



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.

Prayer for 2022

God give us grace:
to seek after you with all our hearts,
to desire to know you with our minds,
to love you not for fear of loss or hope of gain
but for yourself alone.
Send us out that we may be
your hands of healing,
your voice of hope,
and your blessing for those around us. **Amen.**

In This Issue
Sunday Taize
Rev'd Linda's
appointment
Growing Pastoral
Care
LINC Thanks
Vale Ian Collis
What's This?

Taize: the quiet, reflective space for prayer to share.

Come to one of the Taize services we're running **through February and March** on a Sunday evening. Each service will be preceded by a light vegetarian supper – and we're looking for donations of any vegies or foodstuffs you might have grown in your garden!

This is an initiative of parish council, one of our mission objectives for the first quarter of the year, and it's in answer to one of the top desires named in the Reimagining the Future survey at the end of last year: for more fellowship and connection between people at St Margaret's.

To this end, you'll each be receiving an invitation from a parish councillor over the next few weeks to attend and check out Taize for yourself. Come along and enjoy some fellowship and connection with St Margaret's friends before retreating to the quiet space of the church for a short (no longer than 30 min) Taize service.

Taize is a style of worship which features very simple prayerful songs repeated like chants, a psalm, a bible reading, a time of silence, some prayers, and some more songs. It was developed in the town of Taize in France, where people gather from all over the world to pray and sing in this way. The beauty of Taize is that we are each enabled to connect prayerfully in our own way and to the extent we wish to. It is non-demanding, so can either wash over us, or we can invest in every word.

Our first Taize Sunday evening will be 6th February, beginning at 5:30pm for the light meal, and 6:30pm for the service.

Do you think you could come and join our first Sunday Taize and get the initiative off to a good start? You will be welcome on any Sunday. You don't have to have an invitation.

Keren

Please don't forget and add to the tub in the Foyer each week. Food goes to St Mark's Fitzroy and is distributed by Anglicare

Appointment of Revd Linda Fiske



Keren and the wardens are pleased to announce the intended continued appointment of the Reverend Linda Fiske as Associate Priest, starting 1st February, for six months. Linda so far in her time at St

Margaret's has brought a fabulous energy, especially for spirituality and prayer, for developing the Yarning Circle, and for pastoral care in the parish. She will continue these directions over the next six months. We are very glad to have Linda's dynamic, prayerful energy with us at St Margaret's.

Growing Pastoral Care

There has been quite some initial thought during last year about how to grow Pastoral Care not only because our average age is into the 70's.

As in the last issue of PM Linda rightly asked the question: 'What is pastoral

care? Is it a phone call, a cup of tea a prayer or home Communion?' She noted that as followers of Christ, we are all commissioned to care for others. And we should be caring for each other, because in both giving and receiving care we move towards wholeness and this is the aim of pastoral care.

It is an expression of care that helps us to grow into spiritual maturity ourselves.

On the basis of a such a we hope to be embarking on a refreshed journey in which there is a focus on and understanding of pastoral care. Putting it high on the agenda rather than being as an after-thought, as it is so often placed in our priority of activity and reporting. Under *Heartedge* we are challenged to balance Care along with Commerce. – two of the four C's.

Over the Christmas period there has been continued formal activity with the Clergy and others taking Holy Communion to a dozen or so people



known not to be able to attend Christmas worship, real or online.

One part of the new plan this year is to grow the number of parishioners trained to take Home



Communion (EHC) to those unable to attend worship. These people number over 20. In addition there are also others temporarily unable to join worship through hospitalisation or other challenges to their normal life.

So far three new people have committed to EHC training. If you would like to be part of this caring and sharing, please talk to Keren to see if you would like to be trained for such ministry, which we know is highly valued by the recipients. And it really is part of a holistic experience that Linda noted in her article. Why me you may ask? My response is why not? If you don't go there are you missing out on the Holy Spirit's calling? .

Harry W

LINC Acknowledgement

I would like to give my thanks to all the generous people from St Margaret's who donated money, packed, wrapped and delivered the 34 hampers in the week before Christmas.



Packing the hampers

Following, is the email sent to me by the principal of Strathewen, which captures the gratitude of the hamper recipients.

Diana Warrell



The 'team' of packers and deliverers

I just wanted to touch base to give you some feedback on your hamper program and how it was received out here.

I guess the main recipient I wanted to tell you about is a man in his 60's. I have known him for decades, having taught his only son as a little boy many, many years ago. That was before the Black Saturday fires, which saw his family collapse and his mental health deteriorate greatly (severe post trauma issues). Since that time he has lived alone in a shed on a bush block, in quite primitive conditions. My second teacher here at Strathewen and I have endeavoured to maintain contact with him over the years, just touching base, meeting occasionally for a cuppa. He tells us we remind him of happier times, when life was good. I rang him to let him know that I had a Christmas hamper here for him, thanks to your group, and to see about dropping it off to him. He chose to call in at school to pick it up and from the moment he got to the door, he was in tears. He was so touched to know that someone had thought of him at Christmas. You made his day or probably his year.

Our second single man, recently widowed, was delighted with his hamper and our two family hampers were also received with tears of gratitude.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to your team. I hope you know what a difference your support and generosity has made to our hamper recipients.

*Kindest Regards
Jane Hayward AM PSM
Principal
Strathewen Primary School*

Vale Ian Clark Collis

12/8/1932-29/12/2021

On 7 January 2022, a service of thanksgiving was held at St Margaret's for the life of Ian Collis. Many people attended both in church and on zoom. A lovely service followed by internment in the Memorial Garden. The following, is a précised copy

of the beautifully written and delivered eulogy by Glenys for her husband.

Ian was born in Eltham in a tiny hospital just beyond the roundabout in Eltham. Then he quickly moved to what is now the Zen Café but was then F.H. Collis Grocer. He went to the local schools, then to Melbourne High, where history goes he was a very good scholar, if an occasional scallywag!

Ian taught in primary schools finally retired as Principal at Kew High School
He had a passion for teaching

I first met Ian at Oak Park High School where as a young teacher, he was quite a red-ragger. He fought for proper training and appropriate payment for teachers.

People who say now what a quiet man he was, didn't know him then. I wonder, was he such a rabble rouser at Vestry or Warden's Meetings?

All this care slipped over easily to his work for many years for the Smith Family, helping people pay their bills and then joyfully he became a guide in St Paul's Cathedral until he became too frail. Even when the cruel Alzheimer's threw its dark cloud, he always remembered his friends from St. Margaret's when they visited. What day it was NO !, but his friends and all those he loved YES! He loved talking about the past, the further back, the better. Until the last two weeks of his life, he was able to do the "Age" cryptic crossword!

But I think this should be a love story, so here goes...

So my first date with Ian was the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at St Peter's Eastern Hill, in 1963. Then it so happened, and God definitely had her hand in this, was that Ian and his brother Douglas were off to Noumea on holiday at the same time I was off there to a French teachers' Conference.

After our lectures, I visited Ian and Douglas's villa where nearby bistros provided splendid food and I drank my very first glasses of fine wine while the Anse Vata or the Baie Le Citron lapped under the pale ovals of silver spilling from the moon, a distant coin in the salty night. The air pulsed on the water, as with bells. There we were, along with Douglas, and not yet aware of the awakening promise in our lives.

Just a young man and woman
Wreathed in each other's light.

On our engagement, six months later, my father, a presbyterian minister, was delighted his daughter

was marrying a Christian, but please, he added could we be married in a Presbyterian church?

I had already been well and truly converted to Anglicanism by then, so please, Dad, let's be wed in an Anglican church where our children will be brought up?"

"Well, OK but please darling, NOT St Peter's Eastern Hill." But we were. All our lives Ian and I have wondered how on earth we did get married at St Peter's. But we were wed with full Eucharist. Dad gave me away and Mum and my Presbyterian aunties, didn't fall apart, although there was much coughing at the incense.

And it is with Eucharist that we say goodbye to our beloved Ian Clark in the sure knowledge that he has died in faith and will rise in glory and that Light Perpetual will shine upon him as did that moonlight cast on us in each other's light 58 years before. Ian loved the metaphysical poets, so and I am saying goodbye to my darling with one of his favorite poems by John Donne

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.*

*From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must
flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou'art slave to fate, chance, kings, and
desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,
And poppy'or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.*





A Question for you

Where is this?

And what's it for?

Don't know. Ask around.



Also Sally has prepared a collage of images from 2021. Lookout for it!!

Editor This edition Sally and Harry
Pics: Liz Pryor, Sally, Harry, Linda,
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