



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.**

The Challenge for Today and Tomorrow

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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

Our Locum Tenens Linda writes: What strange times we live in. There is war in Ukraine, Covid marches on, we are immersed in an election campaign, and you are in the search for a new vicar. It rather feels as if we are cast on a sea of uncertainty. As I said in my sermon yesterday my role is to hold the space open for the work of the Holy Spirit in this place. My encouragement to you is to listen for the messianic heartbeat; to the energy beneath the scripture and prayers that you hear so that you are open to what God is calling you to.

Recently I saw a film clip woman in Bucha lamenting the loss of her only son. Her home had been devastated. She told how she went out after shelling to looking for her son. She found his body. She brought him to her yard in a wheelbarrow. She wrapped him in a carpet and buried him as best she could. Placing wood over the mound to keep the wolves at bay. I couldn't believe my eyes and ears. As I watched the weeping mother, all I could think of was the agony of Mary at the foot of the cross.

Then I noticed the juxtaposition of the sacred and the profane in what I was seeing and hearing. As I was watched I was asking; where is God? Then I realised that God was the outpouring of love in words and actions. Love was in the retrieval of the son's body. This aging woman had managed to lay her son to rest. She did this without spices, a linen cloth, or the support of friends.

At Easter we also enter into the company of death, but ours is a joyous outcome in the Resurrection. At Eastertide we are called to look at the pattern of endings and beginnings. Are you able to identify places where the sacred and the profane are juxtaposed in our community? I hope and pray that in this time of change you can be generous with each other. I hope that you are a witness to love just as this heart-broken mother is. This last week my sermon challenged you with the idea of

Paradigm Shift. I wonder how you are getting along with the project of Letting go in trust.....Letting be in hope and Letting grow in love.....



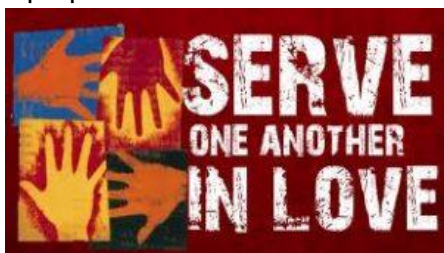
I firmly believe that change will only manifest in the outer world when we begin work in ourself.

Blessings Linda.

Parish Council Summary

The meeting opened with prayer. After formalities we considered the developments the Vision for 2022:

1. **Korus Connect** in the Greensborough shopping centre where previously we supported this mission to the lonely and elderly has been forced to consider a different approach as the result of a change in ownership of the Centre. The new owners will only provide shop front accommodation if the focus is directed at supporting youth in the Centre. Discussions are taking place as to whether this is a viable proposition. Our funding support for this activity whilst approved, awaits the outcome of the decision on the work of Korus. Linda is our representative in this matter.
2. **Outcome of discussion led by Keren on Heartedge projects. The Top 3** from the consultations on March 19 and April 2 (open to all parishioners) **were:**
 - a) **Taizé** It was resolved to have a monthly Taize service on the fourth Sunday of the month starting with dinner at 5 and the service at 6.30. Start date June 26th. The monthly Thursday Taize service will be discontinued.
 - b) **.Dementia/Memory Café** to share time together over tea and especially for their carers to do the same. Although times had been proposed as to when and how often



Café might take place. the Pastoral Care report indicated that there is a lot to be worked through with Nillumbik Health Ability who organise and support this opportunity for those with memory issues. Our support will likely be access to the Hall facility and some welcomers.

- c) **Continuation of the music scholarship** program for young musicians to participate in church music. Also to work again with Shaun Hislop and the Wednesday Diamond Valley choir including fund raising performances for the music scholarships.

Lower ranked items were discussed some of which were already in process. For those disappointed that their favourite did not get up, please contact the editor for a copy of Keren's detailed report.

Upcoming Activities. The busy month ahead is fully advertised in the pew sheet. Especially noted was Bishop Kate's visit to us at Pentecost on June 5 at which the Yarning Circle will be a focus for the beginning of the worship service.

Keren's farewell as our vicar was on Sunday May 24th. The farewell service, lunch and goodbyes are reported elsewhere. Our Assistant Priest **Linda** has become our Locum Tenens and has moved from half time to full time. Keren has provided a 6 month report for the AGM.

Finance, The income year-to-date. clearly shows the need for increased giving and to increase income from use of the Hall. The treasurer noted that we were close to our budget at this time.

Pastoral Care Team and Property Reports were received. It was decided that 'Navigating the Aged Care System' by Stacy Synon on May 22nd after the 10 am service, should be advertised to other local churches. For this change an Event Planning form would be needed

After discussion of items to go into Parish Matters the meeting concluded with prayer and finished with the Grace.

Harry Watson

Farewell to Keren

On 24th April we held a farewell service for our Vicar, Keren. A great service of celebration. Great liturgy and a lovely mini concert from Keren playing her harp. Afterwards we moved into the hall and enjoyed our lunch. Roast pork, roast potatoes and salads followed by pavlovas and different deserts and cakes.

A number of people expressed their thoughts and thanked Keren for the gifts given to the parish and personally over the years. The ministry, the liturgies and of course the music.



We send Keren off with our love and our ongoing prayers for the next and exciting part of her ministry journey as Dean of St Paul's Cathedral Sale.

We note that Keren will be moving at the end of May and that the Installation at in Sale will be on Friday 17 June at 7.00pm

Sally Petty



Vale Betty Cooper

A memorial eucharist service for Patricia Betty Cooper was held on Wednesday 27th April at 10:30am to enable all her Wednesday church friends to attend.

Revd Keren had been officially farewelled the previous Sunday but came back from leave to lead the service. Revd Linda and Fr Robert also assisted

Her grandson Fletcher was the first to speak at the eulogies. He was very close to his grandmother, who encouraged him to work at his schooling and go to University. He said she was a fun lady and always had time for supporting kids and helping them in whatever they did. Her granddaughter Steph, mother of Betty's great granddaughter, described a bit more fully how her Gran often became project leader because there was so much help for craft or homework or as chess partner. She described the last tea the four generations had together in their lovely garden.



Alison, Betty's daughter described how Betty lived in a unit in the family home. Often, they did not see her for a day or two as she was always so busy. She had such a wide experience in travel, opera singing, theatre and many handicrafts. She was a great self-believer and always had time to help the family and others in trouble.



Keren said, that we gave thanks for the life of Betty, who passed from this life on the 21st of April after suffering a stroke ten days earlier. Betty was a much-loved member of our Wednesday congregation, who up until the middle of last year when 92, was on Parish Council. She could always be depended upon to offer a concise summary of a discussion, a "clincher" which was beautifully phrased and imbued with her strong faith.

About 70 people attended the service which included some fantastic photos of Betty's life concluding in one with her great granddaughter.

Harry Watson

Progress with the Yarning Circle

Kathleen Toal and David Tuke went up to Panton Hill, and venturing into the Bunjil Park there behind the main township, eventually arriving at a Talking

Circle installed deep in the bush. A circle of



benches by a creek in a small clearing made for a deeply spiritual place, very tranquil and liminal indeed.

Recently Helen Robertson & Rev Linda Fiske have actually put the nascent Yarning Circle to great use, conducting a series of sessions at Montmorency Primary School; helping Grade Three children understand cultural aspects of Indigenous culture, particularly around the use of Yarning, talking sticks and how these practices encourage all to have their voice heard. The sessions concluded with an onsite visit to our Yarning Circle; re-enacting all they had learnt.

Thus inspired, the Do Justice Committee is moving forward with the Yarning Circle project, and now a significant milestone is coming up.

At Pentecost, we plan to have the ceremonial opening of the Project, where our Bishop (Kate Prowd) will unveil a Plaque dedicating the area and the start of our Pathway to Reconciliation; and the establishment of the Brazier within the Circle.

By no means complete; the plan is to add to this Project over time, as resources permit.

To this end the Property Committee plan to have installed the Brazier; and placed some large rocks around it to form a circle for seating. They have already cleared a circular area and had this surfaced in time for the School Event.

As part of the Project, there will be a pathway added incorporating the Snake Mosaic already there with the Yarning Circle, representing our pathway to reconciliation; and a garden of Indigenous plantings used for sustenance surrounding.

After the Pentecost Service on June 4th, with our Bishop Kate here, we plan to have Wurrundjeri elders present for a smoking ceremony to open the Project and local dignitaries are being invited to attend and of course parishioners. This will be followed by Morning Tea in the Hall.

David Tuke Chair Do-Justice

Covid-19 May Update for Church

We are now free of restrictions in our Parish day to day life. However caution is recommended for us all.

Please remember to sanitise your hands regularly and wear a mask if you are concerned for your health. Maintaining social distancing is recommended.

Everyone can attend a service irrespective of their vaccine status.

We encourage everyone to keep up to date with their vaccinations, which will help us to manage the disease as it moves through our communities.

Should you test positive to Covid 19 there are things you must do to keep yourself safe and those around you safe. For many the symptoms are mild, however for others not so.

1. Focus on your own health and get help if needed.
2. Report your result and isolate for 7 days.
3. Tell your household contacts and encourage them to monitor their own health and test if necessary.
4. Tell your social and workplace contacts and ask them to be vigilant.
5. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mary Lynton-Moll Covid Safe Officer.

We are still in the Easter Season



**Editor This edition Harry
Pics: Harry and website,
Next ed. Copy June 8**