

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham

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

In This Issue

Thy Kingdom Come
Mandy appointment
Refugee Week
Do Justice
Renewal Plan
Vision Plan
Anglicare
Dementia Seminar
Community Connect
Notes from Council
Vale: Peter Horne
Vale: Graham Willis
Easter Banners
Multi Function Space



The Vicar and +Kate exploring the new cubby house.

"Thy Kingdom Come" at St Margaret's

Thy Kingdom Come is a worldwide church renewal program that focuses on praying for more people to come to know Jesus. It started in England in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Church of England and has now grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer that takes place yearly between Ascension Day and the Day of Pentecost. This year we decided to engage with it here, at St Margaret's.

We invited everyone to join the Parish in prayer everyday over the eleven-day period from Ascension Day on 30 May to Pentecost on 9 June. People could nominate the time that suited them to pray over the 24 hours of the day, and they would then pray at a point in that hour every day for the eleven days. We were excited that many people were willing to participate, and this has resulted in our parish being engaged in community prayer around the clock for the eleven days!

We assembled a pack of resources to assist with ideas for prayer. Among others, we supplied a "pray for 5" card, prayer cord and stones, and a booklet with readings, prayers and illustrations. There is a website for Thy Kingdom Come with many resources and videos, and an app that is free to download with readings, videos, messages and prayers. All these resources assist in a very rich prayer experience, which is all the more powerful since we know that we are praying together with other individuals, groups and churches at this time throughout the world.

Towards the close of Thy Kingdom Come, a group of us attended a special ecumenical service at St Paul's Cathedral.

Jo Ball, Jennifer Constantine, Mitzi Tuke and Felicity Wiltshire

Here's some pics: of Felicity and Mitzi leading prayers, of the amazing tealight candle cross Heather Patacca's husband designed, the tree on which we hung tags with the five names of the people we prayed for, and the incredible experience of tying large red orange and yellow symbols of the world, people, and workplaces, and on which we'd written prayers, which we tied to a rope which was then hoisted by the Dean up into the air towards the roof. It was a very powerful and moving gesture! ***Keren***



Mandy Appointed to PVAW



In keeping with the Parish's commitment to provide updates on developments in the Prevention of Violence Against Women, it gives Parish Council much pleasure to report that of one of our

members **Mandy Stevens** has been appointed to the **Diocese's project**. Her role is as a **consultant** to assist in the development of a handbook of resources and delivery of training workshops for clergy, to assist them in implementation of prevention work within their parish. She says "I am really loving the work and the opportunity to explore the prevention of violence against women in a faith-based context". As we heard last year from Robyn Boosey, the Diocese of Melbourne's new, Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) program aims to equip and support the Diocese to play its part in preventing violence against women – with a particular focus on church leaders and parishes. Even so it takes a whole-of-population approach, which recognizes that everyone within society is part of the solution.

The program aims to tackle the drivers of violence as set out in Change the Story, the only national prevention framework in the world. The framework is based on evidence from one of the biggest literature reviews conducted on what drives violence against women and how it can be prevented. It is also based on the expertise and practice wisdom of government and non-government stakeholders across the country.

The program is funded by the Diocese of Melbourne, Anglicare Victoria, the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Lifeworks, and ANSVAR. These agencies, and Our Watch, sit on the program's Committee of Management to govern and bring their expertise to it. Moreover, the program has been expanded - the Multicultural Affairs and Social Cohesion Division of the Department of Premier in Cabinet, has selected the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne to pilot a preventing violence against women project, in a faith-based setting, that Mandy is working on, in partnership with similar groups and The University of Melbourne.



REFUGEE WEEK 16 -21 JUNE

ST MARGARET'S 79-81 PITT ST. ELTHAM
Will be a DROP OFF CENTRE for
LONG LASTING FOOD

From SUNDAY JUNE 16 - 30, 2019
Sunday, Wednesday & Friday mornings
9.00am to 12.30pm (leave in the foyer)
phone:94399238

ELTHAM LIBRARY

- Will have displays by MASSG
- Talks by St Margaret's Do Justice & MASSG - June 20, 7.00pm - 8.00pm



www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

Do Justice Group

On Friday 21 6 to 8pm people can come to the hall for a soup and bread light meal and take part in a discussion about the way refugees cope with particular reference to the information Keren was sent by Love Makes a Way **Cost:** an item of food for refugees.

During the last two weeks of June Do Justice will hold a food drive for refugees. Rice, noodles, long life milk, tinned beans and tomatoes, lentils and tea are very popular items. (And, Kon, from the ASRC suggest that we include sweet bikkies as these can be served in the centre when people come in for information or food)

Finally, Do Justice congratulates Welcome to Eltham on organizing a **bush dance on Saturday 15th June** at Warrandyte Community Church from 6pm to 10pm. Bookings: trybooking.com

Jenny Disney

Progress with Parish Renewal Plan

At the last Council meeting progress was reported on building 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. These teams will consist of about ten people. Perhaps half from Council and the rest from elsewhere in the Parish. **A list of names has been suggested so you may be contacted.**

Communities of Practice

As part of the program vicars and priest in charge will gather 4-5 times each year 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

Harry Watson Parish Secretary

Progress with our Vision Plan

As you will recall the draft Vision documents were out for comment for several weeks. Unfortunately very few feedback responses were received. This could mean that they were so good or too complicated or? Nonetheless at last Council meeting time was spent in further refining the documents and details.

It was resolved to present the final Vision as a two page action plan and to arrange a sequence of presentations in July, with last Sunday for identifying areas that needed special prayers.

Harry Watson

Anglicare Report

In the last month, many parishioners have donated socks for the men who attend the Breakfast at St Mark's Eastern Hill. A pair of long warm socks is much prized among the homeless. So far there have been 64 pairs in the basket. St Mark's is unable to give our used socks and so 2 bags of used socks have been taken to local Op Shops. A parishioner has also donated 12 face washers for the program.

On Tuesday 18th June representatives of the Buldara Yiooghen (this is Aboriginal for Big Dreams) will come and talk about the work of the Academy in preparing talented Indigenous youth for the workplace of their dreams. This is an exciting program and Anglicare members invite all to come. Meeting time is 10am

Jenny Disney

Dementia Explained

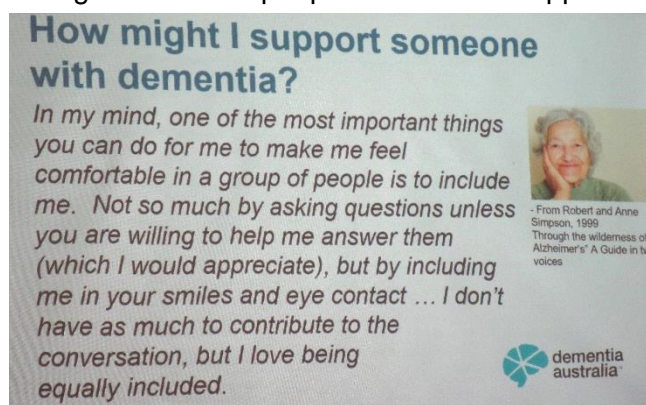
Over 50 people attended the Pastoral Care organised seminar on Dementia Explained. Keren



welcomed the audience, at least half from beyond our congregation, and then introduced the presenter, Sandra Leone, a very able and vibrant volunteer, of Sicilian origin, who works for Dementia Australia. Her

presentation began by outlining the normal functions of the brain and then described some of the

consequences when communication and function deteriorated. Although there are five major types of dementia including Alzheimers, the most common, there are nearly one hundred identified conditions, so diagnosis is not always straight forward. Sandra went on to identify some of the behavioural changes and what people could do to support their



family or friends who could become significantly different as the condition worsened. She ably illustrated some of the changes and the support can be given, through her own family experience as her mother, already suffering from diabetes got dementia. The not so good news is that the older you are the more likely you are to suffer from dementia. At 90 for example one in three people will suffer the disease. And unfortunately people in their thirties can succumb to it.

As a follow-up to this presentation, Dementia Australia have suggested four two hour session possibilities:

1 Effective Communication

Suitable for: Family and friends of a person diagnosed with dementia who have some basic information about dementia who are looking for assistance with communication

Overview: The focus of the session is on how dementia changes communication and possible alternate communication strategies which may be helpful. We also discuss dealing with different

reactions of a person with dementia and how to support the person who is distressed.

2 Coping with Changes in Behaviour

Suitable for: Family carers who need support coping with changed behaviours

Overview: This program deals with some of the changes in behaviour caused by dementia as well as the possible triggers to these behaviours. We teach participants a problem solving approach which helps carers to understand and better manage these changes.

3 What is it like for EDIE?

What: An opportunity to “walk in the shoes” of a person living with dementia

Suitable for: Family carers who want to improve their understanding of what it can be like to live with dementia

Overview: EDIE uses virtual reality technology to enhance your knowledge of the impact of dementia. A program that aims to assist family members to understand what aspects of the environment and communication may be helpful or unhelpful to the person living with dementia.

4 Grief, Loss and Dementia

What: Explore the emotional impact of the grief and losses associated with dementia

Suitable for: Family carers who would like the opportunity to discuss their experiences in a group setting.

If you or someone you know are interested in one or even two of these sessions **please let Keren, Harry or Jen in the office know** which ones soon as we are trying to arrange follow up opportunities because there seemed to be such strong interest in this topic.

Our thanks to MaryAnn, Mitzi, Helen, Robyn, Adrienne, Robert and Harry for planning, organising and sponsoring this seminar.

Harry Watson

Dementia Seminar- some feedback

The seminar well attended. There is obviously a big need in the community to learn more. It's an excellent way for St Margaret's to engage with the wider community. The presentation was a good introduction to Dementia. We found the description of the brain and its areas and functions very interesting. The presenter had a good overview but no great knowledge of the technical details but she included her personal experiences.

It would be good to have some follow-up sessions, perhaps targeting specific audiences.

How to detect that you or your partner has dementia. Resources and community groups for carers. Volunteering opportunities. Current research and treatments. How to react to and have

social dealings with dementia patients (a lot of anecdotes may help).

Alan and I volunteer at Broughton Hall, we just get used to the way people are. We value them and meet them in their current state. I think it's easier for us than family and long-term friends who are mourning the loss of the person they knew. There are strategies for asking the right questions to get them talking without feeling inadequate or pressured. Workshopping this would also be useful.

Alan and Helen Coutts

COMMUNITY CONNECT INITIATIVE – Great new Opportunity

As many of you already know, the Greensborough Community Connect initiative has been provided a wonderful opportunity to expand our community impact through the provision of a shop front to operate from for the next few months. This space has been made possible through the support of the Plaza Management and will have a particular focus on reaching out to the over 55's age group which forms such a significant part of our local community.

As I have engaged with many different people in the Plaza for over the last six months, it has become increasingly clear to me just how enormous the need is amongst people, so many are feeling disconnected, lonely, and in need of company and a purpose in their lives.

The provision of this space is a God-given opportunity to have a visible presence in the centre, where people can walk in and feel welcome and valued. Our heart is to create a place where people can relax, with the option to sit and have a chat, play cards or board games, add to a jigsaw puzzle, exchange a book from the library corner, join a book club, knitting or craft club, join in a men's group or men's shed activity, or come to hear a speaker on a current topic.

The need is significant and we have been gifted a real opportunity to make difference in the lives of those who visit the Plaza. If you have a heart to reach out to those in need in our community, and feel that you would love to be a part of this initiative there are many opportunities to get involved. It may simply involve being present to chat to people, sharing your skills, or just helping to set up or look after the library. I'm also starting up a Community Plaza Choir, a wonderful opportunity to bring people together to have fun through music.

If you would like more information, I would love to talk to you about volunteering. You may only have an hour, or you may have a morning or afternoon,

but the more people we have on the roster, the greater the impact we can make together.

We will be providing a short training course, run by Korus Connect, to assist you in volunteering in this space, this will be available in June.

Can I ask you to please prayerfully consider how you might be able to get involved.

If you are interested in volunteering and/or joining the Choir, please contact Lorel Wall on Mob: 0405 529 898, and we can catch up for a coffee. God Bless you all

Lorel Wall

Community Connector, Greensborough Plaza

NOTES FROM COUNCIL – 27 MAY 2019

We had another fruitful Parish Council meeting last Monday night with a delicious stew prepared by Keren and reflective meditation using the beautiful words of Colossians 2:1-12 which encourages us to follow Christ in all his fullness.

We then finalised the Vision Plan and discussed how we could communicate this with the whole Parish. A short summary of the Vision Plan will be distributed on the first Sunday of July. Each week in July we will focus on one area of the Vision Plan to ensure parishioners understand each area and invite people to pray for one area of their choice.

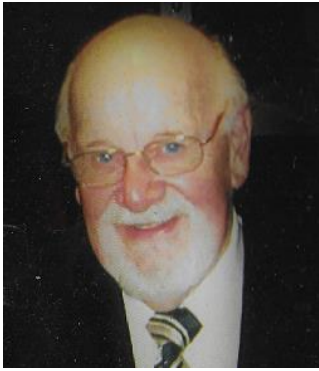
Parish Council then discussed the Pathways program that St Margaret's have signed up for. This is a 3 year discernment program which requires us to form a Mission Action Team and focus on one chosen ministry to connect with the wider community. As part of Pathways Keren and the Mission Action Team will receive coaching from the Diocese to ensure they stay on task with implementing this one ministry. Keren will be approaching people shortly to see if they would like to be part of this Mission Action Team but if you feel this is something that interests you please speak with Keren or any Parish Council member.

The work on implementing the Child Safe requirements was also discussed. Essentially, we are progressing with this but there will be a short summary of our child safe policy available soon for parishioners. In the meantime, Parish Council encourages all those on rosters to contact Jen for assistance in obtaining their Working With Children's Check and Police Check if they haven't completed these yet.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Council thanks and appreciation extended to all who help with refreshments after services, particularly Coralie Mitzi and Liz for the Bishop's visit and again for Pentecost. What stars!

Vale Peter Horne



Peter Horne's funeral was led by Fr Robert on Friday 27th May with great care and love. Peter was a late comer to worship. His wife Darby was well known as a regular at the Wednesday service and a wonderful seamstress and maker of bed covers

and more. We recall helping Peter find homes for some superbly patterned doonas with help from Jenny Disney. Peter died in hospital seven years and one day after Darby died on arrival at Spencer St station. Since her passing, he became an 'irregular' here, but always coming to church on their former celebration times as a couple married for 57 years.



Darby's ashes were interred in the memorial garden and Peter said he always felt close to her here. Peter met Darby, a district nurse in training, while he was working as an architect following his training in Scandinavia. He was responsible for the design of many local buildings on his return to Australia with his wife and children Paul and Dianne as ten-pound Poms even though he was born here. He was an inciteful, spirited creative man: we shall miss his presence on as many Sundays as his health would allow and at study groups.

Harry Watson

Next Parish Matters Submit By

The closing date for articles for the next Issue of PM is 10 July for publication on 14 July Ed this edition Sally with sincere thanks to Harry for all his contributions.

Vale Graham Willis

On May 24th Graham Willis' funeral was held at Monsalvat. Graham's wife Jennifer has been a regular attendee at St Margaret's for many decades. About a dozen members of our congregations attended the funeral service along with nearly 200 mourners conducted in the upper chamber of the Great Hall.

Graham was a leading Mathematics educator, and an inspiring father who passed on countless talents and interests to his family and friends. A son of his close friend from university days Robert Money, wrote that **(quote)** 'I spent many child hood holidays and camping trips with him and found him to be a terrific role model. Leading to me becoming a close friend of his son Simon. His architectural and carpentry skills in building not only his own two storey mud brick house, a large hay shed, expansive deck, and countless other structures on our family farm where inspiring enough to lead his daughter Julie into the highest levels of architectural academia. His handmade rotating bookshelves, Jenga blocks and furniture where of the highest quality. His laugh and love of a good argument where something to behold. The fishing, morning walks and bushwalks. The camping and the cards. The crosswords and the singing of Auld Lang Syne at New Years. All cherished memories. Best Wishes to Jennifer and to Simon, Julie and their families and to their friends, especially my parents who will miss him greatly'.

In his career as an outstanding educational leader he demonstrated that, with appropriate support, all schools could provide world class educational opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds. He was an excellent teacher, role model, mentor and colleague who championed other leaders by trusting in their actions. He significantly advanced mathematics teaching and learning. He leaves a lasting legacy to state education.

His past colleagues expressed their deep affection, and valued his professionalism, integrity, conviction, compassion and loyalty.

Our sympathy are with Jennifer and the family, and the many who will miss him.
Harry Watson based on articles in the Age 22/5/19

EASTER BANNERS 2019

During Easter this year we celebrated the season of new life with a series of banners. Each week we added symbols relating to the readings of the day and/or of new life to a banner in the colours of the rainbow. Below is an explanation of each of the banners.

Easter Day

Easter Day was white, the colour of resurrection and of our baptismal robes, and we added butterflies to it, symbols of new life breaking forth from the chrysalis of the old.

Easter II

On the Second Sunday of Easter, sometimes called Low Sunday, on a violet background we added clouds. At the top of the banner are the symbols Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, and a face breathing out – all referring to Jesus breathing on his disciples the gift of the Spirit, and the second reading from Revelation which calls Jesus the Alpha and Omega, beginning and end. These are also inscribed on the Paschal Candle, a symbol of Jesus' life and light in our midst.

Easter III

The gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter is Jesus and the miraculous catch of fish, and giving his disciples breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The Greek word for fish, ICTHUS, has been a popular Christian symbol for Jesus: ICTHUS is an acronym summarising his titles as Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour. It's also a reference to the sign of Jonah which Jesus mentions: that just as the prophet Jonah was in the belly of a whale for 3 days, so the Son of Man would be in the depths of the earth 3 days before rising again. All the little fish are simultaneously Jesus' disciples, but also representative of our vocation to be fishers of people. All of this on an appropriately indigo banner.

Easter IV

Good Shepherd Sunday, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, had readings all to do with Lambs of God and sheep and shepherds. The triumphant Lamb (a symbol of Jesus) is mentioned in the reading from Revelation, and the people we placed on the banner is the crowd of all languages and nations who appear before the Lamb. He is the Shepherd of his people, the one who fulfilled all the prophecies in which God promised a Good Shepherd who would tend and nurture God's people.





Easter V

The Fifth Sunday of Easter was the rainbow, the symbol of God's promises fulfilled: the new heaven and the new earth in which tears are wiped away, and there will be no more sorrow or sighing but everlasting life.

Easter VI

With the Bishop's visit on 26th May, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, we heard about the River of the water of life which flow from the throne of God in the Revelation reading, and about the Trees of Life on either side of the river whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. We placed our own little trees beside the River of Life, also a reference to Psalm 1, which says: Blessed is the person who does not walk in the ways of evil; they are like a tree planted beside streams of living water whose roots go deep.



Easter VII

The Sunday after Ascension we heard the reading from Revelation in which Jesus is described as the bright Morning Star, the firstborn rising from the dead like the morning star heralds the dawn. We added our stars to the banner, and were reminded of God's promise to Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the grains of sand on the beach or stars in the sky. We are those stars!

Pentecost

The banner for Pentecost was red, completing the rainbow, and appropriately so because red is the liturgical colour for the fire of the Spirit's gift. We sang songs about the Spirit of God hovering like a bird over the waters of new life, with its echoes of the story of Jesus' baptism when the dove descended from heaven to rest on him. We added our own little flame-like doves, thinking about the tongues of fire that rested on the disciples' heads that first Pentecost, and we put them under the Mother Dove descending and hovering over our community.



What a wonderful service! On Sunday 27 May we welcomed our Regional Bishop, Kate. We all joined together to worship and give thanks. Following the service, Bishop Kate blessed the new multi function space. The Vicar and Bishop were good sports and squeezed into the cubby house, not easy in full robes! Neither volunteered to try the slides! Pics Harry Watson, Diana Warrell.

