

## WELCOME

We are glad you can join us today.

Activities for children to do during the service are provided in the foyer.

A Hearing Loop is installed in the church; please use your T switch.

An offering will be received during the service, to support the ongoing work of the church. Other ways of giving are included on the next page.

If you are visiting with us today, we encourage all who are baptised to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, please still come forward for a blessing.

Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the service.

Worship & Parish events will be automatically cancelled during a code red day.

A copy of this weeks sermon will be available on the website.

## PEW SHEET

17th December 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet, and we pay our respects to their elders past and present.



## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK


Sun 17th	8:00am 10:00am	Eucharist Eucharist
Mon 18th	1:00pm	Monday Circle
Tue 19th	1:00pm	Embryonic Dabblers
Wed 20th	9:30am 10:30am	Meditation Eucharist
Sat 23rd	8:00am	Meditation
Sun 24th	9:00am 5:00pm 10:30pm 11:00pm	Eucharist (Advent IV) Children's Christmas Service Christmas Carols Midnight Mass (with incense)
Mon 25th	9:00am	Holy Eucharist



**Call for Volunteers for Christmas Services** Sides People 9am, 5pm, 10.30 pm on 24th, 9am 25th, CAs, Intercessors, Readers and LAs all except 5 pm. Please advise coordinators if you are available. Thanks, Harry.

## PARISH OFFICE

Our Parish office is inside Dendy House at the rear of the church. Office hours are 10am—2pm Monday to Friday. Please leave us a message or email us if the office is unattended.

79-81 Pitt St, Eltham, 3095. 9439 9238	parishoffice@stmargaretselfham.org.au
vicar@stmargaretselfham.org.au	communications@stmargaretselfham.org.au
ABN 19 171 109 073	www.stmargaretselfham.org.au 

### CLERGY

#### VICAR

The Reverend Keren Terpstra  
9439 9238 and 0438 220 878  
vicar@stmargaretselfham.org.au  
Day off Tuesday

#### HONORARY ASSOCIATE CLERGY

The Reverend Robert Street  
9439 9238 and 0423 514 570

#### HONORARY ASSISTANT CURATE

The Reverend Kirsten Winkett

The clergy are available for emergencies at all hours.

### PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets once a month and these dates are published in the calendar.

Your councillors are: Mandy Stevens; Sandra Brown-Holt.

If you have anything to raise at Parish Council, either contact a councillor or fill in the feedback form in the foyer and place it in the box. If you are hoping to host an event, complete an Event Planning Sheet from the office first to speed up the process.

Parish Matters is a newsletter produced regularly, and copies are maintained on the website. Please contact Harry Watson or Sally Petty if you have a contribution to make.

### GIVING

St Margaret's encourages the exercise of our discipleship by generous giving to God's work and mission here. If you don't want to contribute through the open plate, there are direct debit forms in the foyer to be able to give anonymously through the Anglican Development Fund. If you wish to make a bequest, there is information in the

### PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care team members are available to provide a telephone call or visit people in need in their home, hospital, rehabilitation, aged or palliative care facility. These contacts seek to enable people to share their needs and concerns in order to discern appropriate channels for them to receive spiritual, emotional and/or practical support as desired. A member of the Pastoral Care team may be contacted at any time (24/7) on **0455 610 692**.

### WARDENS

Our Church Wardens are:

Shirley Nash 9432 9510

David Tuke 0408 017 962

To Be Advised

### COMMUNICATIONS

If you have any information you would like to share with the Parish, contact the office for assistance. Consider asking to use the pew sheet; the website; social media; group text messages; or advertising material.

Please submit all material for the pew sheet no later than 11am on the preceding Wednesday.

### KEY PARISH CONTACTS

Do Justice Group:	Jenny Disney
Faith Formation Network:	Annette Street
Property & Maintenance:	Graham Constantine
Pastoral Care Team:	Adrienne Watson
Discovering Spirituality:	Shirley Nash
Finance Committee:	John Humann
Communications Committee	Mary Lynton-Moll

### WORSHIP SERVICES

**Sunday 8am:** Reflective service of Holy Communion followed by morning tea.

**Sunday 10am:** Family service of Holy Communion with music, children's activities, morning tea

**Wednesday 10:30am:** Holy Communion, morning tea. Meditation prior to this service.

**Saturday 5pm:** Short evening prayer service to prepare for worship the next day.

## WORSHIP

### SENTENCE OF THE DAY

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God. *Isaiah 61.1-2*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God,  
you sent John the Baptist  
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:  
grant us wisdom to see your purpose  
and openness to hear your will,  
that we too may prepare the way for Christ  
who is coming in power and glory  
to establish his rule of peace and justice;  
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### TODAY'S HYMNS

Long ago prophets knew - TiS283  
The heavens shall declare - TiS746  
For the life that you have given - TiS774  
The King of glory comes - TiS279  
Wait for the Lord (Taize) - CH276  
God has spoken to his people - TiS636

### TODAY'S PSALM

Song of Mary

### TODAY'S GOSPEL

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

## ABM PEW REFLECTIONS

**Sunday 17th December 2017**

### Third Sunday of Advent

Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, has been depicted at times, as a compliant maiden and patronizingly praised for being a 'doormat'. Listen to the Song of Mary (*Magnificat*), set as an alternative to Psalm 126 today. It is a song of subversion that proclaims the overturning of both the religious and social status quo. Mary not only prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, but she was the Theotokos – the God bearer.

Pray for a discerning spirit for each other and for the church; and faith and courage to follow God who prepares the way.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*, the Anglican Church in Hong Kong.



**ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION**  
*Working for Love, Hope & Justice*

## Prayer Chain

For urgent prayer requests

Glenys Collis

**0407 398 948**

## NOTICES

### LinC

Drivers needed on Friday the 22nd December to deliver LinC hampers. They can be picked up from the Hall from 1:00pm. Please put your name on the list in the foyer or contact Diana on 0414 398 565.



### Carol Singing Practice

**This Sunday the 17th December.**

At 9:15am between the 8:00am and 10:00am services.



### Meditation

The final meditation together time this year will be this Saturday the 16th December. Wednesday meditation will resume on the 10th January, and the 3rd February will be the first Saturday meditation for 2018.

### Parish Matters

The December issue of Parish Matters is now available in the Church foyer and on the St Margaret's website.

Be sure to get your copy!



**Celebrate Christmas**  
Christmas Eve  
Children's Service 5.00pm  
with photo opportunity after the service (Nativity set)  
Christmas Carols 10.30pm  
Midnight Mass 11.00pm  
with incense  
Christmas Day  
Holy Eucharist 9.00am  
New Year's Eve  
Holy Eucharist 9.00am

### Parish Fire Policy: Code Red Days

If a code red day is declared [this is the most extreme rating] and this occurs on a Saturday or Sunday – then please note that all services and/or parish activities will be cancelled on that day. This policy will also apply during the week. For other fire danger ratings, it is important that everyone follows their own fire plan. Your own fire plan must always take precedence even if you are on a rostered duty.

<b>ROSTER</b>	<b>17th December 8:00am Advent III</b>	<b>17th December 10:00am Advent III</b>	<b>24th December 9:00am Advent IV</b>	<b>24th December 11pm Advent IV Midnight Mass</b>
<b>Celebrant</b>	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra
<b>Preacher</b>	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra	Keren Terpstra
<b>Sacristan Assistant</b>	Vacant	Diana Warrell		
<b>Liturgical Assistant</b>	Robert Brazenor	Adrienne Watson		
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Coralie Carew Neil Andrewartha	Tony Michaelson Jan Kerr		Tony Michaelson Sylvia Gilbert
<b>Greeters &amp; Sides People</b>	John Winkett Margaret Alexander	Geoff & Elizabeth Milgate	Gwen Sharp John Winkett	Anne Bryant
<b>First Reading</b>	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 Fay Gravenall	Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 David Pryor	2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16 Catherine Pearson	Isaiah 9: 2-7 David Pryor
<b>Second Reading</b>	1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28 Coralie Carew	1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28 Lyn Clements	Romans 16: 25-27 Roger Alcock	Titus 2: 11-14 Lyn Clements
<b>Intercessor</b>	Gwen Sharp	Shirley Nash		Shirley Nash
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Gwen Sharp The Carews	Jean & Margaret	Jan Kerr	
<b>Banking</b>	Jo Norman	Vacant		
<b>Flowers</b>	N/A		N/A	
<b>Powerpoint</b>	Felicity Wiltshire	John Humann	Mandy Stevens	John Humann

<b>WHAT'S COMING UP</b>		
Sun 31st Dec 17	9:00am	Eucharist (Epiphany)
Sun 7th January 2018	8:00am	Eucharist
	10:00am	Eucharist
	12:00pm	Pub lunch
Mon 8th Jan	1:00pm	Monday Circle
Wed 10th Jan	9:30am	Meditation
	10:30	Eucharist
Thu 18th Jan	9:30am	Finance Committee meeting

<b>Wednesday Roster</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeting</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Morning Tea</b>
13/12/17	Jennifer Constantine	Isaiah 40: 25-31 Gwen Sharp	Vacant
20/12/17	Helen Costello	Isaiah 7: 10-14 Gwen Sharp	Barbara Alexander & Jenny Disney
10/1/18	Jennifer Constantine	1 Samuel 3: 1-10, (11-18) 19-20 Gwen Sharp	Vacant
17/1/18	Helen Costello	1 Samuel 17: 32-51 Robyn Riley	Jenny Disney & Barbara Alexander





## Christmas Bowl

# Harvest of joy

Third Sunday of Advent



Sowing seeds is an act of anticipation which should culminate in a joyful harvest. But years of drought left Joyce, a farmer in Zimbabwe, reaping nothing but pain and suffering. Now, thanks to your support, Joyce has learnt new drought-resistant farming techniques and can once again feel joy at harvest-time.

Psalm 126 echoes content of the preceding Psalms – people have experienced God's deliverance in the past but are again confronted with another crisis. They express their trust in God and call out for help as an act of anticipation and hope.

These feelings, which make up a big part of our journey in Advent, are highlighted in the imagery around the "streams of Negev."

The Negev is the wilderness, or desert region, to the south of Israel. During the dry season, it is totally barren and it is almost impossible to imagine that anything could grow there. But, when the autumn rains come, the streams of Negev become rushing torrents and the entire region suddenly bursts out with life. This simile conveys not only the people's need but also their faith, hope, and expectation of the life giving deliverance of God.

Sowing seeds is a very real act of anticipation which culminates with the joy of a good harvest. For many, the good harvest may not always come. Famine, drought, and changing weather patterns have meant many people around the world struggle to produce enough food to feed their families – people just like Joyce.

Joyce is a pioneering farmer from Zimbabwe. Along with many others in her community, she has felt the terrible effects of drought, rising food prices, and political instability. Joyce was one of the first people in her district to learn an innovative new way of farming called Conservation Farming.

"When we were farming the usual way, we'd plant our seeds and they wouldn't do well. We had to repeat the process over and over, and still they wouldn't germinate" Joyce recalls.

Thanks to supporters like you, Act for Peace's local partner Christian Care, has taught Joyce a new way of growing crops, much better suited to the cycle of drought and low rainfall that Zimbabwe is now experiencing.

**"Before, I never managed to buy anything. But now with Conservation Farming I have managed to buy a security fence for my plot. I feel like a well-established farmer!"**  
says Joyce, beaming.

The joy of the harvest that the Psalmist proclaims is still every bit as real today as it was then and through your support more than 1,200 families in Zimbabwe alone are feeling that joy first hand as they learn to farm their land in a new way.



Joyce, a conservation farmer in Zimbabwe has seen her yield – and her life transformed – thanks to your gifts to the Christmas Bowl.

## When did I see you hungry?

Zimbabwe was once known as the 'breadbasket' of Africa. Since 2000, it has struggled to feed its own people due to a series of droughts and the effects of an unsuccessful land reform program, which led to sharp falls in production and food availability across the nation.



## Helping farmers learn new skills to survive

\$20 can provide a Zimbabwean farmer with a maize starter pack.