



**ST MARGARET'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
ELTHAM**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2020

11.00am

REPORTS
&
PREVIOUS YEAR'S MINUTES

Priest's Report

for the 2020 Annual Meeting

Reporting on the year October 2019 – September 2020

This has been my fourth year in the parish, and what a strange year it has been for all of us. The effects of COVID-19 will be felt no doubt for many years to come, upending our way of life, our pattern of being in community together, and prompting us to ask questions about and bring to awareness aspects of who we are that we usually take for granted. This year has been tough for many of us, with the ongoing lockdown and restrictions; we were under some form of lockdown and/or restrictions for 112 days – the longest in the world. What we anticipated being 6 weeks from 23rd March has turned into 7+ months. That's 7+ months during which time we couldn't celebrate Easter or Pentecost in the way we usually can, in which we couldn't meet together to worship, or to have fellowship, to be the visible Body of Christ gathered in one place.

I am thankful as I write this to reflect that COVID hasn't been the only story we've had to tell this year, in spite of everything. We have continued to be resilient, to tell ourselves and witness to those around us that God is still with us, that hope in our shared identity as God's people still holds us together even in our disparateness. We have continued to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly – and in fact for many of us this time has moved us to engage in those disciplines more mindfully. God's goodness has sustained us through this time and will continue to see us through whatever lies ahead.

One of the good news stories this year has been the appointment of the Reverend Christopher Garcia as our Assistant Curate in February 2020. Christopher came to us with great ministry experience already from his background in the Salvation Army, and I am so very grateful that he has been with us. Christopher's support and co-conspiratorial partnership have meant the ministry team have been able to do much more to inspire connection and care of folk at St Margaret's through 2020. A good number of St Margaret's folk trooped into St Paul's for Christopher's ordination as a deacon, and on to Holy Trinity Oakleigh where he'd been before ordination for a celebration party. Christopher has been busy keeping in contact with folk via the phone and other electronic means, not least because he's been completing CPE in the last 6 months. I thank the members of his field committee: Felicity Wiltshire, Robert Brazenor, Paul Kruze, Sally Warner, Roger Alcock, Elizabeth Milgate, and ably chaired by Helen Robertson, for their support and encouragement of Christopher this year. We are looking forward in the coming month to Christopher's ordination as a priest (although because of COVID we don't yet know how or when the ordinations are going to happen this year). Thank you, Christopher, for your energy and enthusiasm.

I am so grateful too to the Reverend Robert Street for his support and engagement in helping to keep us all connected. Robert and Christopher and I have formed a great camaraderie, meeting every week at the church to livestream services via Zoom, with Robert ably managing the music. Thank you, Robert, for your faithfulness and care for the people of St Margaret's.

COVID has had an impact on our other staff at St Margaret's. Thank you Mary Lynton-Moll for your adaptability, taking up the mantle of COVID Safe Officer, drawing up a Plan and ensuring we are compliant with government and diocesan directives, and for being able to put on hold the usual hall hire management commitments you have. I know that in the coming months as we gradually reopen Mary's task as dual hall hire manager and COVID Safe Officer will mean lots of negotiation and agile manoeuvring – I am confident Mary is up to this!

Thanks to Graham Constantine who has such a care for our grounds; the latest lockdown has been especially hard because the gardens and grounds had to sit and wait until the Premier announced easing of restrictions. Thank you for your patience, Graham. I know I express the gratitude of many at St Margaret's for the work you do to see everything is ship-shape and beautifully kept.

And especially a thank you to Jennifer Round, who has persevered in working from home and still managed to keep on top of the administration. So many have expressed gratitude to me for the way Jen has kept those who don't have access to the internet up to date with what's happening at St Margaret's. I want to acknowledge that working from home is fraught with challenges: not interacting with the usual folk who come through the office door, trying to keep some balance between home and work life, the interruptions of family and domestic realities... Thank you Jen for hanging in there and continuing to support the work of St Margaret's in the many ways you do.

Thank you to the wardens: To Kathleen, Sally Petty, and John Humann who have been such great support over these trying months. This year the wardens had a number of challenges to navigate; the conditions surrounding COVID have been a factor, and included such things as negotiating with tenants for reduction in rent, an almost endlessly frustrating back and forth to the payroll and finance teams in the Diocese over payroll issues and issues with JobKeeper payments to staff, and watching carefully the finances and other governance issues through this time. For these reasons, this year hasn't been an easy one to be a warden. I pray the coming year won't be as rocky! Thank you, wardens for your graciousness and willingness to see these issues through.

Worship

Regular services at 8am and 10am Sundays continued from October to March. Wednesday church at 10:30am also continued up until the lockdown was announced. Since 23rd March we've held one service on Sundays at 9:30am, a eucharist broadcast via the online meeting application Zoom.

Many people have expressed their gratitude for what we've been doing via Zoom through this time: it has acted as a point of connection in this time of being disconnected from friends and family, and the breakout rooms option at the end has enriched our community as people from the different congregations who never mixed before have been able to get to know one another. In hindsight, had we known the lockdown would continue as long as it did we probably would have made other choices about the type of service and how it was offered; we've been doing eucharist every week, and as the presiding priest I have felt acutely the awkwardness of holding the bread and wine in an invitation which by definition cannot be accepted physically. There has been great grief in this, and a yearning, because the sacrament of communion is an expression of our togetherness – yet here we are in our separate lounge rooms and studies, unable to commune in the same way.

One person in the diocese talked about the great "eucharistic fast" – that instead of feasting through Easter season, we had to fast from this central experience of God's touch and love for us. That this "fast" has continued through til now (and maybe longer)... I struggle to find words to express the complex set of emotions that triggers in me – let alone in the people of St Margaret's who have not been physically present at the Lord's table since March.

There have been other things on offer to assist in spiritually nourishing and sustaining us through this time. Evening Prayer has continued on Saturdays via Zoom at 4pm. The vibrant meditation community was meeting on Wednesdays at 9:30am until the lockdown, and continues on Saturdays at 8:30am, again via Zoom. Christopher and I meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am via Zoom for morning prayer and meditation, and those parishioners who have joined us have expressed their thankfulness for having this prayer time as a bright spot in their week, setting up the day.

We again did Taize every week until the lockdown through Lent, and every third Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. My thanks to Heidi Bryce for her leadership. Taize is something that doesn't work so well via Zoom. We're planning a Taize service in Advent as a way of offering to God the year that has been and looking into the year ahead.

One of the good news stories to come out of COVID is that with everyone being grounded, average weekly attendance has been pretty constant between 54-57 each week. It's anticipated that this year we won't be submitting statistical returns as we do each year because COVID has so messed with the way things are counted, and with the regular round and turn of pastoral services. There have been months during which weddings, for example, have been prohibited except in case of imminent death of one of the parties. Funerals have been limited to 10 attendees. One of the questions I have going forward is what church will look like; I suspect that until a vaccine is widely available church attendance is going to look different than it did before the coronavirus was upon us.

In fact, we are facing the reality that from now on worship will be hybrid: we will begin to meet face to face, and we will offer our services online via Zoom to start with, and likely moving in the next 18 months to livestreaming via another online platform. (We've liked Zoom, because it's enabled those at home to contribute in real time; there will come a time when this isn't feasible, and we're putting in place technology which will enable us to livestream the service.) We received a government grant which has been put to excellent use installing cameras and other AV equipment necessary to be able to move into the hybrid/online church mode.

With all this talk about online church, what of those who for whatever reason haven't been able to get onto Zoom, or for whom technology is too much? There are a good number of folk who twisted the arms of friends and family and who took the plunge into the online world to join us for church. I deeply respect those who have done this, even when technology has seemed so foreign in the past. As someone who pretty much grew up with computers etc, I take my hat off to you for your courage! There are still a few people who didn't take the step, and that's ok too: Jen has been ensuring that those without email and those who have email but don't use other online tech are provided with copies of the pew sheet, eMusings (the e-publication published every 2 weeks as a replacement for Parish Matters through lockdown), a copy of the Sunday service, and any other materials sent out. The ministry team have also been keeping in touch with those people through this time.

In the weeks before the lockdown started we encouraged everyone who came to church to pick five other St Margaret's folk to pray for and to ring weekly through this time. I believe this, and other informal modes of connection has continued. Through the first part of the lockdown the ministry team were engaged in ringing through the parish roll every week or two; this was increasingly fatiguing as time went on, not just for those of us ringing around, but also for those receiving the calls! We have tried to keep in contact one way or another.

On the last Sunday 22nd March, when we knew it was likely that the Premier would be announcing a lockdown the next day, we each had the opportunity to take a stone from a cross laid out on the floor of the church before the altar, along with a passage from Psalm 40:1-4a :

I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.
Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust.

When we return to services in the church, we'll be invited to bring the stones back to lay on the cross once more: a sign of togetherness, and a sign of God's faithfulness in bringing us back, leading us through this time, and holding us, even when we felt stuck in the miry bog of lockdown.

To try and assist with connection, at the beginning of the pandemic we printed a card “Do not be afraid for I am with you/You are not alone” which parishioners were invited to place in the letterboxes of neighbours five houses up and down and across the street. (An enlarged version of this card was posted out the front of the church on the noticeboard.) On Palm Sunday we hand delivered Holy Week packs, including prayers, a palm cross, and a cross made with twigs gathered from around the church property, after the Palm Sunday service. We again delivered most, and sent some packs to parishioners for Pentecost, including tongues of fire and a red candle to light (usually at Pentecost when we extinguish the Paschal Candle, we light our own candles from it as a symbol of the Spirit resting on us as those who embody the Risen Christ). We’ll be delivering another pack in time for Advent with some resources connecting to the themes of Advent. This will also be an opportunity for some front verandah conversations! Christopher, Robert, and I are looking forward to being able to see you all face to face, albeit one by one!

It's hard to cast the mind back to life before COVID entered the dance. There were a number of highlights leading up to the 23rd March:

- The Pet Blessing on 6th October – with thanks to the musicians!
- St Margaret’s Day lunch with a talk by Lorel Wall, the Community Connector (chaplain) at Greensborough Plaza.
- The baptism of Lachlan Constable on 24th November, and of Emerson Gilbert on 26th January 2020.
- The unfurling week by week of the beautiful Advent scroll designed and with artistic work by David, Mitzi, Emily and Natalie Tuke.
- Singing carols with the combined church choirs in the Town Square on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas.
- The Nativity scene at the Christmas Markets in the Town Square, organised by Mandy, and which proved popular for people taking photos.
- The Children’s Christmas service – including the production of a play written by Adrienne, and produced by her with the help of a crew of enthusiastic helpers.
- Christopher’s ordination 8th February
- Taize retreat 29th February with reflections led by Christopher
- Shrove Tuesday pancake night.

Lenten Reflection booklet, with reflections by fellow parishioners.

Since the pandemic:

- Mission Action Team has made progress towards developing a pathway for connecting with our Mission Focus Group (people close to or just at retirement).
- Successful Child Safe training offered a number of times via Zoom.
- Gospel of Matthew Seminar at which the Rev’d Canon Dr Bob Derrenbacker presented on 23rd May.
- Guest preacher Mark Lindsay (Trinity College) on 3rd August.

Pastoral Care

2020 has been a year in which we’ve held funerals for six of our number. We said goodbye to Chris Warrell in November 2019, who will be missed for his commitment and assistance in so many activities at St Margaret’s over the years, followed by Norma Lawry in December (Norma had been resident at Willowbrae Templestowe for some time, and parishioners brought her to church regularly at her request). We lost Maureen Christie at the end of December, and our dearly loved Joan Bateman in September 2020, both faithful and beautiful souls who were part of the Wednesday congregation. Peter Wembridge, husband of Robin, was the first of our number to die during the pandemic and to be buried under the restrictions which meant friends and family could only join in via Zoom. In total clergy from St Margaret’s have taken eleven funerals in 2019-2020, half of which have been under the unusual lockdown rules: only 10 mourners allowed. My hope is that once this pandemic is over there will be opportunity for those who have lost loved ones to gather and celebrate their lives. We will hold a memorial service where we can remember our loved St Margaret’s friends whom we have been unable to farewell properly through this time. May all the faithful departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

In total we had 2 baptisms. There were no admissions to communion, or confirmations or receptions into the church this year, at least partly because of COVID.

The Pastoral Care Team continued to run services at St Vincent's Care up until the lockdown, and have organised for parishioners to be involved in sending cards to the residents who have been in lockdown since February. We look forward to being able to resume services and visiting as permitted.

I am grateful to Robert and Christopher who have been pillars of strength in joining me ringing around and connecting with St Margaret's people through the lockdown. And I am thankful for the whole community who have striven to keep in contact with each other; this is the body of Christ at work.

Education

On May 23rd Bob Derrenbacker ran an online seminar on Matthew for us. This seminar was very well attended via Zoom by folk from St Margaret's and from the wider community.

Mark Lindsay preached for us on Matthew on 3rd August. Mark is one of the lecturers at Trinity College.

Through the lockdown Geoff Sandy ran two series of talks on the history of St Margaret's which were well attended by up to 30 parishioners per session.

Do Justice with the agreement of Parish Council have been progressing the Yarning Circle: a brazier has been purchased, we've consulted twice with the Wurundjeri Council, we applied for a grant through Nillumbik Council for \$3000 for an Aboriginal artist to design the yarning circle for us. Talks continue with the Wurundjeri Council.

Administration

Child Safety has progressed further this year with the assistance of Mandy Stevens as Child Safe Officer, and the Child Safe Team (the Vicar, Geoff Sandy, David Tuke, Mandy Stevens). We are in the process of finalising documents relating to risk assessment. I am grateful to Mandy, Geoff, and David for their assistance in this. We've also managed to get 95% of those on rosters trained in child safety and 99% have current Working With Children and Police Checks. This has been a huge effort on the part of Jen and Mandy, and I want to thank all of you for your assistance in getting us to this point. There is still and always will be work to do in this important area of making our church a safe space for all people.

From now on, anyone who wishes to offer their gifts and talents will first need to complete the two checks before assuming the role and attend training at the first opportunity.

As a response to COVID and the requirements mandated by the Diocese and the state government, we formed a team to ensure we are compliant: Sally Petty (chair), Mary Lynton-Moll (COVID Safe Officer), Coralie Carew, the Vicar, Christopher Garcia, Harry Watson, John Humann, and Rodney Millard. Sally, Mary and Coralie focussed on the documents produced by the Diocese and on getting us COVID Safe; the other half of the group focussed on acquiring and implementing the technology we need to continue to offer hybrid online/face to face worship. My deep gratitude to all on the team; it has not been a small task to get to the point of being able to reopen!

Parish Operations

Because of COVID putting a halt to a lot of parish life, parish council felt this year that it was best most of the things that have happened were taken up in my report.

Property

Property team continued to meet monthly via Zoom. Highlights: replacement of the largest ladder, ongoing maintenance, dealing with the watering system out the front of the church. Membership: Sally Petty (chair), David Pryor, John Winkett, Graham Constantine, John Humann, Harry Watson, the Vicar.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care team continued to meet monthly via Zoom. Our focus really was on remaining connected with folk through this time. Membership: Harry Watson, Jennifer Gillett, Adrienne Watson, Rae Kerr, MaryAnn Wilkie, Helen Costello, Christopher Garcia, Robert Street, the Vicar.

Communications

For a number of reasons, Communications team decided to go into abeyance in April. The little communications required during this time has been handled by Mary and Jen with input from the ministry team.

Do Justice

Do Justice have continued to meet monthly via Zoom, with foci being development of the Disability Policy, and progress on the Yarning Circle. Membership: Jenny Disney (chair), Helen Robertson, Christopher Garcia, Kathleen Toal, Jean Taylor, David Tuke, Jennifer Constantine.

Finance team

Finance team have continued to meet monthly (and sometimes more often!) via Zoom. Huge issues negotiated with payroll and around JobKeeper, as well as developing the budget for 2020-2021. Membership: Kathleen Toal (chair), David Pryor, John Humann, the Vicar.

Parish Council

Parish Council was the first meeting to move to Zoom. Membership: the Vicar, Christopher Garcia, Kathleen Toal (vicar's warden), Sally Petty, John Humann (wardens), Harry Watson (secretary), Helen Robertson, David Tuke, Sandra Brown-Holt, Mandy Stevens, Betty Cooper. This year we've worked our way through Paul's letter to the Colossians, engaging in different ways of reflecting on the text. We paused reflection on the Vision Plan in April, because so much of what we'd hoped for was put on hold thanks to COVID. We've also found COVID caused a whole raft of decision-making as we pivoted and adapted to the different stages of restrictions. Before the pandemic, and in response to some of the things that happened at Synod in 2019 we moved a motion affirming our commitment to inclusivity.

I want to record my gratitude to all of you who are involved in the decision-making bodies in the parish, for the gift of your time and passion in leading St Margaret's this last year.

Vision Plan 2020

In January 2019 Parish Council took a day to re-vision the 2017 Vision Plan. We have been working to this plan in 2020. We are anticipating developing a new Vision Plan through 2021 with input from the wider parish.

As already stated, COVID put paid to many of the hopes articulated in the Vision Plan, especially around children's and families' ministry, the Music Programme, and working constructively with our small groups. It is yet to be seen which of these we'll be able to work with in 2021.

Below is a summary of where our progress is up to as of October 2020 in working with the Vision Plan.

Growth Intention	Ministry Actions	Progress October 2020
I. Pathways to community connection (outward dimension)	1. Children's ministry	Christopher started in February with the objectives of helping the UCA Messy Church start a ministry targeted at upper primary kids. This never got off the ground due to COVID. Similarly, the hoped-for four connecting ministries were paused for this year.
	2. Communications review	Property team is exploring an electronic screen outside. The website has been reviewed, with text updated. Photos and design being updated by the end the 2020. We're developing a parish life booklet which should be complete by the end of 2020.
	3. Music Programme	A committee consisting of Diana Warrell, Keren, John Humann, and Inola Von Moller have met with school principals. While we distributed application forms there has been to date no response, probably owing to the pandemic. We will resend in late January.
	4. Do Justice	Mission recipients for 2019: Anglican Board of Missions, Greensborough Plaza Chaplaincy, Anglicare (for homeless women), Anglican Overseas Aid. Yarning pit progressing - \$3000 grant for artistic design by an Aboriginal artist received from Nillumbik Council, conversations with Wurundjeri Council continue.

Growth Intention	Ministry Actions	Progress October 2020
	5. Pastoral Care review	COVID has put this review on hold. In the interim we're continuing the current model with the assistance of new members and the Assistant Curate.
	6. Pathways	Mission Focus Group identified (people at retirement age) and the Mission Action Team are developing a pathway. We have spent time through COVID growing together reading a book and growing in our faith.
II. Growing in faith (upward dimension)	1. Dancing to the beat of God's heart	The Prayer for 2020 has been used at services since February. A Lenten Booklet with reflections on bible texts by parishioners was completed and distributed. We ran one session of the short course from St Francis' College <i>What Matters about Jesus</i> before the lockdown intervened. Plans for Bible360 were scotched thanks to COVID. Bob Derrenbacker ran a seminar on Matthew in May.
	2. HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS	We've had one meeting of the team to look at this; COVID has meant most of our small groups haven't been happening in the way they usually would.
III. Whole Church Cohesion (inward dimension)	1. Conducive worship environment	New AV tech installed to facilitate livestreaming of services. Zoom has been a godsend, has meant we can join worship from home.
	2. Combined Services Break-fasts	After two and a half years it was decided that this ministry had run its course, and it wrapped up at the end of 2019. Thanks to Coralie and Mitzi for their leadership through this time.
	3. CHILD SAFE CHURCH	95% of people at St Margaret's have completed Child Safe Training; the remaining folk will be invited to training once we can resume face to face activities. We are now 99% compliant, with almost all parishioners on rosters having completed Working With Children and Police Checks. From now on, before any ministry can be commenced, volunteers will need to complete both checks before commencing ministries. The Child Safe team have been chipping away at, and have almost completed, the documents we need and procedures that need to be in place to be fully compliant with the Child Safe Standards.

Priorities to the end of 2020:

Finalising training in Child Safety for those who haven't completed it, and further developing documents relating to risk assessment for activities.

- Completion of a revised Parish Life booklet.

Things to carry forward in 2021:

Outward:

- Music programme
- Pathways
- Do Justice Yarning Circle

Upward:

- Year of Discipleship

Inward:

- Pastoral care review
- Holistic small groups
- Child Safe Church

Looking into the future:

We look forward in the coming month to celebrating Christopher's ordination as a priest, which this year will be done by Bishop Kate Prowd here at St Margaret's, rather than in the Cathedral, owing to COVID restrictions. The year to come will be his second as our curate, and hopefully offer a somewhat more "normal" experience of parish life!

Conditions are all set for hybrid worship to continue. Experts are saying the pandemic will continue for at least another 12-18 months, if not two years, and that even if a vaccine is developed soon, there will be issues in producing and distributing and applying enough doses to develop group immunity. While numbers today show ZERO locally acquired cases and ZERO deaths from COVID in Australia (!), this second wave in Melbourne, and what we're seeing in the rest of the world demonstrates how quickly the virus can get away and spread. I sincerely pray there won't be further waves here, and that protocols and procedures for containment in hotel quarantine, and contact tracing, will be effective, but no one can say for sure. This means that we need to stand prepared for anything that might come – including further lockdowns. I'm confident with what we now have in place we'll be able to countenance and move through whatever arises.

I am looking forward in the coming months to developing with the Mission Action Team a pathway of connection for our Mission Focus Group. The Mission Action Team have been working diligently in the background throughout the lockdown; in spite of the fact the Pathways project in the Diocese was temporarily suspended owing to COVID, we kept going with reading Michael Frost's *Surprise the World: the Five Habits of Highly Missional People* to help us develop the missional habits of Blessing, Eating, Listening, Learning and being Sent. We've also dug into and explored stories of Jesus' patterns of engagement with people in John. I am thankful to Christopher, Harry, Sandra, Diana, John, and Mitzi for the time they've invested in growing together this year. It is my hope that the pathway for our Mission Focus Group will become a major focus for our next Vision Plan.

2021 will be a time in which we begin to develop a new Vision Plan, one with a potentially longer scope than the two we've had since I started here as vicar. At this stage it's hard to say how we'll do this new visioning process; in the new year we'll hopefully have more clarity around this.

Two years ago I developed a four year map: Prayer (2019), Knowing Jesus (2020), Discipleship (2021), Mission (2022). This coming year, 2021, is a year in which we'll explore what it means to be followers of Jesus, including some of the classic disciplines of discipleship, and reflecting on the shape the community of his followers that best images the realm of God he preached and lived in his life and ministry.

Wider currents and personal matters

This year also will see the debate about human sexuality reaching a crisis point in the Anglican Church of Australia. Melbourne Synod 2019 was a horrible experience, with three motions relating to same sex marriage being carried (albeit narrowly) by the conservative vote. In 2019 the Wangaratta Synod made an application to the Appellate Tribunal, which is currently under investigation, whether the marriage or blessing of same sex marriages is permissible under our Constitution. The Appellate Tribunal, the highest "court" for deciding matters of canon law, is due to hand down its findings any day. Whatever the Appellate Tribunal says, the Diocesan and General Synods in the coming twelve months are likely to be battlegrounds – and conservative evangelicalism holds the sway of power.

Since Synod 2019 I've been doing a great deal of reflection, as have many. I am disgusted by the power plays which lie behind what's going on, the desire for one group or view to have supremacy over another. And in the middle are the sacrificial victims and scapegoats: those in the LGBTIQ+ community, justice for First Nations peoples, the ongoing bias against the ministry of women in the church, and the vestiges of colonialism and colonising which the church hasn't even attempted to shake. I have been elected the first President of Victorian Anglicans Together, a group which is trying to reshape the way we do debate at synod, as well as preparing and energising synod reps and clergy to be present at synod and make their voices heard in the cause of justice and inclusion.

In the light of what lies ahead in the coming year, and the uncertainty facing the church as a whole, we at St Margaret's must commit ourselves to working for justice and peace, for standing against the philosophy of scarcity and fear which drives the lust for power and dominance. Instead, more and more I am convinced of the call to demonstrate and live the realm of God which is at the margins, at the edge, where the power structures are upside down, and true power is that which is given away and shared in vulnerability.

Bishop Kate invited me to be part of exploring HeartEdge, a movement for church renewal the origin point of which is St Martin in the Fields in London. I'm part of a group which is reading Sam Wells' *The Future is Bigger Than the Past*. Sam is the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields. He makes seven proposals in the first chapter which are worth citing here:

1. *In contrast to fear, [that we be] recognizable communities of hope, embodying a liberating story of reconciliation and grace.*
2. *In contrast to exclusion, distinctive congregations whose life is shaped and renewed through the energy and gifts of those culturally, economically and socially "on the edge", and whose diversity reflects the diverse glory of God.*
3. *In contrast to despair, faithful disciples who have discovered how God is made known in times of adversity and who thus walk with the dispossessed in order to be close to God.*
4. *In contrast to decline, humble institutions whose need for financial sustainability opens their lives to the skill, vision and wisdom of those who scarcely or only partly share their faith.*
5. *In contrast to defensiveness, fertile centres of creative and artistic flourishing through which people apprehend beauty in the world and talent in themselves and one another.*
6. *In contrast to denial, penitent communities that recognize the individual and corporate legacy of the misuse of power and the dominance of some social groups over others, nationally and internationally, and are seeking new forms of practice and relationship.*

In contrast to turning inwards, thriving churches that individually and corporately are seen as an unqualified blessing by their neighbourhoods and nation.

While it's still early days for me in exploring this, my hunch is that this is something St Margaret's may be able to embrace. I invite you to reflect on these seven proposals and share with me in the coming weeks and months what resonates and what challenges you in them.

Earlier this year I was appointed to the Diocesan Liturgical Committee, which meets four times a year. The DLC has a hand in shaping diocesan liturgies. I'm really glad to be part of it.

In 2021 I am looking forward to taking some overdue Long Service Leave after Pentecost, although at this stage my plans for what I do with that time are unclear! I'll keep you apprised in due course.

As I said above, the majority of committees and groups have not submitted reports this year, and I hope my summary above captures the essence of this unusual version of parish life we've been living this year. Following on from my report are a handful of others:

- Finance
- Pastoral Care (including at St Vincent's Care Services)
- Prayer Chain
- Men's Breakfast
- Anglicare
- Do Justice
- Meg's Tootlers
- Book Group
- Combined Op Shop
- Parish Archives (including the Historical series mentioned above)
- LiNC
- CAVE

This year was to be the year of “Dancing to the beat of God’s heart” as Christ’s own heart of compassion was developed and grown in us, and along with it, our awareness of his presence in water, bread, and wine, and in the face of each other. I began this report with a comment on how weird the year has been, in some ways completely at odds with a vision of dancing (or being in the presence of water, bread, and wine, let alone the face of each other! Sometimes literally in the face of each other on a Zoom screen!). I know that for me there have been days through this last six months or so when the dancing took the form of stomping my feet in anger and frustration, or dragging in the dust in despair, or swaying in one spot in a swoon of sadness. But throughout I have also been repeatedly reminded and invited and drawn into God’s dance: through the opportunity to be at home and not drawn hither and thither, through an unexpected deepening in my sense of God’s presence, in the small glints of joy in seeing a familiar face on the screen, in the sudden gift of talking with a “real, live, human being!”, in the lovings of my furry companion, in new music which came effortlessly and could be shared in new online ways, in some parish meetings which have revealed the delight of the presence of the Spirit’s energies dancing among us. I am immensely grateful to be in and among the folk of St Margaret’s, and glad we have been able to dance together through this year.

I pray that as we look to 2021 we may approach it with an intent of compassion and humility, to learn from the one whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light, the one who will give rest – and a good exciting spark to get going!

Revd Keren Terpstra

2nd November 2020

All Souls’ Day

Treasurer's Report to St Margaret's 2020 Annual Meeting

I, John Humann, Honorary Treasurer at St Margaret's Eltham, present the following Annual Report to the Parish. A summary of this report was adopted by Parish Council.

You are invited to refer to the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the Financial Year ending 30th September 2020. These documents should be read in conjunction with this report.

All financial figures have been provided to you ahead of the official audit, but I believe them to be a fair and accurate representation of the overall financial position.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows we came through the year with a modest deficit of \$12,841. This was despite the reductions in rent received from the Child Care Centre at Research, as well as lower income from hall bookings.

You may recall at our last Annual Meeting I presented a budget for a deficit of \$25,176 which was partly justified by our decision to employ a Curate, and partly by our need to meet various unexpected property expenses at both Research and Eltham.

So to achieve a very much smaller deficit is a far better result than we anticipated. You can compare each of the detailed figures against budget to judge the accuracy of the forecasting, but in a year where much of what we planned was thrown into disarray, the overall picture is remarkably healthy.

Furthermore the deficit figure could have been approximately three times greater if we had relied entirely on our own income resources, which have been negatively impacted by factors associated with the mandated shutdown of activities due to COVID-19.

For example, income from hall bookings and rental from the Child Care Centre at Research was down by a combined amount of approximately \$31,000 over the year, and without external support, we would have needed to dig into our accumulated reserves to cover this shortfall.

As it is, our favourable position is due largely to receipt by the Parish of Jobkeeper allowance for each of our staff. The Jobkeeper Scheme is a Commonwealth Government initiative to subsidise the wages cost for employers, including the Melbourne Anglican Diocese, enabling employees to still be paid despite the aforementioned shutdown. Effectively this has enabled the parish to maintain many of its functions, despite income from our normal sources being vastly reduced.

And in yet another example of good fortune, the State Government allocated grants to assist organisations in Victoria to survive the economic downturn. Our Diocesan representatives helped St Margaret's to establish our eligibility and we received a grant of \$10,000. As a condition of the grant, the funds are required to be spent on improving our overall operations, and to this end we have purchased and installed audio-visual technology to film and record our church services. This also allows live-streaming of services, a capability that will be increasingly needed if St Margaret's is to meet the challenges of the next decade.

I should also mention that St Margaret's received a grant from the Diocese for the employment of our Curate, Christopher, so clearly we have been twice blessed!

An examination of the Balance Sheet confirms that our overall position has declined only marginally since 30 September 2019 to a total of \$604,995. This includes church monies invested with Anglican Development Funds, and also accounts for the deficit of \$12,841 from the past 12 months operations.

Finance Committee has developed the Budget for 2020S 21 and the outgoing Parish Council voted at the October meeting to adopt it in full. We have again budgeted for a deficit, and we have forecast a deficit similar to that budgeted last year, namely an amount of approximately \$25,000.

The main impact of the budget deficit is that we can continue employing all our current staff throughout the budget period, despite the reductions in our revenue. In other words, current staffing levels will remain unchanged, including our Vicar, Curate, Administrative Assistant, Project Officer and Maintenance Worker/General Hand. We are exceptionally fortunate to have such capable and dedicated people working in our Parish, and to be able to afford to remunerate them appropriately.

A number of other assumptions underpin this budget as follows.

On the income side, it is anticipated that planned giving and offertory will continue at the lower levels that have become the norm over the last year. Receipts from hall bookings and distributions from the Combined Churches Op Shop will certainly be lower compared with last year. However we have budgeted for increased rent from the Child Care Centre, which is reasonable given our Agreement with the operator of the business.

Overall expenses for St Margaret's, including administration and site occupation, are expected to be comparable to last year, but bookkeeping costs will be lower, due to a number of efficiencies. An amount of \$10,800 has been budgeted for routine and unexpected maintenance / capital expenditure. Mission giving remains unchanged.

We will also budget for further capital expenditure over the coming year, to align with the direction discerned by our Mission Action Team and there will be more to report on this in due course. Finally let me acknowledge the work of our Finance Committee, which meets monthly to oversee all aspects of the parish finances.

The Committee is chaired by Kathleen Toal, who continues to play a pivotal role as Vicar's Warden to ensure we are on track financially and that we make sound decisions about our financial future.

We are immensely grateful to David Pryor, who uses his considerable skills as a Management Accountant to keep track of all revenue receipts and payments made on behalf of the parish, and to supervise the day to day bookkeeping and data entry in the online MYOB accounting system.

Finally I acknowledge the work of Jennifer Round in the Parish Office. Jen is ever reliable and cheerful in dealing with the many tasks and requests asked of her by the Finance Team.

I pay tribute to Kathleen, David and Jen in their diligent and unfailing work in what has been a very difficult and worrying year, trying to keep our heads above water while surrounded by a sea of changing circumstances and uncertainties.

John Humann, Honorary Treasurer, Warden and Parish Councillor.

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham
Income and Expenditure Account (all figs \$)
for the year ended 30th September 2020

	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019
Church and Hall income						
Offertery Open Plate	\$ 16,642			\$ 15,103		
Offertery Planned Giving	<u>\$ 66,423</u>	\$ 83,065		<u>\$ 75,423</u>	\$ 90,526	
Parish Activities		\$ -			\$ 4,449	
Donations Specific		\$ 987			\$ 778	
Donations unspecific		\$ 4,456			\$ 2,038	
Contribution from the OP Shop		\$ 3,322			\$ 3,884	
Occasional service fees		\$ 2,900			\$ 500	
Grants received		\$ 8,000			\$ -	
Hall Rent		\$ 7,680			\$ 22,203	
Interest received		<u>\$ 1,813</u>			<u>\$ 1,738</u>	
Total income		<u>\$ 112,223</u>			<u>\$ 126,116</u>	
Church and Hall Expenditure						
Clergy Stipend and Allowances		\$ 172,519			\$ 134,856	
Ministry Costs		\$ 7,893			\$ 8,764	
Administration						
Salaries						
Office Clerical	\$ 31,784			\$ 33,053		
Maintenance	\$ 7,512			\$ 3,035		
Hall Admin, communications and project	\$ 5,646			\$ 6,167		
Work cover	<u>\$ 1,241</u>	\$ 46,183		<u>\$ 1,347</u>	\$ 43,602	
Telephone, internet inc installation costs	\$ 5,655			\$ 1,684		
Computer	\$ 2,440			\$ 1,759		
Bookeeping	\$ 9,121			\$ 18,391		
Archiving Expenses	\$ -			\$ 1,000		
Advertising and promotion	\$ -			\$ 4,222		
Printing, stationery and photocopying	\$ 4,217			\$ 3,090		
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 611			\$ 1,812		
Equipment rental and small items	\$ 1,992			\$ 1,992		
Sundry expenses	\$ 641			\$ 1,241		
Bad Debt	\$ 708					
Audit fee	<u>\$ 526</u>	\$ 25,911		<u>\$ 481</u>	\$ 35,672	
Parish Assessment		\$ 13,101			\$ 13,588	
Depreciation		\$ 15,190			\$ 17,765	
Property						
Water rates	\$ 3,216			\$ 4,427		
Light and heat	\$ 2,885			\$ 7,769		
Insurance	\$ 9,124			\$ 8,412		
Cleaning	\$ 6,328			\$ 11,865		
Maintenance/Site development	<u>\$ 11,978</u>	\$ 33,531		<u>\$ 34,675</u>	\$ 67,148	
Donations						
Missions	\$ 1,268			\$ 1,023		
Fellowship Mission	\$ 900			\$ 1,790		
Parish Council Allocation	<u>\$ 16,500</u>	\$ 18,668		<u>\$ 16,000</u>	\$ 18,813	
Total Expenditure		<u>\$ 332,996</u>			<u>\$ 340,208</u>	
Church and Hall deficit for the year		-\$ 220,773			-\$ 214,092	

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham
Income and Expenditure Account (all figs \$) cont.
for the year ended 30th September 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>2,019</u>	<u>\$</u> 2,019	<u>\$</u> 2,019
Investments						
Property						
Income						
Rents						
Child Centre Research	\$ 166,375				\$ 180,726	
John Street	<u>\$ 28,516</u>	\$ 194,891			<u>\$ 28,137</u>	\$ 208,863
Expenditure						
Council, water rates and insurance -John Street	\$ 2,068				\$ 2,184	
Repairs-Child centre Research	\$ -				\$ 25,298	
Parish Assessment(relating to income)	\$ 28,515				\$ 28,029	
Depreciation (John St)	\$ 1,386				\$ 1,084	
Consultancy fees	\$ -				\$ 2,500	
Repairs- John Street	\$ 748				\$ 165	
Agents fees John Street	<u>\$ 2,201</u>	<u>\$ 34,918</u>			<u>\$ 2,447</u>	<u>\$ 61,707</u>
Property surplus for the year		\$ 159,973				\$ 147,156
Endowment Funds						
Decrease in value from 1st October 2019	\$ (31,768)				\$ 8,752	
Distributions during year	<u>\$ 18,621</u>	<u>-\$ 13,147</u>			<u>\$ 18,621</u>	<u>\$ 27,373</u>
Total investment income		<u>\$ 146,826</u>				<u>\$ 174,529</u>
Deficit for the year		-\$ 73,947				-\$ 39,563
Less Jobkeeper grant		<u>\$ 61,106</u>				
Total deficit for the year		-\$ 12,841				
Accumulated Funds						
Brought forward 1st October 2019		\$ 616,675			\$ 655,452	
Add						
Accumulated funds held by Ladies Fellowship					\$ 786	
Provision for expenses no longer required	<u>\$ 1,161</u>	<u>\$ 617,836</u>			<u>_____</u>	<u>\$ 656,238</u>
Carried forward 30th September 2020		<u>\$ 604,995</u>				<u>\$ 616,675</u>

St Margarets Anglican Church Eltham

Balance Sheet

at

30th September 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>\$ 2,019</u>
Current Assets				
Cash at Bank	\$ 112,784		\$ 112,612	
Tenants bonds held	\$ 16,815		\$ 18,531	
Cash in Hand	<u>\$ 100</u>	\$ 129,699	<u>\$ 100</u>	\$ 131,243
Accounts Receivable		\$ 21,082		\$ 17,705
Security Bond		\$ 4,063		\$ 2,151
Sundry Debtors		\$ 39,835		\$ 4,000
Total Current Assets		<u>\$ 194,679</u>		<u>\$ 155,099</u>
Non Current Assets				
Fixed assets less depreciation				
Furniture Fittings and Equipment	\$ 77,435		\$ 81,795	
Office equipment leased	<u>\$ 830</u>	\$ 78,265	<u>\$ 2,822</u>	\$ 84,617
Investments at Market value		\$ 406,164		\$ 437,932
Total Non Current Assets		<u>\$ 484,429</u>		<u>\$ 522,549</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 679,108</u>		<u>\$ 677,648</u>
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,641		\$ 7,032	
Sundry Accruals	\$ 38,924		\$ 23,679	
Tenants bonds held	\$ 16,815		\$ 18,531	
Prepaid Income	\$ 9,309		\$ 9,309	
Provision for Staff entitlements	<u>\$ 6,424</u>	\$ 74,113	<u>\$ 2,422</u>	\$ 60,973
Net Assets		<u>\$ 604,995</u>		<u>\$ 616,675</u>
Represented by				
Accumulated Funds carried forward		<u>\$ 604,995</u>		<u>\$ 616,675</u>

PASTORAL CARE

This has been a particularly difficult year for the Pastoral Care Team to make a lot of difference to those in need of care due to COVID and several other unexpected events. It has been good to welcome Mary Lynton-Moll as the new coordinator of the Prayer chain where she has communicated with the chain with great messaging and words of care.

Sometime ago our target was to have two representatives from all three congregations which we no longer achieve and thus we rely heavily on Revd. Keren's really good recall of what is happening in the lives of many in need of help or a visit.

The dedicated mobile 'phone for 24/7 contact with the phone number which is on the fridge magnet cards which were widely distributed is now in the cable hands of Christopher should people or their relatives or visitors, need to contact the clergy and/or the PCTeam

A regular item on the agenda when the team meets on the first Thursday of each month is Confidentiality. It is central to our being there to listen and offer care. So if someone for the team talks to you it is correct to assume the conversation will go no further, unless you have dropped a phrase or formally expressed that you don't mind others knowing. Sometimes with your permission we can get specific help ranging from a meal, transport or Home Communion or contact with a welfare resource.

At the monthly meeting, the team meets to review the pastoral care needs of the ongoing contacts, adding new contacts, all in strict confidence. There are presently 42 people with needs on the contact list, a few more than last year. The list is divided into primary and 'watching brief' sections. Sadly several people have been taken off the list as they have moved into God's permanent care. Notable amongst them, was long and faithful serving member of our congregation the always positive Joan Bateman. Others are mentioned in the Vicars report.

The team's seminar for this year about dementia support was changed to on-line but eventually postponed to next year as we could not find a way to involve those who for various reasons could not attend on-line.

On the second Wednesday of the month, members of the team visit the Eltham Retirement Centre, now operated by St. Vincent's Care Services, to celebrate Holy Communion offered by Robert Street as well as visiting various residents in the community. This was terminated quite early in 2020 for COVID security and other reasons. More details are in the report that follows.

We continue to pass on to Jen in the office those changes we discover for the Parish Directory. We urge those who do make changes to telephone nos. and addresses to inform her for the keep the directory updated. As we tend to be the group most 'out and about' and find contacts changing, we will continue to have an interest in ensuring accurate updates for the list.

Until we were COVID locked down in April, the regular monthly Parish Pub Lunch is very well supported with an average attendance of over 22 from across all congregations, thanks to Mitzi Tuke's organisation. We note our thanks to Mitzi for doing this and other care for several years as a member of the team and acknowledge with regret that she has resigned from the team to take up other challenges. We were excited that Jenny Gillett became able to join the team and what fun it is to lighten meetings with her humour as well as support. Also reviewed monthly by the team is Men's Breakfast and progress with the Prayer Chain.

We are hopeful **next year** to return to the 'new normal' for the team, and complete our review of what we do, as this was postponed. It was expected that Revd Christopher's appointment as pastoral assistant would have facilitated this. Instead he has been an excellent carer as part of the team and leader when Revd Keren has been unavailable. We know from feedback, that the regular calls from the clergy team in addition to our calls have made a great difference especially to the many who can't join us on-line. But we need to get back to visiting.

If you know of someone in need of a telephone call or visit by one of the Pastoral Care Team, please let us know. We are not always aware of someone's illness, accident, hospitalisation or other need and we do want to be able to function to the best of our ability. We are here to engage in the development of pastoral skills for the benefit and effectiveness of the parish of St. Margaret's

The team is Revds. Keren and Christopher, Fr Robert, Adrienne, Harry, Helen, MaryAnn, Jenny and Rae.

Harry Watson Secretary, Pastoral Care Team Nov 2020

Pastoral Care at Saint Vincent's Care Services (formerly Eltham Retirement Village)

Team members involved as Pastoral Care Visitors are Robert Brazenor, Adrienne and Harry Watson (and Marduk the dog until he died in January). After we set up at 1.30 pm, Fr Robert Street caringly leads us on the second Wednesday of the month, in a 2.30 pm Communion Service. We visit residents individually on the fourth Wednesdays, from 1.30 to about 5 pm. An additional prayer service is held if there is a 5th Wednesday of the month, for some of the residents who are cared for in the four cottages which form the Lodge (the nursing home). Most are immobile or in wheel chairs and therefore require support to take them to the Chapel. In the past church year there were two services only due to difficulties, a 'flu lock-down' in February followed by the COVID lockdown which continues. This included the extra pre-Christmas service and we are grateful to Fr Robert for leading us in worship.

2020 has still been a time of significant challenge and anxiety for residents, staff and volunteers, because of the pandemic. Whilst we have only managed two services and visits since last Christmas, all contact has not been lost. There are seven members of our past congregation at St Vincent's Care Services and those who are able have been contacted by 'phone. Moreover, the Parish has been a major source of cards of care and love to almost thirty residents on a regular basis since May. Many thanks to Helen C, Elizabeth A, Mary LM, MaryAnn W, Sally P, Rae K, Mandy S, Betty C and Harry and myself for this significant support. Many residents have acknowledged the benefit of receiving these cards and two of the senders have received letters of thanks from the residents' families. One card's information led to an invitation to Bettine Gorst's funeral and nominating Fr Robert to be the celebrant at Diamond Creek Uniting Church when their minister was ill.

We acknowledge the cooperation and care of Janet Dyon, who briefly took over as Pastoral Associate at the village before being replaced by Mr Jean Pierre. Both are great care givers and advisers of changes: new residents, illnesses and deaths and relocation of residents to greater care facilities within the retirement village, so that we are aware of who might appreciate a pastoral visit. In 2020 we only managed one service between 1st and second wave lockdowns, and although we were limited initially to 7 residents on the day we were allowed the 13 who wanted to attend, compliant with the changed policy which Jean had negotiated.

It will be really good to return to normality for these attendees, who receive a personalized blessing from Fr Robert as well as communion delivered by the PCT helpers. And of course, to participate in singing old familiar hymns, which visually appears to bring great joy and peace of mind.

There were only five 'visiting Wednesdays' so far this church year, we see some people in the cottages but mainly we talk with residents in Willandra, sometimes in their rooms or in the lounge/dining room area. We also visit Warratah, the closed unit, which is home to those people with dementia who need more specialized care. As volunteers, we go primarily to listen with empathy and it is a great privilege to hear snippets of people's life stories. Typically, about 20-30 residents are involved in conversation for a few minutes to half an hour. The topics often include health, the news, family and past travel and work experiences. With those we know well, whose memories are failing, we reminisce and remind them of past events in their lives, which often illicit big smiles and laughter. During the year about five of the regular service attendees and others visited, have died.

The St Margaret's pastoral care team (including Robert Brazenor) come away enriched by the resident's wisdom and confidence in us and by the care and thanks received from a number of staff members. Your continued prayers for God's work at SVCS are valued and needed.

Adrienne Watson

Contact with SVCS for Pastoral Care

PRAYER CHAIN

I have been a part of this group for almost 12 months now and I want to thank all of you on the Prayer Chain, for your love and care and diligence in praying for all the many requests and to hear from time to time how our prayers have been fulfilled.

We have had regular requests throughout the year, which is wonderful to know that our parishioners and beyond are reaching out to us.

Mary Lynton-Moll

Prayer Chain coordinator

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast is planning to celebrated its 22nd birthday in January. It continues to fulfill the original role, which began in 1998, of bringing men together to share food and friendship and to provide mutual support in difficult times as well as being an outlet for personal matters that often are overlooked.

Attendance numbers have ranged from 9 to 14 at breakfast but averaging about 10 when we went (COVID changed) to on-line for Men's Chat at 9 am instead of 8.30 on the first and (additional) third Saturday of the month. So about a little down on last year. Disappointingly none of the four Christian Syrians from the "Judge Book" site were able to join the on-line version. This was in response to discussion with the Do Justice Group and facilitated by Helen Robertson and her contact Vicki. We plan to review this once we are back to some normality, likely by February.

We recall being thankful to all who created and maintain the wonderful kitchen which really is a terrific facility for food preparation and cooking. Getting the drawer rollers fixed by Graham C has made a big difference in accessing plates etc. and we have last mastered the dish washing preparation to get the plates grease free in one two minute wash.

We have substituted formal presentations by a show and tell session once a month or so on Zoom. There have been a few interesting scenes in trying to arrange the object in the right place to show! Nonetheless Christopher and Rodney took us on some external tours where we saw amongst many things the mono-cycle and the lambs being fattened (for the table?).

At the end of last year, we acknowledged to former member of MBs at a communion service led by Fr Robert at the December breakfast at which each of the ten was recognized by name

Thanks to several people in managing absences from the food preparation roster organized by Ross. Thanks too, to and for all the cooks and caterers John H, John F, Colin, Geoff, Bryan T, Brian H, Rodney, Harry and Robert.

All men and boys in the Parish and their friends are welcome at men's breakfast on-line. We can now cater for FODMAP. You don't have to come with a story or a problem but if you have one, we would love you to share it.

Harry Watson

Convener of MB for Pastoral Care

ANGLICARE (AVPG) ANNUAL REPORT, 2020

At the very beginning of 2020 several member visited Box Hill Anglican Church where the Sudanese Homework Club was being run. We gave them the school items that had been donated by parishioners in January.

Then the Covid19 shutdowns started and apart from one meeting we have not met as a group since then.

However the work of Anglicare Victoria in helping the unemployed and homeless has continued and we have helped the organisation by having two food drives. Parishioners were extremely generous in their donations. We have also had two collections of handmade (sewn, knitted and crocheted) clothes and rugs which have been much appreciated. Recently Anglicare's Broadmeadows Women's Centre put out pleas for shoes and we were able to provide 110 pairs of shoes (donated by a shoe-shop owner!)

Finally we will be having a food collection for St Margaret's Feast Day. St Margaret, who became the Queen of Scotland, is the patron saint of orphans and homeless people in honour of her work in helping these distressed people.

We support the actions taken by the Do Justice Group to have the brazier we were promised installed in a Yarning Circle in the church grounds.

We have only had one meeting this year but parishioners have shown a similar caring spirit that St Margaret herself showed.

Jenny Disney Leader, Jo Norman Treasurer

DO JUSTICE GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Do Justice Group has had monthly meetings on Zoom since the start of the Covid19 restrictions.

This year we have written the Disability Policy which should be able to take effect when church services resume.

We have reviewed the Pathways to Reconciliation document, and are thrilled to be planning for the Yarning Circle in the church grounds. Meeting with Wurundjeri Elders has helped us with understanding their needs. Obtaining a grant from the Nillumbik Shire Council will enable us to lay the physical foundations for the circle during 2021. In October we held a Zoom event with Gary Presland speaking about the life style of the Wurundjeri peoples who lived in the area before the coming of the white man. Only a small number of the 70 people who watched were parishioners and many wrote to us, complimenting us on our efforts.

The Group has 7 members with each of the main services having at least one representative. We thank both Keren and Christopher for their support.

**Jenny Disney
Leader.**

Meg's Tootlers.

We have not met this year apart from a couple of sessions early in February . . .(if I remember correctly).

Regular Monday morning Zoom meetings have sufficed this year!

So apart from staying in contact, nothing to report.

It seems likely that we will not meet for a 'blow' until next year.

Catherine Pearson

St Margaret's Book Group

The book group is in its eleventh year – and what a year it's been! Some people have been with the group from the beginning, but it has been lovely to welcome new faces over the years. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the evening and use books supplied in kits by the Eltham Library. If you are interested in joining, please contact Helen Coutts.

Things started well after the last AGM. Some of the books we read were 'The Light Between Oceans' by M.L.Stedman, 'The Dust That Falls from Dreams' by Louis De Bernieres and 'The Good Parents' by Joan London. We had a lovely Christmas Party in Dendy House in December and shared some great dishes.

Then, from April onwards, we haven't been able to meet together, hug or share a meal. At first we thought it wouldn't be long before we could meet in person, but we got going with Zoom meetings which most people are able to attend. Keren set up our meeting using the St Margaret's licence so we are not restricted to the 40 minutes for personal meetings. Since we all know each other well by now, the meetings are interesting and enjoyable.

Getting books from the library has been a bit difficult, and the book we had over the long lockdown was one we'd had before. We tend to talk about how folk are getting on, what they've been reading, what films they've seen or TV programs they've found interesting. Most people really enjoyed 'The Salisbury Poisonings'.

The lovely thing has been 'keeping in touch' and the kindness of members. Some people have dropped off books they've read - to others who needed something to read – or left them with me in a box to 'swap or take'. It's also been lovely to chat on the phone and relieve the isolation. As with other activities at St Margaret's we have found that the community is still flourishing and 'caring and sharing' continues.

Helen Coutts

Combined Churches Opportunity Shop

Report to St Margaret's Anglican Church

This year the shop operated for 7 weeks only, closing all trading in the middle of March.

We, like all other op shops are hoping to resume in 2021.

So our takings for 2019, after expenses, were \$21679.

Funds were distributed as follows:

St Margaret's	\$3322
Uniting Church	\$3322
CAVE	\$4000
LINC	\$2000
Wattle Glen CFA	\$3000
Diamond Creek CFA	\$3000
Nillumbik SES	\$1500
Riding for Disabled	\$1500
Bushfire Relief	\$2500
Warriors for Wildlife	\$1500
TOTAL	\$25644.

It has been decided by the committee that at our next AGM, we will hold and carry over the small amount in our funds to start 2021 trading.

Report submitted by Lyn Clements.

2020 Annual Report Parish Historian and Parish Archivist

Saint Margaret's Archives

I have reported annually for the last nine years that classification and storage of our archives continues at a slow pace. During Covid 19 nothing much could be undertaken concerning the archives.

Anything of historical interest regarding the parish is welcome. Especially welcome are photographs, down the ages, but please annotate on the back the event, date and identify any persons. We not only hold records relevant to Eltham but also Research, Montmorency and Panton Hill.

The parish gets a number of inquiries that involves researching the archives. Commonly these are requests for details related to a marriage or a baptism. However other inquires relate to an event or a particular clergyperson or layperson. These requests are responded to promptly.

A Record of Series has been compiled under various headings and this list about 65% of all documents residing in the archive rooms. It is available upon request. The archives location is the right back room of Dendy House. It shares the room with the Love in the Name of Christ (LINC) interdenominational organisation. It also has a cupboard with bookcases in the new section of Dendy House

I would welcome any parishioners who are willing to assist with archival tasks. Please contact me if you wish to take up this ministry opportunity.

Stories from the Shire

During the time when Covid restrictions had eased I was contacted by Geoff Paine who was recording stories concerning the Shire of Nillumbik. I met with him and we recorded a successful short video about the history of Saint Margaret's as part of this series. It featured many of the important aspects of Saint Margaret's including the 1861 Urie and Ferguson windows, the Bell and Bell Turret and the Matcham Skipper Crucifix.

Anglican Historical Society

The Anglican Historical Society (AHS) – Diocese of Melbourne usually meets (face-to-face every third Wednesday of the month at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Hotham Street East Melbourne at 6.30pm. I am vice-president of the society. Because most members lack technical expertise on Zoom this year meetings were not held. However a presentation I was due to give on Elizabeth I was given over Zoom in conjunction with Saint Margaret's. Those members of the AHS who can use Zoom joined the presentation. Some continued at our invitation to join presentations in the Saint Margaret's Online Series 1 and 2.

Saint Margaret's Online Series

During the Pandemic I offered twelve presentations delivered on the Zoom platform. All had pleasing attendances. They were:

- 1 Our Worship Space and its Religious Artefacts
- 2 The Pioneer Period: The Establishment of Saint Margaret's
- 3 Henry Dendy and the Revd. Robert Mackie
- 4 The Denominational School and the Parochial and Sunday School Libraries
- 5 Two Notable Vicars: the Revds. Sapsford and Warner
- 6 Children's and Youth Ministries
- 7 Saint Margaret of Scotland
- 8 Two Notable Vicars: The Revds. Tolhurst and Dowling
- 9 Saint Faith's Montmorency
- 10 Two Notable Vicars: The Revds. Mappin and Rogers
- 11 The Church of The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Research
- 12 Saint Margaret's and the Great European War and Spanish Pandemic

In addition a presentation on Elizabeth I was under the auspices of the Anglican Historical Society and Saint Margaret's.

Conservation of Important Archival Material

There remains a need to undertake work to conserve some of our important archival material. I intend during 2021 to request again an annual budget be voted for this work.

Dr Geoffrey A Sandy

Parish Historian and Parish Archivist

11 October 2020

LinC Report for St. Margaret's AGM

Covid 19 has impacted on the services LinC usually provides. We have not been able to use the Referral Centre for clients to ring in requests for transport to doctors etc. Driving clients was also prohibited.

We overcame this by working with the Diamond Valley Community Support Centre. Through them we were able to supply 12 backpacks of emergency supplies and information to homeless youth in Nillumbik and Banyule.

This year we decided we would prepare 20 Christmas gift vouchers worth \$50.00 each instead of the usual hampers we prepare with donated food and money from the churches. These gift vouchers would be distributed by the Diamond Valley Community Support Centre to families in Nillumbik and Banyule.

A special thank-you to the Combined Churches Op-shop for their financial help. Next year we hope to continue with the backpacks, open the Referral Centre and go back to packing Christmas hampers. We are also in need of new members to help with the volunteer work LinC does.

Diana Warrell

CAVE (Community and Volunteers of Eltham Inc.)

Our meetings have been held using Zoom and we are pleased to say we welcomed 2 new committee members – Lesley Owen and Kerri Hart. We were sorry to lose Carolyn Stevenson and thank her for the work she did.

We did not receive many requests from secondary schools because of the checkered nature of school attendance due to Covid 19. However, we still contacted 21 primary schools in the area to invite them to participate in the Judith Ireland Studentship award program (worth \$500 per winner at each school). It was greeted with enthusiasm with schools indicating it would be welcomed by many families.

Thank -you to all our supporters from St Margaret's, Eltham Rural Group, The Op=shop, Eltham Rotary, The Lions Clubs, and Diamond Valley Railway. We know your events have been curtailed by the pandemic. Let's hope 2021 is different.

Diana Warrell (Secretary CAVE)