

St Matthew's Parish **ALBURY**

STRATEGIC PLAN

- a vital future in central Albury



Introduction

Purpose of this Plan...

This Strategic Plan is about what we - the Parish community - want St Matthew's to be in the future. It's about who we are, what we believe is important to our Parish and the things we do in the community, now and into the future.

It is intended to provide a '**Vision for future generations**' for the whole Parish community to work towards.

About St Matthew's: who we are ...

The St Matthew's Parish is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion in the Diocese of Wangaratta.

www.stmatths.com

home.netc.net.au/~bishopsldge/Diocese

www.anglicancommunion.org

www.archbishopofcanterbury.org

www.cofe.anglican.org

We are Christians who believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ through the Gospels.

St Matthew's is a community within a community.

As a Parish community, we are committed to learning together about the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We provide a wide range of services to those in need within our community and the wider community.

We provide the community with an opportunity to celebrate civic ceremonies and rites of passage in a Christian setting.

We also believe in the celebration of life through a variety of cultural activities and the arts. St. Matthew's has a tradition of fine music, both sacred and secular.

Our History ...

Our home is St Matthew's Church in Kiewa Street, Albury.

St Matthew's is an integral part of the Albury community.

The Parish was established in 1852 and our historic Church was built in 1857.

It was rebuilt after extensive fire damage in 1991.

On adjacent sites we have a Rectory which has a heritage listing and a Parish Hall within the Parish Centre.

These facilities also provide a base for a range of related and ancillary parish activities and community services.

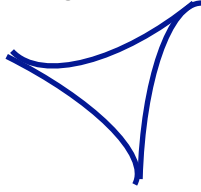
Checking our progress ...

We will review this Plan by **May 2009**.

**The Vision for
St Matthew's Parish,
Albury**

**St Matthew's Parish will
always have as its core
belief the teachings of
Jesus Christ through
the Gospels and apply
these teachings to how
we live our lives in
Albury.**

**We are custodians of
records relating to the
citizens of Albury
since 1852.**



Our Vision

- 3 cornerstones of St Matthew's

Spiritual well-being & worship...

St Matthew's is and will continue to be fundamentally about spiritual well-being, expression and fulfilment, within the context of the Gospels. Our notion of spiritual expression will include but also go beyond the formal church services as we know them today.

St Matthew's will be a wide community of people offering a range of opportunities and places for peaceful reflection, contemplation, prayer and solace. It will offer options for active participation by all sectors of the Parish community with a 'whole-of-life' focus.

We will offer those in the wider community who are in need, or suffering some form of trauma, a safe environment and refuge, without condition expectation or pressure.

St Matthew's will offer to people of all ages avenues for meaningful spiritual expression and fulfilment.

Social justice & community service ...

Our Vision for St Matthew's is to provide support and welfare to the wider Albury community.

We will continue to develop and deliver these services to people who need them, irrespective of their background, religion or beliefs, working in conjunction with other agencies both religious and secular.

Music, the arts & celebrating life ...

As music and the arts are an expression of spirituality, singing, orchestral music, theatre, visual arts and other forms of artistic expression are part of our vision.

Through these presentations, St Matthew's offers an opportunity for the wider community to share in the activities, thus enriching us all.

The arts are a means for celebrating life in Albury.

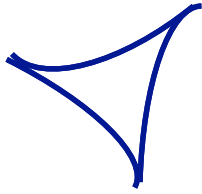
A range of avenues and opportunities for meaningful spiritual expression and fulfilment

Providing services to the wider Albury community is a cornerstone of our social responsibility.

It is a tangible application of our values.

Music is a language of the spirit with wide appeal.

We celebrate life in Albury through music and the arts.



Our Future Directions & Priorities

- working towards our Vision

1. Church services & worship...

We will continue to offer a range of spiritual activities and experiences which include but extend beyond our existing more traditional Church services.

We will cater for all age-groups and preferences. These will include the formal church services, to activities outside the Church building which are specifically designed for children and younger people. These services and activities will focus strongly on music and singing, whilst remaining consistent with the fundamental teachings of Christ.

- Maintain the focus of the Church on the teachings of Christ as found in the Gospels.
- Develop more diverse spiritual programs and celebratory activities which appeal to a wider range of the community.
- Engage more effectively with younger people by creating forums for spiritual expression through music and the arts and be more relevant to the expectations and needs of younger age groups.
- Create an indoor/outdoor 'space' in the St Matthew's precinct that is suited to offering less formal activities, including music-focussed forms of spiritual expression.
- Identify ways of getting designated 'leaders' within the Parish (in different age groups) more actively/directly leading in Church services/activities.
- Develop stronger links with and offer non-service spiritual development activities for schools.

2. Community services ...

Social justice and welfare services are fundamental to the ministry of St Matthew's Parish.

Continue the work of Anglicare, Victoria

www.anglicarevic.org.au

Continue to develop partnerships with local Welfare Agencies, e.g. YES, St. Luke's Mental Health, St Vincent de Paul etc

Conduct forums in the community on issues of justice that are of public concern

We aim to continue and expand our services to all of the community, including women, men, children, and families.

St Matthew's has a role to nurture a spiritual awareness in children and young people.

Encourage closer links with the school community.

To extend our understanding and collaboration with the local Indigenous community.

Involvement in the provision of services and assistance within the community disaster plan.

Continue our role as custodians of historical documents and work in close liaison with the Albury Museum.

- Extend emergency food program to serve meals/breakfasts at the church.

Provide a venue for such groups to meet, e.g. Amnesty International, Refugee, ABMA, World Vision

Provision of a meeting place for

- a. Mother's Union
 - b. Evening Group
 - c. Fellowship Group
 - d. Embroidery Group
 - e. Men's Group
 - f. Youth Group
 - g. Children's Groups
- Employ outreach workers to engage in ministry, especially young people.

To develop community partnerships to offer a non-institutional educational mentoring service in Albury, e.g. Homework Club.

'Walking together, sharing stories' in conjunction with Anglicare

- Recognise 'Sorry Day'
- Introduce an annual Harvest Festival (thanksgiving focus with Australian flavour).
- Offer our buildings for community service organisations in time of disaster.

Provide fire-proof storage in a suitable space so that documents are stored correctly and are easy to access.

3. **Music and the arts ...**

We are a Royal School of Church Music parish.

www.anglicancommunion.org

<http://www.rscmaustralia.org.au/>

Choirs, instrumental groups and traditional Anglican Church music are important parts of the spiritual expression and celebration of life in our Parish.

The fine Letourneau pipe organ is used in our services as well as featuring in a variety of concert programs.

Continue to develop the Church Music education program.

We will seek to build on our strengths by expanding our musical activities as a way of presenting our Church in a relevant way to a wider range of the community.

Continue the growth of our Children's Choirs.

The old English art of bell ringing is continued at St Matthew's on our peal of eight bells.

Develop accommodation for Choir rehearsal / classroom. Provision of a Robing-room , 'Green room', music library and office space

- Increase the use of the St Matthew's Church building as a generally-available venue for performances and concerts.
- Conduct an annual choir weekend for adults, children's and community choirs (workshops on Saturday followed by performances in Church on Sunday)
- Introduce monthly lunchtime **'Concerts in the Church'** (CBD businesses/workers focus)
- Develop a coffee lounge /fellowship venue as an integral part of the St Matthew's precinct.
- Conduct a biennial art exhibition at St Matthew's.
- Develop strong partnerships/alliances with the Murray Conservatorium and the Art Gallery to develop the Church's role in the arts.
- Produce an annual Arts Calendar for St Matthew's, integrated with/highlighting other Church activities.

4. Financial capacity ...

We will continue to ensure that St Matthew's is financially sound, self-sufficient and generates significant financial resources from its own commercial interests.

We will continue to use the resources generated by these commercial interests to build on, improve and subsidise Parish facilities, activities and services which we provide for the wider community and in pursuit of our Vision.

The commercial interests with which we are involved will continue to be within the general ethical and moral bounds of the Anglican Church and Christian values generally.

- Incorporate commercial office/retail space into any Parish Centre redevelopment.
- Incorporate into any Parish Centre redevelopment capacity by the Parish to offer/cater for reception services and family celebrations within the Parish precinct.
- Develop alliances with local businesses for all Church commercial activities.
- Incorporate commercial leased space for a combination coffee shop/book shop into any Parish Centre redevelopment.

5. Participation ...

A successful future for our Parish is directly linked to our ability to achieve better participation levels by our Church community. We are aware of a large group of people in the Albury community who have some affinity with St Matthew's and nominate themselves as Anglicans.

Many people participate in Parish activities at key life milestones/sacraments and/or Christian festivities.

There is a fundamental need to make what we do and offer at St Matthew's more relevant to the needs and situations of the community.

As a Parish, we need to significantly increase the number of people participating in Parish activities.

- We will introduce new parishioners to St Matthew's through an education program.
- We will establish a Parishioners task group with a view to identifying and implementing specific measures aimed at increasing participation rates in Church activities.

6. Our Church ...

St Matthew's Church in Kiewa Street is our home.

The Church and the Rectory are significant heritage assets in Albury.

The Parish centre, built more recently, is in need of upgrade and falls within the zone nominated by the Albury City Council for development as open space as part of Albury's central cultural and heritage precinct.

We will contemplate a redevelopment of the Parish property and facilities in Kiewa Street if it is consistent with the Vision articulated in this Strategic Plan and the following principles:

1. The historic, architectural, and landscaping integrity of the existing Church and Rectory buildings must be preserved.
2. Facilities for continuation and growth of the spiritual, celebratory and community activities of the Parish, in the context of our Vision must be provided.
3. Provision for the ongoing accommodation of subsidised ancillary Parish services presently housed in the Parish Centre must be maintained.
4. Long-term financial self-sufficiency and capacity of the Parish to pursue its Vision must be preserved.
5. The integrity and fundamental purpose of worship and prayer of the Church and its immediate surrounds should not be compromised by any re-development of areas and spaces within the Cultural Precinct.
6. Any redevelopment in the Cultural Precinct must complement, enhance and strongly interact with and relate to Parish areas, spaces and uses.

- Proceed to develop concept plans for the St Matthew's Parish Precinct which will meet Parish needs and goals, as articulated in this Strategic Plan.