

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/](http://www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/)

## **White Ribbon Day Prayers**

**We pray for all the women and children who are not safe in their homes.**

**We pray for all the vulnerable people who are easy targets for abuse.**

**We pray for all the victims of physical, emotional or spiritual violence.**

**Lead them to freedom and safety.**

**Heal the broken hearts and the bruised bodies.**

**Show us what real love looks like, love that is gentle and kind,  
love that builds people up.**

**Give us the courage to speak up, help out and  
grow safe and nurturing families for everyone,**

**through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

E. Smith

## **CHRISTMAS @ ST MARGARET'S**

*Thursday 24 December*

**5.00pm Christmas Service for children**

**10.30pm Carol Singing**

**11.00pm Festive Christmas Communion Service  
(with incense)**

*Friday 25 December*

**9.00am Communion Service with Carols**

## **Garage & Goodies Sale**

One scheduled for early 2016. Please start collecting.

## **ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **COMMUNICATION REPORT**

Following on from Parish Council discussions over some time it was decided that the Parish wanted to update many aspects of our communications, both internally and externally. In particular to help better connect with the younger generations by improving our social media footprint and also to update our current publications and to add more. These tasks were not included in the current office manager's role so it was decided to employ someone to carry out the role of Communication's Secretary for 6 hours each week for a limited period, followed by a review. The advertised position attracted several applicants and after a series of interviews the position was given to Mary Lynton-Moll. Mary started work on March 26<sup>th</sup> on Monday and Thursday mornings which facilitated extra office coverage by administration staff during the week.

The tasks completed so far include:

- Facebook page is thriving and people are interacting with us on a regular basis.
- Publicity for the two Open Days that showcased our new buildings and allowed over 100 members of the public to come in and appreciate our facilities.
- The Parish Database has been updated with new parishioner information.
- A monthly calendar with the Children's ministry events is emailed to each family.
- Pastoral Care cards have been produced and are in use.
- The register for staff and volunteers who require Working with Children and Police Checks has been compiled and is up to date.
- A text message trial has been conducted and will be rolled out across the Parish to interested groups. This has provided a new method of communicating with

Parishioners and has been well received.

- A Sound, heating & light instruction booklet has been developed to ensure that care is taken of our new assets.
- The website has been reviewed and quotes obtained for re-development.

The next project that has been agreed to by the Parish Council is to refresh the website. The aim is to match the look and feel of our new buildings and the spirit of the people within them, whilst maintaining a strong sense of our history and of our story so far. We want it to reflect the current St. Margaret's community and to be a tool that enables us to achieve our goals in today's society.

This formalised communication strategy is a new area of focus for St. Margaret's and is one that provides us with many new possibilities for the future. The role of Communications Secretary will grow and adapt with the needs of the Parish, in line with the direction set by the Parish Council and by the MAP. There are many exciting opportunities to come.

***Sarah Toomey***

### **LABYRINTH REPORT**

Judy Scott was our valued Labyrinth Co-ordinator but this year she has taken a leave of absence. Melissa Laidley kindly agreed to handle phone enquiries about the labyrinth and Margaret Charles has kindly spent quite some time tending the plants and removing weeds. We are also grateful to Elizabeth Cerda who will lead a walk in Advent.

Discovering Spirituality has been having a conversation about the need for another trained co-ordinator until Judy is able to resume this role. Hopefully there will be news of this in the new year.

***Shirley Nash***

## **Wise Faithfuls**

*Continuing our series on long time parishioners*

### **GRAHAM AND GLYNN PRITCHARD**

Graham, and Glynn his young wife, first came to St Margaret's in the year 1958 after having moved into their home in Old Eltham Road, Lower Plenty, where they brought up their family and where they still live today 57 years later. Glynn was the Anglican, Graham coming from a Presbyterian background.

On that first day they went along to the 8am service. The vicar of the day was the Reverend David Warner. Graham was more than surprised when David chased them home to Old Eltham Road in his car and strode up the hill to the door complete with priestly cassock. Graham was sure that the neighbours would think they must be Roman Catholics.

Graham and Glynn were understandably impressed with such an enthusiastic welcome to the parish. They appreciated the Vicar's inclusive openness, and in no time Graham was on the vestry and both he and Glynn were teaching Sunday School. They have continued to be engaged in the life of St Margaret's for almost all of those 57 years.

Graham was made a Synod representative during the Reverend Bill Carter's time as vicar. He replaced a previous representative known for very conservative views who had made a speech in Synod advocating that Jews be banned from holding public office in Victoria. Graeme himself made a synod speech concerning Aboriginal reconciliation, reflecting the life-long commitment both Graham and Glynn have had to the cause of Aboriginal rights. This was expressed by Graham's membership in the Aboriginal Affairs Committee of the Victorian Council of Churches and also his twenty years as secretary of the National Aborigines Day Committee where he worked closely with Pastor Doug Nicholls. It was also expressed in Graham's and Glynn's foster parenting of Bessie and David from Alice Springs. Bessie and David were, with the other Pritchard children, a lively part of the St Margaret's family as well.

Graham recalls Eileen Barrett of St Margaret's who went to Alice Springs to work as a volunteer at St Mary's Hostel. Eileen organized to bring some of the Aboriginal children to Melbourne for a holiday. They arrived without accommodation being arranged and several of

St Margaret's members stepped into the breach and offered to have them stay. Graham remembers the great generosity of many of the people of St Margaret's on this and subsequent visits.

Graham's involvement in the parish included sharing in the leading of services at St Margaret's as lay reader. He recalls being asked to preach on one occasion about church music which he did he says, 'out of innocent ignorance.'

A major contribution to the life of the parish was as Sunday School superintendent back in the days when there were two hundred children on the roll. Sadly a major divergence of views with a particular vicar led to Graham's being sacked from the position, the vicar declaring, 'he couldn't work with him!' For a time Graham and Glynn felt they had to go elsewhere. Subsequent vicars were more open and welcoming, less rigid in their views and open to all who came for baptism – one of the areas of contention. Eleven of Graham and Glynn's children and grandchildren were baptized at St Margaret's Four were confirmed and two were married at St Margaret's.

Graham and Glynn welcome many of the changes in the styles of worship at St Margaret's and particularly appreciate the greater use of lay people in leading worship. When a Saturday evening congregation was established at the Church of the Transfiguration Graham and Glynn were enthusiastic members of that group. Sometimes worship took place without the benefit of clergy, the members taking it in turn to lead. When the Research church closed the group continued for a number of years at St Margaret's on Saturday evening and it was a sadness when it became necessary to discontinue this special service.

Glynn for many years led the Saturday morning Christian Meditation group at St Margaret's. Her commitment to this contemplative prayer enriched many who have participated in this group and continue to do so this day. A highlight for Glynn and Graham was attending a World Community of Christian Meditation world gathering in London at which the Director Father Lawrence Freeman welcomed the Dalai Lama as a special guest.

Glynn also is famous for her great sense of fun and her capacity to remember a vast repertoire of jokes. Her calls to people in the parish who need cheering up are always accompanied by a prayer and a joke. This side of her nature is also

expressed by her alter ego Geranium the Clown who has appeared in Moomba parades over many years and also in St Paul's Cathedral most notably at the first ordination of women to the priesthood, enhancing that great celebration with her joyful presence. Glynn is absolutely certain that to be a committed Christian does not mean that you can't have great fun. In fact her clowning and jokes have been an important ministry to many in the parish and beyond. She continues as Geranium to share her jokes regularly with the night-time listeners on Radio 3AW in the early hours of the morning. Having been a nightshift nurse for so many years at Queen Victoria Memorial and Diamond Valley Community Hospitals, sleep does not come easily in those hours, so Glynn uses her time to bring some laughter to fellow night owls. Graham and Glynn continue to be treasured members of St Margaret's and are present as often as they are able. It is rare for Graham to be missing from the monthly Men's Breakfast. He has a vast knowledge of not only the history of St Margaret's but of the whole Diamond Valley. His capacity to regale the men with amazing stories of both past and present is legendary.

We thank God for the faithful and creative presence of Graham and Glynn that has enriched our parish life over so many years.



**Compiled by Robert Street**

### **Church windows: St Cecelia**

Saint Cecilia is sitting playing the organ. She is the patron saint for music. She is sitting looking sideways so that she is looking at the viewer. A halo is surrounding her head which suggests that she is godly. Music can heal and soothe on many levels. It can calm the troubled mind. It can ease the worries of the day. Music can be an uplifting experience. It can raise the soul. Music appeals to our sense of hearing and sound. The organ can produce many sounds. They can echo and reverberate throughout the church at St. Margaret's. She is playing a hand-held organ so that the music is close to her. The pipes are of different lengths to produce the varying sounds.

The name of Cecilia sounds like the plants of Camelia or maybe Petunia. Maybe Saint Cecilia has a flowery personality where as she meets people her petals open and bloom. There is a softness of Mother Nature about her. Beneath the stained glass window of Saint Cecilia there is a dedication. It states 'Sacred to the memory of Caroline Ada Wingrove. Erected by relatives and friends. Obit. May 25<sup>th</sup> 1919'. There is Wingrove Park in Eltham where people and their animals like to roam. Maybe the Wingrove family were an

influential family in the area. And there is Wingrove cottage which is situated opposite the park. It is a rather old looking cottage made of brick. The date of 1919 is significant as it is the time after World War One. World War One occurred between 1914 and 1918. And maybe the hardship of the war had been too much for Caroline Wingrove. Australia then went into the Depression. Saint Cecilia is wearing a cloak golden with green underneath. She is wearing beautiful blue robes. How wonderful she looks! And she has a spiritual countenance to her face. Often I look at her when I'm in church and she gives me a warm comforting feeling inside. Saint Cecilia has come to me this year with the introduction of the Open Doors Choir. The choir has been a blessing for me and I thank God for it coming into fruition.

**Helen Costello**

### **Council Appreciations**

- Colin Bland (warden for 1 year)
- Robert Brazenor (secretary PC for nearly 8 years),
- Alan White (Pastoral Care Sec., Book keeping, Sides Duty, for about 5 y, reading and CA leading prayer services > 15y),
- Pat Ballard reader and CA for 20+y)
- Ian (CA, St Marks basket food run and banking for 30+y+).



## **St Margaret's Day**

What a terrific celebration. Thank you to all who worked so hard. Great music, liturgy, prayers and praise. Thanks to Ruwan, Clem and Robert for the service and also to our musicians. Glenys Collis gave a passionate and heartfelt sermon. Starting with reference to St Margaret of Scotland, a compassionate and pious women, herself a refugee. She then went on to question the treatment of and lack of care for refugees. Do we not want to know? Are we racist? Do we not care? Very challenging words for us all.

Following the service we moved into the hall for the first parish sit down lunch in the newly refurbished space. The tables had been set out beautifully and wonderful David, Liz, Robin, Harry and many more produced this terrific meal. In fact many of the workers missed out on lunch as more people attended than had booked! The music was provided by our choir, the band Sweet Ade and our own Ishara Palapathwala violin and John Humann ukulele. We learnt that Ruwan is a great "joke teller" and of course a joke from Glynn. The hardest part of functions like this is washing up and clearing away. Thanks to the many who helped. What fun we had!



Editor this edition Sally Petty