

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/

Sacred God, you embody everlasting love and wisdom.
We ask for guidance and discernment
as we negotiate a crossroads in our Parish family's life.
It is with sadness that we farewelled our friend's in Christ, Libby and Stephen
and we give grateful thanks for the arrival of our locum Ruwan and his family.
Help us to retain all that has been of benefit to your people.
Help us to be willing to negotiate change.
Help us to move forward with open minds to embrace what will be,
knowing that your Spirit empowers us to live out your kingdom way of life. Amen

Adrienne 2015

FAREWELL TO LIBBY AND STEPHEN

The Farewell Service was held for the Rev Libby Delbridge at 5 pm on Sunday August 16. A large number of present and past members attended this service which focused on her ministry and achievements. The service began with glorious support from the choir following the dedication of each item of new church furnishings, including the symbolic and colourful stained glass art work in the foyer made from the glass retained from the former Research church; the ambry made from the St Margaret's surplus timber using the original door of the old ambry constructed by John Winkett and a new chasuble designed by Diana Warrell and made by Jean Taylor. Next, Libby returned the several items she had received at her induction as Priest in Charge fourteen years earlier. Then oral presentations were made describing reflections on Libby's ministry on behalf of Vestry, the Church of Transfiguration, Research, Catechumenate, Labyrinth/Creating Spirit, St Faith's Montmorency, Site Development, Piece of Peace/ Meditation and the Staff. Included was a farewell to the Rev Stephen Delbridge and thanks expressed for the support he had given to the Parish in many ways. At the conclusion of the service for the longest serving priest in the Parish, gifts were presented, including a broach representing the Eltham copper butterfly similar to the one in our logo.

Again Parish Council would like to record its appreciation of Libby and Stephen and we specially acknowledge the contribution made by the Rev Clemence Taplin in her support of Libby and the Parish as our part-time Assistant Priest over the last eight years. Also to the Rev Robert Street for his support as Honorary Priest. **Our sincere thanks to Clem, Robert and to all those parishioners** whom in so many ways supported Libby's ministry and upheld our liberal anglo-catholic tradition and care for the community which began in 1861, and in anticipation of renewed vigour enabled by our updated facilities.

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Congregation of 150 farewells Libby and Stephen



Libby cuts her farewell cake made by Sylvia Gilbert

Welcome to Ruwan

We are delighted to **welcome our locum Revd Dr Ruwan Palapathwala**. Formerly he has been Parish Priest of St Alban, North Melbourne, and Senior Chaplain of RMIT University and most recently Senior Chaplain of Dubai with Sharjah and the Northern Emirates with particular responsibility for Holy Trinity Dubai overseeing and coordinating the spiritual well being of around two hundred thousand Christians at hundreds of centres.

Ruwan, is a native of Sri Lanka whose two decades of ordained ministry have been in parishes in New Zealand and Australia. In addition to his incumbency and university chaplaincy he is Research Associate and Lecturer in World Religions and Practical Theology at Melbourne College of Divinity and Trinity College in the University of Melbourne. Among several major responsibilities in the wider Church he is the Australian representative of the Anglican Church in NIFCON, the Anglican Communion's Network for Intercultural and Interreligious Concerns. His degrees include Master of Education and Master of Theology as well as Doctor of Philosophy. Already in his first sermon we became aware of his depth of knowledge and ability to connect first century events with our needs as Christians in an ever secular world. We look forward with anticipation to more encouragement in our personal faith and community care and involvement.

Ruwan Writes

Dearly beloved,
I thank God for the invitation to serve St Margaret's as the locum vicar, and I am delighted to be among you to serve. I am glad to be home after my four years of ministry as the Senior Chaplain of the Chaplaincy of Dubai, Sharjah and the Northern

Emirates to be among you to continue the ministry of this church as your priest, friend and fellow sojourner in faith.

Please pray for me as I commence my locum ministry, and join with me, Clem, Robert, and other members of the pastoral team to: serve, care and pray for one another; love, encourage, support and build-up one another; and, be strengthened in God's Word for us to be a sacrament for one another and the community we live in.

Mary, my wife, and our son and daughter, Ruwanmal (23) and Eshara (21), join me in thanking you for welcoming us to the family of St. Margaret's.

**With blessings,
Ruwan**

Parish Mission Giving

Following our approved policy, the Parish Council have agreed to donate \$600 to the following:

1. Nillumbik/Banyule: Chaplaincy at St Helena Secondary College
2. Melbourne: Clergy formation at Trinity Theological College
Victoria: Diocese of Bendigo on the recommendation of the Bishop:
3. The indigenous program Walkabout Ministries run by the Revd Robyn Davis
4. The Revd Erin Tuineau to support her ministry in Charlton/Donald.
5. International: SparkLit Publishing for the translation of the Revd. A Nicholls book on the Archbishop of Myanmar into the Myanmar language

Sally Petty

Sept. Pub Lunch on August 30

This coming Sunday August 30 (12 noon) is the September pub lunch because the first Sunday of September is Father's Day. Hope to see you there; we have booked for 30

Council Appreciations

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

- Helen Robertson, Colin Bland, for assisting in organising Libby's farewell service
- Coralie Carew, Robyn Wembridge and Mary-Anne Wilkie for co-ordinating the the light meal afterwards.
- Sylvia Gilbert for the farewell cake.
- Diana Warrell and Jean Taylor for the chasuble.
- Kathryn Smith for leading the children's time support in planning and delivering a wonderful farewell to Stephen.

AGM and Electoral Roll

The Annual General Meeting for St Margaret's will be held at 4pm Saturday 14 November 2015. In order to be eligible to vote at the AGM, you must be on the St Margaret's Electoral Roll. **To be included on the Electoral Roll** you must have **completed an Electoral Roll Application Form**, copies of which are available from the Parish Office. If you are not already on the Roll and wish to be included, please ensure that completed forms are lodged by no later than Saturday 24 October 2014.

Robert Brazenor, Secretary

Information on Heat Light & Sound

If you missed the PowerPoint in July Mary LM has prepared a **booklet to read in the Foyer**. We hope you can all work the church switches and knobs just like at home. It's not rocket science.

Hall & Church Bookings

Don't forget - booking spaces for all parish events is needed. Mary LM is looking after this temporarily. Please do not assume that spaces are available. Many thanks
Sally Petty

For your Diary

1. **Blessing the Animals service Oct 12** in the Hall
2. **The AGM will be on November 14 @ 4pm**
3. **St Margaret's day celebration on November 22** 10 am to 4 pm. It will be a joint service followed by lunch using the facilities of the new kitchen with desert extending through the afternoon to tea time as we are entertained by the band 'Sweet Ade' They will play music for all ages: for kids and some golden oldies for a sing along hopefully aided by some local talent..

Planned Giving Slipping

In earlier issues of the Parish Matters this year, the Council had been quite concerned about Planned Giving. However the financial report up to July shows that the program is now \$7100 behind the expected giving. So a **real worsening** from the \$5,200 deficit 4 months ago.

A big thank you to all who have given generously. However, those giving by direct debit and through the ADF seem to be behind. If you are behind would you please look to catching up on your giving. If we have to look to other sorts of fundraising it will take effort away from our mission.

If you have changed financial circumstances that prevent you from honouring your commitment it would be good to advise Graham Carew. Once again many thanks to all who have supported our Parish in this time of transition.

Ed This Edition Harry Watson