

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.**

Planning for our future giving

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From Revd Linda

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

Once again, we are fast approaching budget preparation time for the 2022.23 financial year.

St Margaret's is in a more fortunate financial position compared to a number of Parishes in the Melbourne Diocese in that its income is substantially underwritten by the rent from the Research child centre. Without this source our finances would be in a parlous state.

Research's income has enabled St Margaret's to undertake a number of initiatives e.g. the employment of an assistant priest as well as employing full time clergy. It has also enabled us to participate in a number of initiatives under the Heart Edge programme such as a planned music concert, the opening of the Memory Care Cafe and development of the Yarning Circle, good community events.

The centre at Research is over 20 years old and does not compare favourably with more recent developments in the industry. At some time in the future, it will need refurbishment. We rely on the good management of Little Scooters to keep it going and paying the rent.

Our other main source of income is Offertory giving. In the last five years this has shown a decline of 30% from an annual figure of \$100,000 to \$70,000.

Covid has of course made an impact on attendances.

Whilst direct debiting has been of advantage, it also lends itself to a mindset which does not involve reviewing the level of giving once the direct debit process has been established.

The Diocese has advised Parishes to expect a **substantial increase in Insurance premiums (20%)** and whilst not confirming salaries for clergy also expects an increase to account for the cost of living. Our other costs e.g. **Power**



and light etc. are also expected increase in the next 12 months.

We also make a substantial contribution to Diocesan funds of \$43,160 p.a. as well as \$16,000 p.a. to a select group of charities as advised by the Do Justice Committee

Given this background to the annual budgeting process, now is the time to consider our contributions to the Parish.

It may be that for some years you haven't considered your level of giving but it is clear we are entering a different phase in the economy and now is a the time to give some prayerful thought about increasing your planned giving

Contact Kathleen Toal for more information:

Email: kathleen.em.toal@gmail.com Mob: 0439 032 977

The Finance Committee

Parish Council Summary

Parish Council met on Zoom, Monday 25 July 2022

Three HeartEdge projects were reviewed:

- It was agreed to go ahead with the monthly **Taize** although we could not always access the hall for a meal beforehand.
- **A Concert** will be held on 11 September to raise funds for the Music Foundation. Entry \$10, children free, tickets via Try Booking.
- Progress with the **Memory Care Cafe** (see below) as part of Pastoral Care.

St. Margaret's 2022

SEPTEMBER MUSIC CONCERT

2pm Sunday September 11
79-81 Pitt St. Eltham

Featuring:
Open Door Choir
Harp solo
Piano solos

\$10.00 per person. Children free
Funds raised will be used to support the
St. Margaret's Music Scholarship fund.

To book :
(active from August 12)
use the QR code or follow the
link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CBROF>



We reviewed a document covering the holding of events in partnership with other parties. The review is continuing. The parish website has been updated and parish members are encouraged to make suggestions if there are areas which need work.

Geoff Sandy wrote to Council suggesting that he resume tours of the church if required and develop further historical material. This was welcomed and we look forward to further information.

David Pryor presented the financial report.

\$4,000 allocation from the mission budget has been sent to Trinity Theological School. Further suggested allocations to be provided by the Do Justice Committee.

The Diocesan Assessment allocation has been increased but no details provided and no response from the Diocese. This to be followed up.

Safe Ministry: planning for all those people with outstanding compliance to train online or at the Hall on Saturday 13th August at 10am.

Sally Petty

Memory Care Café at St Meg's

Memory Care Café to Open September

Arrangements to open a Memory Care Café at St Margaret's are progressing in collaboration with Nillumbik Health Ability.

The Memory Care Café concept is to provide a social meeting place for those living with Dementia and their carers to meet and enjoy a coffee/tea and conversation with each other.

The first Nillumbik Memory Care Café is operating in Hurstbridge and has proven to be a huge success, particularly for networking opportunities and friendship among carers, who were previously unaware of others in the same caring situation as themselves.

The café provides a short respite and is proving a happy and relaxing place for those living with Dementia, as it provides an opportunity to enjoy a break from normal routine through being involved in a range of guided activities.

How will the Eltham Café operate?

The café will open from 1.30 – 3pm fortnightly (likely to be the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month) at St Margaret's Church Hall - with volunteers arriving at 1 pm to set up and prepare coffee/ tea in the kitchen etc.

Those attending the café must be accompanied by their carer (for safety and security reasons) and will be greeted on arrival.

A Health Ability Staff member facilitates the activities for those with Dementia. (The Health Ability Staff member sets up board games etc and organises the activities.) These 'customers' can be involved in the activities or can choose to observe if preferred. A volunteer assists the facilitator and joins in the games with customers.

Carer customers gather in a separate area and a volunteer guides introductions and conversation. What has been learned at the Hurstbridge café is that carers look forward to meeting each other, sharing experiences and discussing care issues etc.

Coffee/Tea and cake is served to both groups of customers throughout the afternoon.

A nominal cost of \$5.00 is charged for those living with Dementia which can be organised to be deducted from the persons care package. (or by fee waiver application if applicable)

Volunteering at the café

The café ideally requires 2 to 3 volunteers additional to the Health Ability staff member. Volunteers involve customers in conversation etc. Volunteers listening skills are valued and hugely supportive for both customers and carers. Volunteers complete some compliance checks at no cost to themselves. Volunteers assisting in the kitchen undertake a simple food safety certificate on line.

What are the next steps?

It is exciting for St Margaret's to be involved in this Heart Edge initiative, engaging in activity beyond the church and developing a network of communication with the community.

Lots of smiles and laughs are enjoyed by all attending the café, friends are made and social engagement enjoyed.

We are moving toward opening the café in September 2022. Health Ability will be involved in the promotional activities and publication of material relating to the café.

If you know someone in Eltham who is Living with Dementia and would benefit from an afternoon of fun at the café with their carer, please let them know about this new venture.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Eltham Memory Care Café at St Margaret's please contact: me. Sheila. Mobile: 0425 708 286

More information regarding the opening of the café will be made available through Parish Matters as well as flyers etc which will be available at the church and through the local community as we near the opening date.

Sheila Cheary

Thanks from the Pastoral Care Team for Sheila's leadership in this project.

Vale Dorita Thomson

At the regular Wednesday morning service, after Dorita's funeral at St Margaret's, on Thursday July 21, parishioners talked about their memories of Dorita.



One person immediately said that "she was a kind lady." When asked to explain, the person said that although she did not know Dorita very well, she remembered that Dorita had spoken to her in a kindly manner on one occasion. Another person reminded us that Dorita would walk to church from her home, "Worlingworth" on the banks of the Yarra in South Eltham. Many parishioners who attended 8am services in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s would remember this very clearly, especially as at least one of the priests in the church asked people to offer to drive Dorita and save her from walking in the rain and cold. But no, Dorita would not accept their offers and would talk about how she could pick up litter from the side of the road.

I have a clear impression of Dorita's house because for a fundraising Anglicare luncheon she offered to be the hostess. Some 30 to 40 people attended this luncheon and Dorita was a calm and relaxed hostess. There was a short drive from the road to the house boarded with native Australian plants and, in the main room where we lunched, windows opened to a view of the Yarra River where the waters turned around a small hill and they seemed to flow straight towards the house before straightening up and flowing south west. The room had picture railings on three sides and above them pewter plates were arranged. There were also some bark drawings and some other artifacts, reminders of her husband Donald's work in Arnham land and in Western Australia. Indeed, Dorita kept in touch with some of the Aboriginal Peoples who had known her husband.

In the early 2000s Dorita gave me three books written by Donald recording some of his trips where he spoke to Aboriginal people. She wanted them to be kept for the church. Early this year, after my time as Leader of the Do Justice team ended. I gave them to David Tuke, the new convener. Included amongst them is a copy of the book that was the basis for the film Ten Canoes, that I had bought. A number of members of the church would have seen the film at a showing organized by Chris Winkett some years ago.

I regret that I did not talk more with Dorita, but at least I and no doubt many people will have fond memories of her.

Jenny Disney

NAIDOC Truth Telling July 24

Thanks to the people of the Do Justice Group and Nillumbik Reconciliation Group who planned this event and had to deal with various last minute changes. It was a most informative session and we received compliments from various people who attended who were not aware of the last minutes changes we had to make.

Thanks too, to the St. Margaret's Catering team

who put on a splendid afternoon tea. The following report was made by Jan Aitken President of the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group.

Diana Warrell

As we met messages came in from our three speakers. Covid had struck them and not one of them could come.

Uncle Colin Hunter arrived and gave us a Wurundjeri Welcome with some extra thoughts on Treaty and Truth. Katrina North from Amnesty stood in for our Indigenous speaker Cassandra Seery. Katrina told us about Amnesty International's

work towards changing the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14, the Internationally agreed age. We were most fortunate to have attending the Aboriginal Engagement Officer for First Peoples' Assembly, Jhdara. He is a young, competent, articulate man who spoke very clearly and quietly about the Assembly, the Yoor-ruk Justice Commission and the importance of the Treaty for Victorian Aboriginal communities and for all the people in Victoria. He explained that there would be a Treaty which dealt with shared issues and responsibilities and the opportunity for the various Traditional Owner groups to make their own treaty on matters of concern to them. Following a Q and A session we gathered for more discussion over afternoon tea. While the event was not exactly what was planned we all felt satisfied that we had had an informative and inspiring time with Uncle Colin, Jhdara and Katrina.

Jan Aitkin - President NRG

From the Acting Vicar



Dear Friends, I want to thank all those who have so willingly and cheerfully entered into the Safe Ministry Essentials Training. I am so proud of you! We have 50 people on rosters and some who were not required to attend did so as an act of solidarity. Well done ye!

Many parishioners found the training both insightful and useful and I want to pick up on one particular theme. The training urged us to think about boundaries as a way of creating a sense of security

in our place of worship and when we gather outside of the formalities of church services. I will quote directly from the training module. "As members of a church we need to be respectful, and carefully navigate other people's boundaries. This is not just about being respectful of the boundaries of others, but about consciously engaging in respectful relationships and interactions...We should maintain healthy boundaries and only cross them when and where it is appropriate." P6. We were asked to consider the proposition that some boundaries are flexible and some are inflexible. We were offered four important questions we can ask ourselves before crossing a boundary:

Is this the right time to cross this boundary?

Is this the right place to cross this boundary?

Is this the right situation to cross this boundary?

Is this boundary-crossing right for this person?

My dear old mum taught me an important lesson at a very early age. "Walk a mile in the other person's shoes then you should know how to act". She hadn't done Ministry Training, but she had good instincts. So, I encourage you to have a think about which boundaries are important to you. The training that many have completed aimed to foster in all of us an awareness of how our individual actions may foster a welcoming and caring ministry space, where people from diverse backgrounds and life-experience feel safe to share their ideas and make a contribution.

St Margarets is a caring community and the fact that you have embraced the Safe Ministry Training demonstrates that care. I close with a blessing from Jan Richardson who raises her hand in blessing above us through these words that evoke Shalom-peace and well-being **in our relationships with others.**

*To anything that is uncertain in you,
let there come silence. Let there be a calming of the
clamouring,
a stilling of the voices that have made their claim on you,
that have made their home in you,
that go with you even to the Holy Places and do not let
you rest,
will not let you hear your life with wholeness,
or feel the grace that fashioned you,
let what distracts you cease,
let what divides you cease.
Let there come and end to what diminishes and
demeans,
Let depart all that keeps you in its cage.
Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath
the chaos,
where you find the peace you did not think possible,
and see what shimmers within the storm.*

Jan Richardson From Her electronic Painted Prayerbook.

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