

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham



the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
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God of Power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen..**

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*Farewell Joint Service 9.30 Aug 7
Followed by Lunch and Joyful Fun*

Our Heartfelt Thanks Fr Ruwan

Fr Ruwan's year as locum vicar has just flown by. From the day we first met him as he welcomed us to services and functions his warm personality and genuine care have been a wonderful experience for us. At Parish Council planning day he encouraged us to **'think big'** rather than to regard his time with us as one of waiting. It empowered us to reorganize and follow better our long term plan in the MAP. His ability to be available for **pastoral care and visiting** is exceptional and as this is written he is supporting significant crises of health in several people's lives. What has been amazing is his ability to remember our names and know about our families, frailties and strengths and to help us grow towards God. We have had few preachers who always deliver their **sermons without notes**; and many of his background stories from his experience in New Zealand and the East have tested our comprehension, touched our emotions so strengthening our faith. His interest in **scholarship** with a focus on Luke and for Lenten study the opportunity to learn about the other Gospels and their impact and their contrast to the four we love dearly, has been a rare opportunity to grow our knowledge of our faith foundations. His support for us is epitomised by his prayers



Welcoming - Fr Ruwan style

working his way through the Parish list starting Monday and finishing Saturday. We doubt there has ever been here a priest who has cooked with family help lunch for the 80 or so who could assemble on the day. Moreover since Revd. Clem's departure just after Easter he has run worship in the Parish almost by himself with our Associate Priests taking or participating in a few services. And it is not only Ruwan we have come to love but Mary, Eshara and Ruwanmal as well including their **combined musical talents and Alleluia's too!** We will convey our thanks and blessings for their future ministry at the farewell service on Sunday Aug. 7 at 9.30. Please come and show your appreciation of much more than can be squeezed on to the front page.

Preparation for the Farewell

We warmly invite you to the family service and the farewell to Ruwan and family.

After the service, an early sit-down lunch will follow. There is a request for a donation of \$10 per adult and you are asked to bring a starter or small dessert and BYO drinks.

9.30 Family Service

10.30 (approx) formal farewell to Fr Ruwan

11.00 Morning Cuppa

11.30 **Sit down for nibbles**

11.50 Main Course

12.30 Self serve deserts

12.45 Tea/Coffee and

Performances

2.30ish Final Personal Farewells to

Ruwan, Mary, Eshara and Ruwanmal

It is important that you sign up on the detailed signup sheet as we need to manage food, performance schedule and more.

If you recorded your interest by the office or a form without detail and have not been contacted please check in on the **signup sheet with the above details.**

We hope you can have some joyful fun and laughs as well as recognising the Palapathwala's for their significant contribution to Parish life.

Rev Keren's Commissioning

We are all looking forward to a very special service on Thursday 1 September at 7.00pm when our new Vicar, the Revd. Keren Terpstra is commissioned as Priest in Charge by Bishop Philip Huggins. Keren has carefully put together a lovely service which will include Holy Communion and some great music. The service will be followed by refreshments in the hall. Please all come to welcome Keren. If anyone needs transport, please let me know.

Sally Petty

Sound System – Can You Hear?

There are fairly regular complaints about **not being able to hear**, although there have been some welcome thank-yous from several who have had their hearing aids tuned for the hearing loop. Quite often for non-worship events we have complaints about **not hearing or the terrible squark** when the sound system 'blows up'.

Alltune Sound is a professional company highly recommended for church installations and have been very supportive in developing our systems.

The major issue is user's inexperience in using microphones with the desk operator often being challenged to compensate for inadequate use. **If people are asked to use the mics, THE SESSION ORGANISER(s) should take speakers**

through a practice session as many people don't/can't hear their own voice feedback from the loud speakers.

To do this you will need someone to listen to you standing distant from the mic.

As rough guide your mouth should be **10 cm (4 inches) to 60 cm (over two feet) away** from the mic **depending upon your (quiet to loud natural speech) volume.**

If you are close you should **not turn your head away**. If you are **distant you can turn your head quite a lot**. Be careful not to drop your voice as much as you might do in a conversation. **Whispers won't be heard.**

We were recommended this system to avoid having microphones in the speaker's face, as facial expression is part of communicating and is down-graded by the 'in-face' mic.

It is a major issue for all of us when we can't hear

Council Appreciations

A regular item on Parish Council's agenda is to recognise and express our appreciation to specific people:

- **Graham Carew** stepping down as Coordinator of Planned Giving after several years of managing this difficult task.
- **Pastoral Care Team → Ruwan, Adrienne, Harry, Helen, MaryAnn, Mitze, Robin, Robyn, Robert and Sandra** for organising and delivering the seminar on **Planning for the Health, Dignity and Spirit in Later Life**

Health, Dignity & Spirit Seminar

It was suggested to Robyn Riley that Shirley Nash would be a good person for finding a suitable speaker on the subject and she put us in touch with the Advanced Care Planning Unit at Austin Health. Jenny McGuirk with an assistant, Veronica, from Austin Health, accepted the invitation to be the presenters for the first part of the seminar.

This centred on how to make known your wishes about health related matters in later life, before it gets too late. She stressed absolute importance of preparing an Advanced Care Plan, including the appointment of a Medical Enduring Power of Attorney and much discussion with relatives and friends on what was wanted to be done and covering many examples of possible eventualities. Kits with forms and website information were handed out to assist everyone to complete their own plan.

After a light lunch Fr Ruwan's presentation focused on the spiritual aspect of 'meaning' in later life. Where from and where to is the meaning in spiritual life as we transcend? It is helpful to ask the questions Who, Why, What, When and Where.

Often at the end of these questions people often wish they had taken more risks in accepting opportunities that passed by. He concluded that we must be joyful about life's experiences.

Please contact a member of the PCT for a more detailed report and a set of forms

Thanks to Lynette and Mary from the office printed the flyers which were distributed to the other churches in the area, to the Eltham Library and to some of the local op-shops.

There were a total of 44 attendees; 10 resulting from the flyers or as friends introduced by parishioners. The most effective flyers were from the foyer (collected by members of the choir), the op-shop, E.R.V., and the Wesley Church.

Mary Ann coordinated the providers of lunch from the Pastoral Care team who produced four different soups, finger food, ham and vegetable sticks and sushi. An outstandingly beneficial venture.

Alan White/Harry Watson

Parish Council July Summary

- **Fr Ruwan** Welcomed everyone to his last meeting
- **Minutes** of the June 2016 meeting were accepted
- **A proposal** for the moved Christmas in July to Fr Ruwan's Farewell on the 7th August was refined with the **start time for lunch 11.30 finish 2.45**.
- **Draft calendar** for common access on website is nearly complete
- **Draft budgets** for Discovering Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Property Maintenance and Internal & External Relations for 2017 have been received.
- **Correspondence** Graham Carew has **resigned as Coordinator of Planned Giving** and is to be thanked. A small working group has been formed to learn more about problems with PG.
- Reports**
- **Pastoral Care**
 - It was noted with thanks **Helen Costello and Mitze Tuke** had joined the team
 - **The PCTeam proposal** for petrol vouchers and food vouchers for give-aways to the needy by the vicar was not accepted because vouchers are not available.
 - **Planning for the Health, Dignity and Spirit in Later Life** This First PCT Seminar was a big success on July 16th
 - **Spiritual Health Australia presentation and Team Training.** This will likely now be in September. Date to be negotiated with vicar and presenters.
- **Worship and Spirituality**
 - **The Camino Way Exhibition report.** from Discovering Spirituality was welcomed and the huge success of the Exhibition and the steadfast work required to deliver it was acknowledged. Wonderful work
 - On the microphone issue at the Panel Session was noted. PC recommends that **before anyone uses the mics, the session organiser(s) should take them through a practice session** as many people

don't/can't hear their own voice feedback from the speakers.

- **SWOT analysis.** Kathleen spoke to the report. It was seen to be very thorough and impressed with its preparation and outcomes. Again some response to recommendations will be prepared.
- **Internal and External Relations / Communications and Community Connections**
- **The recommendations** including the continued appointment of the communications manager in **their report were accepted, except it was agreed that Mary LM would assemble and print Parish Matters whilst PC will still provide content.**
- **Parish Web Site was Re-Launched on June 26.** Mostly positive feedback has been received. would like some identity of their collective activity to be visible
- **Melissa kindly** volunteered to **contact the Parish Groups outside DS and PCT** to see how they are going and to be the liaison person for introducing them to the new vicar in an orderly way.
- **Progress Property Development and Maintenance**
 - **Vicarage and House Hunting...**
 - **The vicarage** refurbishment is 98% complete. At Rev Keren's visit July 4 led she requested an offsite smaller living space as the vicarage was too large for her and Gabrielle her cat. Off site accommodation has been approved by Bp Phillip. The wardens and IC have looked at ten plus properties but none thus far suitable.
 - **Dendy House Approval by Diocesan Building Committee.**
Last Thursday Sally presented our application to the Diocesan Building committee. That application was approved with some changes
 - **Dendy House Internal Painting** Two quotes have been obtained.

MAP Update

- Harry tabled a **revised MAP**. Planned giving urgently needs attention. Special services and other items need attention.
- **Towards developing Metrics/Targets for the Future** -- Initial Concepts Discussed at May meeting to be considered at August meeting so we a method for planning for next year.
- **Nurturing people after having had a positive experience.** One new member came to St Meg's because we said **'We were building for the future'** (Thanks to wardens notice on old sign at front) Let's show we are.
- **Seasons of Creation has been cancelled this year.**
- **Vicars report** was tabled:
- **Pastoral Care Seminar** was a wonderful and he had very positive feedback on both Jenny and his own presentations. Harry will write a report on the seminar details.
- **Liturgy** The next Experimental Combined service now moved to August 9. The previous service was a success.

- **8 o'clock** prayer book service attended by 21 on the day of the last combined service. Thus it is not surprising that members of one congregation do not know the other. **This is of pastoral concern and has to be addressed.**
- **Missional and Outreach** The 1st anniversary of DVOD Choir was a huge success. The Church was full to the brim. It was recommended as an opportunity for special purpose fund raising
- **Shaun and Margo Islip's** involvement needs to be further developed for both Open Door Choir and additional participation.
- **Conclusions** For the 11 months he has been with us, Ruwan thanked PC for their support behind his efforts to keep the Parish moving. He pray's that Keren's ministry will continue to bear much fruit for the glory of God. He concluded with the words from the Epistle of Joy.
- **PC Financial Report**
- **The Treasurer** presented five financial reports and the details of the application for an ADF loan for \$75,000 not all of which may be needed for the completion of the building works.
- Discussion about **the inclusion of expenditure of each of the Groups** in the budget planning.
- **Book keeper** is doing good work
- **The Financial Reports** were gratefully received with thanks for the huge effort **and formally accepted.**
- **Wardens Meeting Report**
- Keren's Commissioning. Sally reported planning is in progress.
- Presiding at the last three August Sunday services: Richard Wilson will do the first and third.
- Robert Street will do the middle.
- **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of Parish Council will be held on Tuesday August 16th at 7.45 pm
Phew another busy meeting!

Site Re-development July Report

Landscaping at rear of hall

The retaining walls and hand rails up the slope are complete. The Tuscan topping surface has been compacted. The shed 4.5m x 2.25m has been erected for storage of chairs and items from the old metal sheds which will be removed. We have to extend the hard surface to the new shed door.

Vicarage

The vicarage renovations are complete, and we are now looking to lease the vicarage at an increased rent once we have found accommodation for the vicar.

Dendy House

We have now agreed on a plan to construct a handicapped toilet, store room and kitchenette with external service hatch to the children's play area on the rear of Dendy House. This has to be approved by Heritage Victoria, and the diocesan building committee but still has to be resubmitted to Nillumbik Shire for a building permit. This is a slow process and we will be lucky to have all our

approvals before September. The builder's quote was as expected.

Planned Giving via Transfer

Graham Carew in (retiring from PG) and going over the deficiencies in Planned Giving has pointed out that there are around 30 participants who use Direct Debit or transfer via the ADF. These electronic transfers are the ones that are most behind in payments and are much more difficult to track than envelopes. **So PLEASE if you use electronic transfer will you check that your transfers are happening** by looking at your personal account statements AND that the transfers **are in favour of St Margaret's.** Lack of regular income makes us uncertain in how to manage expenditure..

Health Emergencies

More detail from Council Minutes
Emergency procedures for a severe health issue in a worship service should involve the president stopping the service and nominating people to take charge of the situation and an identified volunteer next to the patient to call 000 and get an ambulance or paramedic

WW1 Commemorative service

The Commemorative Service for the Battle of the Somme: Fromelles, Pozières & Mouquet Farm was held last Saturday 23 July 2016 –

Over 130 people from a wide range of backgrounds attended the service. Significantly the RSL, several schools, teachers and notables as well as about 40 parishioners.

See pictures below and on the next page.

Afternoon tea after the Commemorative service for was provided amongst the historic displays in the hall. The tea included ANZAC biscuits made to the original WW1 recipe. Still delicious.

A full report will appear later



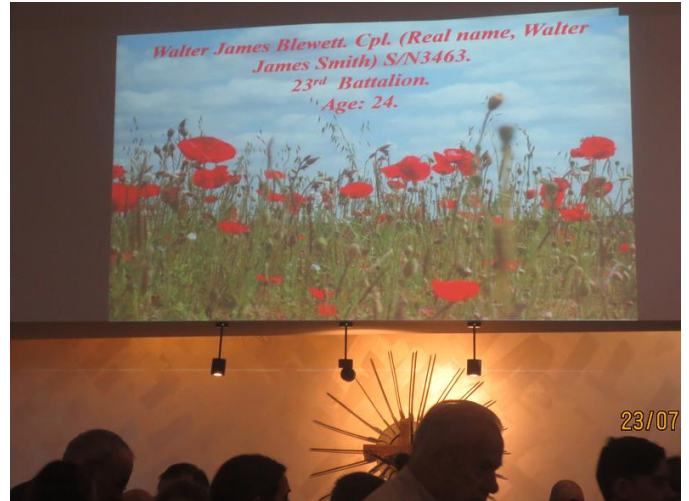
Joshua and readers from various schools reading through the list of the dead on our WW1 honour board.



A reading by Ella



Psalm 23 sung by Margaret Sandy



Lest we forget their names in the fields where they fell



The last post is played.



Final flag procession

Well done Discovering Spirituality Team for this service organisation and delivery. Being very well coordinated enabled the focus on the appalling happenings of 1916 and those that fell were respected and remembered.

Photos by Brian Holt, Gary Toal, and Harry Watson

Ed This Edition Harry Watson