

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**



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED PLEASE

Welcome to the celebration our Patron Saint, St Margaret of Scotland
Please join us after 9.30 service for special morning tea.

Don't forget our Annual Meeting next Sunday 9.30 service

St. Margaret's Parishioners Reflections

Welcome once again to shared reflections from some of our parishioners. We have had lovely feedback from those who read and enjoyed last months contributions. I do hope you enjoy these contributions with the same interest.

This time we have contribution from

- John Winkett
- Alan White and
- Mandy Stevens

John's special day remembered was -

"My daughter's wedding which was carried out by Father Val. It was a beautiful day. To everyone's surprise, some children from her Kindergarten turned up and formed a guard of honour. It was a lovely gesture." A proud father's memories that were wrapped around by St. Margaret's beautiful building.

He can also be proud of the work he did for us all as Project Manager. He said –

Being project Manager for the extension and re-development. It was an excellent experience working with a great group of people and coming up with an excellent result. The result is definitely something we all share with love.

I think John has expressed something many will relate to and that is beyond the church -

"I think the unique environment of Eltham in which our historic Church is situated is very special"

Alan has offered us a reflection of the history as he remembers of the Church of the Transfiguration at Research –

My first visit in this parish was to the Church of the Transfiguration at Research. Not long after I arrived Vicar Erica Mathieson suggested that we move the time of our service to Saturday nights, as she found she had no time to mingle with the parishioners on Sunday with two services at St. Margaret's and one at Research. Our congregation agreed. It gave us all Sundays free and was an opportunity for St. Margaret's folk to participate in our services if they had other commitments on Sundays.

Transfiguration had a small congregation that has depleted over my time there. Some parishioners died, Ivy Reynolds, others moved, Peter Guernsey. When we were down to single figures, Vicar Libby Delbridge told us that she wouldn't come to us every Saturday night to give us communion, and that one Saturday a month we would have to have our own Evensong service. There were four of us

that conducted the Saturday night Evensong, Shirley Nash, Pam White, Glynn Pritchard and me. Shirley and Pam conducted their own sermons, Glynn would bring a tape of a sermon she had heard and liked and I would bring the CD of the Bach Cantata for that Sunday. If that Sunday was one where the Cantata had not survived, I used the one for the Visitation which included Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring. Except on one occasion when I read the John Donne sermon "No Man is an Island" with 'Do not ask for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.' I remember the special effects during daylight saving time, when the sun would shine through our coloured louvres and project the greens, reds, and blues onto the interior walls of the church during our service. (*nb those coloured panes have been mounted near the front door at St Margarets Ed.*)

Eventually, the Parish Council decided we should close. We would be able to still have our Saturday night service at St. Margaret's, so most of us moved back there with a few exceptions. The land on which the church was built had been donated. For details of the history of the church at Research, see Volume 2 Chapter 11 of Geoffrey Sandy's book 'A History of Saint Margaret's Church Eltham'. Thank you Geoffrey. With the closure of the church, Parish Council decided to lease the land. The lessee would build a child minding centre on the land and Annette Sims was adamant that ABC Childcare would not be granted the lease. As it turned out the original lessees were taken over by ABC which subsequently went into liquidation. This meant that instead of leasing a block of land, the church could now lease a fully outfitted child minding centre which has contributed to the parish funds.

There are few members still at St. Margaret's of our original Research group. Jenny and Anthony Disney, Sandra Archer (who is reverting to her maiden name of Brooks), Sandra Brown-Holt and me when I'm in Melbourne.

The most memorable occasion I experienced at the Church of the Transfiguration was my marriage to Pam. All of our small group contributed to the ceremony, conducted by Rev Val Rogers. Glynis Collis played the organ and we finally got Beryl Orwin's husband to come to church instead of providing our supper.

My other memorable occasion was the funeral of my wife in the hall at St. Margaret's. Our two Rotary Clubs formed a guard of honour. Pam is interred in the Memorial Garden.

And from **Mandy** completely different reflections of her moments she is generously sharing with us. I

trust you will gain pleasure from our parishioners sharing some of themselves with us.

One memorable event at St Margaret's was the first time we ran the nativity scene in Eltham at the Twilight Christmas market. We were originally given a space to set up at the very back of the carpark (where the farmers market is now operated from). The rest of the carpark had rides aimed at teenagers with very loud music and was not conducive at all to drawing children and families. We had hired a donkey and gone to considerable effort with the costumes and nativity scene that John Winkett had constructed. I went to look for the organiser to see if we could move to the main area near the Town Square and against all odds, found her in the hundreds of people in the main section. We were given permission to move and the St Margarets group of volunteers swung into action! We took the whole scene apart and moved it all down the street at lightning speed. We then set up near the Town Square and had a very successful night - it was a real team effort.

My most valuable experience at St Margaret's is a personal one. It came at a time when I was wrestling with leaving the security of my long-term job to be a school chaplain. I felt very strongly called to do this job however the money and hours were a lot less than my usual job. I was concerned about how that would impact our family as we have never had a large income and knowing I would earn less was challenging and even concerning. The Sunday before I had to give a final answer to the chaplaincy job, I arrived at St Margs a little late. I stood in the doorway so that I didn't interrupt the reading. It was from Mathew 25-34 and I remember the words seemed to speak directly to me about not worrying but trusting in God. I stood there as the words were read out "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." I had an incredibly strong feeling come over me that all would be fine and that week I accepted the chaplaincy position. I have loved this job for over 7 years now and in all of that time, I have also been offered other employment to complement my chaplaincy role so that the money has never fallen below the amount I had before. It was a leap of faith that came from a special moment at St Margaret's.

There are many aspects of the environment at St Margarets that I find nourish me. I love the stained glass windows and sometimes like to imagine the people they were gifted for and what they must have felt sitting in the old pews at St Margaret's. I also love the Matcham Skipper cross at the front of the church and the lovely stained glass window near it. They both provide a lovely focal point

during worship. I am also excited about the prospect of the yarnning circle and firepit and how this whole outdoor space can be utilised for spiritual practices at St Margaret's going forward. And finally, I love the beams in the mud brick hall - they are just incredible and each of them is like a piece of art.

Until next time peace to you all. **Helen Robertson**

Memory Care Café

The Memory Care Café is proving to be a popular venue for those living with dementia and their carers. A growing number of customers are parishioners of St Margaret's and we also have customers attending from the local area.

We quite often have carers attending unaccompanied to find out more about the café. Very often they then attend the next café date with the person they are caring for and so become regular customers.

At the last café in October customers were delighted to meet a beautifully calm and well-behaved Emotional Care Dog named Jip. He wandered quietly about resting his head on customers knees and became a big hit with everyone.

Coming up are café openings on Tuesday 15 November and also 6 December. (Opening times 1.30pm-3.00pm) On 6 December the café will have a pre-Christmas event including a karaoke choir. We are looking forward to a joyful and festive afternoon.

The café owes much of its success to its tireless St Margaret's volunteers including Diana, Coralie, Jean and Jan. As a result of their efforts the café runs smoothly, providing a calm and happy environment for all the customers.

Blessings to all **Sheila Cheary.**



St Margaret's Marketing & Communications C'ttee

Parish Council have revived the former Communications Committee that was in operation prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic. Under the leadership of Rob Mackenzie, the role of the committee is to coordinate activities and events happening at St. Margaret's to ensure that: -

- Organisers can be properly supported.
- The promotion of events and activities are appropriate and effective.
- All other areas of the parish that may need to be involved, such as catering, are in at the planning stage.

Other benefits of a coordinated approach will be that all parishioners and visitors will be well informed about the life of the parish, minimising the burden on the Parish Office.

The committee will be reviewing printed material and procedures that have been developed, to avoid unnecessary duplication and reinventing the wheel. Committee Members: Mary Lynton-Moll (St Meg's Project Officer), Linda Mackenzie, Sally Petty and Liz Pryor.

Parishioners who are planning any type of activity at St Margaret's, whether it is internal or external to the Church, are asked to advise Carolyn in the Parish Office and she will forward the information to the Committee. Look out for the new postcard, can be given to family or friends.

Rob Mackenzie



MONDAY CIRCLE

On Monday 24th October, our Monday Circle friends had a painting afternoon. We painted on a variety of canvases such as a butterfly, a kangaroo with its joey, fish, a llama, a unicorn and others. We used acrylic paint to do this. We all wore our old clothes, different aprons and smocks. It was a fun afternoon and then we stopped to have a cuppa.

Helen Costello

**TAIZE: Next service
Sunday 27 November @
6.30pm no meal this time.**

Glynn (Geranium) Pritchard

Today I said farewell to Glynn / Geranium (the Christian Clown) She was more than a little old lady from church She had a heart that knew no bounds. Glynn was woman's libber all her life. This manifested it in actively supporting the Ordination of Woman in the Anglican Church. Also supporting the aboriginal community by welcoming children into family fostering a girl & her brother.

Glynn was a nurse with career highlights being a Senior Registered Nurse running Queen Vic Emergency and later PANCH Paediatrics' Ward The challenges Glynn faced in the hospital seem be what I see most bosses still deal with today I find it hard to see my nurse mates wearing her uniform! She commented she made more money in hospital than she did as community nurse. She will be missed by many in her church community and many friends. Also the 3AW night owls where Geranium would regularly ring and tell a joke and offer a pray. It was commented upon that house work wasn't a major priority I know that from visiting where stuff had to be moved off a chair when I visited her at home. The same applied when she e moved into care. Her walker was loaded with things but she knew precisely what was on it She wanted to go directly heaven not hospital Glynn got her wish is now reunited with Graham her husband for nearly 60 years God Bless Glynn I know I am better person for having Glynn & Graham as friends.

Ross Grenfell

Ed. Ross posted this on Facebook and I have his approval to reproduce. A delightful article. I know we all have many stories about Glynn. Richard and I were also recipients of a prayer and a joke! Her support for the Ordination of Women and the balloon let go in the Cathedral by Bishop Huggins is legendary. Thankyou Glynn



Opening of the church extension



St Margaret's Day 2006 with Bishop Darling



Remembrance Day 2022



Memorial at St Margaret's



A Remembrance Day Service was held at the Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park on Sunday 6th November 2022 to honour and remember those who fought for our country in war.

Neil Marshall (CFA & Friends of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park) gave the address which was "The Role of Medical Personnel in War". Neil included in his address the two Miller sisters Edith Caroline Muncton Miller and Frances Mary Miller who served as nurses in the First World War. Their names are recorded on the Eltham Honor Roll for the Great European War 1914-1918 that hangs on the south wall of St Margaret's church.



Kathleen Toal laid a wreath at this service on behalf of St Margaret's and St Margaret's was thanked for their support in the printing of the order of service.

Kathleen Toal,

The Memorial Altar at St Margaret's.

The Saint Margaret's blackwood altar was given to the church in 1925 in memory of those soldiers connected with the congregation that were killed in the "Great European War". It was made by a Mr Lloyd of Eltham and was described by The Advertiser as *being supported by six turned pillars, which stand on a handsome base. On the front of the altar the words, 'Holy, Holy, Holy' are neatly carved and on a silver plate below is ... the inscription listing the 13 names of men killed in the conflict.*

The service of dedication and consecration was conducted by the Very Revd. Archdeacon Hindley of Melbourne who was assisted by the Vicar, the Revd. J A Peck. The Archdeacon's faculty to conduct the ceremony was read by the Vicar, after which the Archdeacon carried out the solemn service.

Geoff Sandy, The Parish Archives, Number 21 April 2012, *St Margaret's During the Great European War.*

"Photos: Jean Verso, Friends of KG and Nillumbik Historical Society"

A parishioner has raised a question about our advertising board and the message concerning climate change that we have displayed there. The suggestion offered is that we have a more inspiring statement that evokes God rather than the information we currently offer. As we are stewards of God's creation, I want to share a theological reflection on why we are urged to take care of our planet. This is what Pope Francis has to say about the incarnation. "God in all that is most living and incarnate in him, is not far away from us, all together apart from the world that we see, touch, hear, smell, and taste about us. Rather he awaits every instant in our action, in the work of the moment. There is a sense in which he is at the tip of my pen, my spade, my brush, my needle - of my heart and my thought. By pressing the stroke, the line, or the stitch on which I am engaged to its ultimate natural finish, I shall lay hold of that last end toward which my innermost will tends." (*An Astonishing Secret* p124) Put in simple words God is incarnate in everything around us as well as in us. Urging care of the natural world is a Godly endeavour.

Alternative banners with differing messages could be considered but there would be cost associated with that. This is a matter you might like to take up with the wardens.

Blessings,

Linda

Ed.A reminder that there is a box in the foyer for queries and comments.

Parish Council

Our last Council meeting was held on 24 October in person.

We spent 15 mins discussing Sam Wells latest HeartEdge book.

- Reports were received from Pastoral Care, Property, Finance, Marketing & Communications.

- Marketing & Communications (thanks Linda M) have produced a postcard now in the foyer which can be handed out to any visitors.
- Safe Ministry update
- Proposal for children's time.
- Update on Memory Café
- Planning for St Margarets Day.

Welcome Visits

At the November Pastoral Care meeting the considerable increase in pastoral visiting post COVID was noted. The delivery of home communions was the highest in many years including the pre-COVID years. This was due in part due to the increase in the size of the Extended Home Communion team organised by Keren before she moved on to Sale Cathedral but significantly due to Linda's efforts of making several home or hospital visits in every week. This visitation is greatly appreciated by the recipients and acknowledged at the Team meeting. A big thanks to Linda and the EHC team. Don't forget if you, a family member or someone you know, needs a visit, particularly in the challenging Christmas season, ask Carolyn in the office on 9439 9238 to pass on that need. Immediately after Christmas during the holiday period call us on 0418322347

Harry Watson

Ed. This edition Sally pics, Ross, Helen C, Linda, Harry,

Next ed. Copy 9/11

