

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

Joining in Lenten Prayer and Actions

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The wisdom of the Christian way revolves around the shape of Jesus' life.

During Holy Week we journey with Jesus, following the pattern of his life, death and resurrection.

Come and join with us and Christians throughout the ages, who have felt the intimacy of fellowship on Thursday, the suffering of death on Friday and the joy of hope on Sunday.

These "Great Three Days" are central to the Christian life. We pray that each of us may indeed come to this Easter, that: "There is one Lord, one church, one Baptism" in whom we are God's children.

With blessings for this season,

Revd Keren Terpstra

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. May 4 1.00-4.00 Parish Hall

Exploring the Gospel of Luke with The Revd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee FAHA. No charge.

Sat. May 25 10.30-12.30 Parish Hall

Seminar: Dementia Explained, led by Sandra Leone from Dementia Australia. Register with Parish Office. No charge.

Sunday May 26 9.30

Combined service with Bishop Kate and blessing of the new play space

The Journey of Lent

Throughout Lent we've been on a journey exploring the Lord's Prayer, and using the Reflection Booklet with so many varied responses to prayer by people of St Margaret's. To symbolise this journey, through Lent we've had a display in front of the altar, changing week by week.

We started with the wilderness way, through a barren landscape, like the people of Israel following the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. Lent can be a tough time, and as we allow things to be fallow, or take up a new discipline, or give something up, we learn new things about ourselves, or find things revealed which can be challenging – a bit like a wilderness experience. Each week we have been invited at the beginning of services to take up a stone to reflect with on the week that has been, and then place it on the wilderness path.



The second week we added dry wood/twigs, symbolising the hurdles and things we sometimes stumble over as part of the journey to new life.



On the third week, we found green growing things, the unexpected growth and first shoots of new life, growing in unexpected places in the wilderness; perhaps it's not as barren as we first thought.



For the fourth week we were greeted by the flowing spring of water, the brook beside the path, like the water from the rock Moses struck (itself we sometimes take as an image of Jesus' self-giving in his death and the blood and water that flowed from his side).



For the fifth week, sheep grazed beside quiet waters, and the valley between became the valley of the shadow of death, where the things that bring death in our lives are overshadowed by the hope of new life.



In addition to this visual display has been the rich purple fabric draped around the crucifix. Originally embellishment, one parish councillor commented that it looked like a tent, with the crucifix holding the apex together. That's a really fitting interpretation, given our wilderness journey! And it speaks to the multivalence, the multiple levels of the meaning of symbols.



Thanks to Breeana Laidlay for developing the display! Watch this space for what happens through Easter season!

Service of Lament

On Sunday 7th April we held a Service of Lament. Thirteen folk attended a short afternoon service where we brought to God all the anxieties, worries, burdens, sadnesses and sorrows, hurt and pain we experience and which we see in the world around us. We were invited to write on a piece of red paper everything weighing us down, and then wrapped it around a stone which was then placed at the foot of the cross. Having laid down our burdens, we took up a feather: the lightness of the yoke and burden of Christ. There were readings from Job, Psalm 88, and Romans 8 - the last a balance to the first two, assuring us of the unshakeability of God's love in the face of all we and the world suffers. The service finished with healing prayers and *Abide with me*. Thank you to those who came, and to Robert who played for the service.

Parish Council Report

Parish Council met on Monday evening to consider Parish business. After a wonderful Passover meal provided by the Vicar, we studied together a passage from Ephesians, as part of our continuing efforts to learn to pray.

Parish Council wants to gauge reactions of the parish to the Amended Vision Plan. To help you engage with the Plan, a brief questionnaire will be available soon, so you can give feedback.

The Diocese has a great new program called Parish Renewal. For those who don't know, this is for Anglican parishes that want to grow and organise for mission. The Renewal Program helps them intentionally align their resources and energy towards the Diocesan Vision "to make the word of God fully known". Participating parishes will join a cohort of similar churches for a 2-3 year program, and St Margaret's PC resolved to sign up. Recently enacted Commonwealth laws require St Margaret's to conform to the provisions of the Australian Charities & Not for profit Commission (ACNC). This means all members of Parish Council are effectively "Board Members". As such, they must supply their personal details to the ACNC every year via an Annual Information Statement, completed this week.

On the matter of the Research Child Care Centre, following a recommendation from our Property Committee, Parish Council resolved to set aside a sum of money for necessary repairs, including for flood damage.

Finally, an item from the Do Justice group was presented to Parish Council, namely the Disability Inclusion Policy. This was adopted by Council with

the intention of highlighting specific actions we can undertake each year to progress the inclusiveness of our church for people of disability

John Humann

Child/Family Friendly Services

When we first started the Visions Process, there was great enthusiasm to ensure that we give thought to how we can welcome children and visitors to our services. A small committee has worked over time and tried to determine how this could be achieved. We have prayed, asked the congregation for their prayers and now ask you to support this new initiative. We have decided to hold family focus services at 10.00 am on 21 July, 6 October (Blessing of the Animals). The format and liturgy is still being determined but it will be a welcoming and include specific family elements. We hope that you will support these events to help build up the presence of children in our congregation.

Council Appreciations

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

- **Faye Gravenall** has retired from the Do Justice sub-committee where she has, as always, made a significant contribution. **Thanks Faye.**

Door Saga

The glaziers have now fixed the door and it took two trucks and four men with lifting gear to do it. The problem was the metal plate on which the hinge spigot was welded had come loose. The reason for this was that one screw had sheared off and with constant motion of the door opening and closing, the door had dropped and was not swinging on the correct vertical. They have now bolted the plate in place and also tried to reduce the hydraulic pressure on the door.

We will never know the real reason that this has happened, one can only surmise that the plate should have been bolted in place when first installed.

Our decision to ban the use of the door as recommended by the glaziers, aluminium company and the architect, was re-enforced by the glaziers when I met them on site.

John Winkett

Pastoral Care Report

The last report to Council from the Pastoral Care Team reported that we have the largest ever contacts list. There are five members of the team actively visiting and making contact with 38 people in need, ranging from long term illness, home confinement through to hospitalisation or rehabilitation. In addition to the 38 there are around 30 residents at Judge Book (St Vincent's Aged Care) who are visited or come to one of the services at the Chapel or Willandra Centre. Of these seven are former St Margaret's attendees. The visiting includes residents in Willandra, Waratah (the dementia unit) and the Lodge. This month Fr Robert is leading an extra service for holy week for those in 24/7 care in the cottages which comprise the 'Lodge'. Assisting these bed-ridden or severely handicapped people to the service is an art in itself and not feasible without help from the staff. Even so three of the team have recently undergone OH&S training to be compliant with the latest regulations.

It is fair to say we are very stretched, especially as we have lost the help of the Pastoral Assistant and thus some contacts may feel that our visiting or catchup is too infrequent. Nonetheless we think we are doing better than several years ago, the sad days before we had a formally organised team, when one parishioner was not missed and not visited for 13 weeks.

We know that a lot of pastoral care goes on less formally, by many members of the congregation caring for friends within and outside the church. We are also aware that several people have decided that joining the team might not be for them. We recognise that hospital visiting and managing conversation with the terminally ill is not for everyone. A possible light is on the horizon, proposed by Fr Robert and Keren and the detail needs further development, but the concept is that a few of you may be able to make phone calls and keep tabs on some of your friendship group contacts and let the team know of their needs and well-being. It would be fair to say that the days of providing meals from the church freezer stock have past, but we still can help with one-offs and provide some extras to help cheer people up. Nonetheless the major task is to listen, occasionally give a little advice or comfort, to pray together and ensure that God's love is widely known.

Harry Watson for the PCTeam

Pastoral Care Prayers

From the Pastoral Care Team meeting, prayers as we journey with Jesus to the cross and resurrection
We pray for:

- Those experiencing dementia and their families and carers
- For the lonely
- Those living by themselves and struggling
- Lillian and her family following our farewell to husband Ron
- Those who are sick
- Those journeying with people who are dying.

We also pray for those of our congregation unable to attend worship

Dorita Thomson, Shirley Burns, Leslie Jonklaas, Jean Lake, Beryl Hall Jenny Gillett, Claire McMurtrie Marjorie Taylor Jean Lee

Leading the Intercessions

On Saturday, 23 March, those of us who are members of St Margaret's Intercessor Group met to share our experiences and discuss how each one of us undertakes our role. When a new member joins the group, they are given written guidelines, but there is nothing like meeting face-to-face with other Intercessors to enrich the experience for each one of us.

At St Margaret's parishioners can request an inclusion in the intercessions for someone in need, or to give thanks, or to pray for a particular world or national event. These requests are incorporated into our Intercessional prayers, but it was agreed that only Christian names will be offered for those who are sick or in need to preserve their privacy.

Keren handed out some very valuable resource material to assist us in constructing our prayers. It was informative to see how Intercessions can be offered in a variety of ways, so watch out for some possible changes.

Liz Pryor

Parish Renewal Plan

At the last Council meeting it was agreed that we should build on the Visioning work of the last two years with a plan likely starting in 2020 based on the Pathways Program which the diocese has re-launched.

- What is the Parish Renewal Program?

The Parish Renewal Program is for Anglican parishes that want to grow and organise for mission. It helps them intentionally align their resources and energy towards the Diocesan vision “to make the word of God fully known” throughout the whole Diocese of Melbourne. The program is grounded in the concepts of mission through service – and to making disciples who actively obey the teachings of Jesus.

Participating Parishes will join a cohort of similar churches for about a two year program. They will be given time, a framework and support to re-think how their church can serve and welcome their local communities in ways that resonate with them.

The program encourages participating parishes and leaders to see both their parish and local communities with fresh eyes. It does not ask parishes to throw off their tradition, build a whole new program, or model their parish on another church.

- How does it work?

The parish renewal program is made up of three interdependent components: A community of practice and coaching for clergy, and a curriculum of learning for Mission Action Teams.

- Communities of Practice

As part the program vicars and priest in charge will gather 4-5 times each year of as a community of practice: a context where practitioners gather to enrich and extend their knowledge, skills and experience.

- Coaching

Clergy from participating parishes will meet with a qualified coach on a monthly basis. Ministry coaching is a 1:1 a regular conversation focused on a minister's effectiveness in fulfilling their ministry goals. Far from being remedial, coaching is about bringing out the best, increasing capacity and preventing developmental plateau.

- Curriculum for Learning

A generalized learning curriculum built around the Pathways model provides the basis for a tailored learning program geared to the needs of participating parishes. Core learning units include:

- An opening retreat
- An opening module that explores the Parishes self-understanding
- Three Pathways units.

Other possible modules include:

- Units around particular parish size dynamics,
- A unit around family systems,
- Units dealing with particular challenges such as discipleship and leadership development
- A 'Journey wall' exploring parish history and folklore

Typically learning units take a day and are generally open to mission action teams from all participating parishes. It's expected that each parish will participate in 2-3

Anglicare

Anglicare members were thrilled with the response made by parishioners to the request for more food items for St Mark's, Fitzroy.

Normally Jo Norman takes two bags per week, but in the two weeks following the appeal, there were 17 bags. The new coordinator at St Mark's, was most appreciative but said sadly that the need was still there. Well, that tells us what to do, doesn't it?



Anglicare Visit to Whittlesea and meeting up with our former priest.

On 19th March a number of members had their second Anglicare visit to Whittlesea. Coffee in a local café, visit to the Anglican Church Op Shop was capped off with meeting up with Ruwan. Ruwan is having lessons on radio interviewing. The local community radio station is in the vestry at the church and he and a senior lay person will be developing programs on a weekly basis. He was wearing a small wooden cross one of 250 which the congregations of several churches at Whittlesea made for distribution in Kinglake on the 10th Anniversary of Ash Wednesday. We have arranged to visit Whittlesea again in 2020, this time taking lunch to have with Ruwan at the church.

Copies of *Ensuring Peace of Mind* are still available. Our next meeting will be at St Margaret's on 16th April at 10am

Jenny Disney

Vale Ron Lloyd

On April 4 a large congregation led by Revd Keren said farewell to Ron Lloyd beloved husband of Lilian. Ron was born in the UK before the second world war and spent some of his school years in the US as a child evacuee. This influenced his life and his love of fun, singing and music. Shortly after their marriage the couple migrated to Melbourne. A wonderful eulogy was delivered by his son Martin and wife Roxanne on behalf of his mum, Simon and the rest of the family. Many gathered afterwards in the hall to catch up and celebrate Ron's life over a light lunch.



We really appreciate the work done by **Graham Constantine** as our maintenance person. It is a relief to us all to have someone who makes our buildings and grounds look cared for.



Images from
Keren Terpstra and Harry Watson

Bears on the Stairs!

Following the Garage Sale all the remaining teddies were taken into the Cathedral. On 8th April, bears filled the steps of the Cathedral. This was an initiative of World Vision and the bears will be given to children who have fled violent conflict in the Dominican Republic of Congo.



Next Parish Matters Submit By

The closing date for articles for the April Issue of PM is 9/5 for publication on 12/5

Ed this edition Sally Petty