



# 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, 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.**

#### In This Issue

Planning for 2022  
Thanks to retiring and  
welcome new Councillors  
Christmas services  
New Taizé services  
Yarning Circle Update  
Pastoral Care  
Christmas Carole in  
Town Square

### CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES INSIDE

#### Planning For 2022

Recently the **Mission Action Team** drew to a close its work with the Diocese of Melbourne's pilot Pathways Project. The group took time out to reflect on valuable learnings from the experience which extended over the last 2 ½ years. Twice as long as envisaged. Much has been learnt and the specific qualities of the St Margaret's context have been identified.

**Now is the time to look forward to exciting new initiatives in 2022.** Drawing on the recent survey of gifts and talents that many of you completed last month, future planning is well underway. A new steering group called **Community and Parish Connections** will be launched in February. Members will be drawn from those who participated in the Mission Action

Team but this group will be broadened and it will work in conjunction with Parish Council. The remit of this group will be to encourage connections both within our parish community and with the broader community surrounding us. The focus will be on partnerships that enable the sharing of gifts. The **HeartEdge** philosophy will underpin our actions going forward. Community, Compassion, Culture and Commerce will provide areas of engagement and guiding principles as we look to the future. It is envisaged that each the four quarters of the year will focus on specific events. Several seminars, an art show, and concert are all on the horizon.

In the first quarter of the year a **Sunday evening Taizé** service will be offered, and a prayer group focused on **Spiritual Meditation for The Environment** will be launched. Also, in the first quarter, **each of you will be**

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

HeartEdge

*Community, Compassion, Culture and Commerce*

**invited to a meal** hosted at church by a member of Parish Council. There you will hear more about how your gifts and talents may be shared with our community and beyond.

Much is happening and we want to create a variety of coordinated projects so that everyone can find one that encourages their participation. Emerging from Covid-19 has been a busy time and many of us are ready to close the door on the disruptive chapter that was 2021. However, we will be a new year re-energised and ready to create the Kingdom of God in Eltham. Our task is to create porous interfaces within our community and with the broader community so that our hearts are enhanced by the sharing of gifts. Reciprocal giving is what we will foster. Please join us in this adventure!

**Linda and Keren**

### Retiring and New Councillors

We held the first meeting of the new Parish Council recently. Amongst business items, we gave thanks to two members for their past service and contribution.

**Betty Cooper** has been on Council for 2 years. With an insightful mind and the ability to sum up the issues at hand, Betty has been an important and delightful member of Council

**Sandra Brown-Holt** has been on Council for 4 years. Sandra has worked hard and her inciteful observations will be missed.

We are fortunate to welcome two new members. Rob Mackenzie and Tony Michaelson.

While growing up in South Africa, **Rob Mackenzie** was involved in Church life as an Anglican from a very young age. Initially with St. Paul's in Parkhurst Johannesburg and then at St. Martin's in the Veld where he was a choir boy, Head Server and Sunday school teacher.

When Rob & Linda arrived in Australia in 2008, the first thing they did was join the congregation of St. Marks in Templestowe where they made many wonderful friends.

When they moved to Montmorency in 2017, they decided to find a Church closer to home and came across St. Margaret's where they were made to feel very welcome and have again made good friends with many people in the congregation.

Rob has spent most of his working life in the Automotive Industry and in recent years has transitioned into coaching and consultancy for clients across Automotive, Logistics, Cyber security and Telematics industries.



**Tony Michaelson** graduated from Monash University in 1975, and obtained a diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology whilst working in England in 1979. Tony is part of the practice at North Eltham Medical Centre and has been attending St Margaret's since 1980.



**Sally Petty Warden**

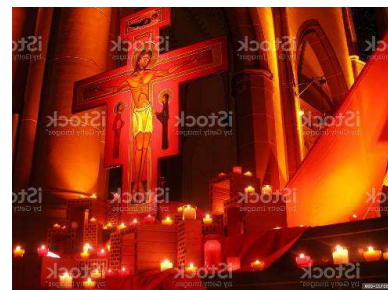
**Christmas**  
at St Margaret's Eltham 79-81 Pitt St.  
Phone 9439 9238 [www.stmargaretseltham.org.au](http://www.stmargaretseltham.org.au)

**Christmas Eve: December 24**  
5pm Children's Christmas Service  
7.30pm Christmas Eve Communion  
10.30pm Carols  
11pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day December 25**  
9.30 Christmas Communion

### Taizé and Our Services

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France. It is composed of more than one hundred brothers, from Catholic and Protestant traditions, who originate from about thirty countries across the world. It was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger, a Reformed Protestant. Taizé has become one of the world's most important sites for Christians, with a focus on youth. Over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages to Taizé each year for prayer, Bible





study, sharing, and communal work. Through the community's ecumenical outlook, they are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They have sought to demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants and icons from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. The music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture, repeated. Ecumenical services based on this model and music are held in many churches throughout the world.

St Margaret's has used Taizé music on a regular basis and (apart from lockdown) we have held regular services

During the month of February, additional services will be held allowing us to enjoy this peaceful time together, to have a light meal beforehand, and encourage friends and family to experience this form of hospitality. The service is not long but very peaceful and meditative. Please join and invite others. Transport can be provided.

**Next regular Taizé: Thursday 16 December 7.30**

**February: Every Sunday 5.30 light meal in the hall followed by Taizé.**

Keren

## Yarning Circle Update!



It would be perfectly reasonable of you all to feel this had gone to the back burner. However, I hope this update will reassure you the Do Justice

Group has been beavering away to keep this project alive.

We have reviewed the original project, as there were concerns about cost and we have gone back to the Wurundjeri Council to gain their input and assistance on bringing this project forward.

There is now not just the physical development of the Yarning Circle with them, but a very important educational Spiritual element being worked on.

To this end a pilot program has been drawn up by ex-teachers in the Do Justice Group and will be offered to local schools. Three quarters of the program is hoped to run in the school by their staff and the last quarter bringing the children to our spiritual site. For us in the Nillumbik Shire,

Wurundjeri Country, a Yarning Circle holds great spiritual connections to the land here around us for both our St.Margaret's Community and the Wurundjeri First Nations People. Something we wish to explore, learn and share with our children in particular.

We will keep you updated during 2022.

Helen Robertson

## Growing Pastoral Care

**Dear Friends,**

Keren and I have spent some time thinking about revamping Pastoral Care and what it might look like going forward. A good starting place is defining Pastoral Care. Is it a phone call, a cup of tea a prayer or home



Communion? Next questions are: who needs it and who should give it? As followers of Christ, we are all commissioned to care for others. In Matthew ...you will recall Jesus' words: *"when you hungry naked and imprisoned you visited me. In as much as you did it for another you did it for me"*.

I want to broaden this idea of caring for each other to suggest that in both giving and receiving of care we move towards wholeness and this is the aim of pastoral care. This is not something that we do to or for another. It is an expression of care that helps us to grow into spiritual maturity ourselves. In this manner I both need and give pastoral care.

This broad understanding of pastoral care brings resonance of the need to open ourselves to learning



from others and journeying with them. We don't need to be broken in body mind or spirit *to avail ourselves of care and encouragement. This is a path to individual growth. By the same token*, when we are experiencing difficulties we may relish the prayerful support of others. The movement to wholeness is the belief that underpins pastoral encounter. We assist each other when we make the effort to let go of some of long-held beliefs about spiritual growth and ready ourselves for new encounter.

**Your clergy are always available to you and we express our care and concern in ways that may not be immediately obvious to all. Please let us know**

what is happening in your world. In the new year we will revitalize our Home Communion ministry in the parish. **As a new year approaches Keren and I look forward to a time of renewal in Pastoral care within the parish**

Rev'd Linda

## Christmas Carols in the Town Square



The Town Square in Eltham - a warm Saturday afternoon in the lead-up to Christmas. Shoppers strolling by, curious onlookers, as well as faithful supporters come to watch the Carol singers.

Who are these dedicated folk who've rehearsed the traditional Christmas songs and performed for a number of years now, at the invitation of the Eltham Chamber of Commerce?



The singers are drawn from four of our local churches: St Margaret's, Living Faith Greensborough, EMUC (Eltham Montmorency Uniting Church) and Eltham Baptist. Our choir leader is Vicar Keren, and we're ably accompanied by Robert Street or Keren on piano and Stephen Bruinsma (EMUC) on guitar.

The choir is (mostly) resplendent in red, green, black and white. And everyone sings enthusiastically, happy to be bringing the true spirit



of Christmas to the good people of Eltham.

Thank you to all who sing and to those who support us, especially Gary and Stephen from EMUC, who provide the PA, loudspeakers and sound gear and do the setup. And thanks to our friend Marguerite Marshall at Living Faith for liaison with Eltham Chamber of Commerce.

**Come and join us in Eltham on Saturday 18th December at 2.30 pm. We'll also be singing at Greensborough Plaza at 7pm outside Target. All welcome.**

John Humann

*Wishing you all a joy filled Christmas and a better New Year Sally and Harry eds*

Ed this edition Harry Watson  
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