

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

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Vision Plan 2020



It's with great pleasure Parish Council presents the Vision Plan 2020 to the parish. This Plan is designed to take us through the next eighteen months, with some achievable goals. Over the coming weeks, parish councilors will be speaking in church about aspects of the Vision Plan, and we will be asking for you to choose one area to pray for. We'll be launching the Plan at the Planned Giving **High Tea on August 31st**. Please collect a copy from the foyer, or download from the parish website. **Keren**

Parish Council Report 24th June 2019

Parish Council met on Monday 24th. We began with a shared meal of roast pork and salads. We contemplated Philippians 2:4-11, the passage where Paul, writing to the Philippians, encourages the same mind to be in them as was in Christ Jesus who “emptied” himself, became one of us, died, and rose again. We considered what pattern this sets for leaders in Christian communities, and prayed that here at St Margaret’s we may be shaped by Jesus’ example.

We finalised the Vision Plan, and you’ll be hearing more about that over the Sundays in July.

As Keren’s been sick, we haven’t yet finalised who’s going to be part of the Mission Action Team for Pathways programme; Keren will be tapping people on the shoulder in the coming week or two. Being part of the MAT will mean 3 workshops/retreats per year plus a monthly meeting to discern and progress one new ministry.

We considered information about the status of our property vis a vis Land Tax, and noted that at the moment we have exemptions for the vicarage and the Research child care centre. As the MATC holds all the property, it’s up to them to advise us what percentage of the land tax charged to them would be payable by us.

We also looked at a draft of the forward three year budget – a necessary step as we consider appropriate staffing into the future.

Forward notice: **Planned Giving High Tea on 31st August**, at which Cath Connelly will be playing, and we’re hoping two speakers will be invited to speak. Finance Team will be sending more information about this in due course, and August will be Planned Giving Month. Please put this date in your diary!

We also considered the possibility of a yarnning pit, which would bring together local indigenous folk and offer space for fostering connection. This would go in the space in front of Dendy House and the memorial garden. Do Justice will be exploring this further, including how it may meet some of the objectives of the Pathways to Reconciliation plan we’re in the process of approving.

Council thanks and appreciation extended to Diana Warrell who generates art work for our signs

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 folk from St Margaret’s, St Francis Xavier Montmorency, and from the Eltham-Montmorency Uniting Church gathered at St Margaret’s on Sunday 9th June (Pentecost) for a service of prayer. This service marked the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and was the first of its kind in recent days. Keren led the service; there were readers and pray-ers from the three communities, and the Reverend Ros McDonald preached a fine sermon. We prayed a litany of repentance for our divisions, prayed for unity in mind and heart and Spirit, and wrote our commitment to justice on a card which we offered before the altar. Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments and continued to have fellowship in the hall.

Winter Day of Prayer

LIVING / PRAYING THE ASH BARTY WAY
‘We go back,
we knuckle down.
train again,
and then we go again.’ AB

Deep winter bared its icy face On June 29 but that did not stop 15 people who braved the cold to gather in the warm protection of St Margaret’s sanctuary. What motivates such ‘foolishness’? Maybe they were living out their lives, faith, prayerfulness according to Ash Barty’s example.

‘We go back,’ ... yes, we all have to haul ourselves to the work of prayer.
‘We knuckle down,’ ... yes, we give our full attention to Jesus’ call to be always prayerful.
‘train again,’... not only as individuals but corporately – in community – we share in the discipline of praise and prayer.
‘and then we go again.’ ... joyfully recognizing that our discernment to action arises from our being present to ourselves, to one another and the Spirit.

The afternoon concluded with a celebration of Evening Prayer and sharing mulled wine and tasty refreshments.

Thanks to the many who helped make this a celebratory way to spend a deep winter day together.

Fay Gravenall

Messy Church at St Margaret's

On Sunday 7th July we were pleased to be invited to and to host the Messy Church from Eltham-Montmorency Uniting Church. We started at the Uniting Church, joining in with brief, relaxed worship around the theme of God's Light shining in the darkness, before making lanterns. We took the lanterns and in the darkness shone the light as we processed around to St Margaret's to walk the labyrinth which had been laid out in front of the altar in the church. We then shared a meal of soup and bread in the hall.

It was a great time of connection, an opportunity to experience Messy Church, and also sowed the seeds of possibility; this ministry for the Eltham-Monty UCA is at a crossroads. Please pray for our children's ministry discernment group as they consider whether we may be able to join with our Uniting Church friends, perhaps in offering a ministry to kids between years 5 and 8 at school. See pictures right.

Keren

Vale Pam Gange (Brown)



Pam Brown was a staunch member of the parish for many decades. She was Parish Sacristan from 1965 until 1985 when she retired from that important ministry. She served on the Vestry (Parish Council) initially in 1979 and then for three years 1981 to 1983.

Book Club

This month we enjoyed "Spirits of the Ghan" by Judy Nunn. A good story. Interesting description of the creation of the railroad and of the outback. Attention drawn to confronting issues of the stolen generation and indigenous issues. Some enjoyed, some not so much!



Next Parish Matters Submit By

The closing date for articles for the next Issue of PM is 14 August for publication on 18 July
Ed this edition Sally Petty.

Nb. If you do not currently receive the Pew Sheet by email, or receive reminder text messages and would like to do so, please talk to Jen in the Parish Office.

Refugee Week

On Friday June 21 a Refugee Night was held At St Margaret's. This was to coincide with Refugee week. Those of us who attended also donated to the food collection for The Asylum Seekers Centre. Due to absolutely shocking weather only 8 people attended. However we had a wonderful meal and had some amazing posters. We had some very passionate discussion re the treatment of refugees and the government response to their conditions and treatment. Jenny Disney handed out sheets with instructions on writing to Members of Parliament and how to address them. We also received the addresses of Federal Members of Parliament of both Jaga Jaga and Menzies. Also the Home Affairs Minister.

We recommend people in the Parish write to their member on this subject. It was a fantastic evening despite the weather and low numbers. The Do Justice Group chaired by Jenny Disney were pleased with such positive and passionate discussion.

Jennifer Constantine



Donations given by parishioners and given to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Do Justice (incl Anglicare)

The Anglicare group at St Margaret's was thrilled to present to Lisa Downie of the Anglicare Parish Partnerships the last 6 pairs of socks of the 70 pairs collected to be given to men who attend Anglicare's Breakfast Program at St Peter's East Melbourne. Lisa said the warm socks will certainly be welcomed in this cold weather and thanked the parishioners of St Margaret's who donated the socks.

In our July meeting we will be packing Anglicare Christmas Cards slightly more than last year 8000. We are looking forward to having Blumes bring women's clothes for sale in the hall on 20th August.

At the June meeting of Anglicare, David Hill who works with Indigenous youth in the Horsham area came and talked about the way Anglicare is facilitating the Big Dreaming Academy. At the end of his talk, he suddenly asked if we would like to be the recipients of a "yarning circle" (No!! This is nothing to do with working with yarn from animals but rather is a form of outdoor fire pit. The yarning circle has been used by Indigenous people to meet around, talk and negotiate problems to a peaceful end. This particular one will be made by an indigenous man who learnt welding skills while in prison. The Wardens and Parish Council have agreed and members are researching the history of yarning circles and how it would be appropriate in the grounds of St Margaret's.

The Do Justice Group will in their next meeting discuss how this will fit into their Pathways to Reconciliation document.

Jenny Disney



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