

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.stmargaretsetham.org.au/
Facebook www.facebook.com/stmargaretsetham

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**

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St. Margaret's 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham

EASTER

2023

2 April, 10am PALM SUNDAY
4 April, 7.30pm TENEBRAE
6 April, 7.30pm MAUNDY THURSDAY
7 April, 10am GOOD FRIDAY
8 April, 7.30pm EASTER VIGIL
9 April, 10am EASTER DAY

ALL WELCOME

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING SUPPLIES FOR THE TWO FOOD BASKETS

Parish Council Summary

February meeting of Parish Council was held on Monday 27 February and once again was a productive meeting with all members present.

Vicar's Report

We quote 'I continue to be spread rather thin as I aim to maintain a strong pastoral role with those in need.

Some of that ministry necessarily goes unnoticed because of its confidential nature.

The Thursday morning discussion group goes from strength to strength. This necessitates reading and preparation but it is a witness to spiritual growth for some.

Bishop Kate encouraged me to attend the *Reimagining The Future* Seminar 7-9th March. Other parishioners are invited via the pew bulletin. No takers thus far.

Preaching series for Lent on Sam Wells *Love Mercy* is underway.

Faithful Women launched successfully with a Labyrinth walk. On-going up-grade to the surrounds of the Labyrinth are required and fencing is a priority' --- **Revd Linda**

- **St Margarets Music Scholarship** brochure has been updated and sent to local schools.
- It was agreed to reduce the number of **services** over the Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter season, see notice above.
- **Financial report** was tabled, as follows:
The financial situation of the parish for the four months to 31 January 2023 has improved marginally, in that our surplus is now \$17,604, compared to \$15,931 at the end of December. This is an increase of \$1,673. Across most income and expenditure categories, the variances between budget and actual amounts, as shown in this month's financial statements, are comparable to what has been reported in the previous month. No particular items provoke concern.
Overall the status of the parish finances is satisfactory. **John Humann Treasurer**
- **Taize:** see separate report.
- **Subcommittee reports:**
All Parish Sub Committee comprise Parish Council members and congregational members. We are so thankful for their hard work
- **PCT:** Seminar to be held later in the year. Considerable care by visiting, telephoning and home communion.
- **Property:** A new fence is to be constructed along John St., and fence between labyrinth

and hall to be removed. The fence between vicarage and labyrinth to be addressed later. Huge thanks to Jo and Graham Norman for all their work tidying up the labyrinth. Also, Graham Constantine. Lid for brazier has arrived and been fitted. Do Justice committee to review decoration on the lid.

- **Do Justice:** is keen to develop the grounds and integrate the labyrinth with the Yarning Circle. Possibility of application for a grant. A number of labyrinth walks will be planned for 2023.
- **Marketing and Communications:**
 - Discussion on re doing the parish website.
 - Marketing for Taize

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 Approval: The following were approved:

- **World Environment Day 10 June**
- **Garage & Goodies Sat. 27 May**

Compiled by Sally Petty

CONCERT @ ST MARGARET'S

The September Concert at St Margaret's Church **Sunday 10th September** has been confirmed as the date for the Annual concert at which our music scholarship holders will give recitals at St Margaret's.

Many readers of Parish Matters will remember **our students'** exquisite piano performances last year by Lachlan, Amelia and Justin, and this year promises to be as good, if not better.

Again, the **Open Door Singers** will top the program, and also will lead us in song under the incomparable direction of Shaun Islip.

And once more we may swoon to the gentle strains **of the harp** from our beloved former vicar, The Very Revd Keren Terpstra, who will journey to Eltham from Sale Cathedral.

Please mark the date in your diary and be sure to invite your friends, as this event is again a fund raiser towards the Scholarship program.

Bookings will go on sale shortly through Trybooking, and tax deductible donations to the St Margaret's Music Scholarships can be made at any time. (See details in the flyer available in the Church foyer or on the St Margaret's website).

Diana Warrell, on behalf of the Music Scholarship Committee (Revd Dr Linda Fiske, John Humann, Marg Sandy, Revd Robert Street).

MEMORY CARE CAFE UPDATE

During February the café opened on 7 and 21st. Customers attending the café continue to enjoy the amenity and on 21 February we hosted Tamlyn from Banksia Palliative Care who spoke to carers about home-based services offered to people living with life limiting illnesses to enable them to live their best life. Banksia Palliative Care provides services to Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea and provides Registered Nurses and Social Workers to visit the person at home to provide palliation services and care advice at no cost.

We also heard about a Service available from Dementia Support Australia providing an education and respite care program.

On 24 February volunteers from the 3 Nillumbik Memory Care Cafés i.e., Hurstbridge, Eltham and Diamond Creek, met to discuss the remainder of the year including planning for events and speakers.

A quarterly Newsletter will be launched for carers and all stakeholders. Volunteers and carers can forward articles of interest and news regarding contemporary care and treatment information and it is hoped that the newsletter will provide up to date information including a contact list of Dementia care services (including after-hours crisis services) and café opening times for the three cafés.

The meeting was very well attended and the participants shared many new ideas to bring to the cafés in the coming months

Sheila Cleary

LABYRINTHS AND WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

Once a year on the first Saturday in May, 'World Labyrinth Day' is celebrated globally. Labyrinth walkers (adults and children) walk the labyrinth in their time zone at 1.00 pm creating a continuous 24 hour global labyrinth walk.

Labyrinths and mazes have a fascinating history that can be traced back to ancient times. The terms labyrinth and maze were once used interchangeably, however they are quite different. A labyrinth is a single circuitous pathway which leads to the centre – a resting place before the return journey back, whereas a maze has multiple paths, with one correct path leading to the centre that is hidden amongst many dead ends and junctions.

Labyrinths appear in mythology – one famous Greek myth is that of the fight between Theseus and the Minotaur.

In Medieval times many people who were unable to make a physical journey to Jerusalem would walk the labyrinth instead as their pilgrimage. These labyrinths have given inspiration to people walking them from those ancient days to now – a mystical experience.

World Labyrinth Day



SATURDAY MAY 6 2023

**WALK AS ONE AT 1PM
FOR WORLD PEACE**

World Labyrinth Day creates a unified wave of peace around the world by walking as one at 1.00 wherever you are



Where: 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham (behind St. Margaret's church)

The group will gather at 12.45 to meet the Facilitator. The walk will commence at 1pm. Refreshments will follow the walk

www.stmargaretseltham.org.au Phone: 94399238



If we look carefully at the natural world around us we can see examples of 'labyrinths' that abound in nature – for example the 'spider's web', water rippling outwards and if we take our thumb print we will also see the 'swirls'.

Labyrinths are found across the world indoors and outdoors. Many designs abound, all with a single path to the centre, a resting place, before returning along the path. One of the most famous labyrinths, with eleven circuits, is found at Chartres Cathedral near Paris. Each labyrinth walk is a different experience. Starting at the threshold, as you walk in, let go the cares of the world to empty and quiet the mind, when you reach the centre stop and meditate before returning.

To find where labyrinths are located go to <https://labyrinthlocator.com/labyrinth-links>

The labyrinth at St Margaret's is based on the Chartres Cathedral design.

References:

Sands, Helen Raphael *Walking the healing Labyrinth* 2005

Buchanan, Jim *Labyrinths for the spirit, How to create your own labyrinths for meditation and enlightenment* 2007

Delbridge, Elizabeth *Walking the Labyrinth at St Margaret's Eltham C 2009*

Kathleen Toal who enjoys walking the labyrinth and has walked many labyrinths both in Australia and overseas including the Chartrès Labyrinth.

Poster design **Diana Warrell**.

ST MARGARET'S AT THE ELTHAM FESTIVAL



Above is a picture of our own "Pied Piper" Anna Mott who was kept busy with enthusiastic children who enjoyed putting together Yarning Sticks . So good to see their enthusiasm when there were so many enticing rides etc to compete with.



Anna also made lavender bags that people loved getting. Also a picture of David Tuke getting a thumb print to support the YES vote from our alien friend. . Thanks to David and Mitzi who helped assemble the marquee and Geoff Milgate who arrived just in time to disassemble it all. It was great fun with various groups/people sharing their passion for Climate Change, the Yes vote, Dementia support, World Labrinth Day, LinC, CAVE and even our music scholarship. We were so busy we ran out of flyers.

Diana Warrell

MENS BREAKFAST 25TH

On the May Men's Breakfast Day there will be no breakfast!

Instead, we plan to hold **a dinner to celebrate 25 years of Men's Breakfast**. Some may remember that it came about through a suggestion of Adrienne to Rev Erica shortly after she was appointed to St Margret's, in response to Erica's comment that there was a lot of women's events but none for men. It must have been a good suggestion as there are still a few of the first gathering attending!

We will begin with a short service and remember those formerly from the table who have passed on into His care. And make time to look back over the last 25 years.

We plan for an early start with drinks at 5.30 as there is World Labyrinth afternoon and a Coronation at 8 (we'll have it on screen) in the evening on May 6th.

Invitations to parish men and their partners will be in the post soon.

How time has flown!

Harry Watson

MONDAY CIRCLE

Monday Circle - - We meet Mondays at 1.00pm until 3.00pm. We each take a turn to talk and discuss a topic during the meeting. As we are unable to meet in St Margaret's Hall first Monday each month, we have decided it is perfect opportunity for us to enjoy lunch together at Montmorency Eltham RSL at noon. We warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us at our meetings or our lunches.

Barbara Talbot.

ANGLICARE

Last week, Bob the Anglicare worker who lives in Montmorency, collected a huge load of foods, school materials and some 'lightly used' clothes and took them to the Anglicare hub in Lilydale. The day before he had picked up 4 large bags of knitted items from Bev Thompson. Personally, I felt quite overwhelmed by the response of parishioners and friends in the weeks since Christmas, and Bob was delighted. He works at all the Anglicare Hubs in Melbourne and sees staff treating hundreds of needy clients.

In Anglicare's February newsletter the plight of vulnerable students was highlighted. Many families are facing a daily struggle with poverty, family violence, mental health issues and unemployment and children as early as Grade Four stop attending school. Anglicare is working with some schools as one worker noted, 'to create more reasons to keep going to school and to keep trying. We support them, constantly telling them, "you are amazing, and you can do this" because they are and they can' ".

Family workers take the time to get to know the needs and challenges the students face, giving them individualized attention and encouraging the students to join in group activities.

The school books and pens and pencils that we donated go towards helping children stay at school. Next week is the first of the quarterly meetings of the Anglicare Victoria Partnership Group in Melbourne and our parish will be represented. Our donations will be recognized and we will learn more about Anglicare's programs.

A big thank you for your wonderful donations which keep coming

Jenny Disney and Bev Thomson

TAIZÉ CELEBRATION AT THE YARNING CIRCLE

What a wonderful night, 31 people in attendance, 21 for a meal and getting into the excellent conversation, sharing highlights of their weeks since the last Taizé Service.

The weather was kind to us enabling everyone to join in, in comfort. Our very talented musician Christina accompanied the chants and singing with her special Ukulele it was pitched at a slightly lower level allowing singing not to get too high for most who joined in. The atmosphere this elegant instrument provided was very suitable for the open air. Heidi who carefully puts the service together is

to be thanked for her commitment and time sharing



her gifts.

A little creative thinking managed to keep the candles alight as serenity passed through the group giving us all a very special experience. Let's hope this can happen again in the not-too-distant future.

March 26th is our next service to watch out for.

We are to be joined by **Brother Merric** (an Australian) from the French Taizé Community where he has trained. He will be showing a video and talking about his community before participating in our service. This may help those unsure to understand the purpose of Taizé services. So it is an opportunity to invite a friend to come with you and spend some time with others sharing this unique opportunity.

There will be no meal prior to the service on this occasion, but following the service, many will be crossing the road to the Eltham Hotel to continue their discussions over a meal.

Looking forward to seeing you all.

*Helen Robertson
Taizé Coordinator*

WELCOME TO ELTHAM

The Nillumbik Shire's group for sharing the neighbourly joy with refugees and people seeking asylum settling in Eltham meet regularly in St Margaret's Hall. There were so many happy faces and much knitting at the craft group this week. A huge thanks to Mary LM and her volunteers from St Margaret's, and to Suzette and Gail for their help

with transport and the amazing craft work of the six participants



Ed this issue Sally
Photos: Diana Warrell, Helen Robertson, Mary LM

Next issue due 9April . Copy due 4 April