



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 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

Important dates.
Kerens new
adventure
Pastoral Care
Developments
Parish Council
Summary
NB Food Collection
Anglicare News
Taize
Yarning Circle Project

Dates to for your diary:

- **HeartEdge Parish Consultations 19 March and 2 April. @ 10.30. in the hall. Please come and contribute to ideas for programs. All welcome.**
- **Seminar: Coping with grief and loss. Sunday 27 March 12.00 in the hall.**
- **Holy Week & Easter Services. Please see Pew Sheet**
- **Farewell service for Keren: Sunday 24 April one service 10.00 followed by refreshments.**
- **Garage and Goodies fundraiser Sat. 30 April 9.00-1.00 (set up in hall Friday 4-5.**

Keren's new adventures

On Sunday 27th February it was announced here at St Margaret's, at St Paul's Cathedral Sale, and across the Diocese of Gippsland that I've been appointed as the next Dean of Sale. My last Sunday at St Margaret's will be the 24th April – most likely we'll have a single service that day at 10am, to be followed by a celebratory lunch.

I am sad to be leaving the folk of St Margaret's; we've journeyed together through some ups and downs in the last five and half years, and had some things to rejoice in, and other things we've lamented. I hope we'll have opportunities in the next few weeks to reflect on these memories together with thankfulness to God for all that has transpired while I've been here.

Going to Sale will be a somewhat daunting thing: the role of Dean is a complex one. One of the incumbency board members commented that the bishop's role is relatively simple: they just have to be the pastor to the people. The Dean is the incumbent of the parish (the vicar) – and Sale parish includes Kilmany, which is a 25 min drive west, as well as Golden Beach (40 min from Sale) and Loch Sport (50 min) – a vast geographical area! In addition to being the vicar, the incumbent is also Dean of the Cathedral which serves the Diocese with resourcing and hosting significant services throughout the year. And the Dean also is third in line after the bishop and vicar general (one of the Archdeacons), and is part of Bishop in Council and a whole bunch of diocesan committees. So there will be many hats to wear.

The most exciting part of the ministry of Dean of Sale I'm looking forward to is that they've just set up a Music Foundation to encourage the development of young people in music. This will involve not just similar things to what we've done here with the Music Programme, but also liaising with community music groups, connecting the Cathedral with the wider music-making scene in Sale, and fostering partnerships – a very HeartEdge way of thinking! I'm looking forward to leaning into music as a conscious part of ministry.

Most likely the installation will be sometime in June; I'll keep everyone appraised when it's confirmed.

Keren

St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

1880's : Present church erected and opened:

The fourth incumbent of the Parish of Sale was responsible for the sale of the old church and site and the purchase of the new and present one. Undoubtedly there was great vision in this move, for the present site of the Cathedral is the central block in the City of Sale. 'Away, from the hurry and bustle of the main street, from which more and more the city seems to be growing, the Cathedral is set in delightful surroundings with Victoria Park in front of it. The consent of the Bishop for the sale and the purchase had been obtained in the 1870's however it was not until 1882 that anything was done. A meeting in that year decided by 31 votes to 1 to purchase the present area of land, for the sum of £1150. During Canon Watson's ministry plans for a new church were prepared, and after some delay the contract was let to Mr. Wynd for the sum of £3,389. On December 3rd, 1882, the foundation stone was laid by Bishop Moorhouse, and on November 5th, 1884, the new church was officially opened by the Bishop.



Architect for both Sale Cathedral and St Margaret's Eltham, Nathaniel Billing

Pastoral Care Developments

So far this year, much of the planned change to Pastoral Care is happening on schedule.

We have been very pleased to welcome Daniela Miszkinis to the team. She brings her continuing professional experience in aspects of pastoral care to the team. This Sunday March 13, will see the commissioning of the seven people who have been trained to deliver extended home communion (EHC). The plan is to bring the eucharist, at least once a month, to 18 people who are now unable to get to church. Of the five people previously trained more than a decade ago, only Adrienne and Harry are continuing. The next issue of PM will have more on the commissioning. The clergy will continue to visit also on an as-needs basis. We have been encouraged by those on the visitation list that regular visits will be very welcome. In addition, there will also be EHC delivery to those in hospital or temporary care. This all represents about one person week per month in bringing communion to where people are. In addition pastoral visiting and conversations will continue with many others on the Pastoral Care contacts list of 33 people.



Delivering EHC and visiting those in aged care has been challenging with the need for temperature check and a RAT test on entry, and then the wearing of full PPE head gear (as above) and also the desire for visiting to take place outdoors. We are very grateful to Linda for leading the monthly service for about 25 people at St. Vincent's Care Services (formerly Judge Book). It has been far from easy and definitely very demanding. One month the full head PPE was needed, which makes it quite a challenge to be heard even with the use of a microphone under the plastic face shield. Next month only the regular mask was needed but a resident with a lot of angst continually interrupted the service as he had done to Christopher previously. It's very awkward to



have to manage a person in distress who causes distress to the other listeners. What is the most loving thing to do?

As can be seen from the flyer in the pew sheet and here we have organised the first of two seminars for the year. Thanks to Sheila Cheary's contact we have two speakers to talk about Coping with Grief and Loss. They are from St Vincent's Hospital and thus we have extended the invitation to SVCS here where each year there are around forty grieving families for loved ones who pass on. Of course if you know someone who could benefit from the professional advice please invite them along. The details follow.

Pub lunch arranged by Jenn Gillett, has been a booming success with nearly a full complement of 30 attending every session this year. One included a notable birthday (see below).



Harry Watson for the PCT

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham Presents

Coping with Grief and Loss

Conducted by the Healthy Ageing Service



Summary:

- The global COVID-19 pandemic has been distressing for many of us in the community.
- It has also amplified in particular situations of loneliness and isolation, as we have lost many of our usual supports.
- Sadly, some of us have also lost loved ones.
- In a time of so much loss, many of us may have experienced grief.
- The Healthy Ageing Service team from St Vincent's Hospital have been invited to present on the topic of grief and loss, and will discuss the following in their presentation:
 - Understanding grief and the different types of grief
 - Understanding the grief and loss process
 - Understanding the different models of grief
 - Strategies for managing grief and loss
 - Strategies when supporting another person experiencing grief and loss
 - How to seek professional help for your mental health and wellbeing

Presenters:

Stephanie Perin – Clinical Psychologist
Tanya Cottrell – Mental Health Nurse
Healthy Ageing Service
St. Vincent's Aged Mental Health

When: Sunday 27 March at 12 Midday
Where: St Margaret's Church, Eltham
Cost: Free of charge



Another pic of the participants at pub lunch. Please join them of the 1st Sunday in the month at Eltham Hotel.

Parish Council Meeting Summary

The meeting opened with prayer. After formalities we considered the **three areas of priority** for development in 2022:

1. **Taize services** We were halfway through the two month experiment of offering every Sunday evening a meal followed by a Taize service of prayer, readings, reflections, chanting and searching. Thus far successful with attendances of around 25 and generally a significant minority from outside the Parish and from as far away as St Paul's Geelong. There was some discussion about continuation beyond March. It was agreed that David Tuke had been dedicated to delivering a perfect meal for people to gather and get to know one another but if continued we should need some way of sharing the task of food preparation and hall setup and setdown.
2. **Prayer Group** There has been some delay in launching this group whose concern is about outreach and the environment.
3. **Community and Parish Connections.** This group was scheduled to start in February based on the Mission Action Team's work to deliver public events and to connect existing activities. A decision on its launch and demonstration of two of the 4Cs in Heartedge was to hinge on discussion at the two Heartedge Parish Consultations on Saturdays March 19 and April 2 at 10.30 am. All parishioners are invited to attend to give their input.

Child Safe. Progress with the Dioceses Level 1 Child safe training indicated that two councillors had still to complete their training. Most parishioners will need to complete this on-line training to make sure that we comply with the pertinent laws. Already 3 had completed their Level 3 training which involves a two hour session

Staffing Keren's farewell as our vicar will be on her last day Sunday May 24th. Our Assistant Priest **Linda Fisk** will become out Locum Tenens and will move from half time to full time. It was noted that **Carolyn Jung** continues as a part time assistant in the office.

In the **Financial Report** John Humann reported that the Parish was on budget, year-to-date. The income clearly shows the need for increased giving and to increase income from use of the Hall.

Pastoral Care Team and Property Reports were received. Four upcoming Event notification forms were received and approved. Advertisements for the Coping with Grief and Loss seminar, Labryinth Day, Garage and Goodies Sale and the Yarning Circle presentations to Monty South Primary appear as articles or ads in this issue or the Pew sheet. Arising from this progress with the Yarning Circle was discussed indicating that the stone base and fire pit could be installed soon but had been delayed by the heavy rain.

After an update from Keren on how Covid regulations had limited the operation of the Community Connect Program at Greensborough Plaza it was agreed to continue to support it with \$4k as part of this year's mission giving. Our continued support for Trinity College was also agreed. Two more beneficiaries are to be identified by Do Justice.

We noted that Keren will leave before the May meeting so there is much to complete before the hand over to Linda.

The very busy collegiate meeting closed with prayer led by Keren.

Harry Watson

NB:

Angela Langham has a spare copy of the book on Bishops court by Elizabeth Rushen. Bought when Joy Freir came to visit. \$20. Please let her know if you would like to buy. Thankyou

Food Collection

Please don't forget to add to the TWO tubs in the Foyer each week.

• **Food goes to St Mark's Fitzroy and is distributed by Anglicare**

• **Linc collecting for local food distribution.**

ANGLICARE NEWS

Last week we had a very enjoyable and informative time when Peter Burke came to visit our meeting. He told us about FoxFM radio station and how they took it upon themselves to help Anglicare last year and, hopefully, they will help again this year.

The thing that most of us welled up at was the story of the children of the covid parents. When covid started there were families over in the Epping area who had children who had to be looked after whilst the parents were in hospital. Anglicare hired a home, probably from Northern Health, to house up to 7 children. The children spoke with their parents on the phone daily. There was a new born baby whom the mother wanted to breast feed. The mother was able to express her milk and Anglicare would deliver it to the baby daily. I

It is things like this we – or I – just don't think about. Our families were a bit affected by the nuisance of covid, but at least we were in our own home, able to speak English and have family support all the time.

Another thing that has altered is the breakfast provided to the homeless. Now the food cannot be eaten at a table, so Anglicare provide a couple of hundred breakfasts in bags daily. The breakfast consists of a small container of fruit, muesli bar and a ham and cheese toasted sandwich and a piece of fresh fruit.

We were able to give Peter 9 large bags of clothing and a laundry basket full of food. On behalf of Anglicare he thanked us sincerely and told us it is groups of people like us that certainly help keep the show on the road.

So a big thank you to everyone who is helping keep the show on the road,

Jenny Disney & Bev Thompson.

PS. DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BASKET IN THE FOYER.



Only three more Sundays under this programme to take part in this great initiative. Huge thanks to Mitzi and David got preparing great food. Also to Parish Councillors who have contacted parishioners and hosted each evening.

Ed. This edition Sally. Pics Harry, Sally, Rob.

Next ed. due out 10/4/2022. Contributions due 6/4/2022

YARNING CIRCLE PROJECT PARTNERING WITH MONTMORENCY SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am delighted to report that the project has started and been running for 2 weeks.

The Project is setup to work with Grade 3 students, there are 4 grade 3 classes. I share the teaching with the school Indigenous Coordinator. Each lesson has a theme each class participates in, before breaking into 2 groups sitting in a yarning circle.

Week one set out the principles and importance of a yarning circle. How the children might like to consider the learning benefits of using a circle where everyone is equal. The children responded very well with keen interest and questions. The children felt that others listened more intently when they were facing each other, allowing them to do some "deep listening", that is listening from the heart. Children only spoke when they were holding

the talking stick. Their final thoughts were around how nice and quiet the time was, no interruptions, no one speaking over you just listening respectfully.

Week two had a theme around culture and identity. A delightful story was presented to them, where the illustrations told as much of the story as the words. Culture was a difficult concept until it was taken apart. It helped that many of the classes had children whose families were from other places, this allowed for lots of comparisons and a realization about the elements of a culture.

By next week we will be half-way through a very worthwhile project from many points of view and certainly one everyone is learning from the sharing of stories.

Helen Robertson

Ed. Well done Helen, St Margaret's Yarning Circle project in underway!

