



**ST MATTHEWS ALBURY
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
30th OCTOBER 2022**

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ST MATTHEWS ALBURY
Sunday 30th October 2022

10:30 am

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 2021 minutes Rosalind Brown
 - Rector's Report Fr Peter Macleod-Miller
 - including Mission Action Implementation
 - Treasurer's Annual Report Mark Carden
 - St Matthew's Bell Ringers Pam Thorman
 - Children's Church & Mother's Union Julie Scott/Janette Kettyle Choir & Music Report Malcolm Halford
 - Craft & Embroidery Group Sadie Moffitt
 - Emergency Food Program Barbara Hoodless
 - Flower Guild Helen Martin
 - St Matthew's Op Shop John & Lyn Schuberg
 - Pastoral Care Annette Gorham
 - Safe Church report Mark Carden
 - Christian Meditation Michelle & Paul Wood St Matthew's Village Vicki Chick
 - St Matthew's Music Association Father Peter
 - Maintenance & Tech Managt Paul Hare
 - St Matthew's Garden incl Memorial Gdn Robin Gibbs
 - Parish Office Organisation Annette Gorham
- 7) Elect one or more persons to audit the Annual Statements of Account for the current year
- 8) Elect: Church Wardens
 - Parish Councilor
 - Parochial Nominator
 - Supplementary Parochial Nominator
 - Lay Representative Synod
 - Supplementary Representative for Synod
- 9) General business as permitted by the Chairman

St Matthew's Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes of meeting held on
28 November 2021

1. Welcome & prayer

Father Peter

2. Attendance & apologies

Rosalind Brown

Attendance

Baker Bryan, Brown Rosalind, Cherry Kathy, Chettle Linda, Chick Vicki, Dawson Catherine, Draper Frank, Draper Jan, Fielder Jill, Fietz Ray, Fowler Matthew Paul, Friedrich Given, Friedrich Shirley, Fyfe Sue, Gorham Annette, Halford Malcolm, Hare Paul, Hoodless Barbara, Horsburgh Pam, Kennedy Kaye, Mackay Gill, Macleod-Miller Father Peter, Martin Helen, Murphy Noela, Osborne Essie, Pearce Gillian, Scholz Jan, Schuberg John, Scott Julie, Slade Robyne, Smith Prue, Thorman Pam, Wellard Robin, Wilkinson Belinda, Wood Michelle, Wood Paul

Apologies

Braybrooks Angela, Carden Cathy, Carden Mark, Clout Patricia, Dynan Lynn, Elston Ian, Frew-Kleeman Judith, Hull Kylie, Jenkins Dell, Kennedy Judy, Macleod-Miller Sandra, Saunders Pat, Sizeland Shirley, Steel Olwyn, Sutherland, Kathy

3. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

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

Moved by Vicki Chick

Seconded by Robyne Slade

4. Matters arising from minutes

Nil

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. Annual reports

(Refer to booklet for Annual Parish Meeting 28 November 2021)

Moved by Matthew-Paul Fowler

Seconded by Belinda Wilkinson

Father Peter's report:

- Father Peter described the Pastoral Care model and the network of people engaged in loving action at St Matthew's and out in the wider Albury community as being instrumental in carrying out the work of the church in 2021, this second year of pandemic closures and lockdowns. At a time when COVID restrictions prevented the celebration of Holy communion, which may have been seen as diminishing the spiritual life of the church, a different perspective has been gained - the vital role of

connection and care in the mission at St Matthew's.

- Father Peter continued, saying a great many things had been caught up on during the period of further lock-down:- technical overhauls; community out-reach; things as simple as updating the Parish roll. Indeed, many people who had lost contact with St Matthew's are now back. As part of out-reach, clergy and members of the Pastoral care team have made many visits and conducted services at retirement villages and nursing homes in Albury. Many of the residents have been overjoyed to see people from St Matthews and all still have a special place there.
- Father Peter outlined how exciting it was that clergy and volunteers at St Matthews had built on the newly invented ways of keeping people connected that had been utilized in 2020:- Annette Gorham in putting together the fortnightly Keeping Connected newsletter & either emailing or printing hard copies to be delivered or posted; James Flores working on & uploading the virtual services & uplifting Tunes on Tuesday performances onto YouTube; Paul & Michelle Wood in running the weekly Christian Meditation sessions via Zoom and publishing their short talks on Christian Meditation and the forth-coming Sunday gospel readings on the Website.
- Father Peter praised the foresight of the Atkinson family in donating the clear glass sliding door that always allows people to see in, even if the church has had to be closed. It allows the light from the altar to shine out into the world and says "Welcome".
- Father Peter thanked the parish community and concluded by saying he greatly values the efforts of every single person at St Matthews.

7. Motion: That the tenure of the current members of St Matthew's Parish Council and the Church Wardens be extended until November 2022 when new elections will be held.

Moved by Rosalind Brown in Mark Carden's absence

Seconded by Vicki Chick

8. Motion: That one or more persons be engaged to audit the Annual Statements of Account for St Matthew's for the current year.

Father Peter noted that Mark Carden had recommended the firm Stewart, Tracey & Mylon in Wodonga be used.

Moved by Rosalind Brown in Mark Carden's absence

Seconded by Robyne Slade

9. General business

Father Peter called for General business:

- Rosalind Brown thanked the team of Parish office volunteers lead by Annette Gorham, namely Judy Kennedy, Patricia Clout & Robin Wellard who proof-read, duplicated and collated the Annual parish meeting booklets and financial statements for this meeting.
- Father Peter thanked Annette Gorham for the huge amount of work she does as the leader of the Pastoral Care team and co-ordinator of the Office volunteers at St Matthews, and her husband Shaun for his supporting her in this important but time consuming role. Annette has put a lot of time into supporting families as they have organized funerals for their loved ones in the past year. Father Peter described one funeral was particularly poignant and showed the compassion and generosity of the St Matthews Pastoral Care team & wider church Community (eg the Ute Brigade) in action:- it involved a vulnerable young Albury woman who was completely alone in

the terrible situation of having lost a child. She was not directly connected with the Parish, but was told in the wider Albury community that St Matthews would help her. The Ute Brigade built a coffin and St Matthews people paid for the funeral. The mother would have been alone at the baby's funeral, except Annette stood with her.

- Vicki presented Annette with a bunch of beautiful flowers to say thank you for all that she does at St Matthews, along with a bottle of something good for Shaun. Annette thanked everyone and said it was the communion of people at St Matthews, whether it be working with other volunteers in the office or getting to know people better at the Retirement Home services, that meant that she just loves doing the work she does here.
- Father Peter acknowledged all the gifts and contributions that the non-clergy members of St Matthews bring to the life of the church, utilizing expertise in their own fields to carry out God's work in the city and surrounds: - the musicians and beautiful singers in the Choir loft; the Bell-ringers; the Sanctuary team; the Flowers team; the Gardening Group; the Ute Brigade who do all manner of maintenance. He thanked other clergy for their contribution within the Parish:- Rev Catherine Dawson as Hospital Chaplain; Rev Paul & Rev Michelle Wood in writing short talks around the liturgy, shared as part of the Christian Meditation sessions; sermons given by Rev Brynn Jones, Chaplain at Trinity; the long service of Father Bill Ginns; looking to the future when Cathy Carden, Chaplain at Cathedral College, Wangaratta will be ordained in March 2022. Father Peter mentioned the support of others in his ministry retired Bishop Andrew Curnow. He asked, if parishioners have things they think could be done better, he would love to hear their ideas. Finally, he expressed the hope that we can continue working together in loving action with one another out in the community and that this is supported by sacraments such as Holy Communion.
- Vicki Chick, Rector's Warden, thanked all parishioners who she described as an amazing bunch of people to work with. She mentioned the contributions of the Ute Brigade, the Op Shop Volunteers, the Office Volunteers, the Gardening group, Parish Council, the Sanctuary Team, the Choir, Barb Hoodless' work in managing the Food room & St Matthew's Emergency Care, Paul Wood for updating the electronic sign each week, Christian Meditation Group, Children's Church co-ordinators, The Wardens and countless others who contribute to the life of the church in St Matthew's Parish. She thanked, most of all, Father Peter for being a great leader and mentor & for all that he does at St Matthews.

Father Peter concluded the meeting with the Grace

Meeting closed – 10.50 am

Rector's Report 2022 including Mission Action Implementation

I would first like to acknowledge the first peoples of our land and paying respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The yearly headlines could be the reign and the rain! And every day at St Matthew's is an expression of our Mission Action Plan Implementation and our continuing Social Justice and Advocacy.

The passing of the Queen was marked with a splendid service including wonderful music associated with Her Majesty's life and it was very well attended and continues to be the subject of appreciative comments across the community. So too the farewells for members of our congregation and across the wider community continue to resonate over the Border. The use of

modern technology through Livestreaming has remained even as Covid restrictions have been lifted and the increasing use of photo tributes has made real sense of the very considerable investment in appropriate sound and visual capacity.

Pastoral Care and Mission to assist the community take up the majority of our time and the emergency of food room, Parish Office, Op Shop, Garden, Choir, Organists, Sanctuary Team, Pastoral Care team, Bell Tower, Flowers, Parish Council, Digital Sign, Quiet Communion, Tunes on Tuesday and Chamber Music Festival, Music Association lessons, livestreaming and media involvement through by James Flores, connections with Albury High, The Scott's School and Trinity Anglican College, St Matthew's Village and Craft Group, Children's Church, Mothers Union. Chaplaincy through Albury Wodonga Health are all expressions of our Parish life. It has been a special pleasure to welcome the new Principal of Trinity Anglican College Dr Adrian Johnson. Adrian and his wife Leanne have already become regular parishioners and Leanne is one of our valued Office Volunteers.

Our Sunday Services often highlight the particular ministries when readers from various parts of the St Matthew's picture are identified, and it remains true that all those who are involved liturgically have another real ministry outside the Church Service. This speaks about integrity and a real presence not just in the Eucharist but in the community where we have been planted. A measure of this connection is found in ongoing relationships with community groups and organisations focused on community welfare. We include service organisations, Defense, Aged and Palliative Care providers, Funeral Directors, Arts and Cultural organisations our Politicians on every level of Government and corporate and community partners.

Covid and post-Covid changes continue to impact our life in positive ways. Covid safe communion has meant intincting the wafer from the Common Cup by the Eucharistic Assistant having sanitised and using silver sugar tongs both in Church Services at St Matthew's and in one kind in Aged Care facilities. All services now use individually printed Orders of Service instead of sharing Prayer and Hymn books, but increasing our reliance on the photocopier.

Our post-Covid **Service pattern** has changed public worship. Our current emphasis is clearly on helping our St Matthew's Community be connected wherever they are so while the Sunday 9am Eucharist, monthly Children's Church and Evensong and weekly Wednesday 10:30 Eucharist continue we have many more pastoral services at Aged Care facilities and pastoral visits as well as reaching out to a much wider congregation through keeping connected and our Recorded services on YouTube, website and Facebook. **We surprisingly have come out of Covid with a much wider connection with the Anglican tradition and St Matthew's and the wider community than any other time in our history.**

Every Sunday Service at St Matthew's includes Acknowledgement of Country, First peoples and all others who follow after and we particularly remember the farming community. The **collection** by handing round the plate has been suspended during the Covid period with most people Direct Debiting and eftpos Tap-n-Go. It's true we have suffered a great deal in our income just at the time when our outgoings to assist the community have never been greater.

It is a reality that while we value our historic connection to the Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Wangaratta the energy and direction of St Matthew's comes from the local congregation and community. With the growth of housing in **Thurgoona** it's been noticeable that many more families from that part of Albury are attending or connecting with St Matthew's. Bishop Clarence and Michelle have done a great deal to mend the difficulties of the past as we walk hopefully into the future. Bishop Andrew Curnow has been of immense assistance and support both to me and the Executive of the Parish.

We continue to plan and negotiate over the future of the old Rectory building which houses the Office and Emergency Welfare assistance and until this year provided accommodation for a Caretaker.

Particular thanks to the Wardens - Mark Carden, Victoria Chick and Robyne Slade and Parish

Council, Annette Gorham and all of our Pastoral and Office Volunteers. Mark Carden has done an amazing job in the areas of finance and Safe Church and Compliance. Deb Davenport has returned one day each week with particular focus on weddings, and administration connected to baptisms and funerals. Our honorary assistant Clergy are a constant source of encouragement and wisdom Fr Malcolm, Rev. Michelle and Rev. Paul, Rev. Catherine, and Rev. Cathy.

We rely so much on each and every organisation and individual that makes up the St Matthew's family and despite the many challenges our profile across the region has never been more important as evidenced by the avalanche of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals that we are joyfully navigating.

Best wishes Fr Peter

Treasurer's Annual Report

We were able to finish the Financial Year in September with the Parish in a positive financial position of \$2,269. This is a good result on the back of Covid and shutdowns.

The most significant saving has continued to be 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 is expected to increase after the last 3 years where costs were maintained at the 2019 rate due to subsidies by the Diocese, with the exception of a small increase in the minister's stipend.

Giving during 2022 was \$83,000. The budget figure for giving has been set with a modest increase on as last year. It should be noted that the Parish continues to draw down \$60,000 from investment interest.

Income via fund-raising has also been set in the budget as a modest target given that we are recommencing after a period of uncertainty in holding events. I will be recommending to Parish Council to consider strategic use of our efforts to increase fund raising as a priority. Funding raising will be the best way to minimise the projected budget deficit for 2023.

A 12-month target of \$40,000 gross sales 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. It should be noted that rent for the OP shop is \$14,544.

The Highgrove rental property owned by the parish has provided much needed income after the weekly rent was increased. Unfortunately, the need for expensive repairs continues with the property.

\$22,000 in donations was significant in 2022 in supporting the work of St Matthews. However, as donations vary markedly from year to year, I suggest that donations should be seen as a bonus rather than a given for budget processes.

The cost of utilities in the 2023 budget is a concern, with press reports of 30 to 50% increases. For this reason, we continue to work to investigate government grants to convert current church lighting to low-cost LED. It should also be noted that every time the "after-hours green button" on the air-conditioning and heating is pressed, that is another \$100 cost to run for two hours. This facility should be used sparingly.

While maintaining an online presence has a cost, it 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 due to the early date for this meeting. The Audited Financial reports will be circulated as soon as these have been received.

Mark Carden
Church Warden and Treasurer

St Matthew's Bell Ringers

It has been a year of ups and downs. Ringing was suspended for a number of weeks during the year because of Covid-19. Safe Church requirements also presented its problems. Health issues created other problems resulting in resignations, with others on long leave. If only there was a lift to transport struggling persons upstairs who otherwise would be able to ring! When we finally made it back into the tower, Covid-safe measures were implemented.

Early April, we welcomed visitors from Melbourne, Canberra and Wagga Wagga, ringing on Saturday morning, then Sunday morning for Palm Sunday service, followed by a quarter peal after the service. This quarter peal was dedicated to Pam Thorman in recognition of her receiving an Australia Day OAM award.

It is a pleasure to announce that we have a new ringer, Renee, who will be joining the Sunday morning Band this weekend for the very first time. Welcome to the Band, Renee, we really need you!

The St Matthew's Bellringers send their condolences to former bellringer Coralie Williams, whose husband recently died. Our thoughts are with you Coralie and Family. Rest peacefully Ray. We are still on the lookout for new learners to replace those unable to ring any more. Please contact Pam Thorman if interested or come up to the tower when you hear us ringing. Pam Thorman (Tower Captain)

Jim Jefferies (Ringing Master)

Children's Church Report

After the last years being full of uncertainty, and Children's Church being cancelled, 2022 was a happier year for us all! Fr. Peter is very supportive of Children's Church, and often attends the monthly services to add his input. Rev. Catherine mostly conducts the services, and is a very positive force for Children's Church, and conducts the Services with good humour and fun, while getting the message across!

Monthly emailed invitations are sent out a few days before the service. If you know of anyone who would like to be put on the Children's Church mailing list, please get them to forward their names, and most importantly, their email address. The children really enjoy having their own Service and feel ownership of the Church in a comfortable and respectful way.

At Baptisms, in a way to advertise Children's Church, and Mother's Union as well, when children are baptised, a double-sided card, advertising Children's Church, and M.U., is inserted into the front page of the little books of prayers that a M.U. member gives, along with a hand-knitted teddy, at baptisms.

As November was our AGM, our Dec. was the Start of our year!

Our Dec 19th Service theme was 'Thankyou Jesus' the children constructed small, individual boxes, with lists of things the children were thankful for, of course the main one was for 'Christmas'! Feb. 20th Theme was 'Teddy bear's Picnic.' Rev. Catherine explained to the Children that Teddies can teach us how to be kind to others. The children had special food, as Covid rules still applied. March 20 theme was 'Getting ready for Easter'. Children added butterflies to the Easter Banner, and then filled plastic cups with Mung beans, Rev. Catherine said that the seeds reminded us of Jesus Dying on Good Friday and coming back to life at Easter.

April 17. Our scheduled day was Easter Day, so there was no Children's Church. The children were

encouraged to come to the Easter Service.

May 17th theme was 'Love One Another' and Rev. Catherine explored with the children how we can show love to our families and friends and people in general. The children decorated red cardboard hearts; they could hang up. and wrote names of those they love. There was heart shaped food too!

June 19th. Theme was 'God's Love measures up' The kids enjoyed using tape-measures as Rev. Catherine talked about how God's Love is essential in the World.

July 17th Theme was 'Sisters' Mary and Martha, and Rev. Catherine teased out with the children the choices both sisters made during Jesus 'visit to their home. The children decorated and balanced rulers to think about 'Life balance'!

August 21st was Children's Church 22nd birthday, and a sparkly '22' was added to a C. Church banner. The theme of birthdays was explored, and then the children made mobiles, with the number 22 under a themed 'Happy birthday' sign. The children then enjoyed playing 'pass the parcel' with items kindly donated by one of the M.U. members, which went over a treat! Then 'Happy Birthday' was sung and a tiered display of 'Birthday' cup cakes with the top one sporting a candle, were very much enjoyed by all comers! There were also individual chip packets for each child.

September 18th theme was 'The lost sheep'. Rev. Catherine shared an amusing E-book about Cecil the sheep. The children then made their own sheep from paper plates, cotton wool balls and googly eyes! As usual, Cocktail Frankfurts and Cupcakes were enjoyed over a chat, later. October 16th. Theme is 'Jesus Calms the storm' and will be centred around a blue sheet, signifying the sea, which the children wave up and down, and various musical instruments and torches, making a storm effect. Then they will make a boat.

November C. Church is not planned as yet, but no doubt will be full of fun for us all! We have a wonderful team of helpers, most who have been with us since C. Church began. We really depend on them, and we all are dedicated to Children's Church. Rev. Catherine as the Celebrant, Golda Quinlivan, Judith Free-Kleeman, Sandy, and David Sutherland are always there to set up. Gill Mackay helps when able. Janette and I as Primary team members, are really committed to Children's Church.

St. Matthew's M.U. branch, of which Janette and I are members, financially supports Children's Church, and provides the gifts given to Children at their baptism, a great outreach. Julie Scott.
C.Church Co-ordinator for M.U. Branch, Albury

Mother's Union

MU is part of the worldwide Mother's Union which has 4 million members. "The aim is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life." Our meetings are the 3rd Tuesday each month and we meet at The Martin Centre in Cahill Place, we are very fortunate and happy to be able to meet there.

On the first Tuesday of the month, we gather at a restaurant in David St called The Purple Chicken for coffee and fellowship, anyone is welcome to join us, 10am start.

The year 2022 got off to good start with no prospect of covid lockdowns.

Our year begins with a picnic in the gardens in January, open to family and friends. In February we host the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake day, again this year combined with a Tunes on Tuesday in the church at lunch time, this is proving to be a popular well attended event, funds raised are shared between the parish and MU.

An MU member attends every baptism service held at St Matthews and hands out a prayer book plus a hand knitted teddy bear to each child being baptised or if an older person an appropriate gift.

We attended World Day of Prayer the first Friday in March which was at St Patricks this year.

In Holy Week we facilitated a quiet day at the home of Jill Aplin at Table Top in her beautiful peaceful garden, this year our facilitator was Rev Dr Michelle Wood. Again, parishioners and friends always welcome.

We attended our founders day (Mary Sumner) in Wangaratta in August our guest speaker being the Australian president of MU.

We acknowledge commercial Mother's and Father's Day by handing out suitable cards after church and on Mothering Sunday again cards are handed out along with Simnel cake after the service.

We have had two guest speakers this year, including Fr Paul Wood and Rev Catherine Dawson, and some fun activities.

We participated in Wave of Prayer which is a worldwide MU activity in August, our guest speaker was Fr Paul Wood, we invited him because he was born in South Africa and most of the countries we are linked with are in South Africa.

We help Rev Catherine Dawson each month with children's church and this year we celebrated our 22nd birthday.

As a branch we celebrated our 34th birthday this month by going out to lunch at The Astor, we welcomed Fr David Holloway plus family and friends of members.

We have a prayer chain available to members, family, friends and parishioners. We had a flower stall the day before Mothers' Day selling chrysanthemums, this being a fund raiser to support branch finances.

Each month a member makes a birthday cake for our members celebrating birthdays. We are very fortunate to have little Hugh Coyle to blow the candles on the cake out!

We have good attendances at our meetings each month, we begin with a short spiritual focus and enjoy great fellowship and a variety of activities.

We have a welfare officer who sends cards for happy and sad occasions to members, friends and family.

We are planning to participate in the 16 days of activism of violence against women, it is a UN initiative supported by MU Australia.

Our mission statement is

"Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life".

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;

and every life do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. AMEN

On behalf of The 4 presidents, Barbara Hoodless, Janette Kettyle, Gill Mackay and Julie Scott of our branch.

Kirsty Coyle

Choir and Music Report

The choir has continued to meet for weekly rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and for half an hour before the morning service or the monthly Evensong service.

We currently have 17 singers "on our books", and our average attendance would be around 12 to 14.

Each Sunday we prepare a psalm setting, and an anthem to be sung during the distribution of communion, together with the regular choral features of our Anglican service. Highlights of this 2021-2022 year include the Advent Carol service and Christmas Carol service at the end of 2021, singing at the Cathedral in March for the Diocesan 120th Anniversary Service, and at Cathy Carden's ordination also in March, and a special service to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II in September, for which the choir received considerable acclaim. The choir members come from all

areas around Albury and beyond, some travelling considerable distances to participate in the rehearsals and services.

I am deeply grateful to them all for their work and support, and for their friendship. I would particularly thank John Scott for his willingness to continue to play for the Evensong services and other services when I am not available. And his knowledge of our wonderful Le Tourneau pipe organ is invaluable. Bec Beall has been conducting the choir at most Sunday morning services, and this has made a great difference to the quality and precision of the choir's work. Thank you, Bec.

Relationships between church organists and their clergy can be sometimes fraught with problems, if not dangers! But happily our relationship with Fr Peter is a solid one, with his constant support and appreciation for the choir and its work, for which I am very grateful. Our Church Wardens also provide much encouragement in our ministry, and I thank them too.

Just one week from today's AGM the choir will be sharing in the Albury Chamber Music Festival Service, and following that, the cycle begins again! But we never tire of providing this choral music that is such a beautiful element of the Anglican liturgy. Perhaps, we can best sum up our corporate feeling with the words of the Choristers' Prayer, with which we end each rehearsal:

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple.

Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,

And what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Malcolm Halford, Principal Organist & Choir Director

Craft and Embroidery Group

The Craft Group was started over 35 years ago and coordinated by Jean Lindner. Our small group has gradually decreased in numbers over the years. Now as the remaining members are all suffering health problems, it is unfortunately time to discontinue our meetings. As well as meeting once a month and making saleable craft items, we have enjoyed friendship and shared some enjoyable afternoons, while stitching, and glueing, and eating nice afternoon teas. Over the years with fete sales, and stalls after the Sunday services, and other functions, including several years that we held the Christmas Tree displays in the Church, the group has raised much needed funds for St Matthew's.

So far this year with two Sunday Stalls, we shared with Robin Gibbs plant stall, and a cake stall organised by Leonie Smith \$1,130,76 has been raised.

Sadly, after more than 30 years as co-ordinator, I find that I am unable to contribute as I used to. It has been a rewarding, and sometimes frustrating time, when you realise that the years are catching up with you, and something, that has been a pleasure becomes too difficult to manage.

Many thanks for the contribution made by all the ladies that have joined our group. Over the years we have said final farewell to many, and others for health reasons are no longer able to help. I hope that a new group of younger women will at some time reinvent the craft group and enjoy it as we all have done.

We plan to hold our final Christmas Stall at the end of November or early December. Any unsold items will then be sold through the Op Shop.

Since I arrived in Albury in 1954, St Matthew's has been a big part of my life. It is where I met my husband, Bill. It is where our children were baptised and confirmed, and it is from St Matthew's that my husband was buried.

Sadie Moffitt.

Emergency Food Program

There is no doubt that there has been a greater demand for food hampers during this past year. Not only as a result of the Covid Pandemic but also economic stress... higher interest rates and

rental.

This year we have distributed approximately 40 hampers each month. In previous years approximately 30.

At St Matthew's we have been providing, in addition to food hampers, a variety of other needs displayed through the front windows of the rectory.... socks, jocks, towels, rugs, toiletries, pet food, beanies and clothing.

Our food is purchased through the generous donations of parishioners and members of our community. Food donated each week at church goes directly into food hampers. The Rotary Club of Albury continues to generously give to our Emergency Food Program through a grant.

Through the sale of bread and jam sold on Sunday mornings after church we have been able to buy some food vouchers from Foodshare Wodonga. Anyone who receives a voucher is able to choose their own grocery items, fruit, vegetables and meat from the Foodshare shop in Wigg Street, Wodonga.

Our food hampers are regularly supplemented by items from Foodshare Wodonga who also provide frozen meals to us.

Foodbank Emergency Hampers are no longer available.

I would like to thank Fr Peter, Mark Carden and all who work in the office at St Matthew's for their support, encouragement and advice. It is so reassuring to know that we are making a difference to so many individuals and families in our community. Not only with the food they receive but the hospitable and caring attention given to them at St Matthew's.

Barbara Hoodless, Emergency Food Program Coordinator

St Matthew's Flower Guild

As we are all aware this has been a very quiet year regarding floral work and much more, other than cleaning Mass flower vases and re-arranging and replacing silk flowers, most importantly keeping the bundle in order for Funerals and Baptisms etc.

During the year I have done several arrangements for special occasions and in memory of loved ones, for which the Church received donations, for which we thank those folk for. We pray the New Year will be much easier for us all and can resume to our 'Normal Way of Living'. My love and "God Bless"

Helen Martin

St Matthew's Op Shop

Our Op Shop continues to make pleasing progress. It has become rather boutique in nature and quality donations are always welcome. However, we do provide cheap and even free clothing to those in need. It is also a place of fun and fellowship, and we welcome new volunteers. A new awning has given the premises quite a face lift. Many thanks to those who took care of the place while we sojourned in the Greek Islands.

John and Lyn Schuberg

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team meet each month working to bring about new ideas and ways to connect with, support and help all in our parish and community.

In February, Annette and Fr Peter presented a session at the Canon Lyall Turley and Diocesan Ministry Conference on 'Sharing St Matthew's Pastoral Care - Caring in Action'. This session went very well, was well received and encouraged new ideas for those in attendance. Our 'Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family' Newsletter plays an important pastoral role connecting and bringing people together when distance keeps us physically apart. Our email groups are continually updated with more people now receiving the Newsletter both in Albury and the wider community.

The focus for our newsletter is to provide positive, good news, current events, feature photos of familiar and new faces and photos of our beautiful St Matthew's Garden throughout the seasons. Delivery of the newsletter to our friends in retirement villages and nursing homes is of high importance as it provides the opportunity to visit many people on a regular basis. We are so thankful for all the positive feedback and kind donations we receive.

We hold services in six Retirement Village and Nursing Homes each month. The service includes Holy Communion, readings, prayers and hymns. The music is a really important aspect for residents to participate in and bring joy. A big 'Thank you' to Sue Fyfe who plays the piano at the majority of these services. We have purchased a Bluetooth device for the services with no pianist, which is working well. The number of residents attending our services has increased throughout the year.

Hospital visits at times have been limited due to restrictions. At present, and when families request Fr Peter is able to visit and bring comfort. Fr Peter, and sometimes Annette, visit people in Palliative Care almost immediately on request, and often several times. A card and small wooden cross ring is given so they know God is holding them in His care.

Our 'Acts of Kindness' rugs continue to be an important gift to those who are sick or in hospital, in nursing homes/retirement villages, especially in times with restricted or no visitors allowed. The giving of rugs with a 'Thinking of You' card, plays a huge part in brightening people's days. Thank you to all who make donations towards wool or have knitted/crocheted rugs this year. It is a great way of engaging people in caring for others and sharing the ministry of practical caring. The range of 'Thinking of you' cards has expanded featuring St Matthew's Church and garden and are given on a very regular basis throughout the year.

Pastoral Services that is, Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals play an important part in providing comfort and support to families when planning the funeral/memorial service for their loved one. This involves meeting with families to organise the Order of Service, writing the service, assisting in the service, and continued follow up and contact with families following the funeral. We updated and improved the verse in our Bereavement Card this year, which is sent to each family in the weeks following the funeral.

We are so very thankful for all the beautiful cards, emails, and messages we receive thanking us for our caring thoughts, support and for thinking of them during their time of loss. Our Easter and Christmas cards are a valuable way we let people know we are thinking and caring about them. They are sent to our parish members who are sick, in nursing homes and retirement villages and to families who have lost a loved one. We update the photo on our Easter and Christmas cards each year, and print and send over 150 Easter and Christmas cards. We thank St Matthew's Craft Group for making small handmade gifts for our friends in Retirement Villages at Christmas in 2020 and 2021.

Our Phone Tree System continues to help maintain contact with so many people unable to attend church, see family or have friends visit. The number of people contacted varies as needs arise and change, and often includes helping transport people to Dr appointments and surgery procedures, and shopping. Our team follow up requests for visitation and phone calls, with home visits often arranged following the phone contact. An increased need is helping people with technology so they can watch our services and Tunes on Tuesday Recitals on YouTube when unable to attend Church.

The Pastoral Care Team help organise special services for Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Easter, All Saint's and All Soul's Day, Advent and Christmas.

The 'Memory Tree' at Christmas continues to be part of Advent for keeping memories of loved ones alive in our mind and heart.

New ideas are implemented e.g., the Garden of Remembrance established October 2021, the clear display stand with recent funeral services in the Narthex; the new prayer at the lighting of candles,

4 comfortable armchairs to assist people who have trouble sitting in the pews. We thank St Matthew's Garden and Ute Team for helping establish the Garden of Remembrance. We are very thankful for the donations received specifically to assist Pastoral Care in our parish and community and for helping people in need.

We are about 'Kindness in God's Loving Action', caring for and connecting with all people, putting into action new ideas when something needs to be done to make a difference. A little kindness goes a long way and sharing it, takes us a little further on our journey of building a better community with a message that warms our hearts and values where all are invited, welcomed and cared for. I sincerely thank and value each member of our team - Fr Peter, Robin Wellard, Gill Mackay, and Karen Buchner for their continued commitment, support and friendship.

Thank you to the Church Wardens – Victoria, Mark and Robyne, and Rev Michelle and Paul Wood for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

Annette Gorham, Leader Pastoral Care Team.

Safe Church Report

As of October 2022, 85 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, completing questionnaires and also completing the Safe Church training. In the past four years the Diocese has placed immense pressure on Father Peter and Churchwardens to ensure all of 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, with the Diocese requiring a **three-year cycle** to revalidate Safe Church Clearances.

As the **Working with Children Checks** (WWCC) are valid for FIVE years these will only need to be renewed as they expire.

Where a **National Police Check** is required (e.g., Church Wardens, members of Parish Council and Pastoral Care Team) these are now due to be renewed.

Safe Church Training is valid for three years. An Online computer training module is now available to be completed at your convenience. Parishioners who undertook the face-to-face courses in 2018 and 2019 will need to renew their training now. Mark Carden has the dates of when training was completed and can confirm expiry dates.

Safe Ministry Check or the Safe Church Summary

The Diocese requires these forms to be resubmitted now and for all Parishioners and the Parish to confirm roles being undertaken. Where required, new licences will be issued by the Bishop for roles such as Pastoral Care or Eucharistic Assistant etc.

News moving forward!!!

- a) Last year I reported the Diocese was implementing an online submission of Safe Church information. Unfortunately, the proposed system is no longer available and the manual paper-based processes remain in place for the time being.
- b) I can confirm that the online training system is now up and running after an outage in recent weeks. 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 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.

Note: If you have already completed the On-line training then it is highly likely that this is still current and you should check attendance date before repeating the modules.

I am happy to answer queries or confirm expiry dates. My email is markcarden1@bigpond.com.
Mark Carden, Church Warden 23 October 2022.

Quiet Communion

Quiet Communion is a group to learn and practice silent meditation in the Christian Contemplative Tradition. We began to teach Meditation in St Matthews Church for Lent 2019 with about nine people attending, but by the time Easter arrived so did the lockdown, and so we continued to meet online instead. Most of the St Matthews people did not continue online but the group has grown since then with members from all over Vic and NSW. When lockdown was lifted the group voted to remain online.

Learning meditation is a discipline that takes practice, and the online group is to support people to establish a practice of their own at home. We meet each week at 6:15pm for an hour. We begin with an introductory talk based upon the forthcoming gospel, and then we have twenty minutes of silent practice together. Then those who wish to carry the silence with them leave at this point, and those who wish to stay for discussion, to create meanings together and troubleshoot their practice remain until 7:15pm.

We have also held two Silent Retreats at Pallotti College where 10 and 13 people come together for two days and two nights. These have been very successful, and we plan to continue to offer these into the future.

Another surprising development is that our website www.quietcommunion.org appears to be well used. Apart from visitors coming to the site to look and leave many people also download our weekly talks. Since 1st January this year we have had 3,179 individual downloads of these talks and this may reach over 4,000 by the end of the year.

Our Facebook group is small with 48 members but is organically growing.

Michelle was also invited to write an article about Quiet Communion for a Journal of Spirituality. This can be found here https://issuu.com/fastmail56/docs/coolamon_issue6digital28th Some questions that we are currently asking include: What about the future of Quiet Communion? Will we remain an online group only, or will we try and establish another group that meets physically at St Matthews church? Or now that the pandemic is over shall we close down? These questions, at the time of writing, are unanswered. We must note that the latest National Church Life Survey of the Australian Community showed

that seven out of 10 Australians believed spiritual practices were fairly or very important for wellbeing, especially during tough times. Spending time in nature and listening to music were the top two choices for Australians, with prayer, meditation and mindfulness practices coming in third stated Dr Ruth Powell the Director of Research (Cauchi, The Melbourne Anglican, 4 April 2022)

If anyone is interested in discovering more about this growing interest in Christian Contemplative Spirituality, we are very pleased to receive enquiries.

The Reverend Dr Michelle Wood The Reverend Paul Wood

St Matthew's Village

The 12-month period since the last report has slowly seen a return to a more normal way of life for the Village. With the easing of restrictions as the year has progressed the residents have been able to move around more freely and some have been able to resume their travels over winter. St

Matthew's Church and The Board of the Village have continued to work hard to stay in touch with all Parishioners and the Village residents. The Sunday service at St Matthews is taped each week and can be viewed on You Tube and the Keeping Connected newsletter is distributed each month. This has been welcomed at the Village and life has continued to be one of stability and growth in a happy and positive environment.

The Board is continuing to review the Village's business model and strategic plan to ensure it remains viable and meets the future needs of the local community. Several of the Units that have become available are now being rented and are being managed by BDM Leasing. The success of the Village has been achieved through good working relationships between dedicated Board members and our Manager, Brian Elliott. Brian is retiring at Christmas time. We have been extremely lucky to have had the assistance of Brian over the last eleven years, he came on board in 2011 to "help out for a few months" after he had retired from the Lutheran Nursing Home and we were fortunate enough for him to stay on for all this time. I take this opportunity to thank him most sincerely for the expertise he has brought to us and wish him and Sue all the best for the future.

We continue to look to the future with improvement which will enhance the Village. Currently there is external painting being done around units 9, 10 and 11.

The gardens are looking magnificent as they become more established, they are greatly enjoyed by the residents. The Martin Centre is once again well used and a great asset to the Village. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all Board Members who have continued to support the Village, sadly in March we lost one of our Board members, Kathy Sutherland, who passed away unexpectedly, she was an invaluable member of the Board and will be greatly missed. I would like to thank Mark Carden, our treasurer, for his thorough management of the Village accounts and for the many hours he spends on Village business. I would also like to thank Robin Wellard for her wonderful work as our secretary, Robin has resigned to concentrate on other jobs in the Parish.

Thank you to my fellow Board members for your support throughout the year. We look forward to the continuing happiness in the Village for the future.

Victoria Chick Chairperson

St Matthew's Music Association

On behalf of the Committee, I am glad to present our Annual Report. We have been faithful to our original aims to provide musical, educational and performance opportunities to local younger people who otherwise would not have received them. The organ which was the original focus has rightly maintained pre-eminence it is by far the most distinguished musical instrument in the region and probably gets more continuous use. The instrument itself, as well as those playing it, continues to develop impressively. The Association has enabled more young organists to emerge than anywhere else in regional Australia which is a tribute to those who support the Association and also to our dedicated Organists at St Matthew's.

It is no small feat to provide music tuition across so many disciplines, and because of the age of our students some quite quickly move on. It is encouraging that so many of our students have excelled in their instrument and often play in major capital cities to the acclaim of huge audiences. Our next step will be to compile a list of our Alumni so we can better track the long-term achievements of our financial and educational investment. We have a growing number of flagships in our musical Armada representing the Association and carrying its reputation onto new shores. All those interested in music find fascination in the artistic relay between our Organists and Music Directors, teachers, students, and fellow performers associated with St Matthew's. Also, to Dr Beavis and his students who have become teachers and continue to share the gift of music both to the Glory of God and the wider community and safeguarding the future of the amazing technology that is the Pipe Organ.

We are pleased that the Association sponsors musical education and performance in many other

instruments and provides Scholarships for a wide range of abilities in accordance with the inclusive values of St Matthew's where all are invited, and all are welcome. We have included students with disabilities, Indigenous Scholars and very proud to have a young female organist excelling in what has traditionally been a male domain.

Our teachers are committed and talented and the student concerts are an absolute delight. It has been thrilling to have some of our students contributing to our Sunday Services and at significant community events and commemorations.

It is with excitement that we anticipate this years Albury Chamber Music Festival, with more than 1,000 tickets pre-sold and having to offer another round of concerts, is without a doubt due to our Artistic Directors Sally-Anne Russell and Mario Dobernic and the assistance of Peter Reilly OAM and Linton Soderholm for the Melbourne Launch of the Festival and their sponsorship through Scotchmans Hill Winery.

The Governor General of Australia is our Patron in Chief. Of special note are our other 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, Sally Morris and Simone Summerfield deserve special thanks and not forgetting those who audition our scholars Fr Malcolm Halford and David Luxon. 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 now a much-anticipated fortnightly event. His musical skill compliments his outstanding technical ability and his capacity to network with other musicians that has been contagious in the best sense. His recently produced YouTube presentation promoting the Association will be a great encouragement to more support and development.

Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller

Maintenance and Technical Management

Air Conditioning the Heating and Cooling has had quite a substantial amount of Maintenance work carried out for e.g. Filters and intake ducting cleaned, Gas Solenoid Valves replaced, Temp set at 24c Summer/ Winter also the repositioning of the On / Off & the Auto Manual controls these are behind a locked cover, the Main Software now Communicates with the slave unit located on Air Con Unit.

Garden Pedestal Pots now secured with an anchor rod to stop them being dislodged.

Nonslip tape fitted to Choir loft floor and access stairs.

Plus, community service lady who cleans Church/ Toilets/ Rectory

The Church Glass sliding door was installed and the cement entry ramp was constructed. Just to mention, the frustration of the chipped tiles on the expansion joint due to the moving of the piano.

A work in progress is installing movement activated lights around rectory.

Fountain pumps replaced thanks to those who originally purchase them further replacement with the Warranty that Bunnings offer. Safety Mesh installed in Fountain for children's safety. Lawn Mower and Edger Serviced, Retractable Hose reels fitted to Garden, Plough removed from main garden area, Flagpole rope replaced, and counterweight moved, and more added further work required for e.g. more weight and paint Remembrance plaques fitted to Memorial Wall. High Grove Air conditioner cleaned, Smoke and Gas Detection fitted to house plus rubbish removed prior to renting.

Ongoing work - LED lighting for Church and surrounds. Car parking storm water drains need unblocking. Laser smoke detection (Church) Repairs to Donkey door (Church) Secure the time capsule cover. Pedestrian gate to the rectory requires pavement work and gate repairs.

Bryan and I moving sheep and the Donkeys many thanks to Liz & Rod Pike for the use of the Horse Float

All work carried out at various times with the assistance of the Dave Murray, Dave Sutherland. Mark Carden. Bryan Baker and myself.

Hopefully the above gives an insight as to what work is done and by who.

Regards Paul Hare

St Matthew's Garden and Memorial Garden

The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was marked in the St Matthew's Garden by the planting of Queen Elizabeth roses and also Lily of The Valley in honour of her life of service and her special connection with the Anglican Church. The Memorial Garden has also been enhanced with the addition of white Daphne and those who contribute through donations of time or finance give a growing legacy.

The garden has continued to flourish and this is probably the first year when garden watering hasn't been an issue and the watering system hasn't been under scrutiny. Daily St Matthew's receives touching comments about how much the garden means to community members in the middle of very hectic modern life. It is impossible to describe the beauty as the year changes or just how much we appreciate the extraordinary quiet Ministry of those who serve our congregation, both friend and stranger often at times when they can be assured that no one is around to give them the credit. Like the Holy Spirit and the Bellringers they are often invisible but the effect of their hard work is a blessing to all.

Special thanks nevertheless must go to Robin Gibbs, ably assisted by Betty Loorham, and new arrival Peter Knight, Annie Snow, Mildred English and often the Ute brigade when the going gets tough.

Fr Peter

Parish Office Organisation

Pastoral Ministry is part of the day-to-day running of St Matthew's Office.

Our Office Volunteers roster system continues to work efficiently. A great team of 9 volunteers rotate on a weekly/fortnightly basis each month, and each have completed the Diocese requirements.

Their roles and skills have increased throughout the year and include developing an improved procedure for managing the distribution and recording system of the food hampers, frozen meals, personal items, laundromat tokens and clothing. This has been a great help with the increased demand from so many people coming for assistance each day. Accommodation requests are also followed up.

Our volunteers: finalise and print weekly Orders of Service and Evensong service, email the invitation to families for Children's Church and print service booklet, email invitation to Tunes on Tuesday Recitals and printing program each fortnight, prepare Baptism kits; manage the Outlook email system, calendar, and diary; organising readers, Eucharist Assistant and Presenting gifts rosters for services; recording messages and follow up; collecting mail, and updating the parish roll.

We greatly appreciate and value Deb Davenport's presence in the Office each Tuesday in the role of Administration, in particular the banking, registrations and paperwork required for weddings, baptisms and funerals. Deb also assists Fr Peter with daily requests, bookings, checking, following up and responding to emails.

Victoria Chick is in charge of all the bookings for the Church and Adamshurst. Annette Gorham continues to coordinate the Office team and help in the Office, when needed. She produces the Keeping Connected Newsletter, assists with orders of service (when needed) and orders of service

for funerals/memorials. She has set up an Indexed A-Z folder with detailed information to assist all in the office to do any task if required and coordinates the APM reports and booklet for the annual APM.

Thank you to Malcolm Halford for taking on the additional role of preparing the Order of Service for each Sunday and Evensong Services.

Paul Wood manages the Electronic Noticeboard updating slides in Bright Author on a weekly/as needed basis to inform all in our parish and community of services, themes reflecting the Church calendar and local events. This is a great practical contact with our community. Thank you to Barbara Hoodless for the terrific job she does preparing all the food hampers. Thank you to Trish and Don Lloyd, Barbara and Malcolm Ross for their dedication to sorting and methodically organising all the personal items, clothes etc.

We are so very thankful and greatly appreciate our team of volunteers - Robin Wellard, Gillian Pearce, Judy Kennedy, Barry and Janice Barton, Patricia Clout, Shirley Sizeland, Mary Stitz and Leanne Johnson 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 2023.

Thank you

Annette Gorham