

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
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St Margaret's Prayer for 2019

Lord, teach us to pray.

Teach us to listen to your voice and to hear your word.

Teach us to offer our hearts to you in love and to know your love.

Teach us to forgive and be forgiven.

Teach us to give our lives in your service and to do your will.

Teach us to pray, and pray in us Lord Jesus.

Amen

Parish Council Planning for the Next years

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Parish Council had a long, tiring but very productive planning day on Saturday the 19th Jan. We met at All Saints Church in Greensborough and spent the day re-shaping the Growth Intentions that came out of our whole church planning two years ago (run by Jan Crombie). We identified what we had accomplished from the plan in the past year and what was still to be done. We then looked at key themes that we felt were important going forward and scripture verses that guided these themes from Ephesians and Romans .

Next, Council developed new Vision and Mission statements and actions to achieve these. We will be seeking feedback shortly from everyone and from small groups in the parish before we approve the final version of our action plan so that hopefully there is a sense that the plan is owned by us all . Thanks to Keren for supplying lovely food to nourish us through the day.

Mandy Stevens

Please Help at The Garage Sale

- Please help to set up from 2.00 Friday
- Come and serve, many tasks ok for all ages.
- Please help clear up after 1.00.
- Remember cakes, jams and marmalades make the best money
- **ALL PROCEEDS TOWARD THE LANDSCAPEING OF THE CHILDREN/MEETING AREA.**

Sally Petty 0407-543-532

Community Event
St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Garage & Goodies Sale

Saturday March 2

9.00am - 1.00pm

79-81 Pitt Street Eltham

home made cakes, biscuits, jams, sauces,
marmalade, books, furniture, bric a brac

All Excellent Value



For more information: Phone 9439 9238

www.stmargaretseltham.org.au



Prayer Focus in 2019

This year at St Margaret's we are focusing on the theme of prayer, inviting us into learning about prayer, learning to pray, and deepening our experience of God's goodness in prayer. Here are some of the opportunities coming up:

World Day of Prayer – Friday 1st March, 10:30am at Our Lady's Eltham

We join with people from other churches on Friday 1st March at 10:30am to pray for the people of the world.

Lent Reflection Booklet

A number of folk have been invited to contribute to the Lent Reflection Booklet. Last year we used a Catholic resource which had daily reflections. Many people expressed positivity about this, although sometimes the reflections didn't quite hit the mark. This year we thought we'd do something similar, only with reflections on prayer produced by St Margaret's people.

Intercessors' workshop on 23rd March, 1-3pm

Every so often it's good to touch in with some training. This workshop will be for anyone who leads, or who would like to lead the communal prayers in our services. We'll explore how to craft intercessions, drawing on the readings of the day, and different approaches, patterns, and styles of leading prayer.

The Lord's Prayer – Lent series

Through Lent, Keren will be doing a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, digging deeper into these so familiar and much-loved words. If you miss one of the sermons, they will be available on the website for download.

Easter prayers

Those who haven't been invited to (or for whatever reason didn't) contribute to the Lent booklet will be invited to write a short reflection about prayer. These will be presented through Easter season.

Thy Kingdom Come 30th May – 9th June

Two years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury designated the week between Sunday after Ascension and Pentecost as a week of global prayer for the church and that God will grow it in its ministry and mission, touching hearts the world over. This year we'll join the wave of prayer, which begins on the evening of 30th May with a service at the Cathedral.

Pentecost Prayer

The week between Pentecost and Trinity Sunday is designated as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We'll be hosting an ecumenical service on the evening of Pentecost June 9th.

Parish Midwinter Prayer Day – 29th June

Last year we had a Midwinter Day of prayer for the parish. This year we're repeating this day: an opportunity for the parish to gather to hold before God both those things that are on our hearts, as well as to pray for the ministry and mission of the church.

Praying for our community – March and July

In March and July, the vicar and others will be spending some time in Eltham Town Centre and at surrounding businesses, and inviting local folk to offer prayer requests, which will then be offered at the Sunday services on the following Sunday. Those who submit the requests will be invited to come along on the day we offer those prayers.

Praying for our neighbours near and far

Last year's Prayer Buddies will continue seasonally. And as an addition, four times this year we'll be invited to bring a prayer request from a friend or neighbour (and maybe even the friend or neighbour!).

Understanding the Great Thanksgiving

The Eucharist (Greek for "thanksgiving") is essentially a prayer. Our whole service of worship is a corporate expression of prayer and praise to God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. In late June and early July the vicar will present a series of four services/sermons explaining the bits and pieces, the whys and wherefores of the service.

Services of Lament – 7th April and 3rd November

Throughout the scriptures lament goes alongside rejoicing. It's important that we have times and seasons for mourning and repenting, as well as for celebrating and rejoicing in God's goodness. When we lament, we join our own sorrow to the sorrow of others, and on behalf of a world in need of God's peace and reconciliation. The service of lament on 7th April will have a Lenten focus, an opportunity to engage in repentance. The service on the 3rd November will be one focussing on remembering our loved ones who have died, an All Souls commemoration as well as healing service. The theme of lament and allowing space for the solidarity with suffering also accords with the Diocesan Vision.

Revd Keren Terpstra

Prayer 2019

Lord, teach us to pray.

**Teach us to listen to your voice
and to hear your word.**

**Teach us to offer our hearts to you in love
and to know your love.**

**Teach us to forgive
and be forgiven.**

**Teach us to give our lives in your service
and to do your will.**

**Teach us to pray,
and pray in us, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Farewell to Margie Dahl

On Sunday 27th January, and on Wednesday 30th January we farewelled Margie Dahl, whose ministry with us has come to an end.



Margie started attending St Margaret's in Lent 2017, and quickly became involved in the Do Justice group. Her passion for social justice, and her care for the oppressed and needy spurred our involvement in a number of ventures, and contributed to shaping our approach to the development of the Reconciliation Action Plan. Margie's advocacy for Act for Peace led to the Shrove Tuesday pancake night, raising funds for those affected by flooding in Bangladesh, and an incredible effort on Margie and Jeff's part in baking goodies to sell along with the Gifts for Peace in Advent 2018.

Margie began to discern a call to ministry in the Anglican Church, and at the same time, our Vision Plan 2017 called for someone to be employed to initiate some ministries to children and families. Margie joined the staff to take this discernment further, and to assist the vicar with pastoral ministry. In the time she was with us, Margie visited a great number of folk on the fringes, following through the parish roll, and keeping in touch with those who aren't able to get to church. Many have valued her gentle visiting and listening presence. Margie also convened a group to work towards implementing some ministries to children and families. The time with this group showed that we needed to gauge where our wider community is at,

and so Margie enthusiastically and comprehensively engaged in a needs analysis which has given an excellent snapshot of the needs of children and families in our area.

Margie has been enthusiastic in promoting St Margaret's, and joined the Communications Team, producing banners for the sign at the front of the church, and a quantity of flyers advertising our various activities and interests as a parish, which were included in showbags given out at various Do Justice events, and at the Children's Christmas Service.

The Children's Christmas Service was a great event, shaped and prepared by Margie along with a host of volunteer helpers. Margie capably involved the majority of the parish in producing the showbags, which included Christmas Tree decorations reflecting the story told in the service itself. A huge effort!

With the completion of the needs analysis, and Parish Council's Re-Visioning of the 2017 Vision Plan, our parish is now moving in a different direction, and the vicar, wardens, and parish council are discerning the right staffing to support this new direction. In any ministry relationship there is much to learn; Margie's time with us has given us much food for thought and reflection about how ministry relationships work. Margie's contract came to an end on 31st January; we give thanks for the gifts she brought and shared with us in her time at St Margaret's, and pray many blessings for her as she continues to discern where God is calling her.

Revd Keren and Wardens

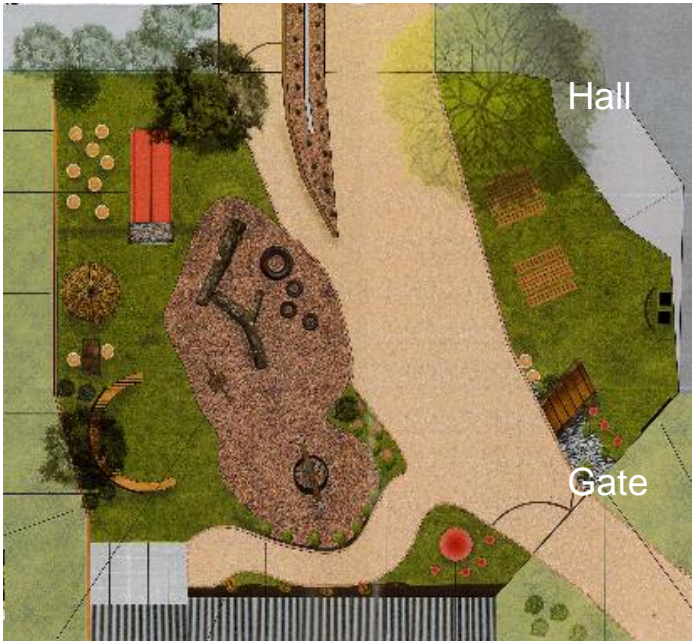
Reminder Interment of Ashes



Our farewell to Gary in October 2018

The ashes of Gary Toal, late husband of our vicar's warden, Kathleen, will be interred after the 10 am service in the Memorial Garden this Sunday Feb 10th. Please join us in supporting the family at the service in the garden.

Landscaping at last



Have you viewed the landscaping behind the hall?

Above is the plan of what you can see in progress for the multi-purpose play and entertaining area

Results -- Preferred Combined Service Time

Results from the January Survey
Thanks to all who participated.

Service Attended by Respondents	Preferred Time for Combined Service			Totals
	9.00	9.30	Other (all suggested) 10.00	
Sunday 8 am	13	5	4	22
Sunday 10 am	6	23	2	31
Wednesday 10.30 am	2	5	1	8
Not stated			1	1
Totals	21	33	8	62

Shaded area is number of people

Conclusion of the 62 respondents **41 preferred 9.30 or later**

Noting that all 8 people who nominated 10 am for the service had to suggest a time for 'other' on the voting paper.

At this stage Parish Council has not discussed these results but will make a decision about them at the February meeting. The March edition of PM will include its decision.

If people have further reflections in the light of the outcome, perhaps they could put a note in the drop box, for collation and consideration at the February meeting. As one wise person said to me you should have asked why people made their choice!

Harry Watson

LinC Hampers

Just before Christmas 2018 LinC (Love in the name of Christ) volunteers packed 21 hampers and one backpack (given to a homeless teenager). As we had committed our supplies for these 22 hampers which were to be given to families, the disabled, teenager and the elderly identified by Health Ability as needy recipients we felt we could not accommodate the request we received for more hampers to be prepared for refugees living locally. However, the Good Lord had other ideas! A chance meeting by me with Phyllis Somerville a retired LinC worker led to the sort of conversations one has in supermarkets. We talked about LinC hampers and when packing was going to happen. On that day after we had packed our 22 hampers in walked Phyllis and her husband with boxes and boxes of food! We were able to help the refugees and an asylum seeker after all.

9 shopping bags of goodies were delivered to refugees. Boxes of chocolates went to 13 other refugees and the asylum seeker. 3 shopping bags went to Diamond Creek Uniting Church to be given away at their free Christmas dinner celebration. Thanks to Jenny Disney who organized the packing and delivery of these. Thanks too to Jo Norman who took what was left for St. Marks Fitzroy. It was truly the love of Christ at work.

Thanks too must go to Pam Macintyre, Maree Gregory, The Trinham family (mum and dad and their two adult children) Liam Staff, Vass Sipsi and Joan Smith who packed the original 22 LinC Christmas hampers. Thanks also to those who delivered these hampers – Robert Street, Jo and Graham Norman, Maree Gregory, Elizabeth and Geoff Millgate, Liam Staff, Vass Sipsi. Thanks to the people who donated money so generously. Thanks too to Ann Hutchinson and Diana Warrell for buying the food (Ann) and setting up the tables of bought and donated food, providing the names for each hamper recipient and checking all were collected and delivered. Health Ability has expressed their gratitude to LinC for delivering the hampers as many recipients don't have the means to collect these hampers themselves.

I am sure all these people felt the Spirit of Christ at work and whose birthday we were to celebrate on Christmas Day. Their actions gave Hope that there are people who care, and the future will be brighter. We encourage others to join LinC (A registration form can be picked up from the St. Margaret's office,) to help plan and develop the new ways we are investigating to help people in our community.

Diana Warrell

Upcoming Do Justice Activity

The first meeting for 2018 will be held on Saturday 9th February. First on the agenda will be two items about indigenous culture. We will also be considering how we can cope with climatic changes, care of refugees, (both locally and nationally.) and making St Margaret's a place that is welcoming to people with disabilities.

Last summer the Ian Potter art gallery held an exhibition by indigenous artists. This summer the NVG shows some of its paintings from the Great Western Desert of Western Australia. Taking pride of place is a 6.7metre long painting by Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarra and Tim Leura. Multiple Dreamings are incorporated into a storybook landscape. The painting chronicles the dispossession of one tribe who were expelled from their ancestral homes following the establishment of a pastoral lease it and the 100 Other paintings and wood carvings are well worth seeing.

The exhibition is on until March and open every day. Well worth a visit.

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month 9.30 to 11.45 around the Round Table in Dendy House.

Jenny Disney

Eltham AVPG Report

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

Firstly thank you to all the parishioner who bought Christmas cards (all proceeds are sent into headquarters to aid the work of Anglicare) and bought items for the Activity Packs which were packaged in the first week of February. These packs will be taken to Fitzroy for distribution by Anglicare's Mission House to dis-advantaged children whose parents come in for counselling or foodstuff.

There are two events we are organizing this year should be noted in diaries.

1. June 18th a speaker from the **Buldau Yiooghen 'Big Dreams' Youth Leadership Academy** will be coming to speak on the mentoring of young indigenous people. A year ago, our group sent \$600 to support their work.

2. August 20th **Blumes**, the mobile ladies clothes shop, will bring their collection to Eltham

Schemes that provide young people with experience to help equip them to finding jobs.

At the December Anglicare meeting two schemes were discussed They were not provided by Anglicare but may be of use to parishioners.

- **White Goods: Kids off the Kerb** Phone 9982 5600 for information about collection of white goods that can be refurbished and recycled.
- **Cars. Kids Under Cover** Money from the donation of cars is used to provide relocatable studios for homeless young people Ph 9429 7444

Help in the garden, house.

A member of MASSG((Pam Mobile 0427 110 837) is able to put you in touch with some refugees wanting work. She can suggest a suitable payment and suggests that you work with the person in order to teach them skills they might not have.

Coralie Carew speaks highly of the Kids Under Cover organisation and the help she had in the garden from a refugee.

Jenny Disney

Wise Faithfull - Pat Ballard

From time to time Parish Matters has the privilege to tell the story of long-time church members.

Pat Ballard is a true local. She has lived in the area of Briar Hill and Eltham most of her life, and her home is but a stone's throw from the family home and 40-acre farm where they kept chickens, pigs and cows. In those days, Briar Hill was all paddocks, and the boundary of the family property was approximately aligned with St Helena Road.



Pat was born in 1927 and she went to school at Eltham Higher Elementary, where Eltham High School is now, and which provided schooling up to grade 10. Pat tells the story of riding her bike to school along Sherbourne Road which was a dirt road, one rainy morning. She remembers the lovely new fawn tweed coat she was wearing when she skidded on wet gravel. Suddenly she flew straight over the handlebars and landed in the mud. What else was she to do but get back on to her bike and continue on to school? Getting on with life in the face of adversity was an article of faith that was to stand Pat in good stead at a number of points later on.

At the age of fourteen, Pat went to work in the city. She had several jobs over the course of these years and she learned how to operate the adding machine at an American company, Burrows, that ran a school for teaching the ledger machine. It was the time of World War II, and Pat would go out to dancing halls after work with small groups of girlfriends. There were dancing halls in St Kilda, Ivanhoe and Collins Street and there, they would meet boys. "The dance halls were nothing fancy", Pat said, "we were working people". Many young men were at the war, but there was a fluid population of soldiers, coming and going from leave. It was at the dance hall in St Kilda that she met Ken from Coburg, who was to become her husband.

Pat and Ken married in 1948. There was very little new housing available. Virtually nothing had been constructed during the war, so they built a bungalow on Pat's mum and dad's property. When Pat's parents later moved to St Helena, Pat and Ken, who by this time had baby Geoffrey, moved in with them. In great Australian tradition, Pat's dad built in the veranda for extra living space. The young family lived there until 1951 when they moved into a new house in Briar Hill. The house had modern conveniences – newly installed town water was a luxury and bliss (even if they had to pay for the pipes), there was an inside bathroom, and there was power (they had to contribute for the infrastructure). Ken also insisted on Pat having a washing machine, though Pat had protested and said she wouldn't need it! These were the home building years. Baby Anne arrived in 1951, Chris in 1953 and Peter in 1956.

A person's faith journey interweaves through their life events, sometimes a well-defined focus in their life, other times there, but not so prominent. Pat's family of origin was not religious, but as a girl, she started attending the Girls Friendly Society at All Saints in Greensborough, where they did bible studies and participated in social activities. She attended services at All Saints and was involved in concerts. Being musical, she particularly enjoyed Carols by Candlelight at the home of Dr Cordner, who was the choir master at All Saints.

All of the children attended Sunday School at St Faith's in Montmorency. By this time, the family had moved, and when the very early years of having babies were behind them, Pat and Ken became regular and active parishioners at St Faith's. Ken became the organist on the push-pedal organ. Pat took on various roles on the St Faith's vestry. She held numerous positions – among them, treasurer, warden, communion assistant and reader. She was a very involved participant in the parish life of St Faith's.

In the 1970's, the family moved to Eltham. In 1984, Pat and Ken moved to Mount Eliza. The children had left home by this time, and Ken had a boat which he enjoyed. Pat recounts that they also enjoyed their experience of parish life there. However, they returned to their original local area in 1988, (living in Greensborough this time), to be closer to family and they resumed former friendships and parish life at St Faith's. By the time St Faith's closed in 2007, Pat had been a parishioner there for 50 years. A group of about 40 from St Faith's moved to St Margaret's Church in Eltham in 2007. Pat alludes to the sense of regret, sadness and loss of history she experienced at this time, but in the spirit of getting on with things, she embraced this new stage in her faith journey, and took on positions in vestry. She was also in the choir. She retired from involvement in ministries at St Margaret's in 2016.

Pat's family has been struck by tragedy. In 2004, daughter Anne died at age 52 from a brain tumour after having been diagnosed a short time before. In 2003, Peter the youngest, was diagnosed also with a brain tumour and in 2008 he died. Pat's philosophy, which she shares with a close friend, of having courage and getting on with things in adversity, stood her in good stead at this difficult time.

Nowadays, an ecumenical fellowship group, which ranges in number from eight to sixteen members, continues to meet once a month over prayer and afternoon tea, in members' private homes. Twice a year the fellowship group organises luncheons in St Margaret's Hall for the larger community of St Margaret's and the Uniting Church, and the members of the group do all the catering.

Throughout our chat about the landmarks in Pat's life, I have had a strong sense of having had a peep into yesteryear. As I leave, I notice three photo portraits in a triptych frame on the piano amongst all the other smaller photos and ornaments. I ask about them. The portraits are of Anne, Ken and Peter. Pat glances away and the moment hangs in the air for an instant. Then I take my leave. Pat has an appointment shortly for which she mustn't be late. In good spirit she is living her sustaining faith of getting on with things.

Mitzi Tuke.

Memorable Events

Marjorie's 100th Birthday

The Parish was invited to celebrate Marjorie's 100th Birthday after the morning service on January 13th. The images which follow tell the story of Marjorie's participation and blessing at the morning service and the cake cutting in front of a very large following of friends.



Congratulations again Marjorie and thanks to her daughter Helen for arranging the great occasion and Marg Sandy for the cake and all who helped.

Black Saturday Bushfire Memorial Service



On Thursday 7th February we gathered outside the church under the oak tree for a short memorial service commemorating 10 years since the Black Saturday bushfires. Keren opened the service by an acknowledgement of country, and named the areas affected by the fires: Strathewen, Marysville,

Kinglake, Kinglake West, Narbethong, Flowerdale, and St Andrews. Clem Taplin, who was involved in ministry at the time of the fires, read the parable of the mustard seed, and offered a reflection. We remembered those who died, and prayed for those whose lives were forever changed by the fires, also thinking of those who at this time are suffering from fires, drought, and floods.



Those who attended, including MP Vicki Ward, Cnr Peter Clarke, representatives from Eltham College, the CFA, and Red Cross, were invited to tie yellow ribbons to the oak tree: a symbol of strength, new life, growth, and hope.

A huge thank you to Kathleen Toal who organised the service, and to her team of helpers who assisted in setting up and packing down, and in providing a sumptuous supper.

Revd Keren

**Images from Parish website
Diana Warrell, Harry Watson and Liz Pryor
Ed this edition Harry Watson**