

# St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

## the Parish Matters

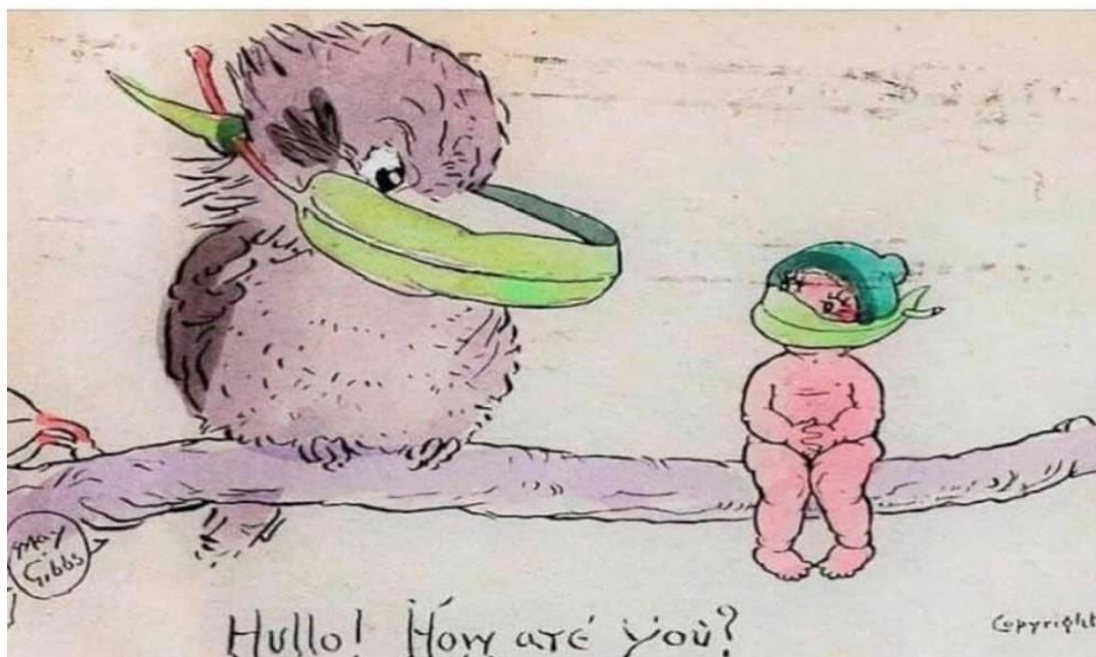
Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting  
Find us on the web at [www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/](http://www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/) Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham](https://www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham)

### 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.**

**Amazing to think this drawing was done by Australian artist May Gibbs a hundred years ago during the Spanish flu.**



## The Passing of Wise Faithful - Marjorie Taylor

We were all saddened not to have been able to celebrate Marjorie's wonderful life last Monday. Her funeral was postponed by the COVID lockdown. Here is an interview for Parish Matters published in 2014 for us to remember her by.

What a joy and privilege to interview our much loved Marjorie Taylor and to do it over homemade tea cakes in her lovely home.

"My husband would have been far more interesting to talk with, as he was much involved in community life.

"I'm so ordinary. Why me?" said Marjorie on my arrival. No sooner was I inside and the 'phone rang. "I'll ring you back later" she said. "That was a young friend of mine; she has major problems and no social contacts, so we talk on the 'phone a number of times each week and we meet occasionally for coffee". I replied "No, you are not ordinary Marjorie, I don't know of too many 95-year-olds with this active concern for others in distress".

Marjorie Taylor's destiny has been intricately entwined in the life of St Margaret's faith community, when she and her late husband Ben moved in 1947 from upper Hawthorn to settle in Eltham. It was Marjorie who brought their four children, Mark, Helen, Rosemary and Phillip to St Margaret's (as Ben was RC) and made it their spiritual home well into their teen years. Helen Robertson worships with us still.

Marjorie has witnessed the incumbencies of eleven vicars. Her assessment of their impact on St Margaret's varied according to the fruits of their labours and their seeming ability to love God and love their



Marjorie on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday

faith community and beyond. She particularly singled out Rev David Warner; she found him energetic, fun, hospitable, empathetic and a great preacher. So also was Rev Ian Brown, who was a lover of the arts and a director of Eltham Little Theatre plays. Marjorie thought that Rev Ron Dowling was a good educator, liturgist and preacher. "He could seem aloof and distant but in fact, he was a caring man who attracted people to St Margaret's from all walks of life" she said. Rev Val Rogers and his wife Josie were incredibly hospitable and exemplified the Christian way of life, "though his sermons could be foggy" said Marjorie.

In early days in Eltham, when the fairer sex were excluded from 'up-front' roles at worship, it fell to the women folk to form the backbone of the church; fund raising, cleaning, providing sustenance and social life and emotional and physical support, as well as Sunday school leadership. In this environment Marjorie quickly took on the role of President of the Ladies Guild and became a member of the Mother's Union. She acted as convener of the cake stall for many years and organised a team of parishioners to cater for the men's annual communion breakfast. The Ladies Guild made pastoral visits to Judge Book retirement village. They ran luncheons and street stalls to raise funds for the church, until the Planned Giving Program took over this function and the Guild was disbanded. Marjorie then involved herself with the Mission to Streets and Lanes. She tells of one Christmas, when she was delivering a collection of toys to the Mission house and she was asked if an auxiliary existed at Eltham. There was not, so Marjorie contacted other Anglican churches in the area and set up an Auxiliary over which she presided for 23 years. This Mission eventually was folded into Anglicare.

Marjorie makes little of her wonderful leadership skills, being self effacing and unassuming and very practical. She leads from behind with gentle encouragement.

During Rev Ron Dowling's time Marjorie was holidaying at Alice Springs and visited the cathedral there. She was impressed by the embroidered kneelers that 'shone out like jewels' and on her return to Eltham she suggested to Molly Hennessy that a group could create their own kneelers for use at St Margaret's. As money was in short supply, Father Ron thought it should be directed elsewhere and he was 'not happy'. So Marjorie and Molly organised a group who paid for the materials themselves and with the assistance of Jacquie Weekes' knowledge of embroidery and design, created our kneelers as meaningful works of art.

Marjorie has happy memories of the St Margaret's Centenary Ball. It took place in the old Shire Hall, where the Coles arcade is now, during David Warner's era. She remembers fondly the weather-board Gibson Hall on the site of our existing mud brick hall. A place for luncheons, concerts, fetes, dances, youth group activities including camps and Sunday school. There was a tennis club, the court being where the labyrinth is now and also a St Margaret's cricket club.

In Fr Ron's time, St Margaret's Day was celebrated in style, with a barbeque lunch in the church grounds. Community life was very sociable in those day, "People really cared for each other" she emphasised. Marjorie also enjoyed discussion groups after Wednesday services, led by Revs Ian Brown, Ron Dowling and then Erica Mathieson. She attended Lenten study groups and line meetings. Nowadays, she says she particularly enjoys the singing of the church choir directed by Rev Robert Street.

During Marjorie's time at St Margaret's she has witnessed and adjusted to many changes: different placement of church furniture, the installation of the Resurrection window, introduction of the new prayer book, liturgical changes and variations, the participation of lay people in the sanctuary, young children receiving the Eucharist, the inclusion of the Baptism Rite at the 10 am service, normally

replacing private baptism and lately the extension of the church under Rev Libby Delbridge.

Marjorie regrets the loss of the original 1860's blackwood pews, and the borrowed pulpit now returned to St James' old cathedral. She misses the robed choir, introduced by Rev Gibbons and the grand and glorious Easter music; "No exposure for our young people" she said with concern. She is not fond of modern 'Jingles' and being a traditionalist regrets the passing of old fashioned prayers and older translations of Bible readings, which had beauty and poetic value.

"What makes you stay at St Margaret's Marjorie?" I asked, to which she responded "I never thought to leave; even though my vision and hearing are failing, I could never leave. I love all the people". "What" I queried, "do you consider to be your best God given gift?" To which she replied "My persistence in the life of the church, which I have endeavoured to serve faithfully, like my mother before me".

**Adrienne Watson 2014**

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## July Parish Council Meeting.

Parish Council met online and began with prayer and a presentation from our guest Archdeacon Tim Johnson.

Tim spoke about a document called “Re-imagining the Future” which originated in Brisbane and has been adapted for use by churches in the Diocese of Melbourne. The document is a tool to help churches think about their mission and ministry in the local area in light of changes caused by Covid over the last 18 months. It can help us frame our thinking after a period of extraordinary change experienced by churches and how this might shape our planning for the future.

The document identifies four main scenarios that parishes might consider going forward:

- Recover – how do we get back to the way things were (before Covid)?
- Reinvention – what brand new place could we go to?
- Reframe – what can we learn from and adopt going forward?
- Release – what can we let go of and how do we finish well.

We will potentially use this format to plan for the future as part of our Visioning Day in October this year.

Parish Council then continued with discussion on the book we are studying called “A Future that’s bigger than the Past”. The chapter this month examined the idea of charity and how churches might re-think their mission giving to be more encompassing and relational with those we seek to support.

Other items covered during the meeting included:

- The new front doors were due to be installed two weeks ago, however this has been delayed due to the lockdowns. We

anticipate it happening shortly after lockdown rules are eased.

- The Finance Committee gave their report which identified that whilst our financial situation is very satisfactory currently, this is due mostly to JobKeeper and the rent received from the Research child care centre. The Committee has looked at the 3-year forward budget and has stated that our ongoing position is more concerning as there is declining revenue from offertory (planned giving and the open plate). This will impact on our ability in mission giving for example so the Finance Committee will look closely at expenditure going forward. The Parish Council expressed great thanks to David P and Kathleen for all their hard work in developing the 3-year budget.
- Pastoral Care is seen as a matter of urgency now due to ageing of the congregation and members of the Pastoral Care team. The matter will be referred to Keren for her attention when she returns.
- Communications and marketing is another area that needs to be looked at further within the parish. Chris will convene a working party to look at this important issue.

Parish Council concluded with the grace.

***Mandy Stephens***

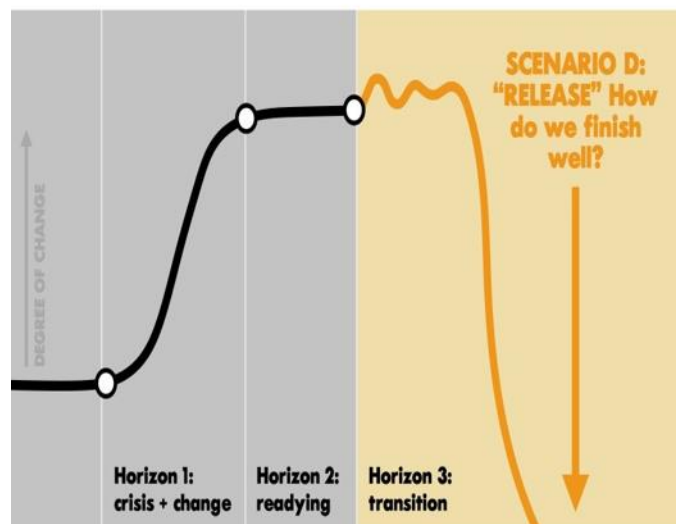
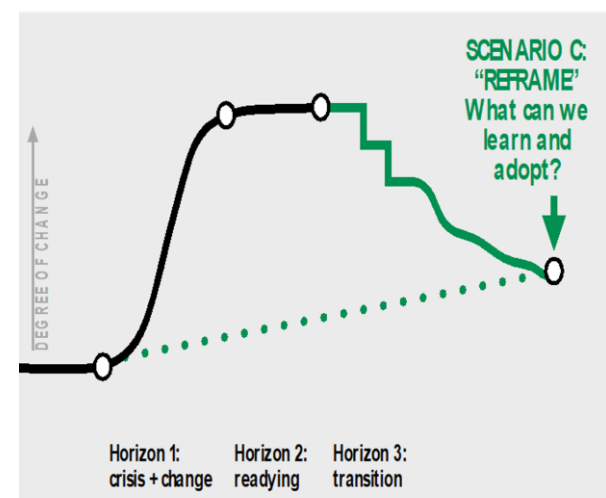
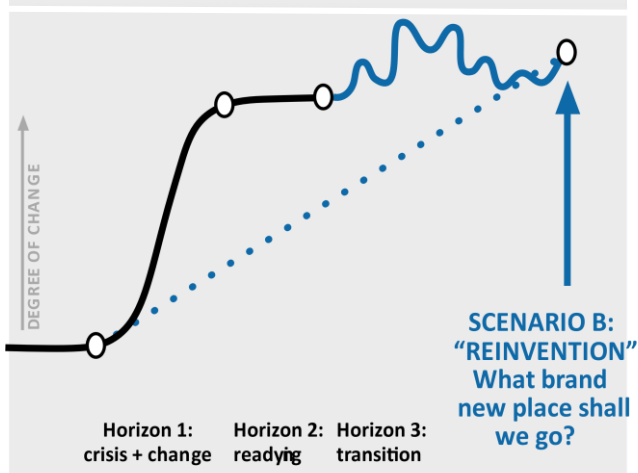
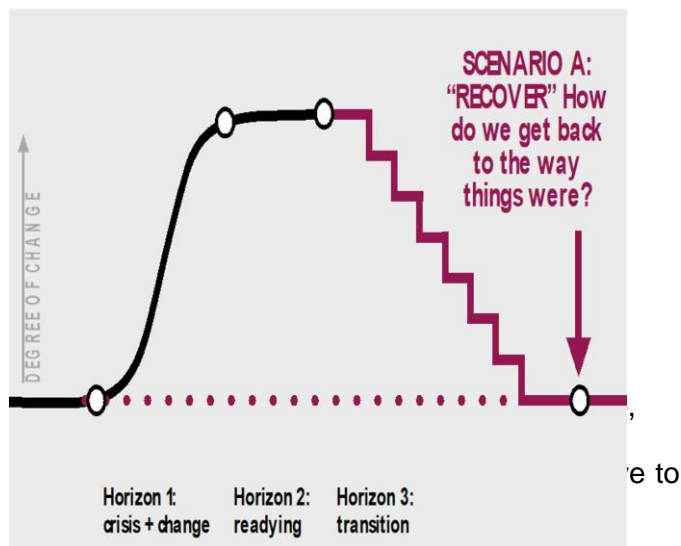
## The Door

Lockdowns make manufacturing incredibly slow. We have approved the colour for the beam, glass ordered. It will happen!!



## Challenging presentation to Council

Parish Council met online and business began with a presentation from our guest **Archdeacon Tim Johnson**. Tim spoke about the need for churches to “*Re-imagine their Future*”. His slide presentation was clear and thought provoking.



The four options are depicted left and above, Horizon 1 is the start of COVID. Horizon 2 is the short time (now) when we have to decide on our future. Horizon 3 is the outcome of the decision and its delivery.

### Asking Good Questions

**Our 4 Buckets**

1. What have you STOPPED (that you don't want to go back to?)
2. What have you CHANGED (that you want to continue with?)
3. What have you STARTED (that you want to adopt from now on?)
4. What have we done out of NECESSITY (that we will stop when we can?)

He advocated that there were **four good questions** to ask (answers to be put in buckets for deliberation) in planning the path to take. We will potentially use this format to plan for the future as part of our Visioning Day in October this year.

**Harry Watson**

## Anglicare

Here are 4 quilts collected by our Anglicare group for children in care in western Melbourne. A dozen knitted jumpers and some teddies also were collected.



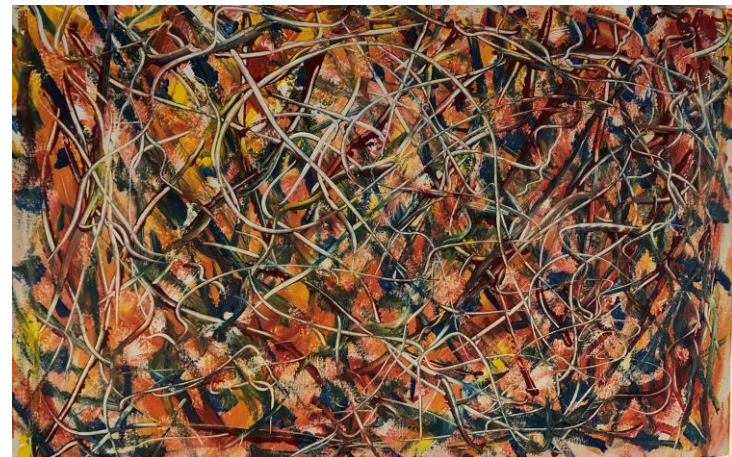
**Jenny Disney**

## The Revd Canon Glenn Loughrey

The Chapter of the Cathedral have appointed the Revd Canon Glenn Loughrey, artist and priest, Wiradjuri man and Vicar of St Oswald's as the first Aboriginal Cathedral Canon. Here is an interview with the arts editor of the Age, Nick Miler, that also gives you a preview of the plans to instal a permanent memorial to acknowledge the Country on which we work and worship:

<https://www.theage.com.au/culture/art-and-design/artist-glenn-loughrey-wiradjuri-man-appointed-canon-of-st-paul-s-cathedral-20210810-p58hg4.html>.

We currently have several of Glenn's paintings in the church, borrowed for the forum. Glenn says "This painting is called Hidden In Country. In the Centre of this piece there is, if you stand back and stay long enough a face camouflaged in the surrounding landscape. We are indistinguishable from Country."



## Do Justice

Our forum on truth telling had to be cancelled because of (yet another) covid lockdown. Plans with Nillumbik Reconciliation Group and the participants are underway for another afternoon.

The food collection over two weeks in June for refugees in Eltham have been much appreciated. Thanks to those who participated.

Letters to the Prime Minister are on their way! Once again thanks to those who participated. We will be contributing to ARRC's

Faiths4ClimateChange and two days of action in mid October. More details soon.

**Jenny Disney**

*These two reports missed the last edition of Parish Matters.*

## **CAVE Luncheon**

Many thanks to the people who attended and supported the CAVE lunch. The committee is pleased to report that we made \$1705.30 with the promise of more from some who couldn't attend. This money will be used to help fund the Judith Ireland Studentship worth at least \$500.00 per student. We offer this studentship to 21 Primary schools in the area and it is to be used to help with educational expenses. Before Covid we were able to raise the amount to \$700 per student but as many of our supporters have not held their usual fundraising events (due to Covid), we are reducing the amount to \$500.00. The amount we can offer each student depends on how much we can raise so thank you again to all the lovely people who supported the lunch or made a donation. I hope you enjoyed yourself.

***Diana Warrell (Secretary CAVE Inc.).***

## **Parish Finances to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and Planned Giving.**

Covid 19 has had a mixed impact on the Parish financial situation to date.

The closure of the church for a number of weeks has reduced the costs of operating the buildings and land, offset by the expense of the change to the front door of the church.

The receipt of **Jobkeeper and other one off grants** have been significant in covering a shortfall in weekly collections. Without the contribution of these the Parish would have recorded a **deficit of \$18,826**. However the overall result for the nine months ended 30th June is a **surplus of \$42,114**.

The surplus is after paying our **Parish Assessment of \$29068** to the Diocese and **\$12,000 in three payments to nominated charitable institutions**, a total of **\$41068**. A further amount of **\$13682** will be paid in the last quarter of the financial year, a total of **\$58750**.

**We cannot ignore the contribution from the Childcare centre at Research, which continues to play a critical role in underwriting St Margaret's activities.**

In the next few months the Finance team will be putting together the Budget for 2021/22. This will we expect to have a different outcome from the 2020/21 financial results.

**A key ingredient will once again be the contribution to Parish finances of the planned giving commitment of Parishioners.**

**Now is the time to consider your response.**

## **A quick 20 questions with Linda Fiske**

**Where are you in birth order (oldest? middle? youngest?) and do you think it affects your personality? I am the eldest of five children. We are three boys and two girls. I am not sure what my siblings think of me. I've never asked them! I am an organiser so perhaps I step up and take responsibility at times. That said, I think I am pretty easy going.**

- 1. If you could choose one age to be forever, what age would it be and why? Back to my university days with the life-wisdom I have now. I had boundless physical energy then.**
- 2. How and why did you become a priest? No one is more surprised than me that I am now a priest. Some of my earliest memories are of being in church. From childhood I knew it was a special place. I began Theological Study out of interest and never assuming I would offer for Ordination. That seemed to just happen. Others saw a possibility in me that I didn't see in myself.**
- 3. What did you before this? Before Ordination I was a teacher of English and History in Secondary School.**

4. **What's something that has surprised you about being a priest? The sheer joy that it brings me. I LOVE what I do now. It isn't a burden. I just wish I didn't get tired.**
  5. **What's your favourite famous or inspirational quote? It's scriptural: Lo I am with you always, even to the end of time.**
  6. **What inspires or motivates you? Learning more about God. There is always more to learn. Working with inspiring priests is my greatest joy.**
  7. **What's your favourite sports team? The Dees. That is because it was my dear dad's football team. He was a footy tragic. He is in God's nearer presence and I am sure he looks down on this year's game with a smile.**
  8. **If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be? What a meal it would be. Roast pork including peas, plum pudding with all the trimmings, blue cheese and a good red wine. Total satisfaction!**
  9. **What's your favourite hobby? Reading is my thing and walking in the sun.**
  10. **What TV show or movie do you absolutely refuse to watch? Neighbours. Why? So hammy!**
  11. **What are you reading at the moment? A terrific book Learning to Pray by James Martin.**
  12. **Who would you most like to switch places with for a day? I am stumped by this question! I have no idea.**
  13. **What characteristic do you like most about yourself? I can be creative and I like to put things together in a way that evokes a sense of beauty.**
  14. **How do you wind down after work? I find a good movie is the best thing I can do. Entering an alternative imaginative world is helpful.**
  15. **What is your favourite thing to do when you're not working? Sitting in the sun! I love it!**
  16. **What job would you be terrible at? Accounting. There is nothing about me that is organised or contained.**
  17. **What's a topic do you wish you knew more about? Computing. I never seem to have the skills I need.**
  18. **What's the best piece of professional advice you've ever received? Trust your instincts!**
- If you could ask God one question and knew that you would get a reply, what question would you ask?**
- How do I encourage non-believers to open their minds to the possibility of God.**

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