

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 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**

Dates to Remember

In This Issue:

Dates to remember
Opening of the Memory Café
Anglicare
Taize
Pondering!
Concert
Mission Allocation
Parish Council
Animal Blessing

Sunday 9 October Pub Lunch

Tues 10 October 10-12. See below.

Sunday 20 November 11.00 - Annual Meeting

Sunday 13 November St Margaret's Day



Cathrine Muston of the Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry will talk about the work of Prison Chaplains as well as opportunities for community connection post-release.

TUES 11 OCTOBER 2022 10-12 IN THE HALL. GOLD COIN DONATION.

Opening of the Memory Cafe

The café opening on 20 September was very successful. The café hosted nine people living with dementia and their carers, as well as two carers who came to the café unaccompanied. The café was run by seven volunteers who were either serving coffees from the kitchen or involved in conversations with carers. A staff member from Health Ability and a volunteer, supervised activity tables for customers with cognitive impairment and the Health Ability coordinator with a volunteer, greeted customers in the foyer as they arrived. This was important as name badges were provided to all at the café to aid recognition and the contact details of attendees were collected in order to send reminder emails for the next opening date.

The Mayor of Nillumbik, Councillor Francis Eyre opened the café and spoke about the urgent need for community undertakings such as the café, that are reaching out to people who are often alone with their caring responsibilities and also to those living with dementia who are often isolated at home. She congratulated St Margaret's on the forward-thinking nature of the initiative and wished the café every success.



Coincidentally, the café opened during Dementia Week in Australia, shining a light on the enormity of the issue and how communities can support those diagnosed with the condition and their carers. Throughout the opening of the café (1.30-3pm) the church hall was alive with

conversation, fun and laughter and closing time seemed to come far too quickly for many of the customers. The volunteers at the café did a wonderful job and found the experience very rewarding. If you would like to become a volunteer at the café, you will be very welcome and to find out more please contact:

Rachel Dunn at Health Ability. Tel: 9430 9125 or

rachel.dunn@healthability.org.au

The café will open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1.30pm-3.00pm as follows:

- Tuesday 4th October 2022
- Tuesday 18th October 2022
- Tuesday 1st November CLOSED–CUP DAY
- Tuesday 15th November 2022
- Tuesday 6th December 2022

Thank you to all who have been involved in the setting up, the organisation of and the volunteering at the café. Blessings to you all.

Sheila Cheary.

ANGLICARE VICTORIA

Two deliveries this month. One collection from Bev Thompson's garage, on the way to Broadmeadows.

"A big thank you for your donations of food, clothes and toiletries. A special thank you to all the people praying for our less fortunate brothers and sisters and the situations they have to live in."

Jenny took another boot load and two large boxes of donations into St Marks Fitzroy. Jenny advises that donations of tea, sugar, nappies and baby formula are specifically requested. Another 20 bags of knitting and clothes waiting for collection.

Jenny Disney, Bev Thompson

Taize

Another lovely and meditative service on 25 September. Many thanks to Christina Green for music and to Coralie Carew and David Tuke for soup. Next Taize 23 October

Anyone willing to make some soup?

Recently I pondered the idea of proposing 3 questions to individual parishioners over the coming months. I was searching for their reflections on what different events may have left lasting memories with them during their time at St. Margaret's. In their shared moments and give us all somethings we may like to look back on. I hope if you are one of those I contact in the coming months you may find some joy in sharing too.

The three questions are –

1. In your time at St. Margaret's, what has been your most memorable event, and why was that so do you think?
2. Think of a most valuable experience you may have had in your time at St. Margaret's and share if you can, its lasting impact on you?
3. The beauty of our environment both internal and external will be interpreted differently by each and every one of us, do you have a particular aspect you would like to share?

Robert Brazenor an 8am worshiper shared–

An event which I will remember well was the marriage of my nephew Lachlan and his wife Danni at St Margaret's in June 2021. This was one of the few marriages held at St Margaret's that year and I think was in one of the periods between covid lockdowns in Melbourne. Our former assistant priest Christopher Garcia conducted the service and we all agreed that he did a magnificent job. I think one of the reasons why this was so memorable is that it brought together my personal links with my family and my public place of worship. Lachlan and Danni decorated the church with banksias and other Australian natives and I remember these adorning our regular service for some weeks after the wedding.

In 2009 our former vicar Libby Delbridge asked if I would like to do the Light Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. I did these over the course of a month or so. Two years later I did the Full Ignatian Exercises over the course of a year, again with Libby as spiritual director. This was a very intense but rewarding time and I will

forever be grateful to Libby for taking me through these exercises. I learned things about God and myself that I could not have learned by any other means.

We have much to be grateful for in the beauty of our environment at St Margaret's. This includes our building in both its original and refurbished forms and the land on which it is sited in Eltham. For me perhaps the greatest beauty is in its liturgy. As our locum vicar Linda mentioned in one of her recent sermons, there are aspects of ritual which can bring us closer to God. Both the clergy and the parishioners of St Margaret's contribute to the beauty of this place through their participation in our ritual and liturgy and I think this is a very positive aspect in the life of our parish.

Sally Warner another 8 am worshiper shared –

When Libby was our minister, one year, the pre-dawn Easter service I found especially moving. It began outside around the fire and Glenys Collis was the narrator and included some acting, which included finding the tomb empty. It was memorable for me in that the essentials of Easter Day were reduced to a simple but powerful message eloquently conveyed by Glenys and physically portrayed by wonderful acting. The breakfast after the service was also memorable in that it was a fabulous celebration of the day.

The fellowship of others who attend our church is the aspect of St. Margaret's that I value the most. There are so many people in our church who are caring and interesting and share a commitment to a Christian way of life.

I never tire of looking at the exquisite stained glass window behind the altar. It is beautifully made and designed, it always brings a smile to my face.

Thank you both for your beautiful reflections shared with us all. I look forward to being able to seek out others who can draw on their valuable experiences.

Helen Robertson

Parish Council Member

SEPTEMBER CONCERT

After a year in the planning, the day arrived - Sunday 11th September - when the St Margaret's Concert unfolded. By 1.45 the set up was complete, chairs in the church rearranged, piano and harp sound-checked, musicians and singers seated, a steady stream of music lovers arriving and a buzz of anticipation.

At 2.00 the house was full and our Acting Vicar, Linda, welcomed us with an acknowledgement of aboriginal land, then handed over to Shaun Islip, Convenor and Leader of the Open Door Singers and Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon.



For those who've not heard this choir, the sound produced is so powerful it's hard to imagine. With 30 singers in full voice they nearly lift the roof, starting with the crowd favourite "All That Jazz" from the musical show, "Chicago".

Shaun is a tall imposing figure and a consummate professional, simultaneously conducting and inspiring his singers, and managing an impressive sound system. Furthermore he inspired the audience to join in also with a number of musical tributes to late departed home grown singers, namely "The Carnival is Over" by Judith Durham with the Seekers and "Summer Nights" from the film "Grease" featuring Olivia Newton-John.

Then we heard from our three Scholarship students, Lachlan Chau, Jason Zheng and Amelia Trinh, all of whom were highly impressive in their demeanour and their

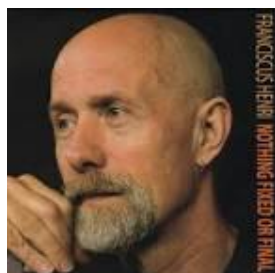
skill on the piano keyboard. Each played a classical piece such as Liszt and Bach, as well as a more modern piece of their choice, and in each case the audience was stunned with the artistry and emotion of the playing. St Margaret's is very fortunate indeed to have these students playing for us every month, and it is a tribute to the foresight and dedication of our past Vicar, Revd Keren Terpstra, under whose leadership the Scholarship Program was established.



And then it was Keren's turn to perform, and she played three rich and resonant pieces on the harp, two of which were her own composition. She too was met with a rousing reception, an indication of the affection in which she is still held by the Parish.



The surprise appearance for the day was Franciscus Henri, known to some in the audience for his work in past years as the children's entertainer, Mr Whiskers. He is now a member of the Open Door Singers, and his CDs have been donated to St Margaret's, and are still available to purchase as part of our fund raising.



So the concert was a huge success and enough funds were raised for a further scholarship to be awarded next year, an unbelievable effort by all concerned. A small presentation was made to the soloists in recognition of their fine performances, but thanks must go to others who have worked so hard behind the scenes.

In particular Margaret Sandy has spent hour upon hour over many months tutoring the three students, helping with their selection of music, performance skills etc, and it is at least in part thanks to her that such a high standard of musicianship has been achieved.

Mention must be made too of the work of the Scholarship Committee convened by Linda and administered by Diana Warrell, who ensured we kept on track when planning the concert over the previous year. This involved monthly meetings, liaison with Margaret Sandy, Robert Street and the performers, preparation of publicity material, advertising on social media, registering on Trybooking as well as assistance with structuring the program.

And finally thanks to the front of house staff and providers of afternoon tea. Without the help of all the above the show would not have been such a success. Put it in your diary for a return performance in September 2023.

John Humann

THE AMOUNT RAISED AT THE CONCERT WAS \$1693. IF YOU MISSED OUT YOU CAN STILL MAKE A DONATION. CAN WE REACH \$2000? TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND A GREAT INITIATIVE.

MISSION ALLOCATION

Our annual allocation of Parish Funds to external charitable and other not for profit organisations is an important part of our Parish life. St Margarets has completed its allocation of funds for the past financial year. Four amounts of \$4000 each have been paid to:

- Trinity Theological College,
- Anglican Overseas fund for the Solomon Island Safe Communities project.
- Aboriginal Mission Diocese of Gippsland
- Anglicare

Parishioners are welcome to contribute suggestions for the current year's allocation of \$16,000 by contacting the Do Justice Committee.

PARISH COUNCIL

Last Parish Council meeting was held on Monday 26 September via zoom

- Diocesan Services Bulletin tabled.
- Financial reports, Treasurers Report, Finance Committee, Property Committee, and Pastoral Care Committee were received.
- Report on OH & S issues from Diocesan consultant tabled.
- Annual meeting planning commenced.
- Thanks for Concert.
- Thanks for Memory Café.
- HeartEdge projects reviewed.
- Wardens to look at alternative forms of music.

Ladies Fellowship-

Linda created a very special moment for the Ladies Fellowship members, marking the closure of this amazing group. Just look at these lovely ladies. They have done such good work, both socially and raising of funds.



ANIMAL BLESSING SERVICE

Lovely service on 2 October when we gave thanks for our pets. A number of dogs, picture of Helen's cat and Felicity's beloved horse, even Spot! All dogs were well behaved. No fights! Thanks to Michael Tucker for his talk, what an amazing history and tail/tales. We learnt about St Francis and St Clare, and much fun to sing some well loved hymns. Yummy morning tea.





Ed. This edition Sally pics, Diana,
Mary, Sally, Franciscus Henri website
Nillumbik website
Next ed. Copy 9/11.