

# KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

## Counting our blessings and Giving Thanks



*From the Church of England,  
A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

*Stay at home, continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable.*

Mother's Day and International Nurses Day remind us that we have so much to be thankful for.

We thought we would include some special memories of Mothers and those who care for them and have been looked after by them.

Mothers are not just for Mother's Day, puppies aren't just for Christmas, and nurses aren't just special for one day of the year!

Caring continues.

Thank you to all who have continued to reach out when in lockdown and hasn't it been tough! There have been moments of great loneliness and isolation and hearing the continued bad news in the Media can really get us down. An old-fashioned cuppa and picking up the phone can be an answer to prayer and as we help others it is amazing what a tonic that can be for ourselves. Our Church noticeboard shows a picture of light at the end of the tunnel, restrictions easing and more businesses opening seems more like spring than winter. At St Matthew's we are still being careful, tiny steps forward will keep us all safe and we do not want to experiment and put those we love at risk. We know you will understand. Some Churches around Australia are letting a limited number of people in under very limited conditions, lining up in a distanced queue in the cold weather before coming in, being signed up and distanced, probably no music, having to clean the church before and after, no catch up before or after – no cuppa and a scone - doesn't sound like St Matthew's at all! Having to lock the door and turn our friends away would be distressing and strangers may not warm to it either. St Matthew's always says 'All are Welcome!' and

we mean it, so when medical experts and our Government representatives declare the coast is clear to welcome all then our doors will open and what a great celebration that will be – we can hardly wait!

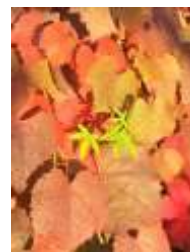
If you have other ideas, we would be pleased to hear them as well as ways of supporting each other through these testing times.

A big ‘thank you’ to so many. You will be pleased to know the homeless are not forgotten and as people are having a clear out and tidy up, the warm clothes are finding new homes for some whose lives have been shut down for years. It has been lovely to have David Sutherland usually in the Sanctuary or helping the homeless continuing the ministry on our behalf and having to do things in new but safe ways. donations of warm clothing, blankets, beanies, gloves, frozen meals are desperately needed to help in these colder days. A big thank you to Julie, for bringing Bushfire Appeal sleeping bags, blankets, towels many of which already have a new home. St Matthew’s garden has never looked better, but we haven’t just chucked all the stuff out the back! St Matthew’s Ute brigade has led the charge for a proper clear out and they are a regular sight at the Albury Tip. Any spare Tip Vouchers would be greatly appreciated.

Our online Services and Keeping Connected, Tunes on Tuesday, Phone Tree, Meditation and many Zoom meetings as well as the beauty and obvious care taken with St Matthew’s Church and grounds are ways of keeping the action alive and looking to the future. Just like Mother’s Day continues to echo, there will be a few people forget the Church and fence arrayed for Anzac, thanks to all who helped and any future ideas or plans please email through and we will get onto it.

Ascension and Pentecost are essentially ways of Christian Community being connected though physically distanced from Jesus himself. The Holy Spirit is a religious way of expressing something that connects us in a very deep way. It might be that special feeling that makes us pick up the phone or do something for a friend or stranger. They are great themes to run with at the present time.

Back to basics! A few home truths! Many have been gardening, homegrown then home homecooked and tasting the difference, keeping chooks and the company of animals with responsibilities it is good for us all! Another way of Counting our blessings!



Keeping in touch and not taking each other for granted a great time to bury the hatchet pick up the phone and dial-a-friend.

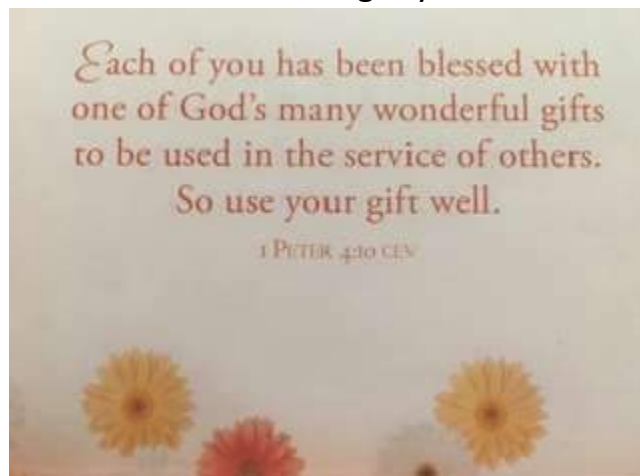
We are very grateful to all who have shared easier ways of keeping in touch so that we can keep sharing our blessings and continue to support each other and share hope and a few recipes for a brighter future – all go together in the pot!

We can all do our little bit On behalf of the Wardens and Parish Council a big thank you to those who have already joined the direct debit so that we do not need to talk money because if everyone does a little we can help a lot.

I want to let you know how much it means to me and so I have decided to take a pay cut of 20% in the hope that it might encourage a few more people to do a bit more and so we do not end up carrying a burden and continually kick the tin and pass the plate when we should just be trying to share the love.

**Join us for a recorded Service this Sunday 9:00 am on our website, Facebook or YouTube.** if you are having trouble connecting to services from the website, we have a sperate instruction sheet which will be attached with this newsletter.

**Please note** during the current situation the **Grapevine** is on hold, Keeping Connected is the fortnightly newsletter during the current situation.



**The Gospel reading comes from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel according to John**

‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’

**Thanks be to God**

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** Especially thinking of our children and parents coming out of a period of home-schooling and out children and families who would normally be enjoying **Children's Church** this Sunday. Normally we would be thinking of Ascension and Pentecost which is all about not being left on our own but sharing our lives with God and with others.



Join 'Kid's Blast' this and every Sunday at 10:00 am, google: [youtubekidsblaststpeters](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCk1sBlaststPeters)

**STARS IN THE DARKNESS - Good News for sharing:**



\*Hailey Wright - was discharged from ward to Leukemia apartment today. Photo of Hailey ringing the celebration bell. It is used as a symbol to mark the end of a treatment or to mark the achievement of a major milestone faced by many children each year, as well as being a beacon of hope for those still in treatment. Family standing be bell – Steve, Hailey, Leah and Rylee.



*Photo: Pam in Sydney, October 2019.*

\*Pam Thorman, one of our parishioners and Bellringers, has recently retired from the duty of being a Meals on Wheels volunteer. At 84 years old, and with the current

COVID19 restrictions, retirement was a sensible option. She was older than many clients that she delivered meals to and has fulfilled this volunteer role for the St Matthew's group, every 6 weeks for the past 47 years. In more recent years, Pam has also taken on the extra responsibility of being the St Matthew's group leader/coordinator for the meals on wheels service. This is a job communicating with her volunteers, as well as doing extra meal runs when others are unable. Pam has loved this role and is so humble she would just say 'she is privileged to be able to help others less fortunate than herself.'



**\*Mothers Union** came up with a great idea to give a small bunch of white Chrysanthemums, with a Mother's Day greeting tag attached, to each MU member on this unusual Mother's Day. They had a working bee at Gill Mackay's place, 5 members, then delivered one to each member Saturday afternoon, it was a way to keep connected and was very well received by the members.



**\*A Thank you** note from Kate Ashley – Thank you so very much for your generous, practical help and support during a difficult period. At a time where due to physical distancing, lockdown and being legally blind, I contacted St Matthew's and received far more support than I expected. The encouragement and help from Annette and Shaun, Marion, Peter, Robyne and Catherine, Anne and Frank from St Matt's, ex-St Matt's, friends and the removalists Justin and Ricky enabled me to move into my new unit as quickly and smoothly. I no longer feel alone in the way I was. I am grateful and happy in my new home and life. I am also looking forward to being able to join a little more regularly with the St Matthew's community. Great news for Kate – Term 1 University results – she received a High Distinction for her essay and a Distinction for the unit. Congratulations!



**\*Rodney Ford** – organ builder visited St Matthew's Friday and admired and congratulated St Matthew's on the amazing new sliding glass door and is doing



some exciting work on the Organ and thanks to Jill Moodie evensong from St Matthew's will be streamed on its usual time, 5pm on the first Sunday of next month. \* Thank you to Julie – last Wednesday delivered sleeping bags, towels, blankets, small folding chairs from The Lavington Sports Club, donations from the Bushfire Appeal. They also have a lot of things to help families and people in need – items from prams, baby and children things, toys to electrical cooking equipment which has all been tested and tagged. Please contact the Office if you know of anyone these items could help.

**Prayers for:**

- Necia and Graham Searle – in a nasty car accident Thursday.
- others who are on our hearts

**In Memory:** Continuing to remember the passing of Mark Dixen. We are saddened to hear of the recent deaths of Margaret Stevens and Margaret Lawson, also members of the St Matthew's family, always loved, never forgotten.



Margaret Stevens

**SUPPORTING:** The Albury Club – Fresh or Frozen Meals to go! Order online:

<https://www.milinkitchen.com.au> or phone Erika 0467257921

Cofields Winery Rutherglen – to order phone 0260333798 email:

[topdrop@cofieldwines.com.au](mailto:topdrop@cofieldwines.com.au)

**MEDITATION** across the world and in Albury we are using new ways to stay in touch.

There are growing numbers using ZOOM to connect with a meditation group at 5:30 each Thursday. At a time of great stress and isolation this could be just the tonic we need! Connect with Michelle and Paul on Zoom:

<http://www.explorationinmeditationandprayer.com/>

**PASTORAL CARE:** The 'Phone Tree' is a great way to keep in touch. If you would like one of our team to phone you, or if you know of anyone who would appreciate being contacted, please contact Annette 0413938541. Through these difficult and changing

times it is important we think of each other, and those who are sick and isolated, and pray for all.

**TUNES ON TUESDAY** continues at the usual time, every week online, please check our website for details.

**PARISH FINANCES** – All on board! Share the load! We all know that these days are challenging for individuals' families and organisations. There is Government help for some, and we want to ensure we can see our way through this without huge crisis. There is something we can all do, if we all do a little, it will sort the problem, we can stop talking about it and it will be one less thing to worry about.

There is an urgent need for St Matthew's Parishioners to commence making direct deposits to the Church accounts if we are to keep St Matthew's afloat for when we come out the other side of the pandemic. So far there has been a great response with 44 parishioners now giving via EFT and a further group who received the recent Government bonus also making one off donations to the Parish. This is even more appreciated because we do not talk about money much, it is the people who are important. It is special and thank you so much for being there when we need you and need each other. Please keep up the great work.

Without further contributions the Parish will not be able to pay Father Peter's wages and other fixed costs for May and beyond. Your assistance is urgently needed.

Bank details are:

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury

BSB: 032736

Account no: 392189

Reference: 'Giving' and your name

**\*Please help us reach all our Parish Members:** If any of your friends have recently got an email address, could you please send an email to St Matthew's Office, with their name and email address, so we can add it to our emailing list.

**REGULAR UPDATES** - Please keep going back to the website, includes Livestream links, Facebook and YouTube

