available to members, families and friends, activated by our prayer co-ordinator, the request goes out on email, and for those not on email a phone call is made with the prayer request passed on.

Our branch is run by an executive consisting of four presidents (retired past presidents) a secretary and we are blessed to have an active committee and we meet occasionally when necessary to plan or discuss activities etc.

Janette Kettle

ST MATTHEWS RETRO LANE OP SHOP REPORT

The Op shop continues to make good progress with a large volume of sales and many donations. Donations of good quality clothing and bric-a-brac are always welcome.

New shelving has improved the presentation of goods as well as making it easier for volunteers to display the items. It has also been beneficial from the W.H.&S point of view.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. New volunteers who can work as part of a team and adhere to safety instructions are always needed (even if only in a relieving capacity).

John & Lyn Schuberg

2021 APM REPORT PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team meet each month to organise and provide support to the members of our congregation and community.

'Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family' Newsletter continued as a monthly edition in 2021. It has helped connect and brighten people's days - bringing us together when distance keeps us physically apart. The delivery of the newsletter has continued to be of high importance to ensure our friends know we are thinking of them and keeping in touch. We have continued to visit people in independent homes within villages, when not in lockdown. The number of parishioners and people in the wider community in Albury and beyond receiving the Newsletter by email, mail and delivery has greatly increased. The newsletter is warmly received by all and we are so thankful for all the wonderful feedback - thank you. The Newsletter has also provided the opportunity to update the Parish Roll with new parishioners, add mobile numbers and email addresses.

Retirement Village and Nursing Home Services have been less frequent due to Covid restrictions, but we look forward to resuming services in the near future. Fr Peter and Annette have liaised with the Lifestyle Manager at each village/nursing home about setting up SMART TVs in their common area so our friends can tune in to St Matthew's YouTube Services each week. Some facilities are now doing this and we will continue to work on more implementing this idea regularly.

Senior's Services at Easter and Christmas have been put on hold.

Hospital visits have been limited due to restrictions, however, on request, Fr Peter has managed to visit and bring comfort in their time of need. He is in regular contact with Hospital Chaplain, Catherine Dawson to visit, if he is not able to due to restrictions. Visiting people in palliative care has continued.

Our 'Acts of Kindness', continue to be an important gift to those who are sick or in hospital, in lockdown in our nursing homes, especially in times with restricted or no visitors allowed. The giving of knee rugs with a 'Thinking of You' card, has played a huge part in brightening people's days. Thank you to all who made donations towards wool, knitted/crocheted rugs this year. The range of 'Thinking of you' cards has expanded featuring St Matthew's Church and garden throughout the seasons.

The Pastoral Care Team plays an important part in providing comfort and support for families when planning the funeral/memorial service for their loved one, assisting in the service, and continued follow up and contact with families. Bereavement Cards have been sent to over 40 families this year. We are so very thankful for all the beautiful cards, emails, messages we have received thanking us for thinking of them.

Our Easter and Christmas cards are a valuable way we let people know we are thinking of them and caring about them. They are sent to our parish members in nursing homes and retirement villages and families who have lost a loved one. We updated our Easter card this year and will have a new Christmas card. We will be printing and sending over 100 Christmas cards in these next few weeks.

We involve St Matthew's Craft Group in the making of small Christmas gifts to put with our Christmas card for our friends in Retirement Villages and Nursing Homes in December, hopefully when we hold our Christmas service at each facility.

Our Phone Tree System continues to help maintain contact with so many people unable to attend church, see family or have friend visit. The number of people we contact varies as needs arise and change, this often includes helping transport people to Dr appointments and surgery procedures. Our team follow up requests for visitation and/or phone calls.

The Pastoral Care Team help organise Special Services for Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Easter, All Saint's and All Soul's Day, Advent and Christmas. New ideas are implemented e.g., the Ash Wednesday card and the Memorial Garden to remember our friends who died 2020- 2021.

Bishop Clarence is in touch with all we are doing in Pastoral Care and asked Annette to present a session at the Canon Lyall Turley and Diocesan Ministry Conference this year (was to be in August) on 'Sharing St Matthew's Pastoral Care - Caring in Action'. The Bishop would like to further develop our Pastoral Care Plan and use it as a model of ministry for and within the Diocese. This conference will now be held in February 2022.

We are very thankful for the donations received specifically to assist Pastoral Care in our Parish and community and for helping people in need.

This year Fr Bill and Graeme Scott retired from our team. We thank them for being valuable members and for all they have done in their roll in Pastoral Care and St Matthew's for so many years.

We continue to look at ways to connect with and be there to support all in our Parish Family and community.

We are committed to caring for all, both now and in the future.

Our team consists of Fr Peter, Robin Wellard, Gillian Mackay, Rowena Ginns and Annette Gorham. I would like to thank Sue Fyfe for her assistance playing the piano at most of our services in retirement villages/nursing homes. I would sincerely like to thank each member of our team for their continued commitment, support and friendship. I would also like to thank the Church Wardens, Rev Michelle and Paul Wood for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Annette Gorham

Leader Pastoral Care Team.

QUIET COMMUNION MEDITATION REPORT

Quiet Communion is a group to learn and practice Christian Meditation. We are a registered group with the World Community of Christian Meditation (WCCM)

We began meeting in the first week on Lent February 2020 with about 9 people attending from St Matthews. We met in the church but by Easter of that year we had to move onto Zoom due to Covid. This did not suit many of the St Matthew's people and many left but to our surprise many others from beyond Albury wanted to join. We now have a regular and solid group of 12-15 people who meet every week on-line. Our members (exceed 20) come from across NSW and Victoria. Surprisingly Group Meditation on Zoom works very well. We like to think of it as developing a homebased discipline and as members appear on the computer screen, they look like little monks each in their own cell and together we form a warm community of practitioners.

Each week we read and interpret the Sunday Gospel through the lens of the practitioner of silent meditation and we find that Jesus is a very good meditation teacher. In this we believe that we are doing something quite unique.

In April 2021 we held a two-day retreat at Pallotti College with 13 people attending. It was a wonderful and deepening experience for everyone. A second retreat was booked in October 2021 but had to be cancelled due to covid. We have more retreats booked for next year.

During the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP 26) we met daily with many other groups from Scotland for group meditation with 60 – 70 people attending on Zoom.

New members are always welcome. Please contact us for the Zoom Link.

Paul and Michelle Wood

ST MATTHEW'S VILLAGE ALBURY

The 12month period since the last report has seen yet another very challenging year.

Covid 19 and the restrictions that have accompanied the pandemic have once again made the world a different place and this of course has affected the Village residents. With the age of the Residents, they have had to be particularly meticulous with hygiene and social distancing. This has been managed well and all have stayed healthy. Those same restrictions also curtailed any travel plans for many of the Residents who liked to go north in Winter.

St Matthew's Church and The Board of the Village have worked very hard to stay in touch with all Parishioners and the Village residents by way of a virtual service each Sunday on You Tube and a Keeping Connected newsletter every fortnight. This has been welcomed at the Village.

All social activities were cancelled once again and with the outbreak of Covid in the Albury/ Wodonga area just recently, further restrictions were placed on the residents and this has resulted in limited movements around the area, however life has continued to be one of stability and growth in a difficult but happy and positive environment.

The Board is currently reviewing the Village's business model and strategic plan to ensure it remains viable and meets the future needs of the local community.

The success of the Village has been achieved through good working relationships between dedicated Board members and our Manager, Brian Elliott. I take this opportunity to thank him for his valuable assistance. I would also like to thank our Maintenance worker Lindsay Antone for his assistance and make note that Lindsay has left us after 12 years. We wish him all the best for the future. Maintenance will now be subcontracted locally.

The Resident status of the Village has remained reasonably stable. Sadly, we have lost long-time residents, Kaye and Ken Everett who passed away within a few weeks of each other.

Modernisation of individual units to current standards has allowed a new couple with mobility and access needs to move into the Village

We continue to look to the future with improvement which will enhance the Village. There has been considerable work done behind units 21 to 25 to improve the overall look and safety.

The gardens are looking magnificent and have become more established; they are greatly enjoyed by the residents. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Board Members who have continued to support the Village and especially to Mark Carden, our treasurer, for his expertise in managing the accounts of the Village. We look forward to the continuing happiness in the Village for the future.

Victoria Chick
Chairperson

St Matthew's Music Association

At this time of year, we remember that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The best report of St Matthew's Music Association is in the astounding achievements of our students. We are very grateful to all those who have supported and continue to support lessons that are enriching the lives of not just the students their families and our wider community. To have our mighty pipe organ used to upskill a new generation of local young people is a wonderful mission moment. Our students have become ambassadors not just for St Matthew's Music Association but for the ministry of St Matthew's Church to the community. It would be impossible to highlight the individual achievements of all of our scholars except to say that they have included organists, pianists, young Anzac bugler's, singers and others.

Also, that the Governor General of NSW is our Patron and Chief and under the banner of the Music Association Albury Chamber Music Festival is planning a joyful 2022 after being in Covid recess as most other artistic ventures. Of special note the Patrons starting with the first who is Greg Loveday from Sydney and including Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Nance Grant, Lady Primrose Potter AC.

Mark Carden our Parish Treasurer and Simone Summerfield deserve special thanks and not forgetting those who audition our scholars. Fr Malcolm Halford, David Luxon and Sally Morris and this year with special guest Jodie Blackshaw.

Dr Allan Beavis is a towering figure in our Association achievements as a teacher, mentor, administrator, and encourager.

James Flores took over the leadership of Tunes on Tuesday which started as once a month and now is fortnightly with a growing audience. His musical skill compliments his outstanding technical ability and his capacity to network with other musicians that has been contagious in the best sense.

Thomas Summerfield is a wonderful example of the achievement of the Music Association. His gap year was full of music and his acceptance into a course at Melbourne Conservatorium and recently announced place at Trinity College with a handsome scholarship is testimony both to his diligence and the hope, imagination, and generosity that power St Matthew's Music Association for Country Kids. No more needs to be said than the hearing of a performance and to remember that it is the generosity of others that will keep the gift of music playing, singing and trumpeting into the future.

Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller
President

MAINTENANCE AND TECH MANAGEMENT REPORT

Installation of two retractable Hose Reels in the garden.

Replaced Mesh in Rectory Fountain safer for all.

Relocated Water feature from Post Office side of Garden and have it installed under electronic sign; all-weather electrical outlet required. Choir loft steps have new Hi-Viz nonslip tape attached to steps also stairs leading to Choir Loft has had a overhead light repositioned and Hi-Viz tape fitted to stairs.

Rectory pedestrian Gate requires the pavement to be levelled as tree roots have lifted paving; this would overcome a trip hazard and help the gate to open correctly. We intend to complete this in the coming weeks.

It was noted the Plant room which houses the Church Heating system appeared to have a leak as the floor had the evidence of water on inspection; nothing obvious was found however a Plumber was called who found and repaired a water leak which was well hidden.

Paul Hare

ST MATTHEWS GARDEN AND MEMORIAL GARDEN

St Matthew's Garden the first thing that people experience about St Matthew's and its community is the garden at the front of the Church and rectory. It is the cause of enormous community conversation and appreciation and says

'welcome'. There is a group of dedicated gardeners lead by Robin Gibbs but also ably assisted by Betty Loorham, Annie Snow, Mildred English and also to remember our dear friend Marg Caton who passed away this year. The refreshment of the large urns made safe and secure thanks to the Ute brigade is a constant activity as well as the replanting of the magnolia with gardenia as a memorial garden for those passed away in the Covid period as well as maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance. The gardening represents a friendly, productive hardworking fellowship that looks to the future. It is a place of tranquillity and materially assists the mental health of those who interact with it. It provides a sanctuary for wildlife, including a wallaby and frames the historic church building with themes that speak about life and honouring our environment. We are very grateful to have this special space which is huge green and loving welcome mat that is a growing gift to each of us.

Fr Peter

APM REPORT OFFICE

Pastoral Ministry is part of the day-to-day running of St Matthew's Office with our volunteers answering the phone, assisting people who come to the office in need and providing food, accommodation, personal requirements to help. For the first 6 months of this year Kaye Kennedy continued manning the Office each morning for 3 hours, managing all aspects of the variety of duties and appointments to assist Fr Peter, banking and managing invoices and accounts. Sincere thanks to Kaye for her time and help in managing to keep the Office open and running.

In July, Deb Davenport returned to the Office each Tuesday for 3 hours, in the role of Administration. In particular, the banking, registrations and paperwork required for weddings, baptisms and funerals, and checking and following up emails with Fr Peter.

Since July, the Office has been operating with a group of 8 volunteers who rotate on a weekly/fortnightly basis each month. Their roles include answering the phone, recording messages and follow up; answering the door and giving food hampers, personal needs, laundromat tokens, food vouchers and recording their details; collecting mail. Some volunteers are comfortable using the computer and have continued working on updating the parish role, adding to dates to Outlook calendar, emailing Tunes on Tuesday program, putting baptism kits together and APM reports and booklet for the annual APM.

Annette Gorham has continued helping in the Office all year. She has no set hours, usually a few mornings and several afternoons each week. Her roles are the monthly Keeping Connected Newsletter, the orders of service, including Livestream service, and funeral services. Since July she has coordinated and guided the Office volunteers doing the monthly roster, setting up a folder with information for daily tasks and procedures to assist, and sending regular emails informing volunteers of updates and improvements.

Paul Wood manages the Electronic Noticeboard updating slides in Bright Author on a weekly basis to inform all in our parish and community of services, themes reflecting the Church calendar and local events. This has been of great value keeping people connected during these last 2 years.

We are so very thankful to our volunteers - Robin Wellard, Gillian Pearce, Noela Murphy, Judy Kennedy, Barry and Janice Barton, Patricia Clout and Shirley Sizeland for their assistance and time to help keep the office at St Matthew's open each day and running smoothly.

We look forward to continuing similar organisation in 2022.

Thank you

Annette Gorham