

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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Clem's Corner

'Behold, I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and springs in the desert.' (Isaiah 43.19)

As I prepare to leave you and you prepare to farewell me, these words bring us deep encouragement and assurance of God's presence with us. I hope this letter helps to answer some queries about my future ministry. My last day at St. Margaret's is on Sunday 10 April, after which I will have a week's leave. My new parish role begins on 18 April at St. John's East Malvern (Finch St.) with St. Agnes Glen Huntly. Their vicar is the Reverend John Baldock. There will be a simple Commissioning of me as Assistant Priest at St John's on Sunday 24 April in the 9.30 Eucharist. There will not be a formal invitation, but you are most welcome to come and 'see me in!' St. Margaret's parishioners have already had links with St. John's through the Camino Walk exhibition to come here in May and the Long Weekend Family Camp and Conference!

My main role will be to support the leadership of ministry with the young people and families, together with the monthly children's service. There will be regular worship commitments at both parish centres. It is a new ministry for the parish and will be initially 2.5 days per week. Separate from the parish, I will work in the shared leadership team of the formation program for spiritual direction in the Living Well Centre for Spirituality based at St. George's Malvern. I will continue to be generally available to offer exploration of spiritual companionship/direction with individuals. As I move forward in this journey, I know that you will remember me in your prayers as I will remember you.

Clem Taplin 21 March 2016

Honorary Assistant Priest

Alan and Denise have been with us for some time and have now made St. Margaret's their spiritual home. We thank Alan for agreeing to be an honorary associate priest of the parish. Alan is an Archdeacon Emeritus in the Diocese of Melbourne.

Children's Ministry @ St Margaret's- Where to Now?

Do we have a dynamic, enthusiastic, responsive and reflective group of children at St Margaret's who seek our guidance for their spiritual growth? The answer is YES and this was clearly evident at the recent Palm Sunday service. What a delight to see children ranging from preschool to high school contributing to the service through prayers, distribution of palm crosses, assisting with the collection and even serving morning tea and cleaning up afterwards!! As a church community we also shared in celebrating the spiritual growth of two of our children, Ashley and Nathan, as they were welcomed to communion.

However, over the past few months we have lost a number of leaders from the Children's Ministry team and with Clem's imminent departure we have to rethink how we can best utilise our limited resources. But challenges can bring forth new opportunities and allow us to try new things!

After much thought, prayer and discussion we have decided to introduce a program that hopefully provides quality over quantity! It is a program we will trial over the next few months and your feedback is most welcome!

Given the success of our family focused services, we will be holding a 10 am Family Focused service on the 4th Sunday of each month. In addition we will also run a children's program at the 10 am service on the 2nd Sunday of each month. On the

remaining Sundays when we do not have a specific children's program we still encourage families to attend and as we have been observing with some of our older kids', there has been a quiet enjoyment in worshipping with their family and the congregation.

Making connections between parents, children and the whole church community has also been a goal of the Children's Ministry team. With the introduction of a monthly family focused service we feel this provides an excellent opportunity to also introduce a monthly combined morning tea prior to the Family Focused service. It was wonderful on Palm Sunday to see the two congregations joined together over a cup of tea and we hope we can continue this as a more regular event.

The new children's program will commence in May, as April seems to be full of school holidays and long weekends!

If confused, see the program below:

- 1st Sunday of the month – No Children's program @ 10 am service**
- 2nd Sunday of the month – Children's program @ 10 am service**
- 3rd Sunday of the month – No Children's program @ 10 am service**
- 4th Sunday of the month – Family Focused service @ 10 am service**
- 5th Sunday of the month – No Children's program @ 10 am service**

The Camino Follow the footsteps of the Pilgrims

For more than 1200 years pilgrims have followed the sacred Camino path to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Each pilgrim seeks something. For many the Camino is a way to God. Others relish the physical challenge. Some come as tourists but are soon drawn into a deeper journey of self discovery. Pilgrimage takes many forms.

Why are so many drawn to this ancient Camino in our modern age? We go on pilgrimage to connect with the journey of our lives: hoping and praying that it will expand our judgment and vision, bring resolution and that life may be renewed in us.

Pilgrimage is both a personal and communal act. As pilgrims we move beyond our own small world and place ourselves in step with others. We journey in the footsteps of those who have travelled this path down the ages, and in this way are drawn into the eternal.

No pilgrim knows what this journey will bring. It demands of us, however, things that are now often missing in everyday life – patience, simplicity, acceptance, spontaneity, discomfort, and openness to all. Pilgrimage is humbling. Simply moving at a human pace is a treat for our bodies and souls.

Each of us can now walk the way of a millennium of pilgrims. The ancient paths they trod have been retraced and the way marked. The images in this exhibition hint at the journey ahead. Your pilgrimage begins when you decide to take the first step.

We invite you to participate in a pilgrimage at St Margaret's as we journey from the season of Easter to Pentecost.

There are a variety of ways in which you may feel called to undertake this journey.

- You might like to purchase a copy of **'WALK The Pilgrim Way'** for \$12.50 so that you can undertake a 40 day pilgrimage of quiet reflection (*This book contains 40 of Earl Carter's photographs together with reflections, scripture and prayer*).
- View the film **'The Way'** in the church hall on Sunday 24 April at 2pm followed by conversation and refreshments.
- Attend the Parish **Exhibition of the Camino Photographs** of world renowned photographer Earl Carter. This will be in the Church May 13-29. **Viewing times:** Saturdays & Sundays 3-5pm; Wednesdays & Thursdays 11.30am-2.00pm; Fridays (other than opening night) 4-7pm.
- Attend the **opening** of this exhibition on Friday 13 May; 6-8pm
- Attend the **Panel Discussion** in the church on Sunday 15 May; 2 - 5pm
- Attend **"Walking the Way together"** a Retreat Day on Camino Reflections led by Cath Connelly – a trained Spiritual Director & Retreat Leader took her Celtic harp with her as she walked the Camino. Saturday 21 May 10-3.00pm .

The statue of St James The scallop shell on his hat & cloak has become the symbol of the Camino



Parish Council

Your Parish Council met this week and thanks to Harry, here is a summary of our business:

- **Adopted John Winkett's paper on A New Approach to Parish Council Policy as an addendum to the Leadership Charter**

- **Correspondence**

Brotherhood request for support

Annual report from Op shop We noted what wonderful work to raise nearly \$30,000 in one year

Letter from Shirley Nash re

Discovering Spirituality (DS) Projects and the Camino display . PC thanks DS for all their work in preparing their submission

- **All asked to support the Garage & Goodies** sale proceeds in support of the lighting expenditure for exhibitions in the church starting with the *Camino Way*.
- **St Margaret's History Vol 3 book launch** Date proposed May 1
- **MAP Update**
Work on integrating plans into the Parish calendar needed and fitting in options for hospitality lunches, entertainment and choir performances in addition to presently planned regular events.
- **Worship and Spirituality** Re-look at kids time following an effective program into worship and prayer. They have recommended for trial period of 3 months a dedicated 9.30 am family service once a month on 4th Sunday and once a month kids time session on the second Sunday.
- **Pastoral Care**

Care and Services We helped at a Remembrance Service at ERV on Feb 21st put on by their staff 57 attended. There more than 30 people on the PCT care contact list at the March meeting.

Meal hospitality 22 attended the Feb pub lunch, 53 Refreshment Sunday in March (Many thanks to Ruwan, Mary and Esharah) 17 at Megs Munchers, (thanks to the team.)

Training the trainers for Spiritual Health

Sandra Archer and Clem attended on behalf of the team. An information session for PCT and others will be held based on the manual delivered at the seminar.

The Psychology of Ageing is a possible seminar topic.

- **Internal and External Relation** (Previously Communications and Community Connections)

Directory was printed last week

New Web site nearly complete. Many thanks to Diana Warrell for all her work creating and maintaining the old site and to Mary Lynton-Moll for the new site.

New 'How to join St Margaret's

Communication Card' is underway

- **Progress Property development and Maintenance**

Landscaping at the back of the hall starting after Easter. There will be a

Walk thru inspection of vicarage on Thursday and builder will start ASAP

Draftsman has started on floor plan for Dendy House extension

- **Treasurer's Report**

Planned giving is of concern.

The 6 Financial Reports were accepted.

- **Wardens Meeting Report**

No Liturgical Assistants at 8 am for two months

There will be restricted use of Parish facilities during the wood-workers display Eltham Festival weekend

- **Other Business.**

John. W In his travels he had seen **fantastic public notices** where a church stood on major issues. How can we do this?

We could vary the Bequest notice to include a **Living Will** request in the New Format Pew Sheet when completed

The meeting closed with prayers

A New Approach for Parish Council

At the Parish Council planning meeting we discussed ideas on how we could improve the way in which the Parish Council works within the Parish. We need to ensure that we comply with the new Parish Governance Act. We decided that a new operating structure was required and in order to achieve this we have divided all the Groups and Activities of the Parish into 5 distinct groupings known as Activity Areas. Members of the Parish Council have been nominated to act as key points of contact for each of these groupings.

The role of the Parish Council members on behalf of their respective group is to act as a contact point for the group with the Parish Council and vice versa. They will also have a support and advisory role. In this way we hope to coordinate all the activities in the Parish and for the Groups to have a voice in Parish Council and the wider community where appropriate.

Our primary purpose for this change is to ensure that all groups are valued and have an appropriate mechanism for dealing with their concerns and aspirations. Our Clergy will continue to have oversight of all activities in the Parish with a specific focus on Worship, Prayer and Pastoral Care.

The 5 Activity Areas are as follows:

Worship and Spirituality: Kathleen Toal, Kath Smith, Melissa Laidlay, Clergy

Choir, Organists, Liturgy Assistants, Readers, Communion Assistants, Sides People, Sacristans, Flowers, Hymn selection

Children's Ministry. Faith Formation, Baptism Preparation, Spiritual Direction, Special Seasonal Groups, Discovering Spirituality, Creating Spirit, Labyrinth, Benedictine Spirituality Group, Christian Meditation, Library, Film, Food & Friends, Piece of Peace Days

Internal and external communications:

Sally Petty, Sarah Toomey

LinC, C.A.V.E., Opportunity Shop, Book Group, Meg's Tootlers, Anglicare Auxillary,

Ladies Fellowship, Website, Data Base Management, Parish Matters, Pew Sheet.

Pastoral Care: Harry Watson, Robyn Wembridge, Clergy

Pastoral Care visits, Prayer chain, Meg's Munchers, Men's Breakfast

Site Development: John Winkett, Wardens

Building maintenance, Vicarage, Dendy House, Church Grounds

Resources and Processes: John Humann, Wardens

Archives, Annual Reports, Office Equipment, Church Equipment, HR Management, Finance, Compliance, Archives, Parish procedures, Rosters.

A number of these Activity Areas already have committees operating and those that don't are encouraged to appoint committees to provide them with extra help etc.

Planned Giving @ St Margaret's

As most of you will be aware our income from Planned Giving and other areas is down quite considerably. We do know that we have lost three valuable donors as they have moved but we really are not sure why the figures are down.

It is difficult to prepare an income budget for the Church as we rely on the generosity of all our congregation and we give thanks for this.

We recognise the need for privacy but could you please reflect on your giving. If you have made any changes to your original commitment please advise Graham Carew. Please ensure that there are no gaps in your giving.

We have three main forms of giving, Envelopes, through the ADF and open plate. If you could see your way clear to increasing your giving in a small way, this would be very helpful.

If you have any questions please talk to Graham or one of the Wardens.

Mental as anything

What moved a group of 17 St Margaret's family and friends to drive across town one evening to attend a lecture on JOY but their enthusiasm was rewarded as they listened to the Rev. Dr. Sarah Bachelard's insightful presentation and engaged with her at question time and later, over wine and cheese.

The event was supported by the Discovering Spirituality team, the attendance of Council members, Kathleen and Harry, and willing drivers who provided rides to St John's, Camberwell. Of those attending about 25% were people from other churches and the wider community. Some of us are still pondering the question - What would a community of faith look like if, together, we permitted ourselves to experience the 'Joy' promised by the risen Christ?

Sarah Bachelard (Anglican priest, writer and theologian) has papers, interviews and film on line.

Shirley Nash / Fay Gravenall

For the goof of our neighbour

On Refreshment Sunday St.Margaret's people contributed food for the meals program of the Asylum Seekers' Resource Centre. Each week meals are prepared by teams of volunteers and served to around 250 members of the Centre each day. These are our new neighbours on temporary visas that do not permit them employment or access to funded health or education services.

The meals program co-coordinator, Lorretta Parleviet, collected a load of groceries. She sent word later that our contribution was valued at \$1000. She expressed for the gift which meant that the program did not have to purchase dry goods for a week! What was not able to be used in the kitchen went into the Centre foodbank where members can collect ingredients to prepare meals at home for their families. Thanks to all who contributed. Maybe we can contribute again in the spring?

Fay Gravenall

Brotherhood of St Laurence

The BSL has written to us asking for assistance by the donation of goods both to the local op shop and [Tel:1300 366 283](tel:1300366283)

Long Weekend Camp-Philip Island

Four of us (myself, Jen, our grand-daughter Jorgia and her friend Jess) attended the Philip Island Long Weekend Camp. We arrived on Saturday just before lunch after a non-eventful and traffic-free drive from Eltham and were greeted by John Baldock from St John's, Malvern East who was the co-ordinator of the weekend. The accommodation was very nice, set amongst 32 hectares of parkland complete with marvellous birdlife. We caught up with Clem and Stewart over a lovely lunch and met some of the other folks from the other parishes. We were also treated to some wonderfully powerful worship singing from the large contingent of Sudanese folks from Preston and Dandenong.

After lunch, the girls were whisked away for an afternoon on the giant swing as we attended a group session. Other activities included archery, the twin flying fox, canoeing and a waterslide. After the evening meal on Saturday, the kids had a movie while the adults entertained themselves with some music.

After a beautiful service and a relaxed morning (including a walk down to Smiths Beach and a swim) I had to go back to Melbourne for Sunday afternoon, but Jen, Jorgia and Jess enjoyed the day's activities.

Monday morning began with a combined service (Sudanese and Karen) and after another great lunch we sadly packed our things and went back home.

We will be definitely attending the next camp in 2 years time."

Dave Miles

Council Appreciations

We give special thanks to the members of the congregation:

- Barbara and John Talbot for making the majority of the Palm Crosses.
- Adrienne & Harry Watson, Christine and John Winkett, Jan Kerr and John Human, Lyn Clements and Felicity and Peter for use of homes for Lenten studies.

Farewell to Clem

Combined farewell service to Clem April 10 @ 9.30 followed by morning tea.

Envelopes for contributions to a gift available in the Foyer. Please make your donations asap. Thankyou.

Garage & Goodies Sale Saturday 9 April 9.00-2.00

**Please start
collecting and
spreading the word
Can you help?**

Aim: Raise \$3,000 towards the cost of installing spotlights for exhibitions in the church starting with The Camino Way.

Palm Sunday

What a wonderful service! We all joined together for a combined service at 9.30. Starting in the car park we then processed into church, carrying our palm crosses and greenery. The church had been decorated with greenery and coats were laid to remember Jesus entry in Jerusalem. We were challenged to remove our "angry" face and replace with "love." Kathryn gave a great sermon which delighted all from young to old as she reminded us that Anger leads to Hurt and Love leads to Forgiveness.

Annette, Jorgia and Zara lead the prayers with help from Roryl, Callum, Thomas, Charlotte, Madeline and Isobel.

Welcome and congratulations were given to Nathan and Ashley who were admitted to Holy Communion. All the children joined Clem around the altar during the Consecration. Thanks to all who worked hard to make this a memorable Palm Sunday service.

Below are a few pics of this great service.



Ed. Sally Petty



**Statement of Income & Expenditure
1 October 2015 To 29 February 2016**

	Actual 2016	Budget 2016	\$ Difference	Variance
Income				
Offertory	\$40,478	\$50,968	-\$10,491	U
Grants - Gallery Space	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	F
Donations - Gallery Space	\$300	\$0	\$300	F
Donations - Op Shop	\$3,590	\$2,000	\$1,590	F
Other Income	\$84,568	\$80,053	\$4,514	F
Donations - Missions	\$818	\$900	-\$82	F
Total Income	\$131,754	\$133,922	-\$2,168	U
Expenditure				
Clergy / Office Staff	\$85,176	\$79,846	\$5,330	U
Other expenses	\$37,083	\$53,693	-\$16,610	F
Special Project - Gallery Space	\$1,927	\$2,000	-\$73	F
Donations Paid to Missions	\$1,046	\$900	\$146	U
Total Expenditure	\$125,232	\$136,439	-\$11,207	F
Operating Surplus / Deficit	\$6,522	-\$2,517	\$9,039	