

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 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**

The 2nd Most Read Book Read

In This Issue

2nd Most read book
August Parish Council
Planned Giving
Memory Care Cafe
Pastoral Care
NAIDOC Truth Telling
Important dates

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

Wednesday 31st August was the day that the Anglican Church recalled the work of John Bunyan; preacher and spiritual writer so I turned my Wednesday Homily to a reflection on The Pilgrim's Progress.

I went to my bookshelf and took down my copy that was awarded to my grandma Ida Muir in 1914. A prize for class 4 at the Methodist Sabbath school.

I have to admit that my school education was lacking in that I could recall only a passing reference to the work. Some who attended on Wednesday 31st could recall studying the text. Michael Tucker knew that the Pilgrim's Progress is the second most read book in the world next to the Bible.

The value in this spiritual allegory written in 1678 is the vicarious experience of temptations we all know on our spiritual journey. Here is a brief outline:

The author dreams about a man named Christian, who is struggling with his spirituality. He is visited by Evangelist, a spiritual guide, who orders him to go to the Celestial City, Mount Zion. Initially, Christian's wife and children refuse to leave their home and accompany him, so he abandons them. This situation is reversed by the end of the book.

Christian journeys on stumbling into the Slough of Despond. He escapes only to run into Worldly Wiseman who urges Christian to forgo religion and live a life of simple practicality. Christian runs away from this influence and finds shelter in Goodwill's home. From here the adventures continue. Christian meets the Interpreter who begins teaching him from scripture.



John Bunyan

Christian finds himself in front of Christ's tomb and cross where he finds the burden he has been carrying on his back (his sins) slip away. Christian descends into the Valley of Humiliation.

Eventually Christian finds himself at a fair in Vanity. There are some dreadful temptations in that place. Eventually Christian escapes and enters the Delectable Mountains on the way to the Celestial City.

The author eventually breaks in to plead with the reader to understand the dream properly. Eventually Christian, joined by his family, enters the Celestial City and Christian goes to meet the Master.

While written long ago, this story invites the reader to explore images that personify dreadful weaknesses in human experience. So often we learn more when we move out of our logical awareness. Emotion and sensation can certainly teach us invaluable lessons. Those of us who have studied texts such as Gulliver's Travels and Animal Farm can attest to unforgettable insights.

We give you thanks for this allegory that encourages us to think on our own faith journey. On Wednesday I focused my prayers many of the qualities that became hurdles for the fictional character Christian. I hope this brief comment may prompt you to go back to your bookshelf and to take a trip down memory lane.

Blessings to each and all,

Revd Linda

Parish Council Summary

Parish Council met on Zoom, Monday 25 July 2022
Three HeartEdge projects were reviewed:

- Continuation of the **fourth Sunday Taize services** was encouraging as 18 attended even though we could not access the hall for a meal beforehand.
- **The Concert** presentations were finalised for 11 September to raise funds for the Music Foundation. Entry \$10, children free, tickets via Try Booking. Thanks to the organisers and publicists.
- Progress with the **Memory Care Cafe** (see below) as part of Pastoral Care.

We reviewed a document covering the holding of events in partnership with other parties. The review is now complete.

The parish website has been updated and parish members are encouraged to make suggestions if there are areas which need work.

Geoff Sandy is to receive Council's support for resuming tours of the church if required and to develop further historical material. We look forward to further information.

John Humann presented the financial report. The current situation is still heading to a loss this year although not as large as in the budget.

Further Parish mission allocations are waiting on the recommendations from the Do Justice Committee.

The Diocesan Assessment allocation has been increased as a result of an adjustment following a delay at the beginning of the financial year in fixing the amount of our assessment.

Safe Ministry: planning for all those people with outstanding compliance to train online or at the Hall was completed by the August deadline

Harry Watson

Don't forget Planned Giving

It may your first time or even some years since you considered increasing your level of giving but it is clear we are entering a different phase in the economy and now is 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

Memory Care Café Opens at St Meg's

Memory Care Café to Open September 26th

The Memory Care Café is a Heart Edge Project initiative for 2022 and provides a social meeting place for those living with Dementia and their carers who meet and enjoy a coffee/tea and conversation with each other.

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

The café will open from 1.30 – 3pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday in St Meg's Hall - with volunteers arriving at 1 pm to set up and prepare coffee/ tea in the kitchen etc.

Those attending the café will be greeted on arrival along with their carer

A Nillumbik Health Ability Staff member sets up board games etc for those with Dementia and organises the activities. These people can be involved in the activities or can chose to observe if preferred. A volunteer assists them with the games. The carers meet in a separate area 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 and other similar conditions.

Volunteers involve customers in conversation etc. Volunteers listening skills are valued and hugely supportive for both customers and carers.

Talk to Sheila Cheary (0425 708 286) if you feel moved to volunteer..

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

Heavily edited original of Sheila Cheary

Pastoral Care Hard Work

As mentioned above, ability to listen and not talk too much, i.e. listening skills, are the core to opening a caring relationship with people in need.

It seems that many people are reluctant to get involved because they are not sure they are able, or even know how to open up a conversation with a stranger

From a study group in the Parish some years ago a few starter tips were generated as ways of opening a conversation:

1. *How lovely that you could come today.*
2. *How lovely to meet you.*
3. *May be you have been before but I may have missed meeting you?*
4. *Can I assist you in any way? (If looking lost etc.)*
5. *Would you like me to help you find a seat?*
6. *Do you like tea or coffee or something else?.*
7. *You will find the toilets down the corridor to the right if you need them.*
8. *Do you have often have any visitors?*
9. *Are there any people you have come to know here?*

Of course, listening to people with memory loss can be quite difficult at times. At St Vincent's (SVCS), the pastoral visiting trio of Adrienne, Sheila and Harry encounter people whose difficulties range from short term memory loss to those who unfortunately cannot complete a sentence as the subject topic has gone before they are finished. Often one needs you to reintroduce yourself on every visit. A big help is to remember what they like talking about. Generally, most people can recall something from their childhood, their siblings or what their first job or caring situation was. If they struggle to answer, a key option is not to ask through a suggestion: was it like this or that? The suggestions are less confrontational, for example: "I'm going to look at that board game over there, are you coming with me? "

Pastoral care team and other helpers received an unexpected thank you from parishioner Mary Good's family after Mary's recent memorial service and interment of ashes on September 9th. Mary was a Sunday service person for about ten years up to about 8 years ago, when she moved into St Vincent's. She one time lived in the house immediately next to the pub car park. The special

thanks were for the cards sent regularly to Mary (and others) because even if the resident had no clue as to who St Margaret's was, the evidence from the cards, that someone else cared for their loved one was very important and reassuring to the family members as well as to the recipient. Last year, we had had thanks from three families for the cards sent during lockdown to SVCS when family members could only wave through the window.

At church there is often a story about how well we care for one another during illness or hardship. What about the fringe people and those from the past. Does the care for friends extend to these people too? We certainly know of some. But many can easily fall through the cracks. A while ago a much-loved seventy-year-old was away for over three months and no one ever contacted her. Several thought another person would be contacting them.

So the PCTeam has to give care as best we can. An edict from Revd Clem Taplin a few years ago was that: *we should each do as much as we are able.*

Because of confidentiality the PCTeam can't pass on the list of people who are contacted, a lot by 'phone or card but quite a few by personal visits. We do hope that you can be challenged to pray about how much you could do if you joined the Team or welcoming visitors at the Memory Care Café. Please let Linda know if you can help

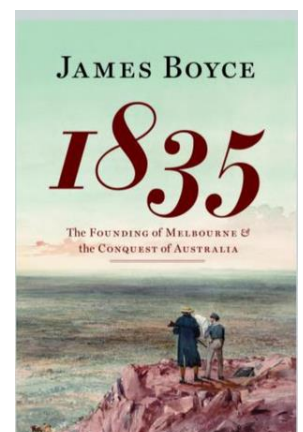
Harry Watson for the PCT

NAIDOC Truth Telling July 24

NAIDOC Truth Telling Event with First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria members - Truth & Justice Commission called Yoo-rook was held at St Margaret's on Sunday 24th July 2022.

The Do Justice Group of St Margaret's and the Nillumbik Reconciliation Group (NRG) partnered together to present this seminar. The Nillumbik Shire Council provided \$1,000 to meet the costs of the event which was most appreciated.

The Rev'd Linda Fiske welcomed the attendees and dignitaries after which Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Colin Gardiner did the Welcome to Country and spoke briefly about the challenges for Aboriginals & Torres Strait Islanders. Vicki Ward State MP Eltham spoke about the Treaty process in Victoria and the Truth & Justice Commission called Yoo-rook. Vicki also spoke about a book *1835: The Founding of Melbourne &*



the Conquest of Australia written by James Boyce which explains the effect of colonisation on the aboriginal population.

The Deputy Mayor for Nillumbik Shire Council Cr Ben Ramcharan spoke about what was happening in the Shire in relation to reconciliation activities with First Nations People.



Katrina North from Amnesty International (AI) gave a slide presentation about the work AI carries out internationally and in particular, their work with Indigenous communities in Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

A short video "Time for Change" was then played before Jhdara Jones, an Engagement Project Officer, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria followed with an excellent and informative slide presentation.

Jhdara also shared his mother's family story from C 1831-35 when approximately 200 aboriginals (including members of his family) were removed from Tasmania to Flinders Island – a large number of whom died soon after removal.

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
48 Cambridge St, Collingwood VIC 3066



Afternoon tea followed in the hall where there were some displays. The afternoon was very informative and from feedback was much appreciated by attendees.

Thank you to parishioners, members of NRG and others who helped make the event a success.

Kathleen Toal

Some Important Dates

- Tues 11 October 10-12:30pm Anglicare Victoria Partnership group. Presentation topic ***Get out for Good***
- DATES FOR LEAD UP TO PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 2022

ACTIVITY	ACTUAL TIMES
Annual Meeting (AM) date	Sunday 21 st 2020 11:00am??
Submit items for AM agenda to Wardens Wednesday before meeting	Wednesday 16 th November
Annual reports circulated at services a week AM	Sunday 13 th Novemeber
Display nominations of Wardens, Parish Councillors (and Incumbency Committee if we have new vicar)	Sunday 13 th November
Vicar receives nominations for Wardens, Parish Councillors 10 days before AM	2:00pm Wednesday 9 th November
Revised Electoral Roll displayed	6 th November
Exhibit notice of meeting near main entrance	6 th November
Additions and Deletions for Electoral roll close	By Sunday 30 th October
Forms available for nominations of Wardens and Parish Councillors	Sunday 23 rd October
Reports from committees and groups into office ready for printing and collating	Sunday 23 rd October
Pew Sheet etc notification of Annual Meeting, reports, nominations and agenda items	Sunday 9 th October
Pew sheet etc notification of Electoral Roll revision	Sunday 25 th September

Editor This edition Harry
Pics: Sandra, Harry and website,
Next ed. Copy Oct 7