

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 [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.

### Prayer at the time of choosing an incumbent

Bountiful God,  
 • give to this parish a faithful pastor  
 who will faithfully speak your word  
 and minister your sacraments;  
 an encourager who will equip your people for ministry  
 and enable us to fulfil our calling.  
 Give to those who will choose, wisdom,  
 discernment and patience,  
 and to us give warm and generous hearts,  
 For Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

Dear Friends,

if you've heard my sermons over the last few weeks you know that I have talked about how important it is for every member of our community to be taking an active role in creating our future. I wonder how you are going with your personal project? Are you really working at creating a new-self that will be a bolt hold for the community in the future? Those that have met with me on Zoom on Thursdays have really drilled-into new layers of being in the Spirit through prayer. Have you spent any time thinking about how you might grow into the future?

I hope you noted that in sermons I've spoken in very positive tones about what God may create going forward. I've also tried to give you some positive steps for moving into the future. We need to establish a new narrative, and cooperative thinking, as we reach to actualise something new. Now these urgings may seem pie-in-the-sky, so they need to be undergirded with prayer. The bottom line is **you need to take an active role** going forward. Are you praying every day or is your prayer life stale? Those of you who know me best, know that along with prayer I am immersed in spiritual reading so that I have something new to give you out of the cutting edge of my old self with the new-self God leads me to each day.

The prayer at the time of choosing an incumbent could be a good place for you to start. It acknowledges a bountiful God. Is this who you believe in? It calls for a faithful pastor and encourager to equip **you** for ministry. I am going to put you on the spot again and ask are you are renewing your skills? Are you looking to grow your warm and generous heart?

It is my privilege to work with some of you one on one, or in groups to look at these questions in-depth. Perhaps this is time for you to have a conversation with me about what God might be calling you to. I am ready to listen. Being a teacher at heart, I am always looking for new ways to engage with people as they learn and grow. I talked in a recent sermon about the graced-cross roads where God meets us. I also said "I'll meet you there." Will I see **you** there? Do I wait for you to turn up?

**Blessings,  
Linda**

## PASTORAL CARE

We have some good news. At last, we are having the long awaited **“Navigating the Aged Care System” seminar this Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>**. This is our third attempt with Covid being the major stumbling block. This seminar is a must for those who expect they will need support as they age. This session will answer your questions about My Aged Care, the services that are available and how to access them.

It covers:

- The services that can help you maintain your independence and a good quality of life as you get older.
- If you are just starting out on your aged care journey and want to understand the options
- How to access respite care or Home Care Packages, or residential aged care
- Which services are available from Nillumbik Shire Councils Aged Care and which are from government,

It will be on Zoom following the Sunday service on the same link

Home communion and Extended Home Communion has begun again. Nearly all those on our prayer list, for those unable to attend church, have been offered communion, a couple have refused but most have received a visit from Linda or an EHC team member.

The bad news is that two of the four aged care facilities we visit have gone into Covid lockdown again, one with a large number of cases despite the requirements for staff and visitors to have tests at entry. However, in the last six weeks the team did get to visit all the aged care homes. Even better we have been able to connect with people lost to the church for some years.

Pastoral Care Contacts are a major item for Linda and the team. There over nearly 20 who receive a visit at least once a month, including several in hospital or rehab, and about another 20 who receive a call at a minimum monthly to see how they are travelling. This is essential as families are generally not very good at contacting the team about their loved ones in difficult times. We also know that there are often friends in the congregation who also keep in contact to. That's great. We try very hard to avoid someone being seriously ill (in one instance away from church for three months) and receiving no spiritual support.

We would like to provide a team presence in all the services so that we do not have to rely on Linda as our only point of contact. We'd love to have a volunteer from the 8 am service.

Last Sunday's pub lunch at 22 attendees was the lowest this year. There has been an average of nearly thirty. Many people stay there for more than just the meal (and I don't mean drinking too much) but move around having a very good natter, share and care. And you would probably recognise three or four exuberant laughs! If you have not connected there, think about it on the first Sunday of next month.

We would like to acknowledge that Linda is amazing in leading the team and squeezing visits into her very busy schedule. Please pray for the team and the good works it does.

*Harry Watson for the PCTeam*



## ANGLICARE

To acknowledge the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Anglicare Partnership the group decided to do two things in the parish.

1 Put flower arrangements in the church.

2 After services on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> (not Wed due to Covid) members provided morning tea to the parishioners.

The aims are to publicize AnglicareVIC and to thank parishioners for the support they have given in the form of donated food, clothing and knitted clothes.

Recently, Bob from Anglicare has picked up 29 bags of donated items - clothing, bedding, patchwork quilts and food.

Thank you all for your support in helping less fortunate people than us. Anglicare personnel are extremely thankful to our group for the constant support they receive.

*Jenny Disney, Bev Thompson*

**Parish Profile Session conducted by the  
Ven. Tim Johnson  
26<sup>th</sup> June**

Many thanks to those Parishioners who were in some way either in person or online at last Sunday's meeting.

To quote from an email from Tim "I was greatly encouraged by the energy in the room and the obvious commitment to the parish and its mission. I will be in touch with +Kate today so that she can arrange the next steps in the incumbency process." Like Tim, we were pleased with the good representation that got involved with his 3 Questions, on which data was collected. This can be seen in the appendix to Parish Matters.

The 3 Questions were –

1. What do you most value about St.Margaret's?
2. What does St.Margaret's need over the next 3 – 5 years to move forward?
3. What are we looking for in the next Vicar?

We were given around 40 minutes to discuss and note down all the answers given. Those on Zoom had their thoughts noted and will be included in the data equally.

I would like to express our thanks to Tim for leading this session and giving us his time, both much appreciated. Results of discussions attached.

***Your Incumbency Committee***

***Helen Robertson, Sandra Holt-Brown***

***John Humann***

**Catering for Church Functions**

Hospitality is something our church is very proud to offer parishioners, visitors & the wider community. Following a time where we were not able to do this, now is the time to look at this part of our ministry with fresh thoughts & ideas.

Following consultation, a new process has been formulated to access catering for church oriented functions.

There is a form to be completed & submitted with the hall booking form so we are all on board together & can build a great function to be enjoyed by everyone.

***Coralie Carew***

**WORLD LABYRINTH DAY**



We are here for World Labyrinth Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022. It's a grey and foreboding day and everyone is rugged up. Our Labyrinth is modelled on the one from Chartres Cathedral in France.

We enter the church and listen to some music from Jesus's time which is very melodic and meditative. We all read some sheets that contain some verses. It's Deuteronomy 1:31 and Isaiah 42: 1-9. It is all about travelling. And included on the sheets are some steps on Praying with a Labyrinth.

A line of Pin Cushion Hakeas grows outside the labyrinth fence. Our Vicar, Linda leads the group in walking the labyrinth. There are about twelve of us in the group.

One woman walks with her hands deep in the pockets of her coat. The cold air slaps my face and my fingers feel numb. I step in between the river rocks and say some prayers in the centre. Some cockatoos fly overhead.

We return to Dendy House and enjoy some hot drinks and biscuits. I feel refreshed from walking the labyrinth, being with the others and praying for World Peace.

***Helen Costello***

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Parish Council held the June meeting on Monday 27 June.

- Letter and certificate received from Vicki Ward MP
- Financial reports, Property Committee, Do Justice were received.
- Discussion re catering in the parish
- Safe Ministry roll out
- Draft budget process commencing.



SALE 2020



Editor This edition Sally  
Pics: Diocese of Gippsland  
Next ed. 14/8 Copy 20/8



## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

*The Nithumbik Reconciliation Group and Do Justice Group from St. Margaret's Eltham presents:*

### **Truth Telling**

*with the First People's Assembly of Victoria members*

*Speakers: Andrew Gardner (Wurundjeri), Trevor Gallagher (Gunditjmarra)  
and Amnesty International*

**Come, Listen, Learn, Understand**

*hear about the Truth and Justice Commission called Yoo-rook*

**2pm Sunday July 24th 2022 at St. Margaret's 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham**



Courtesy: The Wurundjeri Woi - Wurrung traditional owners of this painting

For more information: Phone: 94399238 [www.stmargaretseltham.org.au](http://www.stmargaretseltham.org.au)  
Phone: 0414398565, [www.nrg.org.au](http://www.nrg.org.au)

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT**  
**Refreshments and information in the hall to follow**

St. Margaret's  
Do Justice Group

