Pthe Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important notices and items of interest Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook.com/stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook.com/stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook.com/stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook.com/stmargaretseltham.org.au/<a href="www.facebook.com/st

Prayer for Discernment of Vision

Loving God, you call us to your service: give us open eyes to see the path ahead, open ears to hear your voice, open hearts to love you and our neighbours as ourselves, and hands and feet ready to fulfil your calling as plan for the years ahead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen..

Revd Keren Terpstra

Our 2017 Vision and Directions

Over the last eight weeks or so, we've been engaged in a Vision Discernment season. The Venerable Jan Crombie launched it with a sermon on 26th June, in which she encouraged us to tap into our baptismal identity, and to not be afraid to let go of the things that hold us back from growing. Over the weeks that unfolded, we named things we were thankful for about St Margaret's, those things that challenge us as a community, and our hopes and dreams for this faith community. Jan used these as the starting point for our Vision Day on Saturday 15th July, in which we discerned four growth intentions (see table). From there, the groups that met on that Saturday have been continuing to meet to complete their action plans, which will be taken up by Parish Council after our August meeting next week. At the same time, the focus of the season shifted as we moved towards reflection on planned giving. We named the gifts God had given us, for which we were thankful, and one aspect of our following Jesus which we committed to strengthen, change, or initiate. After drawing the connection between discipleship and planned giving, we were given the opportunity to take away the planned giving commitment form. On Sunday 6th August we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration with a combined service followed by a lunch during which we contemplated the five gifts for which we were thankful, and pondered how we might be called to use them in seeing the four growth intentions come to fruition. Throughout this process, the breath of the Spirit has been present, and I give thanks in hope to see what will unfold at St Margaret's.

Keren

GROWTH INTENTIONS: WORKING GROUPS

Growth Intention and Ministry Actions		Ongoing Action
1.	COMMUNITY CONNECTION Monthly service – all age Improve communication/invitations outward Identify entry points/community connectors – perhaps through distinctive activity groups	Facilitator: Heidi 1. Continue as Working Group "Entry Point" 2. Meet with Parish Priest with ideas around the emerging idea of 'all age' each Sunday 10am worship
2.	COMMUNITY COHESION A Improve conducive worship environment – hearing, sound, needs of aged Combined parish worship monthly Combined parish celebratory worship	Facilitator: Mitzi 1. Link worship model with existing Pastoral Care ministry. 2. Meet with Parish Priest around worship ideas.
3.	GROWING FAITH Regular bible study groups Special prayer day for growth Faith development in small groups Discernment of gifts – who we are, why we are here (God's call on our life) Develop individual's spiritual practice – identify resources	1. Develop strategy for entry points for 'exploring faith'. 2. Share ideas and actions with both Growth Intentions 'Community Connection and 'Community Cohesion'. 3. Next step: Invite all parishioners to a one-off Faith Education/Formation meeting – who wants to be involved, ideas for process
4.	COMMUNITY COHESION B Stocktake/Audit parish activities and ministries – assess effectiveness Include wider community audit – who/what is our neighbourhood? Include in above discernment of cooperation with local Uniting Church. Create Plan for appropriate allocation of resources for emerging Ministry Actions in Parish.	Facilitator: David 1. Keep meeting as "Parish Life" Working Group. 2. Rejuvenate and update 'Parish Life' brochure and communication. 3. Revisit Pathways Process done a few years ago – update, possibly undertake again.

Seasons of Creation 3rd Sept- 1st October

Why a Season of Creation?

There is growing concern in Christian communities about the ecological crisis and the way human beings are treating God's Earth. Planet Earth is in peril. All creation is suffering.

An effective way to focus these concerns is through worship. By concentrating our worship on God's creation and our relationship with creation, we can seek ways to heal rather than exploit creation. The season of Creation helps us care for our planet home rather than destroy it.

The Christ Connection

The season of Creation is part of the heritage of mainstream Christian worship. There is no break from the gospel as the core of our faith. Christ is at the heart of our celebration. The cosmic Christ is the new life at the core of creation. In the season of Creation we celebrate Christ together with creation, we face the ecological crisis with Christ, and we serve Christ in the healing of creation.

What Is the Season of Creation?

In the seasons of Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter we celebrate the life of Christ. In the season of Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit. Now, in the season of Creation, we have an opportunity to celebrate God, the Creator. Bible readings focus especially on the story of Earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures. We commit ourselves to a ministry of healing Earth, with Christ and creation as our partners.

This year we have a service booklet to be used over the five weeks, specifically celebrating,

3rd September – Forest

10th September - Land

17th September – Wilderness / Outback

24th September - River

1st October - St Francis

In case you missed hearing the reports on the Op Shop and Ladies Fellowship, here they are:

Combined Churches Op Shop

The shop is the oldest op shop in the shires of Nillumbik and Banyule. The organisaton was created by the Ladies Auxiliaries of the then Eltham Methodist, (now Uniting) and St Margaret's churches.

It began in 1960 with the objective of raising funds to support a chaplaincy at Eltham High School. However, this did not eventuate.

The shop was housed in the old Commercial Bank building, built in 1878.But before that, the bank was an agency for weighing and receiving gold that was mined in the area. An attempted armed robbery occurred there in 1949 and a shot was fired. The bullet hole is still there in a cupboard door. The bank operated there for 68 years then closed.

In 1954 the Methodist Church Trust purchased the building. In 1960 the op shop moved in and stayed there until being invited into the Uniting Church hall around 2011 where we have use of the kitchen, toilets and heating. The old bank building is still used for storage and sorting.

Our wonderful volunteers number 45, 14 from each of the churches and 17 from the wider community. Many are long term members.

We run solely on donations given by the community. Stock is selected and surplus is sold at a very low rate to a textile distributing company who then sell it on to organisations such as the Red Cross. Unsuitable items are donated to Savers who give a small percentage of profits to Diabetes Australia.

Our takings last year totalled \$29,340.00. Our constitution defines where the money is distributed. One quarter, after expenses, is divided equally between each of the churches specifically for "Encouragement and aid to spiritual development through youth activities".

"The balance is allocated to accredited local organisations and charities as approved by the majority of the committee".

This year St Margaret's and the Uniting churches each received \$3700.

Plenty CFA and Yarrambat CFA \$2000 each, LINC \$3000, CAVE \$4000 and Eltham Food Share \$2000, Two Animal & Wildlife shelters \$1000 each, Eltham Men's Shed \$1000.

This year has been even more successful due to the more comfortable space for the workers and the shoppers.

Many of our customers are regulars and some come in just for a chat and a laugh.

The Uniting Church has embraced the op shop as part of their outreach mission to the wider community. They envisage their property redevelopment to include the shop with a welcoming sit down coffee space. A place for people to come and enjoy contact with others.

This could be a wonderful opportunity for our 2 churches to work together and realise some great goals. The op shop has been a working model of proven team work between the 2 church communities for 57 years. Something sound to build on as a combined mission of Christian outreach for our Eltham Churches.

We have planned a Saturday Giant Sale for August 26th, an end of winter sale. Stock will be reduced to half price and we see this becoming an annual event. **Lyn Clements**

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship was first formed in 1968 (49 years ago) at St. Faith's Montmorency. It was called an Auxiliary at the time to include women in the community.

Originally it started as an evening group for women, to have speakers monthly and do fundraising, dinner dances, progressive dinners etc. All monies raised to be given to organisations outside the church. Name later changed to Parish Ladies Fellowship and as were getting older, became an afternoon group with Hostess & Treasurer instead of President, Secretary & Treasurer.

At present we have 15 members, 12 from St. Margaret's congregation & 3 from the community. Two original members still attend monthly.

Our fundraising activities include two Luncheons each year with speakers from all walks of life, Cancer Biggest Morning Tea. DVD lunches & also raffles, usually raffle prizes are donated which helps our funds. So far this year we have raised just over \$1500.00 which has been distributed to Cancer Biggest Morning Tea received\$805.00. Anglicare Winter Appeal received \$500.00 and \$200.00 to Appin Hall, a Respite home for sick, terminally ill and disadvantaged children. At the end of the year donations are sent to Ronald McDonald House, Children First, Operation Christmas Shoe Box, Royal Flying Doctor Service and over the 49 years, we have supported many other organisations. Over these years we have supported each other through good & bad times and have become very close friends.

Our next fundraising is lunch in St. Margaret's hall on Tuesday 5th September at noon. Our guest speaker will be Dorothy Baker, a well-known TV singer from the old good days IMT with Graham Kennedy, Bert Newton. We would warmly welcome new members, our meetings are held in homes & sometimes the church hall, the pew sheet gives dates and venues. We meet on the 4th Tuesday each month except December & January. *For more information, contact Carole Auchterlonie, Margaret Bentley or Barbara Talbot.*

Reflections

Disturbing our Comfortable Lives: The Challenges of Hospitality This month the Benedictine Spirituality Group explored the concept of hospitality in the Benedictine tradition. We began with Fay offering us the hospitality of a simplified Japanese tea ceremony in which we served one another. We talked about what the offer of a cup of tea or coffee, and a listening ear, can mean for a guest. We all agreed that it is rare to have the opportunity to tell one's story, and be truly listened to, in our busy society. We wondered how well people feel heard in our presence, and in our parish congregations. We listened to the Rule of Benedict.

I recognised the ease of offering hospitality to those with whom I have much in common. Then there is the challenge of being able to offer heartfelt, non judgemental hospitality to those I find more difficult to be with; those whose very being or whose behaviours can be a challenge to my comfortable world view. Mirroring the hospitality of God is not a comfortable thing. I am still a work in progress! Sometimes needing to 'act as if' I am accepting of another; praying that my heart will be continually be transformed so that I am able to experience the other as God does. I recognise that if we at St Margaret's are willing to accept change, to offer hospitality to those who do not share our experience of Church, then I am going to experience discomfort.

The Rule of Benedict says about hospitality:

He (Benedict) opened the doors ... to anyone who came, at any time.

He made their coming a royal affair Guests were to be met by the entire community (who broke their work of silence for the sake of welcome)

Without the guest we make the community life all about us alone.

The Benedictine is ...on the lookout for guestsfor their needs, for their wisdom.

Thank God, you've come...

Disturb our perfect lives...

Intrude on our schedules...

Make demands on our energy...

Pry open our closed minds

And stretch our hearts to the breaking point. Expose our emptiness of heart and total self -

centredness

Guests bring us God in the guise of the immediate, and the urgent, the uncomfortable and the unknown.

Guests come upon us at our most vulnerable and break us open to a new part of ourselves as well as to the needs of others.

Guests bring the world in ... and dare us to be who, and what, we say we are- a community with stretchable, permeable boundaries saying 'We are here for you.'

Joan Chittister:

Monastery of the Heart

This group meets on the first Thursday of the month at Kooringa Close 144 Bible St Eltham We are a diverse group of individuals seeking to discern how to deepen our spiritual lives by applying the values of a Benedictine perspective to the complexities of everyday lives. Over coffee, discussions centre on the Benedictine pattern as presented by Joan Chittister in The Monastery of the Heart, and other authors. Music, film, poetry, meditations and installations inform and expand individual and shared understandings. To join us please contact Fay Gravenall, P: 9439 8961 E:faegravenall@netspace.net.au

Vale Nikki

I can barely imagine St Margaret's without the characterful presence of Niki Orford! Having taught Sunday School earlier in life, over which she would reminisce, Niki's concern for children in the church never wavered. She would be found at virtually every service involving children. Falls and sickness, hospitalisation, loss of weight and energy, never daunted her for long. She would reappear, as usual carefully and colourfully dressed.

She must have had many more lives than a cat's nine! Care of her animals and other matters in these situations, were tasks frequently looked after by generous friends. Niki enjoyed and actively supported our efforts in all age Family Focus Services and would say beforehand she was praying for those preparing and taking part. She especially loved the Animal Blessing service, but would also offer to assist new people for a baptism, helping them to feel welcome and be cross that any parishioners might stay away!

Although she loved the traditional worship, she voiced how we had to change for the young people and came to enjoy the experiments.

Not backward in coming forward about her views on many topics, she would say what worked and what could do with adjusting - but always with encouragement.

'We must support the children – they are the church now, not just in the future.'

In countless chats over her 'smoko' times, out the front or back of the church, she would lament over herself or share an amusing anecdote. Although she was always thoughtful over this, the wind at the time frequently wasn't!

Niki was regularly involved with visiting and the monthly service at Eltham Retirement Village, where she eventually came to live herself. I think Niki will now be organising God's welcoming parties into eternal life.

Clem Taplin

What's On - Next week and more

3RD September to 1st October

8th October with Pet Blessing at 10am Speaker from Wildlife Victoria

Saturday 28th October 3pm
Meeting to discuss Church layout & altar
position. All welcome with any and all ideas.

NB. Take a trip to the Eltham Library and se the lovely painted donated by Jocelyn Dalton. It is of Burgoyne's Milk Bar cnr John St. and Main Rd Painted by Ted Dalton. Brings back memories.

Ed. This edition Sally Petty.

Vale Dear Nicky

On August 10th we said farewell to Constance (Nicky) Orford, a long time member of St Margret's congregation. At the eulogy during the service, we heard how she was a brave, stubborn lady who loved animals as much as people.

We will miss Nicky for her friendly personality and her willingness to have a chat, sometimes for too long. She had a lot of burdens to carry; more replacement ioints than anyone



know and was in-line for some more metal as well as fighting a blood condition that was very dehabilitating. But it was on August 2 that she suffered a stroke and died during an evening exercise class at the retirement village (once called Judge Book but now SVCS) where she was living temporarily. We loved Nicky dearly for her free spirit, her willingness to participate in all things run by the church, and personally, her good company over many Christmas and other meals Adrienne and I shared with her.

Although estranged from her family lately, meeting them again at the service, attended by nearly 80, was a wonderful



experience of finding in them many of Nicky's values, especially in their willingness to care and involve us in saying farewell to Nicky so unexpectedly. We heard from her children what a wonderful mum she had been, and how well she supported the three of them, Victoria, Sasha and Richard as they attended Ivanhoe Grammar over the years. Not only the chauffeur mum but a major participant mum in many school activities. Sasha told fond stories of her mum's participation in children's games as she was quite a bit younger than her siblings. Nicky's former husband had asked for a white rose to be placed on the coffin alongside their wedding photo.

The Requiem Eucharist was a moving experience for us to individually commend Nicky to God's care,

including the opportunity for each to light a candle in her memory. Nicky adored singing so she would have joined in singing with us 'Abide with me', 'All



things bright and beautiful', 'How great thou art' and 'Morning has broken'

Many had been concerned about what had happened to her constant companion dog Pip, immediately and in the longer term. We were heartened to learn that immediately Margaret from the village had cared for him and that he was now placed with a family with a very loving eight year old and already sleeping on the bed again! Revd. Keren pointed out that his dog friends here, Tiger Lilly and Marduk will miss his help in removing the crumbs from the hall floor.



Our thanks again to Sasha, Richard and Victoria for the loving opportunity to say farewell to their mum, our dear friend Nicky.



Photos and article Harry Watson

Commemorative Service for the Centenary of the Battle of Ypres: Menin Road, Passchendaele, Zonnebeke held Saturday 5th August 2017

The very moving and well attended Commemorative Service held on Saturday 5th August 2017 was the third commemorative service that St Margaret's has held to honour and remember the soldiers and nurses who are listed on The Honor Roll which hangs on the back wall of the church.

This year we remembered the sacrifice and service of the soldiers and nurses from Eltham who in 1917 served in the Battles of Bullecourt and Lagnicourt in France, the centenary of the 3rd Battle of Ypres: Menin Road, Broodseinde Ridge, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele and Zonnebeke as well as those who served in the Light Horse and the Remount Units in Egypt, the Sinai, Palestine and Egypt.

The service included the participation of community leaders, members of the Montmorency Eltham RSL, members of the First Eltham Scouts, young people who read the names from the Honor Roll and parishioners,. The Revd David Sullivan from the Parish of Panton Hill and St Andrews gave "The Message" from the scriptures. There were a number of descendants and relatives of soldiers listed on the Honor Roll present.

A very informative and interesting address was given by Andrew Mackenzie OAM, Art Historian about "Australian Artists and their families in the First World War". Andrew spoke of artists from the Heidelberg School including Walter Withers who was a resident of Eltham and painted the Drover – William Capewell the model for the Drover is listed on the Honor Roll and together with five others left Eltham for Egypt on the Transport Orsova 67 on 12 November 1917. Will Longstaff who lived and

taught art in Eltham was amongst this group. Longstaff is most well known for his painting *Menin Gate at Midnight* which hangs in the Australian War Memorial (AWM). Andrew also spoke of the Revd Thomas Henry Sapsford who was the vicar of St Margaret's during WW1 and his role in the Community.

There was an art exhibition in the gallery space of the church and in the hall a memorabilia display provided by the Montmorency Eltham RSL and a display about early Eltham provided by the Eltham District Historical Society. Afternoon tea was served in the hall which provided an opportunity for the community to gather, view the displays and share stories.

Several members of St Margaret's parish had attended events held in Eltham in 2014 - 2015 where the former Premier, the Hon. Ted Baillieu, as Chair of the Victorian ANZAC Centenary Committee, spoke passionately about the First World War (WW1) and the intense spirit that drove "much too young" Australians to sign up to serve at Gallipoli and the Western Front and invited those present to consider researching and commemorating their family and / or their community's response to WW1.

This became a catalyst for these parishioners to research the Eltham Honor Roll in the church and through discussions with other parishioners and other groups within in the community including the Eltham – Montmorency RSL, the Eltham District Historical Society, the Eltham Library it was decided to hold a commemorative service to which the community, community leaders, descendants / relatives of those listed on the Honor Roll, and others would be invited.

Kathleen Toal.

Footnote: We have asked Andrew Mackenzie OAM for a copy of his address for the Parish Archives.





Photos Diana Warrell



From Vicki Ward MP Facebook