



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, our Redeemer,
 in our weakness we have failed
 to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
 renew us by your Holy Spirit,
 that we may follow your commands
 and proclaim your reign of love;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

How MAT birthed SAGE!

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On Saturday 1st May the Mission Action Team attended a workshop held here at St Margaret's, along with members of the Mission Action Teams from the other two parishes involved in our Pathways cohort. We were encouraged to plan out the next steps in our pathway; for us that meant thinking about our "belonging" activity.

There are seven stages on the pathway for people who have no church involvement and do not know God to come to faith (see Table 1 next page).

As you can see from looking at the Table, we are still developing the pathway, but this puts into context what we've been doing. You'll also notice SAGE (St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment) under the "Belonging" activity; the MAT is working at the moment and discerning what shape this activity will take. Please pray for us as we discern this activity and plan for its inception.

It's intended that SAGE will have an ongoing life and work in the space of justice for the environment. Long term, it's anticipated that in the long term, SAGE will report to the Do Justice group as part of our justice work here at St Margaret's. So far our thinking has come up with this statement:

Introducing SAGE (St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment)

→ Who are we?

We are a group of concerned local people wanting to do practical things to help our environment. Some of us are practising Christians at St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham, and ALL people are welcome.

→ What are our aims?

We aim to provide a place of belonging to people in Nillumbik and surrounds who are interested in caring for our environment, local and global.

We aim to develop a sense of empowerment in the face of environmental distress.

We aim to partner with local and other groups that are working to achieve environmental justice for all.

→ What and How?

The focus of our activities will be determined by all participants as SAGE evolves.

SAGE will organise seminars with speakers from different groups on a range of environmental issues. Topics might include environmental justice, preservation and care of parklands and reserves, ecosystems in crisis, climate change, native wildlife, pollution abatement.

SAGE will partner with local government, indigenous people, other community groups etc. Together we will organise practical programs to take action on issues that local people identify as priorities, for example:

- forming or assisting "Friends" groups to care for local reserves
- establishing community gardens
- promoting practices of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- establishing programs such as Repair Shop, Rubbish Rangers etc
- assisting wildlife carers

and many others.

Table 1 Pathways 7 stages and St Margaret's Progress

Stage	Potential Contact	In Touch	Belonging	Embracing the Gospel	Following Jesus	Serving in Ministry	Leading in Ministry
Description of people and what they need	People we don't know and know no one in church. Needs to make contact.	People know at least one person in the church. Needs an attractive group in which to belong.	Knows several people and is a regular part of a church group. Needs an opportunity to find out more about Christian faith and a reason to consider commitment.	Interested in knowing about Jesus. Needs to hear the gospel and establish relationship with God.	In a process of learning, obeying, and growing in faith. Needs teaching, encouragement and accountability to support Christian life.	Has identified gifts and is serving others in Jesus' name. Needs opportunities and training to develop gifts.	Takes up a leadership role.
Aim of activity	Let people know we have something to offer. Encourage people to make initial contact with us.	Encourage people we know to become regular participants in a program or group.	Cultivate relationships between believers and people who participate in a program or group.	Create an environment where people can explore the gospel in a meaningful way. Ensure that there are opportunities for people to make a response to the claims of Jesus.	Teach, encourage and share accountability with people as they shape their life to be a follower of Jesus.	Encourage and equip all people to exercise their gifts and talents.	Train and encourage people to be leaders in the church.
St Margaret's Pathway	Website, facebook, advertising, word of mouth, personal invitations	Seminars: Climate in Crisis: What can I do? Series of three seminars.	SAGE (St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment)	"Being With", a study in development by St Martins in the Fields.	?	?	?

Revd Keren

April Parish Council Meeting.

We met face to face in the Church

There were 2 main items discussed.

Vision 2021.

As background reading we had read Chapter 1 from Sam Wells Book *A Future that's bigger than the Past: Catalysing Kingdom Communities*.

We considered the following questions:

- Where has God's abundance been for you in the Easter experience this year?
- What do you make of Sam Wells' cry for Christianity to be "an alternative society" (p47)?
- Look at Sam's sevenfold proposal for a reimagining of church and society (pp48-51). Which of these pose the greatest challenges for us at St Margaret's? How might we implement them?

You may have read an article in the March 2021 edition of TMA titled "*HeartEdge's '4 C's' will revive the Church*"

- Commerce;
- Culture;
- Congregation; and
- Compassion.

Parish Council spoke about the many ways God's abundance is being shown at St Margaret's and the exciting new opportunities which provide hope for our future. Examples of these are the recent Climate Crisis seminars, the yarnning circle, the indigenous seminar and the music scholarship which have included the wider community. We noted that it is very encouraging for these events to occur, however the ongoing vision is one where we continue the connections with people after an isolated event or function. Much of these ideas will feed in to our upcoming visioning process which will occur later this year.

Presentation by David Tuke - The Yarning Circle Project

David gave a power point presentation describing:

- how this project originated from an Anglicare meeting in 2019;
- an outline of what a yarnning circle is - and how the Aborigines use this;
- the yarnning pit has been completed – it now needs to be placed within a specifically designed landscaped area in the church grounds
- Receipt of *Nillumbik Shire Council Robert Bridgford Grant* to develop a concept design with the Wurundjeri
- This will be a community project and will require obtaining grants

Parish Council noted that this will be a project that may take some time, however it is very worthwhile and we thank the Do Justice committee for their energy and tireless work in this area.

The meeting finished with Compline.

Mandy Stevens

Next Saturday Don't Forget.

The third seminar is particularly relevant as you can get to know people who are doing lots

Climate in Crisis

What can I do?

Use the link or QR Code provided to book your place

<https://www.trybooking.com/BPGGM>



Seminar 3

May 22: Advocacy and Action. What can we do?

We will explore what we can do to influence effective action on the Climate Crisis

2.30pm. St. Margaret's Eltham 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham

Speakers: From Amnesty International, Tearfund Australia.

There will be information stalls from Environment, Conservation and Renewable Energy and other groups.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS

SAGE event (St. Margaret's Action Group for the Environment)

Out and About - Seniors Enjoy



St
Standing (L-R) Jan Gack, Jenny Gillett, Jean Taylor, Margaret Charles, Margaret Alexander, Carole Auchterlonie. Sitting Jeanette Lier, Ann Hutchinson, Diana Warrell, Kathleen Toal and Lilian Lloyd.

A group of St Margaret's ladies attended the Nillumbik Shire Council Seniors Social Lunch on 28th April 2021 where they enjoyed a delicious 2

course meal and were entertained by Ben Clark who was a member of the Ten Tenors and a finalist on the Voice in 2018.

They are all looking forward to the next lunch scheduled for Seniors Week in October 2021.

Kathleen Toal

World Labyrinth Day Walk as One

Saturday 1st May 2021 was a glorious sunny day at St Margaret's labyrinth nine labyrinth walkers participated in this annual World Labyrinth Day walk when there is a continuous wave of labyrinth walkers (world wide) walking at 1.00 pm in their time zone.



The walkers were accompanied by the beautiful harp music – played by the Vicar - Keren Terpstra. Melissa Laidlay facilitated our labyrinth walk. A big thank you to Keren and Melissa for making our World Labyrinth Day Walk so special.

Several of our walkers had travelled from Northcote and Thomastown – they had remembered that we had held this event in years prior to CoVoid and came with the intention of walking our labyrinth on this special day even if St Margaret's had not arranged this event.



After the walk we enjoyed a CoVid safe afternoon tea sitting outdoors in the Children's garden – the sun was still warm. There was much conversation. Up at Diamond Creek at the Shire of Nillumbik Labyrinth's there were a group of labyrinth walkers also participating at same time in the World Labyrinth Day Walk – this was organized by OM-NI (Old Men New Ideas).

Kathleen Toal

Pastoral Care Seminar

1st 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 June 27 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

Invite someone who needs this

Impact of Europeans on Indigenous Tribes East of Melbourne.

In April Dr Gary Presland came to St Margaret's and with illustrations spoke about the impact of the white colonists on the Indigenous people in Victoria.



The pamphlet that was given to attendees had a photo of a picture drawn about 1880. By that time most of the land in Eltham had been cleared, a township was being developed, fields were cultivated with grain crops and were bordered with European hedges. Beside the river were a flour mill and a tannery. This was no place for Indigenous people.

Gary used Europeans practice of sheep grazing as one which had permanent damage to the land. When the first European explorers travelled through the Murrumbidgee area and what is now western Victoria, they were in awe of what they described as vast tracts of natural pasture. What

they did not realize was that these "Pastures" were actually fields used by tribes for gathering bulbs and seeds only a few weeks each year. This was where the Indigenous people used their "cool" fire burnings to keep out weeds and fast rowing seedling trees. Once sheep were brought in the pastures perished, weeds overran the area and Europeans often abandoned the land after a few years.

There is no doubt that the indigenous population declined rapidly: smallpox and flu killed many as the indigenous had no immunity, the indigenous birth-rate decreased and infant mortality increased as there was uncertainty caused by the violence of settlers, punitive expeditions of police and increased tribal wars.

Gary highlighted how only three years after Melbourne was declared to be the place for a village that the indigenous people were resettled from areas that white people wanted to use for farming.

In the 1840s indigenous people were to be taken and settled on 1 square mile protectorates. In 1869 Coranderrk was selected as a new system of reserve for Indigenous people in the eastern half of the state. This practice of settlement resulted in massive changes in the social structure of the people.

For many tribes this was the first time they lived in the one place. Men and women had to work together in hop growing, a change from the traditional ways of the past when men hunted and fished and women were gatherers of foodstuffs. Worse was to come in the late 1880s when the Half Caste Act meant that children under 35 who had a white parent would be banished from Coranderrk. The result of this was that families were split up and the people who were sent away missed out on the teaching and care by older people, there was a smaller labour force and less food and hops were produced and the income of Coranderrk decreased. Instead of the Indigenous people making decisions together, male leaders like Simon Wonga and Barak became the spokesmen and petitions were written and presented to the Governor and to newspapers.

In the Hall afternoon tea was served with tables of information illustrating the decline of Aborigines in the area. Geoff Sandy had photocopied information from the church archive, David Tuke brought in the brazier which will be used for the Yarning Circle and Emily Tuke brought in samples of native indigenous plants—with descriptions Dennis Ward from the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Park brought in some chipped stones which would have been used on spear s and maps. Meera from the Eltham Bookshop had copies of Gary's books and other books for sale.

Nearly 40 people attended, with over two thirds of the people who attended coming from beyond the parish.

Thanks to the Do Justice Group: Kathleen, Jenny, Jennifer, Jean, David and Christopher and Helen. We are especially grateful to Kathleen for the work she did in tying together all the strings.

Thanks to Diana for making sure attendees had their booklets and pencils.

Thanks to Linda and her helpers who served afternoon tea.

Jennifer Disney

Help – Do Justice & Anglicare

SOCKS and JOCKS

For men who attend Anglicare's breakfast at St Peter's East Melbourne.

Now that the colder weather has come to Melbourne the Eltham AVPG will be holding their annual collection, this year between Sunday May 23rd and Wednesday June 9th. I am told that some men arrive at breakfast with no socks! Ugh!!

Thick socks are most needed to help keep out the frost for those who are homeless, and some of the supermarket are already having sales on socks. The staff are particularly pleased when they can offer clean socks to the men too.

(Note, new items only)

A white box will be in the foyer. All donations will be thankfully received.

Jenny Disney

Vicar's Long Service Leave etc.

Reminder from last edition:

- Keren's last Sunday with us is June 6th She is on leave from (June 10 to Sept. 17) which includes annual leave, long service leave, retreat and clergy conference.
- Our Locum will be The Revd Linda Fiske currently Assoc. Priest East Ivanhoe and previously school chaplain at Christ Church Grammar School.

SAGE Seminar 2 Politicians Actions

Kate Thwaites MP spoke first with emphasis on Labor policy which impacted business and the environment. As the federal representative for many in the room, she criticised Kevin Andrews

whose seat included our part of Eltham, for not presenting (he had a commitment to the next day's ANZAC dawn Remembrance Service). She stressed the important policy of setting targets such as zero net carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 and how this would enable Australia to renew its manufacturing industry and become a technology exporter. Electric vehicles should be incentivised by government as in many developed countries. She suggested that Australia could become a renewable energy super power and export clean green products around the world. The short talk necessarily lacked detail but it was plain that technology was a major facilitator of future Labor policy.



Vicki Ward MP as our local representative in State Government was more upbeat as she could report on achievements rather than on future policy alone. She is a true local having grown up in Research and appreciates the special local environment. She detailed the large support the Andrews government had given to roof top solar energy, to wind energy and battery storage. The state is on its way to hit its target of 50% renewables by 2030. Recycling was another topic from railway sleepers to household waste amongst her long shopping list of ideas.

Our local shire **Councillors Eyre and Ramcharan** focused on achievements and plans, Cr Eyre by video on addressing the important issue of climate change in Nillumbik. How the Shire's plan will function to include resilience and support the community to do the same. Especially important were planning for the risk of fire, health impacts of climate change and managing its effects on plants and animals and sustainable transport, products and services. Ben spoke about the need to declare a Climate Emergency as the foundation of the Shire's plan. He recognised that carbon accounting is tricky as some good items like batteries have a very big footprint and the need to carefully account for offsets like planting trees are actually delivered. This rational approach is the foundation of projecting when zero emissions can

be achieved by 2030 or 2050. He spoke about the desirability of sustainable housing, working from home to reduce travel, ways to assist in financial management of solar panels, reverse cycle air conditioners (heaters) etc. Sequestering carbon from the atmosphere needs to be part of the plan by tree planting with good soil management.

There was a lengthy question time well managed by Fr Christopher followed by face-to-face discussion with COVID safe refreshments.

Thanks to the SAGE team and the several volunteers who made this possible.

If you missed out you can find all 2 hours on St Margaret's Youtube Chanel, Go there and see:> Please give us your support again by attending Seminar 3 next Saturday!!

Harry Watson



**Easter Season is Coming to an End
Some of us will miss this Holy water soon!
Pentecost is a Joint Service at 9.30 and
Bishop Kate is with us for Baptism and
Confirmation!!**

Visiting Speakers and Clergy

It's enriching for us here at St Margaret's to have the input of quality speakers and clergy from beyond the parish who are experts in various fields. Any groups intending to approach a speaker, especially clergy from beyond the parish, please check in with the vicar before contacting the proposed speaker. The leadership team at St Margaret's wants to encourage and foster education and edification of people in the parish.

The Wardens

**Ed this edition Harry Watson
Pictures by Kathleen Toal and Harry**