



**ST MATTHEWS ALBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 10:30 am**  
**AGENDA**

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 2023 minutes	Annette Gorham
Rector's Report	Fr Peter Macleod-Miller
including Mission Action Implementation	
Treasurer's Annual Report	Mark Carden
St Matthew's Bell Ringers	Levene Horne
Children's Church	Julie Scott
Mother's Union	Kirsty Coyle
Choir & Music Report	Malcolm Halford
Craft & Embroidery Group	Jill Fielder
Emergency Food Program	Leoni Smith
St Matthew's Op Shop	John & Lyn Schuberg
Pastoral Care	Annette Gorham
Safe Church report	Mark Carden
St Matthew's Village	Victoria Chick
St Matthew's Music Association	Fr Peter Macleod-Miller
Properties and Maintenance	Mark Carden
St Matthew's Garden incl Memorial Gdn	Robyn Gibbs
Parish Office Organisation	Annette Gorham
- 7) Elect one or more persons to Audit the Annual Statements of Account for the current year
- 8) General business as permitted by the Chairman

**ST MATTHEW'S ALBURY**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**10th December 2023 10:30 am**  
**Agenda and Minutes**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Father Peter Macleod - Miller

**Meeting Opened: 10:17am**

1. WELCOME; PRAYER
2. **Present:** Paul Hare, Bryon Baker, Ray Fietz, Kathryn Cherry, Gillian Pearce, Kate Aldridge, Julie Ling, Jill Fielder, Fran Luxon, David Luxon, Mary Stitz, Charles Stitz, Tina Smit, Hal Smith, Pam Horsburgh, Julie Scott, Frances Jardine, Christine Nesbit, Barry Barton, Karen Beyer, Robyne Slade, Noela Murphy, Isaac Latchan, Mark Carden, Robin Wellard, Andrew Watson, Corinne Massang, Denise Thamrin, Henry John, Lyn Collins, Gwen Bradley, Prue Smith, Karen Buchner, Jude Frew-Kleeman, John A. Schuberg, Suzanne Grant, Catherine Dawson, Victoria Chick, Chris Thomas, Barbara Hoodless, Martin Hendriks, Helen Maritn, Essie Osborne, Sue Fyfe, Belinda Wilkinson, Annette Gorham, Mark Carden, Peter MacLeod-Miller
3. **Apologies:** Margaret Shearer, Pam Thorman, Patricia Clout, Sandra Macleod- Miller, Kaye Kennedy, Joe Nesbit, Jack Aldridge, Janice Barton, Robyn Gibbs
4. Minutes of previous meeting - correction in reports - Parish APM Minutes 2022 Rosalind Brown did them was Secretary 2022

**Moved accurate:** Victoria Chick

1. Matters arising from minutes
2. Correspondence:
3. **Annual Reports:**
  - Parish AGM 2022 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 Jill Fielder
  - Emergency Food Program Barbara Hoodless
  - St Matthew's Op Shop John & Lyn Schuberg
  - Pastoral Care Annette Gorham
  - Safe Church report Mark Carden
  - St Matthew's Village Victoria Chick
  - St Matthew's Music Association Victoria Chick
  - Properties and Maintenance Mark Carden
  - St Matthew's Garden/Memorial Garden Robyn Gibbs
  - Parish Office Organisation Annette Gorham

**Speaking to their Report - Treasurer - Mark Carden**

Unable to get a National Trust Statement

Look at page 4 deficit this year.

Last year profit but this year deficit planned reason upgrade church lights grant + funds organ pipe stops - through donations.

Moving Op Shop we were paying rent \$14000.00 no longer paying but upgraded Meeting Room Rectory etc at a cost

We are now sitting with reasonable balance sheet but coming year need to live within our mean.

Office still saving us \$35,000.00 thanks to our volunteers and all our volunteers – gardeners etc help

Increase in Fr Peter's allowance

Insurance - could be sizeable increase

In the budget allowed 2% increase

Pleased planned giving - in the system - consistent amount allows us to plan

Offertory plate doubled since starting back with it after Covid

All costs going on.

Op Shop - intake has declined but still going in right direction - everything taken in from there goes to the Church not rent.

In conclusion have allowed \$10,000.00

Thankful for some very generous donations.

Fixing fire protection, back of rectory, massive amounts of tree roots removed - blocking drains - very big costs - will need to do fundraising for these.

Thank you everyone for their support and additional amounts that come in.

Fr Peter - financial things very important - expenditure of money all about our engagement with the community. The reason why we are so 'expensive' is because we are so busy - engaged in so many levels. Liturgy means to work for the people - Inspiring!

Commend the independence of all who keep St Matthew's afloat.

Function of St Matthew's is due to Wardens - work 365 days of the year - the wonders of modern technology! Attend things every day - a lot more work than a lot of parishes. We deal with things in a practical way and when arise.

Our Mission Statement is: Alertness to the needs of the community.

**Thank you to all.**

St Matthew's Village - housing crisis - vandalism - with the housing crisis as is - very bad timing we have this at the moment - the majority we help are not like that worse example. We are trying to have that business sorted as we have some very good people who could go into the units.

Mark - happy to answer questions any time - Music Association, the Village etc.

Bellbridge Hague - heritage reports etc all finished with heritage - couldn't make it happen, not viable.

It actually has put us in a better position - relieved us of being open to greater risk.

Enables us to reboot!

Proud of the way St Matthew's runs.

Priority to our community.

Our whole model with our community does well - congratulations - well done!

Have to keep our eyes on continuing to keep our mission alive.

**Fr Peter's Report - full of 'thanks'**

Item 7 Agenda: Elect one of more persons to Audit the Annual Statements of Account for the current year. Mark Carden nominates STM – Craig Tallis - Doing well Seconded: Victoria Chick

Item 8 Agenda: General Business as permitted by the Chairperson:

- If you feel there is something we should be doing/ good idea - please let us know any time - don't have to wait to APM, send email to the office.

- **Suggestion** – Morning Tea after services - open to parish, ask the question, get responses - roster - how it would manage?

Also thought of we have supported at the Elms - few different considerations. This has been a positive thing.

When asked who would go on roster - one person put hand up.

Another suggestion - sausage sizzle once a month - Suzanne Grant - offered to do this. Put on Agenda for next Parish Council Meeting

**Victoria Chick- a very big thank you to:**

All our Parishioners.

Ute Brigade - Brian, Paul and David

Op Shop volunteers - John Schuberg and team

Office Volunteers

Our Gardening Group - Robin, Betty and Gillian

Parish Council

Sanctuary Team

The Choir

Barbara Hoodless and her amazing work managing the Food Room and St Matthew's Emergency Care

Annette for her terrific work on funeral services, Pastoral Care and the Electronic sign.

Children's Church coordinators

The Wardens and many others who contribute to the Life of the Church.

And most of all Father Peter, our Leader and our inspiration to keep it going.

Mark Carden Treasurer and Church Warden.

All groups

Last of all Fr Peter our pusher and motivator

**Fr Peter** - part of the big team.

**Fr Peter** - particularly remembering loved ones passed this last year.

**Finished with The Grace.**

**Meeting closed:** 11:00 am

**Rector's Report 2024 including Mission Action Implementation**

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the reopening of St Matthew's following the great fire. We can safely say that the fire has generated a new growth and fresh way of looking at things and given us all a flexibility and better pastoral focus.

**Pastoral Care and Mission** this is the chief navigational focus across the parish from the Bell Tower through the garden across the Op Shop, Office and emergency care and through the congregation to the Sanctuary.

Our Mission activities include Parish Office, Op Shop, Garden, Choir, Organists, Sanctuary Team, Pastoral Care team, Bell Tower, Flowers, Parish Council, Digital Sign, 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 and Chaplaincy through Albury Wodonga Health are all expressions of our Parish life.

Our **Mission Action Plan** has helped to guide the development of our Parish life.

**Our Sunday Services** focus on community engagement which is an activity of the whole congregation. There are many opportunities for inviting people to reconnect with St Matthew's or to connect for the first time. There are many new faces on Sundays and Wednesdays. 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.

I join the Parish Council in congratulating our congregation for continuing Covid safe measures in order to safeguard the welfare of our whole community. The practice of handing around the Common Cup

has been confirmed during the year for the safety and welfare of our whole community. Individual Orders of Service and hand sanitiser continue to be a feature of our services. We have returned to handing around the collection plate, but many have chosen to continue the Direct-debit and tap-n-go methods of giving and supporting the mission of St Matthew's to the community.

The old rectory building has become the home of St Matthew's Op Shop which has injected new life into the building and new volunteers and much needed funds for our outreach.

**Special thanks to** the Wardens - Mark Carden, Victoria Chick and Paul Hare and Parish Council, Annette Gorham and all of our Pastoral and Office Volunteers. Fr Malcolm continues to organise Sunday Liturgy and his expertise, willingness and flexibility are a gift to us all. Mark Carden has done an amazing job in the areas of finance and Safe Church and Compliance. Deb Davenport continues to work 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. Catherine, and Rev. Cathy. Our weekly Baptisms are ably supported by Robin Wellard, Sandy and Mother's Union Representatives. The Sanctuary Team is a well-oiled machine running on commitment and total competence. Ray Fietz our Head Verger keeps a watchful eye over our Liturgical celebrations and adds great dignity and order on Sundays, just as Patricia Clout enriches our Wednesday Services with her skillful and sensitively piano choices.

The bellringers add so much to every celebration and the gardeners provide a backdrop which is a sanctuary for worshippers and non-worshippers.

Our Craft and Embroidery Group have a new lease of life and do a great deal to support the parish. All of our Organists are an unseen but not unheard support to all our worship.

Particular thanks to James Flores who manages our Facebook, Website and Tunes on Tuesday Recitals. John and Lyn Schuberg and their great team of volunteers in the Op Shop. Leoni Smith and Lynne Fielder run our Emergency Food Room and the Office team who distribute food hampers and a variety of other tasks, not to forget Trish, Barbara and Suzanne the sorting saviors of the Rectory without whom we would not be going anywhere.

Paul Hare, Mark Carden, and Sandy Bobisch are responsible for a myriad of tasks in preparation and during our services and concerts. We thank them for their expertise, availability and flexibility.

Helen Martin continues her ministry of many years directing the flowers and her skill in refreshing the Pascal Candle flowers is much appreciated.

Bryan Baker and David Murray are to be thanked for enabling sheep to magically appear during the year. The donkeys are thriving under the care of Robin Wellard's daughter Helen and ably assisted by Gillian busy multi-tasking.

St Matthew's Pipe Organ 32ft Digital Stop has been a project years in the making and is the mightiest Stop on the organ and fittingly it was a mighty act of generosity particularly in the last period of Jim Williams life that has made this project a reality. Huge thanks also to his family daughter Lisa and Scott.

The Pastoral Care team really came into its own during the Covid period and continues to be one of the most significant parts of our parish life. The Parish is really about people and the Pastoral Care team cares in a practical way. Very often the Pastoral Care team is the first point of contact for people, the follow up is critical and timely and it knits together so much across the Parish family.

The Hume Region Community Work Team under the Community Correction Program under the supervision of Victoria Chick, Mark Carden and Paul Hare saves thousands of dollars in cleaning and mowing lawns as well as providing a tremendous personal service for people whose lives have become complicated.

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** - Please see separate documents.

### **St Matthew's Bell Ringers**

The year has been a busy one for St Matthew's Bellringers. We have rung the church bells for numerous weddings, funerals and local events as requested, for the enjoyment and the Albury Wodonga Community. We have also had a number of ringing visitor groups from Melbourne and Sydney spend time with us in the tower during the year.

As a volunteer group we do struggle for numbers from time to time and would like to thank our fellow bellringing community from Beechworth and Wangaratta who are happy and eager to help when required. This year we have seen a number of new ringers join our merry little band, with Leanne, Suzanne and now Cayte on their way to ringing and handling the church bells with confidence.

The bellringers AGM was held in February 2024 and has seen a changing of the guard with Pam Thorman stepping down as the Tower Captain after many years of leading this fabulous and talented group. We would like to say a big thank you to Pam for her years of looking after this group and helping in setting us up for the future.

The bellringers practice every Tuesday night in the tower and we welcome anyone who would be interesting in having a look at what we do and would like to learn the craft of bellringing.

*Le-Vene Horne (Tower Captain) Jim Jefferies (Ringing Master)*

### **Children's Church Report**

Children's Church for 2024 continued on a positive note. There was a change of helpers, when Janette Kettyle sadly retired, after a long and wonderful association with the children of St Matthews.

Golda, has continued to welcome and provide cuppas & goodies for all. Judith Frew-Kleeman provides the ever-popular franks, and Kirrilie provides yummy cupcakes.

Rev. Catherine Dawson our popular celebrant, gives the congregation spot-on teaching and lots of fun! Patricia Clout is our musician, and this gives a lovely vibe with her accompaniment! Sandy sets up & organizes things!

We average 6 children each month.

We are a congregation who look forward to getting together each month for teaching and fellowship!

*Julie Scott. C.Church Co-ordinator for M.U. Branch, Albury*

### **Mother's Union**

We currently have 23 financial members and considering our age and health limitations we are still a quite active group. Each month we hold our general meetings which are held on the 3rd Tuesday, of which we average 11 in attendance with 2 apologies. This year we have been lucky to have a number of speakers and activities.

Feb – Eucharist led by Father Peter March- Kath White – spoke about her time in Nepal and how they created reader with the local's stories April – Picnic in the Gardens May – members bought something to 'show and tell'

June – Rowena Ginns led us in singing our favourite hymns July – Jan Skinner – spoke about her life particularly how it led to an honorary doctorate in speech and drama. Aug – Wave of Prayer – Led by Fr Jacques originally from South Africa he could pass on knowledge of our African sister groups.

September – Kirsty Coyle – spoke about her work as a paediatric chiropractor October – Rev Cathy Carden – spoke about her Journey to Ordination

We also gather at coffee and chat each month on the 1st Tuesday at the Purple Chicken. Our first gathering in January was a lunch and was made special by the Purple Chicken Chef making our cake. Julie Scott kindly made a poster to thank those at the Purple Chicken for being so welcoming to us.

A member volunteers each month to represent MU and support every person presented for baptism at St Matthew's, usually by presenting a religious book and teddy. We thank those involved in this important ministry with special mention to Sue Fyfe for purchasing the books and Robyn Wellard for putting it all together for the day.

Whilst the above mentions our regular monthly activities we also are involved in a number of things through the year. We try to support the Diocesan MU by sending representatives to Lady Day and

Mary Sumner Day in Wangaratta. We have a close connection to Wodonga MU, having Wodonga members visit our meetings and we try to send representatives to their Quiet Day.

We are very lucky to have talent within our ranks and we had Sue Fyfe led a beautiful Quiet Day focusing on 3 short stories by Oscar Wilde, each progressively becoming more hopeful just a holy week does.

We support the parish by assisting with fillings and serving for pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. We also provide short messages in the form of bookmarks and labels on flowers to give to parishioners on Mothering Sunday, Mother's and Father's Day.

We have an active prayer chain, and we try to connect with our members no longer able to attend meetings/functions especially those in aged care.

Overall once again we have had a busy year filled with connection, faith, and community.

*Kirsty Coyle*

### **Choir and Music Report**

The choir continues to meet for weekly rehearsals, and for half an hour before the morning service and the monthly Evensong service.

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 the Anglican service.

The choir members come from all areas around Albury and beyond, some travelling considerable distances to participate in the rehearsals and services. I am very grateful to them all for their work and support, and their friendship. I would particularly thank John Scott for his readiness to fill in at the organ keyboard when I have not been available, and for his regular work in accompanying the monthly Evensong services. Also, Bec Beall's contribution to the choir has been especially helpful, conducting for most of the services and taking choir rehearsals when I have not been able to do so.

Our numbers seem to be slowly dwindling, and we would love to hear from any who might be interested in joining us in this important contribution to the weekly liturgy.

After 11 years as Organist at St Matthew's and 9 as Choir Director, I am intending to step down from both positions at the end of this year. I will still be part of the St Matthew's congregation and will be available for organ or choir duties if and when needed.

My special thanks to Fr Peter for his constant support and appreciation of the choir and its work, and to the Wardens for their encouragement.

*Malcolm Halford, Principal Organist and Choir Director*

### **Craft and Embroidery Group**

The St Matthews Craft & Embroidery group have had a very happy and successful year, meeting in member's homes mostly once per month. There are still only six of us in the group, and of course we would welcome any parishioner who may like to join us! We continue to enjoy our social get-together whilst creating saleable craft items under the guidance of Sadie Moffitt who keeps a watchful eye on our stitching technique and always has a new project for us either to help complete or commence. We are working and co-ordinating together as a team—proving that there is NO letter "I" in the word!

The Mini Market stalls held since Advent 2023 and throughout 2024 have been an outstanding success. The interest, support and participation from Church Council Members and Parishioners has been overwhelming. Increasing the end of day financial result, monies raised helping with Church maintenance.

Sincere thanks must be extended to Kate Aldridge and Leoni Smith for organising and helping to stock the Cake stall. Kate's amazing, iced fruit cakes as well as her homemade jams and pickles sell as quickly as they appear on the table! The overall parishioner participation in providing delicious cakes, slices, and biscuits has been gratefully received for this ever-popular market stall.

The Plants for the Plant stall have kindly been donated by Robin Gibbs (a retired Nursery Owner) and Helen Martin plus parishioners who are keen gardeners. Another popular stall!

To Annette our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for liaising throughout the year with Fr Peter and members of the Parish Council, for management of notices, handling sales during office hours and manning the Eftpos machine on sale days.

The total sum of monies that we have netted for the four Mini Markets we have organised and you, the parishioners have supported is:

December 2023: \$1539.00

2024: March/September/ November; Total: \$3.115 80. There are Eftpos sales of craft items which have been sold from the Cabinet but have not been recorded through our craft books.

Wishing you all a Blessed and joyous Christmas

*Jill Fielder on behalf of the Team: Sadie, Jill, Julie, Fran, Lola, Helen, Kate and Leoni.*

### **Emergency Food Program**

Since taking over from Barbara Hoodless in August last, the Emergency Food Relief team have been very busy filling an increasing number of food hampers. Currently we are supplying between 20 to 30 hampers per week and we are capping the total at 30, in relation to capacity and cost. The food supplies are purchased from Aldi and FoodShare plus very generous donations of food and cash from our St Matthews community.

Foodshare in Wodonga is an excellent facility repurposing donated food from the various supermarkets, making it available to those in hardship though the purchase of Food vouchers. A \$25 voucher can provide over \$100 worth of fresh food and currently Foodshare receives no government funding. To help support the facility in Wodonga and to provide excellent value for our disadvantaged folk, I would like to promote the purchase of Food Vouchers through cash donations from our St Matthews community. I have recently received a \$500 donation which equates to 20 X \$25 vouchers and approximately \$2500 worth of food.

The Christmas hampers are being purchased through Foodshare at \$25 per box and we are providing 50 to our regular clients, which will be available in the week prior to Christmas.

Many thanks to the wonderful staff at the office who distribute the food hampers, they are the front line and represent St Matthews with great integrity and care.

*Leoni Smith Co Ordinator Emergency Food Program*

### **St Matthew's Op Shop**

The Op Shop is very well stocked with premium clothing and goods. The community has shown strong support for Fr Peter and St Matthew's work. Sales have increased with the occasional week smashing the \$1000 barrier. The goods are well displayed, and the layout is very orderly. Many thanks to all our dedicated group of volunteers. New volunteers who can work as part of a team are always welcome, either on a permanent or casual basis. Thank you, Lachlan Felton for taking the rubbish to the tip. Please keep those tip vouchers rolling in.

*John & Lyn Schuberg, Janice Barton and Louise Graham.*

### **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Team meet each month to discuss and put into action new ideas and ways to connect with, support and help all in our parish and community.

We hold services in seven Retirement Village and Nursing Homes each month and have developed a close rapport with Pastoral Care and Lifestyle teams at each facility. Services are prepared as a PPT presentation for Dellacourt and Yallaroo which residents find easier to follow and manage. The service includes Holy Communion, readings, prayers, hymns and informal chat. The music is a very valuable part of the service and brings joy. Thank you to Sue Fyfe who plays the piano at Mercy Place, Borella House, Dellacourt and Yallaroo. Our Bluetooth device works well at Riverwood, Murray Gardens and Estia Thurgoona. Lisa Ride joins us to sing at Riverwood Services. Often following the services, we visit people who are sick, or in a palliative stage.

Requests for/or when informed about people not well, hospital visits, aged care visits, and personal requests to visit are followed up and visited by Fr Peter, or one of the team. Fr Peter and Annette, visit



people in Palliative Care almost immediately on request, and often several times. A card and small beaded ring with cross is put on their finger - God holding them in His care.

The giving of our 'kindness rugs' and 'thinking of you' cards continue to be an important gift to those who are sick or in hospital, in nursing homes/retirement villages and mean so much that we care about them. Thank you to all who make donations towards wool or have knitted/crocheted rugs. Pastoral Services such as Weddings, Baptisms, and Funerals play an important part in our parish family and wider community. More than 50 Funerals have been planned and organised this last year. This has a strong Pastoral role providing comfort and support to families when planning the funeral/memorial service for their loved one and in the weeks following the funeral a Bereavement Card is sent to each family. We are so very thankful for all the 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 of keeping connected with parish members who are sick, in nursing homes/retirement villages and to families who have lost a loved one this last year. A new design/s for Easter and Christmas cards are created each year.

Our Phone Tree System and home visits continue to help maintain contact with many people unable to attend church, see family or have friends visit. The number of people contacted varies as needs arise and change. The Pastoral Care Team help organise special services for Thanksgiving, Ash Wednesday, Easter, All Saints and All Souls Day - Remembering our Loved Ones Service, 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 and is well received. We are about 'Kindness in God's Loving Action', caring for and connecting with all people, putting into action new ideas that can make a difference. I sincerely thank and value each member of our team - Fr Peter, Robin Wellard, and Karen Buchner for their continued commitment, support and friendship. Thank you to the Church Wardens for their support and encouragement throughout the year.

*Annette Gorham, Leader Pastoral Care Team*

### **Safe Church Report**

As this was a non-election year for the Diocese, things have been fairly quiet for the past 12 months but the clearance process has continued in the back ground.

Given the bulk of the Parish clearances were originally carried out in late 2018/19 and both Working with Children Checks and the Safe Church Training are only valid for 5 years, we have seen a number of WWCC require renewal in 2024. I am grateful to those who have renewed their WWCC.

A reflection of the aging congregation is that a number of people also opted to "retire" from roles requiring clearances and this is reflected in the fact that in 2022/3 we had 43 clearance and now we are down to **37**. In 2018 we had **59**. We really need new and younger people to put their hands up for roles within the Parish.

In coming weeks 23 people with current clearances will be asked to renew their Safe Church training as it has expired. This will involve completing a refresher course which is offered online. I'll send details separately to the individuals involved.

As next year will be an election year, in the lead up to the AGM and election of Parish Council plus other office holders, there will be a cycle of updating clearances and renewing contact data etc. I am told that a new online system to replace the paper forms will be in place by then

Thank you to everyone who have completed the paperwork and battled the various online processes in the past 12 months. It is really appreciated by Father Peter and the Church Wardens, as the Diocese is very vigilant in reminding us of the Parish responsibilities when it comes to Safe Church protocols.

*Mark Carden*

### **St Matthew's Village**

St Matthew's Village has had a quiet and successful 12 months. Residents are happy and enjoy each other's company.

St Matthew's Church and The Board of the Village have continued to work together 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. This has been welcomed at the Village and life has continued to be one of stability and growth in a happy and positive environment.

This year we purchased a defibrillator and a training session was held in The Martin Centre. The Defibrillator is housed in The Martin Centre.

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. More of the Units that have become available are also being rented, this is being done by Ray White, Albury Central.

This year, Margaret, from Unit 6, moved to Mercy Place for full time care at the age of 92. We were all sorry to see her leave after 18 years at the Village but she was no longer able to safely look after herself. Her Unit was re-carpeted and painted and will shortly be offered for rental.

Ray White now manage the entire Village, including all maintenance.

The success of the Village has continued to be achieved through good working relationships with dedicated Board members.

The lawn maintenance and the gardens have proved a challenge, we have tried several contractors and are still trying to find someone who can keep the Village neat and tidy. It is quite easy through the winter period but the warm weather brings a lot of extra work.

We have 5 units at the back of the Village that are the original one bedroom or bedsitter units, built in the 60's. These units were renovated before COVID and have new kitchens, floorcoverings and Air-conditioners.

We have used them for people needing accommodation at a low rental. This has had it challenges. There are four units rented out. The Unit which was destroyed by the tenant has been renovated at a cost of \$22,000.00, this unit is once again occupied. The fifth unit is in the process of renovation and we hope to have it ready for rental in the new year.

The Martin Centre is 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,

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.

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**

St Matthew's Music Association continues to provide Scholarships and Performance Opportunities for young people in our region. It is also an umbrella organisation that enables the Albury Chamber Music Festival both the aims of the Association and the festival are being fulfilled with spectacular success by the spectacular support that they are both given. There is no point having a magnificent pipe organ without producing organists to play it and we are being faithful to this responsibility through the support of our donors, the expertise of our Tutors and the diligence of our students. It is very exciting that one of our Organ Scholars will be playing at the Church in Corowa because of the expertise that Hannah Ribstein has already achieved. Past students of our St Matthew's Music Association Alumni are distinguishing themselves in further music study and we were very proud to give Thomas Summerfield a starring role during the Festival Service in November which was in the presence of music lovers across the country and also giving him the opportunity to attend the piano recital by an international Pianist and teacher during the festival. Tunes on Tuesday under the direction of James Flores our Organ Tutor continues to draw a large and appreciative audience.

*Fr Peter MacLeod- Miller*

### **Properties and Maintenance**

#### **1) Work Completed**

##### **Church**

a) 2024 has again been a rewarding year in seeing a project that has taken a number of years in fund raising to finally come to fruition.

Electronic digital stops – two 32foot stops and a 16foot stop where installed in the Letourneau Organ mid-year. Manufactured in the USA at a cost of \$60,000.

b) Also mentioned in the Treasurers report, is the need for regular preventative maintenance for the cooling and heating air-conditioning, fire alarm and emergency lights. These are ongoing tasks and costs continue to rise, particularly given many components are 30 years old.

### **Rectory**

The challenge now is that after many years of not spending money on the Rectory building, as it was about to be knocked down, we now find repairs are required to make it fit for purpose.

After a great deal of work last year was carried out, this year the corrugated iron roofing over the kitchen area was urgently replaced when it was identified that leaks were giving rise to the potential of the ceiling in the kitchen collapsing. Cost of that section of roof was \$10,000

Roof and gutters at the rear of the rectory were also cleared to avoid flooding of the OP shop. And this will remain an annual task

### **Highgrove**

While maintenance required for the Highgrove Place rental property has been far less than previous years. There was a need to replace what may have been the original carpet from the 1980s. There rear fence has also rusted out and is in the process of being replaced on a cost shared basis with the neighbours.

### **2) Priorities 2025**

Work identified as a priority for 2025 includes:

- a) Fix loose and broken slates on church roof. (leaks in Choir room)
- b) Fix failed fire sensors in the church ceiling (very high ceiling is a challenge/expense)
- c) Investigate cost effective solution to rising damp and salt in the church walls.
- d) Apply for a grant to improve the locks and security for the church and rectory.
- e) Hopefully use Community service workers to paint the outside of the Rectory and Gazebos.
- f) Renovate the toilets including upgrading the disabled toilet.

### **3) Community Services**

St Matthews has been fortunate to be part of both the Victorian and NSW Community Service program providing at times up to 30 hours per week of cleaning and lawn mowing services. I would like to thank Paul Hare, Phil Stevenson and Alan Latta for the time they have spent on a weekly basis providing supervision and mentoring for the program participants.

*Mark Carden*

### **St Matthew's Garden and Memorial Garden**

The St Matthews gardeners are a lively bunch of weeders, snippers, hedgers, pruners, planters, designers and sweepers.

Saturday mornings see enthusiastic activity-some come weekly, others fortnightly and Peter K tidies lawns and paths through the week.

Summer will see the hydrangeas showing off, urns spill over with blue and white petunias and crepe myrtles bloom till autumn.

Memorial plants-daphnes, lavenders lilliums and gladdies take turns offering inspiration.

With the changing of the seasons we seek to offer tranquillity and interest.

Potential gardeners are welcome to share with us-Betty, Gillian, Peter K, Margaret, Bruce, Frances and Robyn

*Robyn Gibbs on behalf of the Gardeners*

### **Parish Office Organisation**

Pastoral Ministry is part of the day-to-day running of St Matthew's Office. We receive positive feedback from parishioners and the community about the friendly welcome and help they receive when they come to St Matthew's. Our Office Team roster system continues to work efficiently. A great

team of 11 volunteers rotate on a weekly/fortnightly basis each month, and each have completed the Diocese requirements. We meet every 3 months to keep informed and updated on current events/things happening, discuss new ideas and improvements and ensure all is going well.

The distribution and recording system of the food hampers, frozen meals, personal items, and clothing continues to work well. 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.

Daily tasks and jobs vary, and specific tasks are allocated on particular days. Tasks include: finalising and printing weekly Orders of Service and Evensong Service, emailing the invitation to families for Children's Church and print service booklet, emailing invitation to Tunes on Tuesday Recitals and printing program each fortnight, preparing Baptism kits; managing the Outlook email system, calendar and diary; organising readers, Eucharist Assistants and Presenting gifts rosters for services; recording messages and follow up; collecting mail, updating the parish roll and as well as daily tasks of answering the phone, and all the people coming to the office for food hampers etc.

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 several afternoons each week. Assisting with orders of service, special services and services for funerals/memorials; Coordinates the APM reports and booklet for the APM and manages the Electronic Noticeboard slides on a weekly basis to help inform all in our parish and community.

A huge thank you to Malcolm Halford for regularly meeting with Fr Peter and assisting with preparing the Sunday Services each week and Evensong Services.

Thank you to Leoni Smith and Lynne Fielder for preparing all the food hampers, keeping our team informed and attending our Office meetings. Thank you to Trish and Don Lloyd, Barb Ross, Suzanne Grant and Judy Guilmartin for sorting and 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, Leanne Johnson, Gwen Bradley and Beth Simpson for their assistance and time in helping keep the office at St Matthew's open each day and running smoothly. We look forward to continuing similar organisation in 2025.

*Annette Gorham*

### ***We particularly remember our loved ones who have been farewelled this year:***

Suzanne MAXWELL	Gwenyth (Gwen) RUDD	Ethan EDWARDS	Baby Mackenzie FELL
Leonie McINTOSH	Bill HAWKER	Christopher BARRY	George COX
Annette CHALLIS	Paule GAUQUE	Vivienne TAYLOR	Michael KNOX
Leslie NUGENT	Geoffrey (Randall) HOLLAND	Miroslav 'Fred' HOFMAN	Kevin MONTE
Nancy FARMER	Joyce POWER	Beverley QUINLIVAN	Kevin BEATTIE
Reginald COLLINS	Darrel MIDSON	Fa'avae ETUATI	Irene KING
Colin MARGERY	Riley HEFFERNAN	William PERRY	George (John) LOVE
Tim KELLY	Elaine PURVEY	Marj GOGOLL	Judith GRIMES
Beverley CARRETT	Jean DAVERN	Shaun GORHAM	Russell SIMPSON
Mike EGAN	Wayne KREUTZBERGER	Peter REYNOLDSON	Sura REBERA
Carolyn HARRIS	Grant CARPENTER		