



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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St Margaret's Anglican Parish Eltham acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship. We commit to working for reconciliation and justice for Aboriginal people. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's.

O God, out of your great love for us
 you sent your Son Jesus into this world to bring us back to you:
 give us grace to follow him,
 to take his yoke upon us and learn from him,
 and so to find both rest for our souls
 and the courage to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly,
 so that others may be brought to your light;
 we ask this in his name. . **Amen.**

Locum's thoughts on St Margaret's!

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It is a great joy for me to be locum in such a busy and vibrant parish. You have been most welcoming and working alongside Christopher is a privilege. As I prepared my sermon for Sunday 4th July, I found myself reflecting on what it means to be a follower of Christ. Some of you may have heard me explain my sermon writing process where reading and reflection dovetails with the week's experience as I seek to listen to God's message from the Sunday lections. This week I have been learning more about the work of the parish. I've met the folk of the Pastoral Care group, and I have heard of their visiting and taking communion to those unable to attend church. I've heard of the planning for the upcoming discussion on Living with Dementia which will be facilitated by Shelia Cheary. I've heard of Monday Circle, and SAGE, and Do Justice. I've heard of Men's Breakfast, and food appeals for Refugees and Anglicare. I suspect I have just scratched the surface of all that happens in this place.

Alongside this learning I attended a virtual book launch hosted by Bishop Jeremy Greaves of the Diocese of Brisbane. The book titled *The Humble Church* by Rev'd Martyn Percy Dean of Christ Church Oxford. It has a provocative

thesis; the church needs to go back to basics, stripping itself of its self-serving habits and becoming humble. At St Margaret's I see wide ranging of opportunities for humble service to others. This week God has led me to thinking about how work for The Kingdom begins in the human heart. I will quote Rowan Williams in my sermon. He states; "Jesus begins to suggest to his disciples the daring idea that the way God changes things will be from the heart of the human world. Not by intervention from the sky. God is transforming the world, healing wounds, forgiving and overcoming our failures, by being with and in the processes of the world." Because of differing personalities, interests and skills, our ways of expressing the kingdom values will take many forms. Ours as followers of Christ, our task is to look for ways to work respectfully with each other all the while striving to be humble lest we begin to believe ours in the best way or the right way. Yours in Christ,

Our Locum **Rev'd Dr Linda Fiske**

Please advise the MAT Your View

The Mission Action Team (MAT) have continued to meet once or twice a month with the target of another seminar/workshop soon. There is rightly a feeling that some are not involved in its pathway to reach out to our local community.

In contrast those that attended any of the three SAGE organised seminars on Climate Crisis, will have heard public and private remarks from the non-church community, that we have been making a continuing good impact with our services and meetings, which go as far back as the Remembrance Services for WW1.

Just around the corner the MAT is going to invite all parishioners to come on board and become involved in the planned pathway that connects with the local community under the SAGE direction.

You may feel now that this is not for you. However, COVID lockdown permitting, Linda and Christopher will launch his summary pamphlet on the opportunity for all to hear and own, our pathway to helping others connect with us and we to them. The MAT is keen to find out which way, as a Parish we should head, and how people can tune or turn their lives only a little to make these connections.

We know that the vast majority of parishioners have personal outreach as they try to live out Jesus' call to love their neighbour.

This hopefully will be a chance to refocus a little. So, expect this feedback pamphlet to be available soon as hard copy or electronically. Please, **dig deep into your time and generate a reply. PLEASE**



Please read the contents carefully and prayerfully answer the questions below
Your answers will influence how St Margaret's Mission Action Plan will evolve in the next few months, of which this initiative is just a part.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR Mission Action Team's SAGE

Please complete all the boxes below Rank 1,2,3 (1 = yes, 2 = maybe/unsure 3 = no)

Cut	ACTIVITY	Good Concept	I think it's feasible	Willing to be involved
1	Every Day Contribution			
2	Friends of Bushland/Park			
3	Community Gardens			
4	Advocacy and Film Events			
5	Prayer Group Support			

Please cut off this slip and put in the return box in foyer. Date _____

Name (for us to contact) _____ (may leave blank)

For the MAT Harry Watson

June Parish Council Meeting.

Following the opening prayer, we had a discussion on what it means to be an Anglican in 2021. Certainly, a lot different from the 39 articles found in the prayer book.

At least here at St Margaret's we feel a close-knit community even when we have quite a wide range of views about what it means to be led by the Holy Spirit.

Our study chapter from Sam Well's book similarly challenged us to reflect on where we stood on business practice.

Where do we sit in the spectrum between head stuff and heart stuff:

- a Church as a business doing its upmost to use its assets and members as a commercial body to make as much profit as possible even at the expense of others but reducing our need to dig into our pockets or personal assets; or
- should we be driven by our hearts, driven to do all we can for the care of others including social justice and more.
- Plainly our tradition has been somewhere in the middle. For example, the Child Care Centre at Research supports the community in providing a needed service for which we charge a moderate rent that allows us to pay Christopher's stipend and employ several other people.
- Perhaps it's reassuring that we are in that middle ground of the spectrum trying to balance Social impact and financial returns

3rd Announcement

Living with Dementia

- ✚ What may change for me?
- ✚ How can I adapt my home to create an enabling environment?
- ✚ Caring at home for the person living with Dementia

You are invited to hear and participate in the discussion led by
Sheila Cheary. RN

Sheila has extensive experience in aged care, most recently as the Manager, Quality & Risk at Assisi Centre and as an Education and Training Manager

St Margaret's Anglican Church

Eltham - Sunday July 25 at 11.45

Option to continue the conversation at the 'Pub' over lunch at 1.15 pm.

Lodge your prepared questions when you register (free) with Jen 9439 9238 or in the Box in the Foyer

Business arising from the approved minutes of the May meeting looked at reassessing the charges for weddings, funerals etc which are a cost to non-members and the need to reconnect with the electronic storage of wide ranging activities as we seem not to have a logical system at the moment. Event Planning included approval for a fund raiser in November to continue the music scholarships that bring our two young pianists to us. This will be

just before the Arch Bishop visits us for St Margaret's Day.

Our locum Linda gave a verbal report on her positive first encounters with us and that the Parish was an active God centred community.

Apart from our planned giving which is not up to budget, the financials presented by Helen were good, details will be in the next Parish Matters

Out of the several reports, the five recommendations from Do Justice (below) were accepted and the SAGE team is soon to bring some options for you all to join in support of the pathway that has come out of the Climate Crisis seminars. The change in date for the Dementia seminar was noted and the expected return to delivering services at SVCS aged care by Christopher, Adrienne, Sheila and Harry. Helen delivered the finance report (see p4)

We were briefed on the LinC's (love in the name of Christ) activity and the prospect of their involvement in the Community Pantry Project.

There was some concluding discussion on our Governance Policy and Compliance review ranging from licencing to Police Check status.

In conclusion Christopher had introduced us to a new style of running meetings. It was well done.

For PC Harry

Do Justice Report

This sub-committee of Council has been busy recently.

Fire Pit and Yarning Circle. David Tuke is now negotiating with the First Nations' landscape gardeners about the placement of the brazier and stone seats and landscaping around the brazier. Kathleen Toal has been instrumental in obtaining a grant for the development. This week is NAIDOC week when the achievements of First Nations people are noted, and on 18th July the Do Justice Group, together with the NRG will be presenting speakers in the hall together with a display of paintings.

Last week we started a collection of **pantry style food for refugees and asylum seekers** living in the Eltham area. We are hoping there will be many people donating foods for this group in the next week. Monty Asylum Seeker Support Group (MASSG) is running two seminars Monday July 19 and August 23 (both at 2.30) where local politicians will be invited to speak about party policies about refugees. Please contact Jenny Disney if you wish to attend.

Letters are being hand written by interested parishioners to the Prime Minister about the need for immediate action on decreasing carbon emissions from the atmosphere.

Remember: only one page long; 1st paragraph mention your commitment to our church; 2nd paragraph mention your particular concern: 3rd

paragraph ask a question about when action can be taken .

Letters need to be in sealed envelope (no stamp required) in the church office by Monday 26th July.

Anglicare donations to the needy. Just over 100 pairs of socks and 25 pairs of jocks have been donated for homeless men cared for by Anglicare. They plus an ENORMOUS amount of blankets, quilt covers, doonas as well as knitted rugs, scarves and beanies and two cartons of tinned foods have been taken to St Mark's Fitzroy for distribution.

Tuesday 13th July @10AM the next meeting will be held in the hall.

Jenny Disney

Christopher Marries

On June 26 Christopher married our Robert Brazenor's nephew here at St Margaret's Our first wedding held here for many many months. The flowers from which have adorned the church so beautifully this last few weeks. (The budget was



Christopher marries Danni and Lachlan

likely much bigger than Angela and her team have access to; their decorative skills are much appreciated).

The groom wrote to Christopher saying *'Thanks again for doing our wedding on the 26th! Everything came together extremely well, and we're grateful for your help in the lead-up, as well as the day of the ceremony. You kept us relaxed, focused on what was important to us, and we all thought it was a lovely day. Danni's family and friends in China also appreciated the zoom video, which meant they felt as much as possible like they could share in the day with us, which meant so much to them.'*

This was perhaps an unexpected use of the cameras and Zoom and new lighting installed for the on-line attendances at services. Far into China was unexpected!

We wish the couple Lachlan McDonald and Danni nee Wang a very happy life. The wedding pictures show a good start!!

Finance Committee Report

Our Treasurer John H is taking a well earned break from us all for a couple of months. Helen Robertson is filling the gap. She asks 'Please forgive any oversights that I haven't captured.'



Current period November to May

I am pleased to report the Parishes current financial position is satisfactory and able to move forward with some degree of confidence.

- The payments previously from the Commonwealth Government Jobkeeper scheme, have now ceased as of March.
- Our total surplus for the period will adjust considerably in June when the new Church door of \$12,500 will be reflected in the figures. This large item whilst necessary had not been part of our 3 year Budget Plan.
- Planned Giving remains of some concern falling short by roughly \$8000. It is worth noting that the Offertory Open Plate remains reasonably steady.
- In July the Finance Committee would like to put the Budget together for the following year. To that end we would like groups within the Church that are likely to require funds for priorities on wish lists, to forward them to Kathleen Toal by the July 20 so they can be considered in the calculations

realistically, for the up and coming budget. Committees and Groups such as the following that do incur expenses ought put their minds to it now please. This way we can assist one another.

- ❖ Property
- ❖ Pastoral Care
- ❖ Do Justice

As John Humann our Treasurer has been known to say with any budget, the figures used are predictions based on assumptions. But let's make them as realistic as we can.

For the Finance Committee Helen Robertson

Upcoming Events

PARISH COUNCIL

The next **Parish Council meeting will be at church** to hear the Revd John Sanderson's presentation (Subject to Lockdown codns)

NEW FRONT DOORS

Look for them any day now!!
Be prepared to use the push button control.

ENVELOPES NEXT YEAR for your giving

Will not be your favourite numbers. They cost \$150 extra

St MARGARET'S DAY

Our Special Guest will be
Arch Bishop Philip



Stop Press CAVE Lunch

The recent luncheon raised over \$1700 to help fund the Judith Ireland studentships to needy primary school students.. These will be reduced to \$500 each because COVID has affected many events. Full report next Issue **Diana W**
Surely some of us can help to make it \$2000

Ed this edition Harry Watson
Pictures by McDonald family and Website