

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

**O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
Serve the Lord with gladness,**

And come fore his face with songs of joy .

**O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth:
Serve the Lord with gladness,**

And come before his face with songs of joy .

Portion of Psalm 100

Bishop Phillips' final service at St Margaret's and blessing our new Paschal Candle



NAIDOC Forum for Aboriginal Voices
BECAUSE OF HER WE CAN



Welcome, smoking ceremony, didg with Richie Williams. Aboriginal women-Auntie Irene Norman, Jacqui Katona and Bettina King from Amnesty International will talk about women in their lives, communities and culture.

QA session to follow speakers


Sunday 16th September 2018

2pm Opening with a smoking ceremony
St Margaret's Anglican Church
79-81 Pitt Street Eltham

Trybooking: <https://www.trybooking.com/MMGL>

Tickets \$20 Concession \$10 cash only at the door

ALL WELCOME

 www.nrg.org.au Phone: 0407 682 177 or 9435



The process of applying for these checks is done online. If you need help, we are happy to do that. We will bring our laptops to church and we can guide you through the process. Margie can help you during the week or visit you at home.

Mandy Stevens and Margie Dahl

Visit by the Brotherhood of St Laurence

On Sunday 19th August Debra Saffrey-Collins, the Chaplain to the Brotherhood of St Laurence, preached at both services. She spoke eloquently about the work of the Brotherhood's founder, Gerard Tucker, his vision and passion for those who were down and out. Debra linked in the beautiful icon of St Laurence which was written specially for the Brotherhood, and shared with us postcards of the icon. St Laurence is famously known for hiding or selling the treasures of the church from the persecuting authorities, and instead vesting the "treasures of the church" in the poor. Debra wove these ideas in with the gospel reading in which Jesus spoke about himself as the bread of life. May we be conscious of sharing the bread of life with others as both St Laurence and Gerard Tucker did.

Keren

Safe Church

The recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse shone a light onto the inadequacy of churches and other agencies to care for children. As a result, the government has passed legislation to ensure that this does not happen again. The Anglican Church, along with other churches, has mandated certain safeguards that will comply with legislation and ensure our integrity in protecting both children and vulnerable adults.

We are all called to live out our high calling as the baptised people of God. When we invite people to exercise their ministry within the church in any capacity, we are saying publicly that this is a person to be trusted. This includes sides people, readers and greeters. There is no role that is exempt.

Government and synodical legislation oblige us to ensure that all people exercising leadership need to have a Working with Children Check and a CrimCheck. If there is something in your past that might create a problem, it is possible to invite you to enter into an agreement whereby you can still exercise leadership under certain provisos.

Joining the Ministry Team at St Margaret's

This year we welcome Mitzi Tuke, Breeana Laidlay, and David Tuke to the Liturgical Assistants' team at St Margaret's. This role involves assisting in the leading of worship at our services, introducing the songs we sing, leading some of the prayers, carrying the processional cross, helping to set the altar at the offertory, and assisting the priest when needed. We give thanks for all those who serve us in this capacity: at 8am Sally Petty, Robert Brazenor, and Chris Winkett; at 10am Geoff Sandy, Melissa Laidlay, Adrienne Watson, and now David, Mitzi, and Breeana. Each of the roles taken in our worship are needed - the greeters, the communion assistants, the organist, the readers, the person leading the prayers, the preacher, the presiding priest. Are you being called to one of these ministries?

Keren

Commemorative Service

Commemorative Service to mark the centenary of the Battle of Le Hamel & Hundred Days Offensive held at St Margaret's on Saturday 4th August 2018.

Members of the local community, 1st Eltham Scouts, students from Eltham Primary School and Research Primary School, descendants and relatives of Eltham WW1 enlistees and parishioners from St Margaret's gathered together at the Commemorative service to remember the Battle of Le Hamel and Hundred Days Offensive – the final period of World War One.

The service included a focus on the non combatant roles - the stretcher bearers, nurses and chaplains and others whose role placed them in very dangerous situations at the front line.

After the scripture reading Matthew 25: 31-40 Robert Street spoke very movingly in his excellent message of role of the non combatants . . .

Today we also choose to remember and give thanks for those who were involved in this war as non combatants – those who did not take up arms but gave of themselves to care for those who were wounded, those who were suffering in unspeakable pain, those who were dying, often in great agony.

These too served with great courage and with great selflessness and many also gave their lives in the course of their duty.

We give thanks for the women who served as nurses, for medical personnel, Voluntary Aid Detachment workers, veterinarians, dentists, Red Cross workers, for the stretcher bearers, and for chaplains . . .

Robert included in his message scripture references, poetry, words written by a number of non combatants and also an acknowledgement . . . of what has rarely been recognised – and that is the courage that it took to be a conscious objector, refusing to take up arms and to kill.

Robert's message gave those attending much to consider and ponder on.

The students from Eltham Primary School, Research Primary School and members of the 1st Eltham Scouts read out the names of the servicemen and women from Eltham who were

serving in France and Egypt in 1918. As each name was read a sprig of rosemary was placed in the sand tray.

Vicki Ward MP laid a wreath on behalf of the community beneath the Eltham Honor Roll on the south wall of the church.

The Ode of Remembrance was read by Bill McKenna (Montmorency Eltham RSL). The service concluded with the singing of the hymn *Holy Darkness* with an overhead presentation of the names of soldiers and nurses from the Shire of Eltham who served during 1918.

Afternoon tea was served in the hall after the service which provided an opportunity for people to gather, exchange stories, view the memorabilia display (RSL) and other displays provided by the Eltham District Historical Society and Friends of the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park.

Kathleen Toal

ST MARGARET'S ANGLICARE VICTORIA PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Activities undertaken in the last few months:

- Collecting (with help from the parish)90 pairs of socks for the men who breakfast at St Peter's Eastern Hill and socks and toiletries for women in the Gemstone Breakfast Group
- Trip to Whittlesea Anglican Op Shop
- Packing 5000 Christmas cards (this year we had one week to do them!)
- Preparing to sell Christmas cards
- Hosting the first AGM of the AVPGs. There are now 5 churches in Melbourne with AVPGs and three were able to come, despite the short notice we had.
- Preparing for our AGM on 16th October when Peter Burt of Anglicare will talk about a book which he had prepared for Friends of Anglicare. This is the book which I have shown to 8 people and everyone immediately said they wanted a copy! We will have copies of the book.
- Preparing for Blumes, the mobile fashion house to come on 11th November with lots of clothes for parishioners and friends to buy.
- Once again collecting signatures to try to keep children in care until they are 21 years old.

Jenny Disney

Workshop on Family Violence

On Saturday 1 September, immediately following Men's Breakfast, Robyn Boosey came to St Margaret's to run a workshop on the prevention of violence against women. Robyn has recently been appointed as the Manager for the Diocesan Prevention of Violence Against Women Program by the Melbourne Archdiocese. This appointment is a first in Australia for the Anglican Church. St Margaret's is helping to pioneer this program.



After presentation of the background including much local context and content, driven by **making the word of God fully known**, we developed our own appreciation of the more important issues. To emphasise the need, Robyn told us that nearly every week, one woman in Australia is killed by her intimate partner. Hundreds more are assaulted or abused, leaving permanent physical and emotional scars on herself, and any children involved. Here is a brief summary of the main points that Robyn made.

The Duluth Wheel of Power and Control was developed in Minnesota in 1981. It shows that a healthy and equal relationship is characterised by negotiation and fairness, economic partnership, shared responsibility and honesty and accountability. On the other hand, a relationship of power and control is characterised by the use of coercion and threats, intimidation, emotional or sexual abuse, isolation of the victim and the use of male privilege.

Domestic violence can be difficult to spot. Sadly, many men who use violence against family members behave acceptably in their workplace, church and social settings. This can make it difficult for a victim to be believed. Some abusers are also abusers of alcohol or other drugs, but this is not always the case.

Domestic violence can be found in all strata of society. Women of any age, culture, religion or marital status can be victims of family violence. Abusers often blame the victim, accusing her of provocation. But no-one deserves to be abused. It can be difficult for an abused woman to leave her partner because of lack of money and loss of other friendships.

We learned how to **recognise signs of an abusive relationship** and how to start a rapport with the victim. Sometimes a victim might be reluctant to talk for fear of not being believed. She may feel ashamed of her situation and have difficulty trusting other people. We were urged not

to jump to encouraging her to leave. This must be entirely her decision. Also, the time when a woman ends a relationship can be the most dangerous time for her.

Above all, a victim of family violence needs **to be heard and believed** and to have her experience validated. She does not need others to rush in to fix it.

Our **first step** might be to thank her for sharing her story and trusting us. We can reassure her that the abuse is not her fault and that we will support her emotionally and put her in touch with services when she is ready. We can encourage her for being brave and telling us what is happening. It is important to reflect rather than interrogate when obtaining information and to ensure them of confidentiality and consultation.

The **second step** is concerned with immediate safety. It is important to consult with the victim and to trust her assessment. If it seems that she or children are in imminent danger, we should call the police. The national helpline 1800 RESPECT (1800 732 732) is a toll free number that can be phoned for advice if we are in doubt.

The **third step** is referral and support. Assure them of our support and refer them to support services. Robyn provided us with an extensive list of possible referrals.

Robyn ran the workshop with great skill and clarity. She balanced input with question and answer and small group work using *talking circles*. While the workshop was disturbing and challenging, it also equipped us to better see and respond to domestic and family violence. We need to keep in mind that this happens in all sorts of families, even church families. We can challenge "humour" that trivialises violence and sexism.

A list of about **ten recommendations** from the meeting was compiled, and the Pastoral Care Team will come up with a plan to respond further in conjunction with Do Justice and Council support. One obvious step is to have regular articles in Parish Matters.

Our thanks to the 20 or so from the Parish who participated and especially the men in the Parish (about half the attendees) for contributing and taking on the **task of getting the messages out to other men** on the eve of Father's Day.

Sincere thanks to Robyn for leading the workshop and to Keren for inviting her and Harry for planning and delivery support.

Margie Dahl and Harry Watson

ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

The Ration Challenge is a major fundraiser for Act for Peace, the overseas aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Participants live for a week on the same rations as Act for Peace distributes to Syrian refugees in Jordan. They receive a pack containing 420g of rice, 170g of lentils, 85g of dried chick peas, a 125g tin of sardines, a 400g tin of kidney beans and 300ml of vegetable oil – exactly the same food as refugees get in almost the same quantities. Participants who reach particular fund raising targets can earn “rewards” such as coffee, milk and flour.

Jeff Wild described the experience as being in a constant state of hunger, but at the same time not looking forward to meals because of the lack of variety.

But Jeff was inspired by the story of Rasha who walked with her family for days to get to the Jordanian border while being shot at the whole journey. They eventually made it over the border, but Rasha’s heavily pregnant sister was unable to cope with the physical and psychological trauma. Sadly, her baby was stillborn. Rasha is away from the bombs now, but in Jordan she faces another threat to the lives of her family – finding enough food to eat. She is one of many Syrian families who have not yet received a food kit.

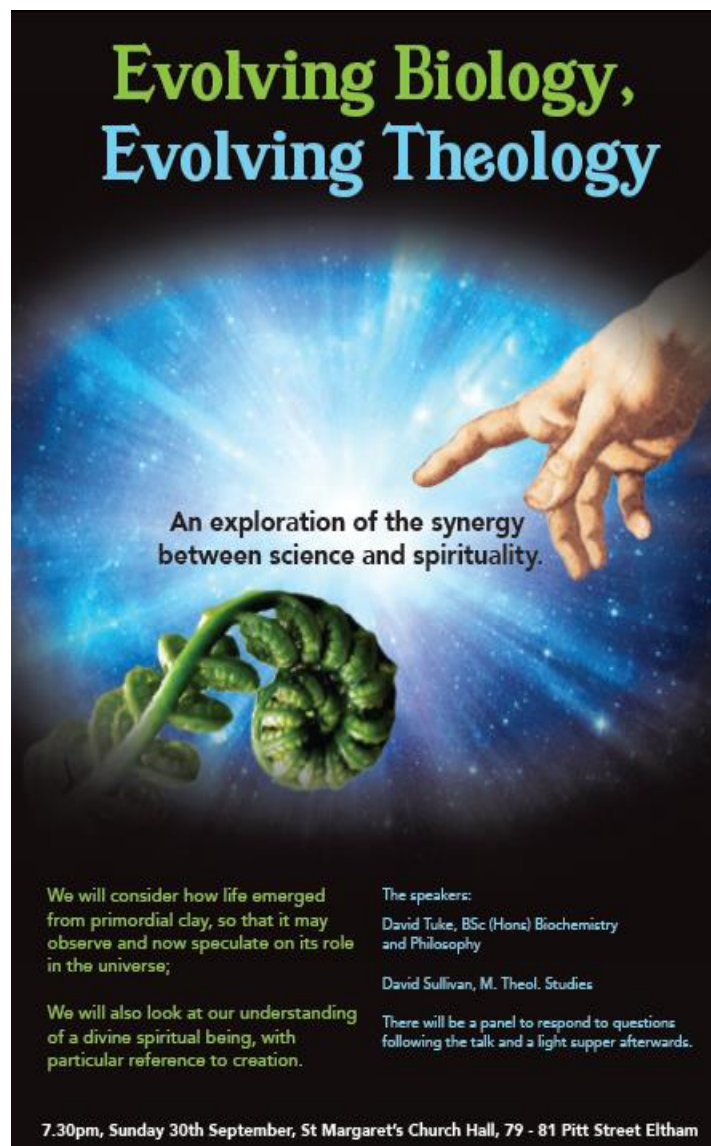
This year, 12,000 people took the challenge. Since 2014 over \$8 million has been raised for food, medicine and education for refugees. Today, there are more refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide than at any time since World War II. That’s more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes to escape conflict and disaster.

Act for Peace believes that when people all over the world work together, big changes really are possible. That’s why they’ve made it their mission to act in partnership with other passionate people, like us, across the globe to achieve safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and natural disaster. Is there any task more important?

You can make a one off donation by going to <https://www.actforpeace.org.au/give-to-ration-challenge?s=RC18-WEB> Donate by phone on 1800 025 101 or post your cheque to Locked Bag Q119, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230

Margie Dahl,

St Margaret’s Act for Peace Representative



Evolving Biology, Evolving Theology

An exploration of the synergy
between science and spirituality.

We will consider how life emerged
from primordial clay, so that it may
observe and now speculate on its role
in the universe;

We will also look at our understanding
of a divine spiritual being, with
particular reference to creation.

The speakers:
David Tulke, BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
and Philosophy
David Sullivan, M. Theol. Studies

There will be a panel to respond to questions
following the talk and a light supper afterwards.

7.30pm, Sunday 30th September, St Margaret’s Church Hall, 79 - 81 Pitt Street Eltham

Do Justice Report

The last few months have been very busy.

1 Pathways to reconciliation .Members prepared a list of guidelines on the way the church should prepare the church as a welcome place for Aboriginal people. One of the features which will be apparent is the Acknowledgement that the land where our church is located is on land where the original custodians were the Wurundjeri peoples. As more and more evidence is found how the land was often taken by dubious and often violent means, this Acknowledgement is one way we can show some empathy with the original peoples. The guidelines or Pathway has been presented at parish Council.

2 Publicising the need for a more humane approach to the plight of asylum seekers in Australia has continued to be important. Late in August we publicized and catered for a showing of the film, **Chasing Asylum**, which was put on by the Eltham branch of Amnesty International. Donations went to Amnesty. We were thrilled with the three students from Eltham High who came with slices for supper! We also publicized two book launches in Eltham: **The Power of Hope** by Kon Karipaniotidis who set up the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and ...**No Friend but the Mountain** by the Kurdish journalist who sent the text of the book out from Manus Island *by texting from a mobile phone*

3 As an extension of our interest in the plight of asylum seekers, we decided at our August meeting to hold a drive to **collect foodstuffs for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in the last week of September** We are hoping for a tremendous response

4. Sunday 16th September a Forum where three Aboriginal women will speak about the challenges of growing up as aboriginals. Combining with Amnesty International and the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group the afternoon promises to bring a provocative and challenging meaning to the way Aboriginal people have been discriminated. The 2pm Smoking ceremony promises to be a memorable event.

5. At all of these events we have been doing outreach among the people attending. Thanks go to Margie Dahl for her initiative in developing the St Margaret's Showbags where we can advertise not only future events, but service times and the use of the labyrinth

6 Seven ministers of Eltham/Greensborough area have become aware of the opportunity for outreach in the Greensborough shopping centre.

They have decided to run a trial to see if a "Community Connector" can make contact with some of the lonely/troubled people who visit the shopping centre. We were delighted when Keren told us she is on the management team. We decided this would be a deserving project for mission giving to a local cause.

7. Abundant Justice Conference, Brisbane, July 2018. Jenny Disney and David Tuke were able to attend this short conference developed by Australian Board of Missions and the South East Diocese of Queensland. Both of us were aware that we were on the older edge of the people there with many of the ministers (Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches) young enough to be our children. But oh the energy that was shown! The ideas that were brought up! The first two days comprised of lectures (short enough for us to concentrate for the full length of time) The last day people used two techniques to make sure everyone had a chance to take part in discussion. Firstly the Talking Circle, using a smooth rock to pass around when you and only you could speak in a small group. Then came the **Open Space Dialogue** where participants made up questions/projects they felt were worthy of being developed. One of my choices was on Criminal Justice and how the secular idea of punishment does not fit with the Christian attitude of forgiveness. *This discussion will be continued in the next Parish Matters.*

Jenny Disney

Pet Blessing ALL WELCOME
10am Sunday 7th October 2018
St Margaret's Church Hall
79-81 Pitt Street Eltham
Speaker Topic:
Greyhounds as pets
www.stmargaretseltham.org.au 9439 9238
pet stock ELTHAM St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham @stmargaretseltham

STMARGARETS AND JUSTICE

A typical Eltham community gathering of over 200 people co-sponsored by St Margaret's Do Justice group, Eltham College and the Eltham Bookshop, came to launch a book written from Manus Island prison by one incarcerated there – Behrouz Boochani.

Published only this August, 'No Friend But The Mountains', has been hailed as extraordinary. The first book ever to be written by text tapped out in small portions on a smuggled phone. Perhaps one of the most important books to be published in recent times. But, warns Richard Flanagan, this book is 'difficult for Australians. We pride ourselves on decency, kindness, generosity and a fair go'. Richard Flanagan is correct: The account is not easy for an Australian to read. Despite the poetic insights and lyrical reflections of blessings such as a tiny flower in bloom. But it is necessary reading which is now open to the whole world.

With deep insight Boochani unveils the journey of individuals, families and children in their efforts to find basic human rights and survival. So confronted by their circumstances in their homelands they risked death by starvation, drowning and slow physical and psychological disintegration. All of them human, imperfect, seeking a place of peace and a means of life.

I read with horror of the systematic, intentional destruction of individual identity through the deprivation of basic needs for medical and psychological treatment, of the denial of any stimulus or purposeful activity, of incarceration behind wire fences in appalling conditions totally inadequate to the climate. Of the intentional holding for over five years of men, women and children as hostages.

One thing is clear – No Australian can say to the generations to come 'We didn't know what was being perpetrated in our name with hundreds of thousands of our taxpayer dollars'.

I urge the reading of this book. And prayerful response to the plight of asylum seekers. Each one of us can write to our parliamentary representatives calling for humane and creative solutions and a closure of detention camps on Manus Island and Nauru.

Fay Gravenall

Photos Diana Warrell.
Ed this edition: Sally Petty

Book review: ***The Power of Hope: or how community, love and compassion can change the world***

Kon Karapanagiotidis is the founder of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. On 8 August, St Margaret's Do Justice group was one of the sponsors of his book, ***The Power of Hope***. This is a startlingly frank memoir detailing his loneliness as a Greek boy in a predominantly Anglo school, his parents' unhappy marriage, his unsuccessful forays into intimate relationships and his struggles with his weight.

These difficulties could have made him bitter and selfish. However, just the opposite was true. He found hope and solid values to live by. His personal life has given him an insight into what it means to be marginalised and excluded. This is not just refugees and asylum seekers, but many others – women in abusive relationships, the homeless, the drug affected, the LGBTIQA community, Indigenous Australians, former prisoners, those living with disabilities or Muslims. Kon affirms that all of these matter and that the issues are not in conflict with each other.

As an adult, Kon found that he had to deal with his feelings of inadequacy and that nothing he did was ever good enough. He found that he needed to learn to love himself and to find a sense of self-worth. We can build a better world only when we are kind to ourselves. "We can't have forgiveness, compassion, perspective and kindness for others if we don't have them for ourselves." (p 109) Kon writes about the value of kindness and acceptance. Our flaws make us unique, they are part of the human condition. So, the book is also a journey of self-discovery.

Kon quotes Martin Luther King: "Our hope for creative living ... lies in our ability to re-establish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice." Through the years, people have criticised Kon for being too passionate and too idealistic. He refutes this and refuses to be silent or complicit in the face of injustice, division, hate, fear-mongering and individualism. The politics of division, of labelling people as either lifters or leaners, is a fiction.

Kon's visit to Manus Island is a heartbreaking story of men living in a hell-hole, a place that had been built to destroy hope and kill dreams. He describes it as a living grave-yard, organised to criminalise, humiliate and degrade the men. The Australian government had withdrawn, leaving the men to the mercy of locals, some of whom reacted very violently towards the asylum seekers.

Throughout the book, Kon weaves in the narrative of the origins of the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. He started it as an opportunity for work

experience for TAFE students whom he was teaching who were having trouble getting placements. Through the years, the centre has helped thousands of people with practical, emotional, legal and medical help. The Centre has struggled to find a home but Kon and the workers and volunteers have been inspired and uplifted by the support of ordinary people who have helped with refurbishing when they had to move and by donating money and goods.

Keren's Big Bash

