

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

the
Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham

A Prayer for Reconciliation

I pray for peace between countries.
I pray for people to reach out to other people with the hand of generosity
And not to be unkind but to care;
Not to argue but to open up discussion;
To be a friend and not fight or bully;
To accept others nationalities and not to be racist.
To look for the good in other people and not to find fault in others;
Not to be bewitched by money but to give to the poor.
Not to use religion as a weapon but to use it as a support and actual faith.
And finally, not to hate but forgive and love. Amen

*Written by Catarina Mesquita-Reynolds aged 9
Taken from CofE.website*

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 9 October 10.00 Blessing of the Animals

In the hall with morning tea after (parishioners to bring a plate please).
Bring your pet or a photo / memorial of your pet to be blessed.

Guest Speaker – Pam Ahern from Edgar's Mission

Edgar's Mission is a not for profit Farm Sanctuary that seeks to create a humane and just world for humans and non-humans. Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary is set on 153 peaceable acres situated just outside of Lancefield, nestled in the tranquility of the Macedon Ranges. The farm sanctuary currently provides life-long love and care to over 350 rescued animals. There will be a stall to support Edgar's Mission as well as a donation collection during the service.

For the Animals – donated food provided by Webster's Farm and Garden.

Sunday 20 November St Margaret's Day. One service at 10.0 followed by parish lunch.

Saturday 26 November 4.00 AGM.

Stewardship

On 2nd October we'll be launching a drive for Planned Giving. As you will hear from the wardens and others, over the past seven years the trend in giving has been down – this year our planned giving is down by \$22000. That's significant: had the parish had to honour its budgeted commitments in staffing, we would be presenting a significant deficit for the year to the AGM.

As a parish we haven't thought about planned giving, or about giving in general, for a few years. Now that the building project is almost complete, it's time to refresh, rethink, and renew our approach to our stewardship of God's gifts to us.

In the first place, we give as part of our discipleship, our desire to follow Jesus. But more than that: whatever we do comes from the deep experience and realisation that God is the gracious Creator, to whom we belong, and who provides for our needs. If we place our hope and our trust in God, God will care for us. This is a principle Jesus taught, and it is one of which we must continually remind ourselves: not to worry about whether we have enough money, food, clothes etc. When our hearts and our minds are set on God, and when we put God and God's kingdom first, all things flow. I have lived this experience and can testify to its truth. As a parish, and as individuals, God calls us to put God first in all things.

If the whole of our lives are oriented towards God, then the question of what and how we give becomes easy. Many people give of their time and talents – and the use of our gifts is a natural response to the life of the Spirit within us. We are also asked to look at the whole sum of our lives, including our financial resources, and to give to God from what God has first given us. In Old Testament times, the norm was 10%, the tithe. The Levites were the replacement "tithe" of the firstborn sons of the people of Israel, who were also expected to give a tenth of the firstfruits of their harvests and flocks each year. We've lost that discipline in the Anglican church. And yet (again from experience, and observation) when people embrace the challenge of giving ten percent, or a tithe, in God's service, they have found time and again they lack for nothing. I laid the challenge before the people of All Saints' Booval before I finished there, and I lay the same challenge before you, my new friends: I dare you to commit a tithe to God – and see what happens. Try it for a month or two... Or take the plunge and write down on the census form you're going to receive that you'll do it for a year.

The point of all this is that in whatever we give it needs to come, not from a squeeze from the vicar or wardens to meet a budgetary base line, but from our own gratitude to God and our commitment to following Jesus. Whatever we choose to give should be with an expectation that God will provide for our needs; if we are generous towards God, and have generous hearts, then we don't need to worry about whether we'll have enough, because God is the giver, who gives more abundantly than we can desire, imagine, or deserve.

The wardens will be talking to you about the census form – this is so that I as your new vicar can get a sense of where things are at. We're asking you to fill out Part A, which gives some basic, anonymous statistics, and Part B, which is separate from Part A, and on which you'll have the opportunity to state what you commit to give for the coming year, again in an anonymous way.

My encouragement to the whole parish is this: that where we are focused on having enough (or not enough), then we will never have enough – not enough families, not enough money, not enough people with talents to bring, not enough time... Where we offer gratitude to God for who and what we are, and for what God has given, and where we are outwardly focussed on living God's way and on making disciples, then we will have all that we need and more.

Keren

MOWatch Australia & St Margaret's Eltham

MOWatch Australia is holding their Annual General Meeting at St Margaret's Eltham on Saturday morning 29th October 2016 at 11.00 am. Parishioners are most welcome to attend.

MOWatch formerly the Movement for the Ordination of Women remains committed to prayer and action until women can be ordained in every diocese of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Women were first ordained priest in Australia in 1992. Of the 23 dioceses in Australia three still do not ordain women as priests: Sydney, North West Australia and The Murray.

St Margaret's Eltham has always supported the ordination of women and since 1996 the vicars (priests in charge / incumbent) have been women.

For the afternoon of Saturday 29th October at 2.00 pm MOWatch has combined with St Margaret's to present a seminar: **Women, Discipleship and the Gospels** and the speaker is The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy A Lee FAHA, Dean & Frank Woods Professor of New Testament, Trinity College Theological School, University of Divinity.

There is no charge for this event and we look forward to parishioners attending. Professor Dorothy Lee is an excellent speaker.

MOWatch is arranging the publicity of this event including an advertisement in The Melbourne Anglican (TMA), October 2016.

It would be most appreciated if parishioners could assist with the refreshments at the seminar – either by helping in the kitchen and / or bring a plate of food. A notice re the afternoon refreshments is on the notice board in the foyer for volunteers to advise is they can assist and /or bring a plate of food.

Kathleen Toal, Parish Council & MOWatch Australia.

Maintenance

Please note that all maintenance issues should be addressed to John Winkett. If urgent matters arise please refer to the Parish Office.

Site Report

- Renovations to the vicarage are complete and new tenants moved in last weekend.
- Following the working bee, tables and chairs have been moved into the store room and should be returned there after use. Any extra chairs required, can be obtained from the shed by using the adapted trolley.
- Work has commenced on the extension to Dendy House to provide toilet, kitchen and storeroom.

Communications


It has been the custom to take photos at special events and load them onto the parish website and Facebook page. Care is taken with children's pictures and approval is normally sought from leaders and or parents. Please advise the office if you are not happy with this custom.

Mission Allocation


The Parish Council allocation to Missions were approved at the last meeting with \$750 each going to the following:

- CPE Program at Austin Health for study resources.
- Trinity College Theological college for clergy formation.
- Bendigo Diocese, Parish of Heathcote
- Diocese of Northern Territory, for women's ministry.
- Bendigo Diocese, Parish of Lockington.

Seminar at St. Margaret's 79-81 Pitt St. Eltham
'Women, Discipleship and the Gospels'

 *Speaker: The Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy A. Lee FAHA*
Dean & Frank Woods Professor of New Testament
Trinity College Theological School University of Divinity

Time: 2.00pm
Date: 29 Oct. 2016
Refreshments to follow
Enquiries: 0439 032 977


www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

Parish Council September Summary

1. Finance and Resources inc Finance report

- Discussion of proposal for a two part Census including planned giving contribution
- Launch of planned giving been delayed until October 2
- The principle of applying a grant application for support for recognition of our WW1 heritage artefacts etc was supported.

2. Pastoral Care

Concert fund raising

Possible Diamond Valley Open Choir to raise funds for Pastoral Care ie refugees

PCT 2016/7 Seminars

Spiritual Health Australia presentation and Team Training. This will now be in February.

3. Worship and Spirituality

From Discovering Spirituality

- Ann Greenwood exhibition for 2017 is being investigated
- For 2017 Event proposal was presented for The Commemorative Service for the Battle of the Ypres

4. Communications

Agreed that DS should have a pull down menu on the website if there is room. Copy for this to be provided by DS.

Agreed that next several PMs need a note about photos appearing in various media.

Request from LINC to have more about them on the website. This was put on hold until we have more vision about ourselves and how we relate to Linc CAVE.

After discussion about electronic copies it was proposed and agreed that the Parish Directory should be produced twice yearly in hard copy only. If people want something circulated to Parish it should be through the Parish Office.

5. Progress Property Development and Maintenance

As the work of the Site Development Committee was almost complete. The committee be reformed as The Property and Maintenance Committee meeting every 2nd month. Committee to have oversight of any maintenance needs and records of works done.

6. MAP Update

- **Blessing the Animals Service on October 9th** to be coordinated by Melissa
- **St Margaret's Day November 20th** followed by lunch.
- **AGM Sat Nov 26th at 4 pm**

7. Vicar's Report:

- Who might be replacements for retiring Council Members. Each member should think and pray about a nominee(s) and email Keren their suggestions of who might be on PC next year
- That there should be daily prayer in the church. There will be morning prayer on Monday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:30am, and evening prayer on Saturday at 5pm It would be good to see members of parish council committed to praying in this way. Where the lay leaders go, there the rest of the parish follows.
- This week's pewsheet will detail Keren's dietary issues, to assist in knowing how to be hospitable to Keren.
- There will be a liturgical and communion assistants get together towards the end of October in order to work out a mutually theologically and liturgically satisfying way of operating in the sanctuary.
- Will be working over the next couple of months with the paid staff towards greater administrative efficiency.

- Children's ministry needs immediate attention, especially insofar as the future for next year. Along with Mandy and Annette, and other members of the team, we'll be taking some time in October to chart a way forward.
- It will also be good to see the children's natural playground come to fruition
- Timeline for the AGM reports is needed.
- Proposes a worship committee starting 2017

8. Financial Report

Reports which were tabled

- Offertory was again down in August
- Donation from Boite of \$200

9. The Financial Reports for July and August were endorsed

10. Wardens Meeting Report

No written report. Time was spent briefing the vicar

Next Meeting Tuesday October 18th at 7.45 pm

Statement of Income & Expenses

1 October 2015 To 31 August 2016

	Full Year Budget 2016	Actual 2015/16	Budgeted 2015/16	Difference \$	Total Offertory
Income					
Offertory	\$121,812	\$87,438	\$111,874	(\$24,436)	
Donations	\$1,000	\$1,689	\$900	\$789	
Donations - Op Shop	\$2,000	\$3,590	\$2,000	\$1,590	
Parish-Groups,Grants&Other	\$16,700	\$7,046	\$14,097	(\$7,051)	
Investment / Interest Income	\$17,900	\$8,946	\$8,971	(\$25)	
Property Income	\$188,563	\$178,549	\$172,770	\$5,780	
Donations - Missions	\$1,500	\$2,042	\$1,500	\$542	
Total Income	\$349,475	\$289,301	\$312,112	(\$22,811)	
Expenditure					
Stipend-Clergy & Wages-Lay	\$193,938	\$156,418	\$175,300	(\$18,881)	
Parish Assessment	\$38,046	\$30,723	\$34,875	(\$4,152)	
Administrative Expenses	\$62,985	\$37,446	\$53,085	(\$15,639)	
Occupancy Costs	\$51,162	\$27,060	\$45,694	(\$18,634)	
Property Maintenance Costs	\$20,600	\$6,539	\$18,830	(\$12,291)	
Donations Paid to Missions	\$3,280	\$2,209	\$2,980	(\$771)	
Mission-Parish Allocation	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000	(\$3,000)	
Total Expenditure	\$373,011	\$260,395	\$333,764	(\$73,369)	
Operating Surplus / Deficit	-\$23,536	\$28,906	(\$21,651)	\$50,558	
Other Income					
Approved BuildingFund - Parish		\$23,732		\$23,732	
MaintPropertyBuildReAllocation		\$16,300		\$16,300	
Other		\$2,611		\$2,611	
Total Other Income		\$42,643		\$42,643	
Other Expenses					
Site Development Expenses		\$2,381		\$2,381	
Vicarage - Refurbishment		\$46,037		\$46,037	
Unrealised Loss		\$9,646		\$9,646	
Other		\$1,001		\$1,001	
Total Other Expenses		\$59,064		\$59,064	
NetSurplus / Deficit		\$12,486	(\$21,651)	\$34,137	



HALL LAYOUT

- **PLEASE LEAVE 2 TABLES AND CHAIRS IN ALCOVE**
- **PLEASE STACK CHAIRS AND TABLES IN STOREROOM**
- **PLEASE LEAVE BALANCE OF CHAIRS IN OUTSIDE SHED. IF USE FROM CHED, PLEASE RETURN USING TROLLEY.**

Council Appreciations

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

- Scott for exceptional help and generosity in creating website
- Adrienne and Harry Watson for the donation of a Large Print RSNP Lectern Bible

Ed This Edition Sally Petty