

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,

Here we are again in mid-February, no wonder the year whips past! We have started our study of Matthew's gospel and already the themes of love and mercy are front and centre. Many of you will have heard me say how I am moved by the writing of Rev Sam Wells. That is because he has the ability to look into the teachings of the Gospels and bring them into the here and now. He has the knack of asking probing questions and challenging us to think about a personal response. During Lent I will use his book *Love Mercy* to as a lens through which I to view the gospels.

Some of you will be familiar with 12 step programs such those used by Alcoholics Anonymous and other personal-growth programs. The aim is set out premises that touch our personal experience and invite us into review what has been, and to look for ways to initiate change. Such programs do not lay down dogmatic statements, the purpose is to open a journey.

Wells says that there are three sides to the triangle that represents the work of Mercy. First, is personal experience and pain that we may have known in the past. The second, is structural injustice and systematic inequality. Our personal antagonisms may rest in much broader issues. The third, side of the triangle is a form of emotional philosophical theological concerns. These three aspects of our living interact and can become dynamic. I wonder if you are interested to understand more about what is happening in your life. I have already asked you in sermons in recent weeks if you are bringing your 2022 mind to this year, or if you are ready to embrace a growth-mindset that might change your thinking. We have a couple more copies of *Love Mercy The Twelve Steps of Forgiveness* by Rev Sam Wells if you would like to purchase one. I hope and pray that your heart and mind will be renewed by the study that is about to commence. With blessings, **Linda**

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES – FEBRUARY 22

10.30am - Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes

7.30pm - Ash Wednesday Service & Imposition of Ashes

## INCUMBENCY UPDATE

Just a short update to let you know discussions have continued with Bishop Kate and the trail has not gone cold. Your continued prayers are needed as we work towards a 2023 outcome that will find us a new leader going forward.

In the meantime, our Parish is flourishing under Linda's leadership and the extraordinary work being done by so many of you. Be reassured such work really keeps us in the hearts and minds of so many in the Eltham area.

***Helen Robertson, John Human and SandraBrown-Holt***

## MEMORY CARE CAFE UPDATE

The café resumed for 2023 on Tuesday 17 January and was attended by 7 couples, including a parish member with her carer. (Many regulars still away with family during January).

We also had our emotional assistance dog Jip and his handler at the café and we all enjoyed the afternoon with coffee, games and conversation.

The dates for the next 3 months café openings are as follows:

**FEBRUARY – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1.30pm—3.00pm**

7 Feb

21 Feb

**MARCH – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1.30pm—3.00pm**

7 March

21 March

**APRIL- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 1.30pm—3.00pm**

4 April

18 April

### **Volunteer Meeting**

A Volunteer meeting for volunteers at all three Memory Care Cafés in Nillumbik – Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Eltham will be held on:

**Thursday 23 February at 1.30pm**

**Location: St Johns Anglican Church, Diamond Creek**

**All Volunteers including those interested in becoming a volunteer are welcome to attend the meeting**

## TAIZE CELEBRATES A WONDERFUL START IN 2023



For those of you unable to join us this month, we look forward to seeing you at the next service to enjoy the peace serenity and joy shared by all those who were able to be at our wonderful Taize service. This is something offered for not just our congregation but the much wider spiritual community.

These events do not occur magically but by the commitment of those who prepare quietly in the background. Therefore a big thank you to Heidi, Christina, Coralie, Carolyn for your generous support.

There was much enjoyable chatter before the service over a shared simple meal, meeting new people and their families, catching up on other like-minded folk who seek us out. If you are at all curious you may like to come to one of the up-and-coming services and dip your toe in the water. We appreciate it may not be everyone's passion, but it is always fun at the beginning of a new year to try something new.

For those who don't like driving at night but would like to attend please feel free to contact me. ***Helen Robertson Mobile: 0434 878 246***

## PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY

Thanks to our Parish Secretary for generating the minutes of the last meeting of Parish Council:

Parish Council discussed a request from the Diocese (via Mandy) to be involved in a **Whole of Church Preventing Violence Against Women Project**. This embodies safe ministry for children seniors etc. It is a follow up on the work on child safety in previous years. Sustainable approach to Women's safety. We were asked if we would be one of the ten pilot parishes to implement the new plan. It was agreed to be part of the project.

We received a Christmas card from the parish of St Margaret's E;tham (UK, pronounced Elt ham!)

ABM forwarded their project book, useful Lenten study information.

Welcome back Linda who, in her report invited PC to come on a journey of expansive thinking this year. Communication and cooperation being vital. Our locum during January provided interesting and various insights particularly regarding her experiences amongst Aboriginal communities.

John presented the **financial report**. Covering the first quarter of the Financial Year, October, November and December. The current status is satisfactory.

Remember we are budgeting this year for a deficit of \$20,670, based on expenditure of \$325,095 and income including from property of \$304,425. In this first quarter we booked a surplus of \$15,931 compared with a forecast surplus of \$4,206, representing a variance of \$11,724.

Expenditure: Most of the above variance comes from slightly lower than budgeted expenditure across many categories, rather than any one individual item.

Income: In contrast, while we achieved our overall income target of around \$24.5 K for the quarter, hall bookings and donations were higher than budget, while offertory was lower than budget by an almost equivalent amount.

Surplus: The actual surplus of \$15,931 has caused our overall financial position to improve to \$670,618 (see Balance Sheet) as at 31 December. However, the forecast for the full financial year to 30 September 2023 is still for us to record a deficit, though possibly less than the \$20,670 originally budgeted.

### Committee Reports:

All Parish Sub Committee comprise Parish Council members and congregational members. We are so thankful for the hard work

Do Justice:

Enthusiastic report discussing

- **Yarning Circle** and future use and management
- **Seminar Series – 8 week Zoom Seminar Series**
- **Reconciliation Sunday Bp 18 June – third after Pentecost Planning;**
- **Reconciliation Garden – establish the Concept – “Pathway to Reconciliation”**
- **NRG – participate in and support their activities**
- **Environment**
  - SAGE - revisit this and re-launch a group of folks interested in this and working with Common Grace

### Property:

Verbal report:

**Brazier:** to improve safety, a cover has been bought for the brazier and access to water.

**Notice Board:** further investigation into a new notice board.

### Finance:

See above.

### Pastoral Care

See separate report

### Marketing and Communications:

- Discussion on re doing the parish website. Many thanks to Liz Pryor for her detailed review. (also to Geoff Sandy, review received after the meeting).
- Excellent brochures for
- Faithful Women and Music Scholarship

### Vision 2023

- Heart Edge 1 Memory Care Café
- Heart Edge 2 Music Concert
- Heart Edge 3 Yarning Circle
- Heart Edge 4 Taizé Services

**Event Planning Sheets:** Approval given for: *“A Voice in the Wilderness: Listening to the Statement from the Heart”*

A Forum & Conversation via Zoom

8 Tuesdays from Tuesday 11 April 2023 to

Tuesday 13 June 2023

There are 10 Tuesdays in this date range including one Public Holiday – ANZAC Day – 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm by Zoom

## World Labyrinth Day (WLD) 2023

A Global Celebration of the Labyrinth – Walk as One at 1.00 pm  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 from 12.30 pm to 4.00 pm  
on the Labyrinth and Meeting Room Dendy House

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ST MARGARETS

Thank you to everyone for your support of the work of the Parish. As well as keeping St Margaret's functioning throughout the year your contributions enable the Parish to provide funds to further the work and services of various mission activities such as Trinity College Theological College, equipping the future candidates for ministry; The Diocese of Gippsland where two priests minister to their indigenous young people. We also give to support the vital and varied services provided by Anglicare and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, and through our annual Parish Assessment we help to support the Melbourne Diocese.

These days there are many ways that we can make our personal contributions rather than through planned giving envelopes or open plate. We are always grateful to know what individual parishioners are intending to give throughout the year as it enables us to plan the use of our financial resources.

If you are new to St Margaret's and interested in the various ways in which you can contribute your

- Planned giving envelopes for cash or cheque contributions each Sunday. A box of planned giving envelopes can be supplied on request;
- You may find it more convenient to use an automatic bank or Anglican Development Fund (ADF) transfer;
- Have you considered nominating the parish for a bequest in your Will?
- Have you thought about donating flowers for the church on a specific Sunday, or making a memorial gift?
- Have you thought about a tax deductible donation to support the St Margaret's Music Scholarship?
- Have you thought about a tax deductible donation to support the next phase of the Yarning Circle?

For any parishioners who would like further information on any of the above, please contact our Vicar, Treasurer, John Humann, or any of the Wardens.

## PASTORAL CARE

I am a very new member of St Margaret's Pastoral Care Committee but have always been aware of the work completed by this small group of dedicated parishioners.

Chaired by the Vicar they meet monthly but the work in between is vital. Support is given to St Vincent's Care by visiting and services. This is a huge commitment for the clergy and supporters. Cards are written on a regular basis to ensure recipients are aware that they are remembered. Phone calls are made regularly, again to show care.

The Memory Care Cafe continues to support.

Great work done in a caring and confidential manner.

*Sally Petty*

## COLLECTIONS

### Anglicare Stationery collection

Our annual collection for school supplies has now started and there is a basket in the foyer. Please add books, pens, pencils, paper. Anglicare will collect and distribute where needed. Thank you



### Food Collection

Both Anglicare and the local Foodshare are desperate for donations. Please, please, please.

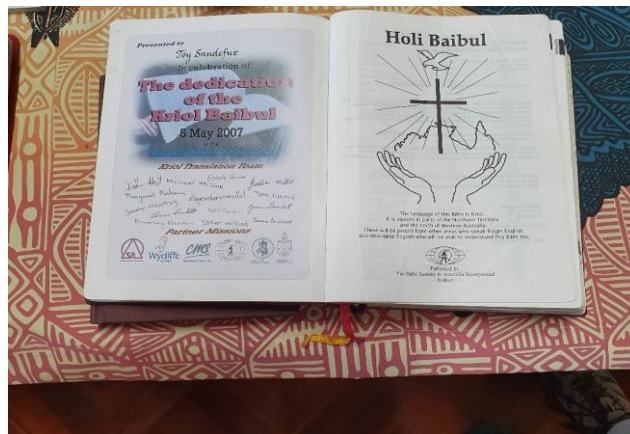


## AUSTRALIA DAY 2023

Nillumbik flag raising ceremony live streamed into the Eltham Community Centre where those who were about to become Australian citizens were seated.



Following is the speech that was delivered at the Nillumbik flag ceremony on Australia Day by the NRG. The flag raising ceremony was "live streamed" into the Eltham Community Centre where those who were about to become Australian citizens were seated



Items displayed in the hall on Aboriginal Sunday.



Full speech from the Nilumbik Reconcilliatrion Group composed by Jan Aitken and Jan Mackenzie but presented by Gillian Essex and Jan Mackenzie. <https://nrg.org.au/>

Ed this issue Sally  
Photos: Diana Warrell, Helen Robertson.

Next issue due 9 March. Copy due 4

## BE PREPARED

This is an article written by Dr Muriel Porter a well known Melbourne Anglican and journalist following the death of The Revd Dr Brian Porter. The article has been précised but can be viewed on the ABC website. Thought it may prove helpful.

For the past eight years I have been managing all our finances. When Brian was diagnosed, with Alzheimer's, we had immediately set in place enduring powers of attorney and guardianship arrangements, as well as ensuring that all utilities and bank accounts were in joint names. He already had a straightforward will, leaving everything to me, and he had always dutifully signed superannuation documents to say I was to inherit his super after his death. Seems as if we had everything in place, doesn't it? That's what I thought —until he died two months ago.

I am overwhelmed now not just with grief — that is bad enough — but with a nightmare of administration. And the worst of it is with his superannuation pensions. Once the two super funds were notified of my husband's death, the pensions simply stopped. Yes, stopped, without any warning, without any notification. The monthly pension payments are no longer turning up.

If I didn't have small pensions myself, a little money in the bank, and a daughter ready to help if needed, I would be in a very dire financial situation. Even so, things are too tight for comfort. (And what is left of the refundable accommodation deposit my husband's nursing home required when he was admitted has only just been returned.)

It seems that my husband's regular notifications to the funds that his pensions were to revert to me on his death were close to meaningless, leaving me struggling with the endless paperwork the super funds now require. There are detailed application forms to be completed — when I can get the right forms, that is.

One super fund keeps sending me the wrong form. I have rung them several times, gone through all the details again and again, only to be told that — though this has been ongoing now since well before Christmas — it will take "10 business days" before a form is likely to be sent. So I just have to wait, it seems.

That's not all. I have had to get certified copies of my husband's birth certificate, my birth certificate, our marriage certificate, his death certificate, the probate document and his will.

I am overwhelmed now not just with grief, that is bad enough but with a nightmare of administration.

Next, I have had to produce evidence of my identity (just in case those certificates are not enough). So certified copies of my passport and driver's licence were required. Just as well I have them both. (Note to self: even when I no longer want to travel or drive, keep them updated so I can always prove who I am.) And once all that paperwork is delivered to the super funds, apparently, I can't expect those pension payments to start up again any time soon. I'm told it will take quite some weeks for their trustees to assess the situation and decide if I am truly my late husband's heir. You would imagine that super funds would be used to dealing with this situation. Surely, they could have a streamlined process in place?

YouTube The ATO has steps to help work through what you need to do.\

The super situation will eventually be resolved, but then another problem will have to be dealt with — the Centrelink pension. When my husband's super pensions resume, now that I am single, I will have too much income to qualify any longer for the small aged pension. That's okay, I'll simply tell Centrelink to stop it. No, nothing so simple. I will have to fill in an 18-page form, complete with documentation from the super funds. And then I'll have to make an appointment to discuss it with a Centrelink consultant. Even though I will just want the pension to stop. Just to get Centrelink pension payments to stop, you have to organise a meeting.

Once all that is sorted, I will have to go to the bank and the utilities and the house insurance and all the rest to change the name on the accounts. I am dreading what paperwork that will all require. At the moment, I haven't got the strength even to ask.

And then there's the cemetery. The family and I want my husband's ashes interred in the grave where his parents are buried. But there are no records at the cemetery as to who is the "holder of right" for the grave — that is, effectively, who paid for the grave in the first place, and so has the authority to apply for the interment.

It was almost certainly my husband, but there is no paperwork to that effect. So we have to go through more complex paperwork to sort out that situation as well. Meanwhile, his ashes sit quietly in my dining room.