

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham



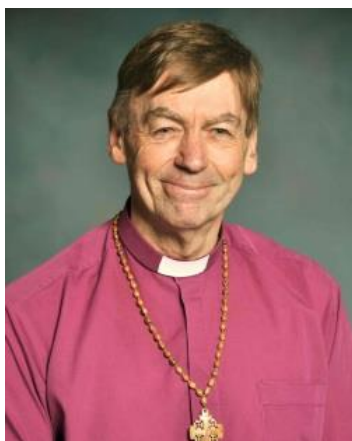
the Parish Matters

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

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Broughton Publishing.

Farewell to Bp Phillip Huggins



It is with some sadness that on Sunday 12th of August we will have Bp Phillip lead us in worship for the last time in his capacity as regional bishop. Under his oversight and influence there have been very significant changes. Some easily spring to mind:

The opening of the church extension and refurbishment of the Hall and more was the largest development undertaken since the founding of the Church in 1861. His encouragement and support as well as undertaking the dedication of the new facilities was a vital part of the opportunity for continued worship, participation in care, justice and spiritual connections for our congregations and many in our local community who join us for special events or make use of the facilities. A picture of Bp Philip and those attending the opening is below.

He was also present for the retirement of Red. Libby Delbridge and appointed our locum for a year -- Revd. Ruwan Palapathwana. And just two year's ago he presided over the induction of our present vicar, Revd. Keren Terpstra who came south from sunny Queensland to endure the cold winters in order to lead us.

There are many other things that we are grateful for: His monthly newsletter, always full of images, his many administrative duties and entertaining us and challenging us with his sermons to mention only a few things.

You may not know that he often rides his bike to work. We wish him every success in retirement, in more time on his bike and in all the other things this energetic man will inevitably be involved in.





Bp Philip the bike rider.

Harry Watson

Baptism Renewal at St Megs

It was lovely to have four baptisms recently at our church. The first was for baby Jack Constable on Easter Day. Along with Jack's parents and godparents it was wonderful to see the church filled with children and young families as they celebrated his baptism. The second baptism was for baby Daniel Finley and again the church was filled with young families. For some of these visitors it may have been one of the few times they have been to church so we hope they found St Margaret's warm and welcoming.

The third baptism was for Nathan Kerwood. As a contrast to the usual baptism of babies it was so good to have a young adult make baptismal promises for himself and it was moving to hear that Nathan's parents had a connection with St Margaret's going a long way back. Nathan will be confirmed at All Saints Ainsley in Canberra in September.



Baptism of Ben Kiossos (looking over Keren's shoulder)

On July 29 Benjamin Kiossos was baptised by Keren with assistance from Ben's family and especially his sisters Stephanie and Tayler who helped with filling the font.

You would not have known he was initially anxious about his introduction/welcome as a new Christian and he also proved to be a good bell ringer too. It is so good that the Spirit continues to move and ensure that new disciples are being called to follow Christ and that St Margaret's is playing a part in that.

Mandy Stevens

July Council Meeting

The meeting commenced with prayer at 7pm. after a short meal provided by Keren. This time it was a delicious slow cooked beef stew which she had prepared, so appropriate for a cold winter's night at the end of a long day for most of the Councillor's who had been at work all day.

A few points from the meeting follow:

For **Growing in Faith**, the first 9 verses of Psalm 37 was the focus for reflection and individual contributions to the closing prayer.

Points noted in the review of **Growth Intention 3** were:

- 1 Creating an improved worship environment, the app. for switching the heaters on early to improve comfort has been installed and Glenys Collis led training for presentation and use of the microphones.
- 2 The prayer buddy system has been used several times this year.
- 3 Combined congregations breakfast opportunity, between services is happening about every six weeks thanks to Mitzi.
- 4 Next combined services are August 12 (Bp Philip's farewell) and 21 October before the AGM.



Landscaper's plan for play and entertaining area

Event Planning

Events approved or noted were

- 1 Vicar's 40th Birthday Cocktail Party Fri 17th August

- 2 Amnesty International Film event – Fri 14th Sept.
- 3 Naidoc Forum – Sun 16th Sept.
- 4 New Opportunities for the Prevention of Violence Against Women – Sat 1st Sept.

Committee Reports

All four reports represented a lot of work. Amongst those the property committee tabled a landscaping plan (see previous page) for the play and entertainment area between the hall and Dendy House. More details can be found from the minutes on the noticeboard soon to be posted.

My Life with God

Planning an opportunity to hear how some members at St Margaret's became active Christians, where they find God in their lives and how they stay in touch with God.

AGM is only two months away so there is need to begin preparation of reports and to follow the count down schedule which starts on Sept. 7.

The meeting concluded with prayers at 9.20 pm

wine and to the many people who helped clean up at the end of a very successful night.

Mandy Stevens

Photographer

Notice we forgot to take dinner photos!! So anyone with interest in taking pictures of Parish Events for PM, the website and the archives should talk to a Council member or Keren. Camera provided.

Images from Parish and Diocesan websites
or Harry Watson
Ed this edition Harry Watson

Council Appreciations

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

- **All committee members, volunteers and group coordinators** for their efforts to make things happen.
- **To All Parishioners** who helped in the Parish Dinner, especially the catering and kitchen helpers led by **Liz Pryor**
- **To Melissa Laidlay** for standing in for warden Shirley Nash for the last 3 months

Parish Dinner Report

A lovely night was had by all recently at the Stewardship and Vision Parish Dinner on the 20th July. About 50 people gathered in the warmth of the hall on this chilly night for drinks and nibbles firstly and then a delicious meal provided by a catering company. The Parish Council provided an overview of our progress on the Vision Plan so far this year and the Reverend Noel Whale gave a thought provoking talk on planned giving and the challenging (yet freeing) idea of a tithe.

It was great to enjoy fellowship with parishioners and catch up with people informally. Many thanks to Liz Pryor for all her work setting up even when she was quite unwell and to David, Coralie, Melissa, Jan and the many others who helped in the kitchen. Thanks also to Harry for organising the