

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

Dancing to the beat of God's heart 2020

God of love, your compassion for people knows no bounds.

Give us grace that we may know the presence of Jesus in us and with us:

in words of scripture,

in water, bread and wine,

in the face of each other.

Transform our lives by your Spirit

and give us your heart of compassion,

so that we may make the transforming love of Christ known to all. **Amen**

Garage and Goodies Sale

Saturday 18th April 2020 from 9:00am - 2:00pm



St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

79-81 Pitt Street, Eltham

Parish Council Report

24 February 2020

We had our first Parish Council meeting for 2020 on Monday night. It was a record attendance in the Dendy House meeting room – 11 of us squeezed around the table for a meal before the meeting started. The Vicar welcomed the 9 councillors, and especially welcomed our Curate, Christopher, who joins us as an observer. We opened with prayer and scripture.

- The Vision Plan was revisited and updated to reflect progress so far.
- There was an update on the Child Safe Church Program, including the following dates:
 - 17 Feb – mandatory reporting starts
 - 7 March – next training course, to be run by Mandy Stevens
 - 31 May – cutoff date for St Margaret's people to complete Child-Safe training.
- Correspondence was reviewed including an Event Planning Form for the upcoming Garage & Goodies Sale.
- Regarding Parish Finances, we are tracking close to budget for the year to date. Also the Finance Committee has developed a draft document on Finance Policy & Procedures to be reviewed by Council.

Reports were received from subcommittees as follows:

- Faith Formation team has developed the FaithFull Women program, and has organised Bishop Kate to be at our service on 27 September.
- Property team is updating our Asset Register, as well as handling ongoing maintenance.
- Communications team is working on a re-vamp of our website.
- Pastoral Care team is intending to offer a number of seminars, details to be announced.
- Do Justice team has a number of ongoing projects including:
 - Yarning Pit (there was a productive meeting with Wurundjeri elders)
 - Palm Sunday march (continued planning for St Margaret's representatives to attend)
 - Climate Change Seminar to be held later in the year – details when planning is further advanced

Finally, Parish Council considered two very important matters, first relating to the parish stance on Inclusivity (being a safe and welcoming church in terms of gender, sexuality & ability), and second relating to Climate Change. Because of the diversity of opinion held within the parish, we are seeking more feedback from you before our stance is finalised.

John Humann, Churchwarden

Please note that detailed minutes are available if you would like a hard copy, please contact the Parish Office.

The Yarning Pit



Impression drawn and painted by Emily Tuke.

With Thanks:

Coralie and Mitzi have provided breakfast between the two services for over 2 years. Many thanks for the scones, the fruit, the croissants. The decision is to stop these breakfasts for a while so, thank you both for all your wonderful work.

Annette has pulled together the wonderful FaithFull Women programme. Sincere thanks to her and to those who are running the specific events.

Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes and the burning of Palm Crosses were brought together in a simple but moving Liturgy shared between Keren and Christopher. The pikelets provided by St. Meg's ladies were absolutely delicious, topped with salmon and sour cream. Christopher gave a reflection on our Lenten journeying. The liturgy ended with the burning of the ashes ready for the next day. Ash Wednesday.

Mitzi Tuke



Pic David and Mitzi Tuke



Lent 2020

You are encouraged to join Taize worship each Thursday in Lent at 7.30pm



Pic by Christopher Garcia

Sudanese Saturday Homework School, Box Hill

Last week, Jenny Disney, Bev Thompson and Margaret Bentley visited the Sudanese Saturday Homework Club and took items donated by parishioners. One of the organisers sent the following delightful letter. Well done ladies.

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you so much for coming by today. I am sorry neither Katy or I were able to receive you properly today. As expected, we were running around like headless chickens this morning. I hope you and the other ladies enjoyed your visit to our Saturday School.

Katy and I would like to sincerely thank you for the donations you dropped off this morning. We were amazed to find the enormous treasure trove in the kitchen at the end of the day. Almost as if it had appeared by magic.

Your donations will go into school supplies for the start of the school year, supplement our existing resources and we will save some for Christmas presents!

*Sincerely
Saran.*

Combined Churches Op Shop

Last Year, 2019 was another successful year for the Combined Churches Op Shop operated jointly by St Margaret's and Eltham Montmorency Uniting Church. The Op Shop is staffed entirely by volunteers from the two churches and the wider community.

Overall takings were at a similar level to previous years, which is a good result, given that the retail sector overall is suffering a downturn.

After deduction of expenses, there were funds remaining of \$22,000 to distribute. Approximately one eighth was distributed to each of the two churches, amounting to \$3,322 per church. In the case of St Margaret's this was earmarked for use in the children's and families ministry.

In addition, smaller amounts were made available to the following local organisations:

CAVE- Community AND Volunteers Eltham

LINC- Love in the Name of Christ

Diamond Valley Foodshare

Diamond Creek CFA (NB 2 local CFAs are chosen each year)

Wattle Glen CFA Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (not local but the need was identified)

Warriors for Wildlife (not local but the need was identified)

Riding for the Disabled

Nillumbik SES

John Humann

Significant motions from Parish Council

On Monday 24th February, the Parish Council moved unanimously two motions, as below:

- A. That the Parish Council of St Margaret's Eltham:
1. Embodies and proclaims the presence of Jesus in word, sacrament, and the community of the faithful;
 2. Believes that Jesus points us to a God of infinite and transformational love;
 3. Witnesses that the Jesus who is present at St Margaret's is an inclusive Jesus who welcomed those rejected by the religious authorities of the first century CE;
 4. Affirms our commitment: *to make the transforming love of Christ known to all*;
 5. Believes that in Christ all are equal: there is no male/female, slave/free, and that all people are to be welcomed and treated with respect;
 6. Notes that the parish has had a long history of being inclusive, including a move to join Changing Attitudes Australia in 2012;
 7. Affirms our commitment to inclusion as a necessary outcome of our commitment to living the Gospel in the world;
 8. Affirms our support in particular of LGBTIQA+ parishioners;
 9. Affirms our commitment to an authentically inclusive Anglican ethos, which accommodates diverse perspectives and rejects the rhetoric of division;
 10. Notes the very rapid growth of civil marriages in Australia, alongside recent changes to the Marriage Act (1961) following the outcome of the postal survey in November 2017;
 11. Expresses solidarity with all those who are working for justice and inclusion for all people, without regard to gender or sexuality.
- B. That the Parish Council of St Margaret's Eltham recognizes and supports the election of our Vicar, The Reverend Keren Terpstra, as the interim Chair of Victorian Anglicans Together. You may have noted in this month's TMA a letter which outlines what Victorian Anglicans Together represents. We offer Keren our support in this role.