

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

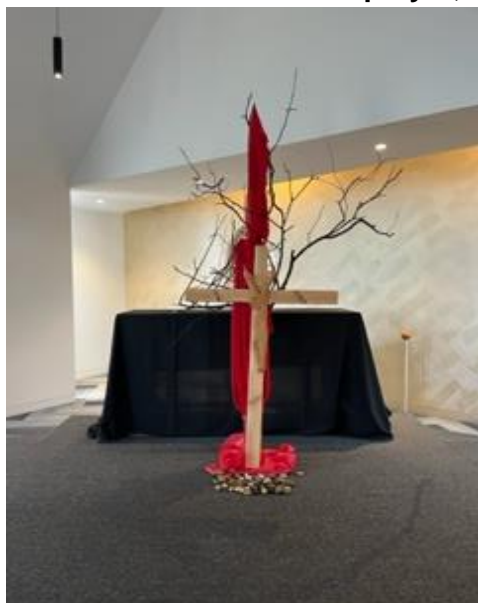
St Margaret's Anglican Parish Eltham acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship. We commit to working for reconciliation and justice for Aboriginal people. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's.

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**

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2023

What a wonderful time of prayer, silence and then celebration. Thankyou Linda



Good Friday



Linda- Easter Day



Hannah with her Easter hat

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING SUPPLIES FOR THE TWO FOOD BASKETS

MEMORY CARE CAFE

The café was well attended during March and April with new customers attending in both months. The Easter café on 4 April was great fun with hot cross buns and Easter eggs for all!

On 18 April we hosted 2 visitors from the USA working in Dementia and Cognitive Decline areas and running a similar café model as ours, in San Francisco. The carer group and the visitors spoke together and exchanged ideas. Lots of comparative information was shared throughout an enjoyable afternoon.

The café on 2 May hosted an educator from Carers Victoria who will spoke to cares on the topic of “The art of being caringly assertive”

While I am away through May, June and July Diana will take over the reins of opening and preparing the café, ensuring our roster of volunteers continues, liaising with Health Ability staff and securely closing up the Church Hall at the end of each café afternoon.

Attendance at the café is growing with some customers returning after hospitalisation and others new to the café. A small group of St Margarets parishioners also attend from time to time.

Best wishes to all, I look forward to catching up with café activities on my return from overseas.

Sheila Cheary.

MONDAY CRAFT GROUP

The monthly Monday craft group was born out of a hope to offer something different for the refugees who have now been in Judge Book Village for the past 6 1/2 years. Through involvement with the Welcome to Eltham community group, it was suggested we offer an opportunity for these people, who have had so many changes in their lives, to gather in a different and caring environment. Sadly, the pandemic thwarted all plans and put the idea on hold for some years.

Towards the end of 2022 we started with a small group who brought beautiful things they had made, as well as the helpers offering other ideas. The numbers have increased and friendships have started to blossom between the St. Margaret’s crew, the refugees and the Welcome to Eltham group.



It became obvious quite quickly, that it does not matter what craft or none happens, but gathering together over a cup of tea and cake in a different environment is the key.

Mary Lynton-Moll

Bishop Brad

A change of roles within the episcopate from 1 May. Bishop Brad Billings will become the bishop responsible for the Oodthenong area of episcopal care. We give sincere thanks to Bishop Kate for here love and care for our parish.



Parishioner Reflections

In previous editions of Parish Matters, some of our parishioners have generously shared some thoughts about their time at St. Margaret's. This month **Jennifer Constantine** is able to share with us. Thank you Jennifer, it helps us recall those things we may have forgotten, or we may like acknowledging things we too value. She firstly reflected on two events, then her focus on particular times and finally her acknowledgment of the environment that wraps around her being at St. Margaret's. Perhaps after reading any of these reflections, it may prompt a conversation with others. **Helen Robertson**

In the time I have been at St Margaret's two events stand out. The Indigenous event with a speaker and displays. The Climate event as well. They both made me feel that there is something larger than just self, also proud to be part of such a caring and spiritual community. The morning prayer and meditation. They have both given me a deeper understanding of faith along with a deepening of my own faith.

I love the green surroundings and the way the buildings and landscape blend together. The church itself is a place of gentle love and respect. So welcoming I almost take a breath of pure relaxation as I walk in. I also love the way different hands have shaped the church and continue to do so. **Jennifer Constantine**

TAIZE

Once more with great joy and feeling, all 24 participants breathed, sang and shared beautiful prayers together.

The music we thank Christina for, particularly the ukelele pieces so gently played near the service's finish, they were enchanting and left everyone in good spirits.

The selection of service so lovingly put together by Heidi, these two women working so well together.

The evening started with yummy soups prepared by Liz and David Pryor, then served by David and Mitzi Tuke. What wonderful support we have to make these services so engaging, meeting and chatting with friends, then together in song and prayer. Thank you all for your support and assistance, it is appreciated.

For those who would like to attend but don't like driving at night, remember you can always phone me and we will organise a lift for you.

Helen Robertson
Mob: 0434 878 246



FAITHFULL WOMEN

I attended all three of the Ageing in Body But Growing in Spirit sessions led by Chris Winkett. What a delight. Approximately 10 women at each session.



We read, listened to glorious music, meditated, discussed and shared our experiences and feelings. Time out from our busyness but took time to feel where God is in all of this as we grow older.

Thanks Chris, a very special experience.

Sally Petty

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met on Monday 24 April by zoom

- **Vicars report:**
- update on Safe Ministry Training;
 - services of the Triduum were well attended, especially given that so many regulars were away on holiday. We had many visitors. The Saturday Vigil garnered 20, Easter day 67 adults and 4 under 11
 - sincere thanks to Diana Warrell to for the organization of our advertising board. Clearly folk saw it and attended as a result. acknowledge the wonderful assistance of Rob McKenzie in sourcing music and managing the AV desk during these (and other) services. Thank you Rob!
 - We are currently reviewing our offering to St Vincent's home in Eltham, ability to continue with the monthly Communion service is soon to be discussed at our next Pastoral Care Meeting.
 - I continue to take Pastoral Oversight of the parish. I am visiting and taking Communion to those in need. This is an important ministry that takes time. I suggest it is time for a new drive to recruit Home Communion Assistants. The system set in place by Keren continues to devolve. I need help on this front and I acknowledge the work of Adrienne and Harry in visiting with Communion.
- Sub Committee reports received

Vision 2023

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

GARAGE & GOODIES SALE

From 9am to 1pm
SATURDAY MAY 27.
79-81 Pitt Street Eltham
Vintage clothing, Cakes, Jams,
Books, Toys, Bric a Brac
www.stmargaretseltham.org.au
Phone: 9439 9238



ANZAC DAY 2023

St Margaret's remembered ANZAC Day at the Sunday Services on 23rd April - with poppies (made by ladies from church groups in 2015) in a floral arrangement with Rosemary greenery, and on the laurel wreath, in prayers of the people and Linda included a special section of remembrance at the end of the service.

On ANZAC Day Linda attended the Dawn service held in Eltham and led the prayers and laid a wreath remembering the fallen Chaplains.



Rev. Linda at Dawn Service Eltham

At Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park there was an ANZAC Day service held at 10.45 am where Linda led the prayers and laid a wreath from St Margaret's remembering the nurses and soldiers who left Eltham to serve in World War I at Gallipoli and the Western Front.



Wreath and bugle Kangaroo Ground

The Last Post was played by bugler Vincent Bradley on a bugle which Terry Phillips had dug up in France during one of the many excavations he has attended for the recovery of soldiers who lie buried in fields on the Western front.

Terry Phillips is a retired soldier from the Vietnam War who gave the address providing an insight to a

soldier on the Western Front from World War I - John "Barney" Hines. Barney - Terry's address was well received with much discussion afterwards - Michael Tucker's comment was "Barney" deserves a "Victoria Cross" for his heroic actions!!!

The adventures of John "Barney" Hines.

With **Anzac Day** upon us again we tend to think of all those heroes who forged the spirit and legend of "**Anzac**". This legend which was described by the Official War Historian **Charles Bean** as now being part of our heritage, stood for and still stands for, reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and an endurance that will never admit defeat was said to be born on the scrub covered hills and gullies of **Gallipoli**.

Most of us here would know much more about **Gallipoli** than we do about the Diggers involvement and achievements on the **Western Front** battlefields. We tend to look on the ill-fated **Anzac** campaign as our country's finest hour. Very few Australians know enough about the part played by the Diggers on the **Western Front** battlefields to compare it seriously with what the **Anzac's** did at **Gallipoli**. Yet nearly 10 times the number of Australian soldiers fought on the **Western Front** than did at **Gallipoli** and they fought more than five times as long, in equally shocking conditions. Many Australian heroes emerged from both of these conflicts and have been enshrined since in our folklore and history with the likes of; **Simpson and his donkey, Albert Jacka, Sir John Monash, "Two Gun" Harry Dalziel, Henry Murray** and many more. But there is another side of the coin too as many Diggers committed acts of bravery that went unrecognised due to an indifference to military authority and indiscipline when on or away from the battlefield.

It is one such person that I would like to talk to you about today his name being **John "Barney" Hines**.

During the war the **AIF** gained a reputation, at least amongst British officers, for indifference to military authority and indiscipline when away from the battlefield on leave. This included a reputation for refusing to salute officers, sloppy dress, lack of respect for military rank and drunkenness on leave. "The **AIF** was, paradoxically, both a cohesive and remarkably effective force, but also one whose members could not be relied upon to accept military discipline or to even remain in action". Indiscipline, misbehavior, and public drunkenness were reportedly widespread in **AIF** during the war. There were also examples of Australian soldiers being involved in looting, while the practice of "scrounging" or "souveniring" was also widespread. The rates of personnel going absent without leave or deserting increased during 1918, and it became rare for soldiers to salute their officers in many units. Following the war, the indiscipline within the **AIF** was often portrayed as harmless larrikinism.

Private John 'Barney' Hines
The souvenir king of the AIF In the latter half of 1916.



Photo of John “Barney” Hines – Reference Australian War Memorial E00822

Barney Hines was a large man of scruffy appearance, covered in tattoos, when he entered an **AIF** recruiting depot in Sydney in 1915 when he was in his mid 40's, he walked up to the table and thumped it hard with his hand. 'Is this where I join up?' he growled in guttural tones, laced with a thick accent.

He gave his name as **John 'Barney' Hines**. Born in **Liverpool, England**, **Barney** gave his age as 36 and his occupation as comprising a variety of trades—seaman, engineer, fireman, deep-sea diver and shearer. This was not **Barney's** first experience of military life. He had served in the British Territorial Forces (the **8th King's Liverpool Regiment**) for three and a half years. He had, in fact, also enlisted in the **AIF** the previous year, only to be discharged suffering from haemorrhoids. Probably the only time while in the army that he was a pain in his own arse.

Barney was a 'Fair Dinkum', one of those who enlisted in response to the call for more volunteers following the heavy casualties suffered by the **ANZAC's** at **Gallipoli**. These volunteers fully understood that this was not a glamorous adventure. They knew that wars cost lives—and plenty of them. He sailed for **England** and further training at a camp on **Salisbury Plain**.

The big man proved to be quite a handful in camp and frequently gave himself extended leave periods—the last one resulting in a penalty of 60 days' detention and forfeiture of 109 days' pay. Allocated to the **45th Battalion**, he embarked for **France** and the **Western Front** in March 1917. Soon after his arrival, the **45th** moved into the **Bapaume** area to prepare for its attack on the heavily fortified **Hindenburg Line**.

Barney had a habit of adopting a glazed stare when confronted by a hostile German, as a subsequent description of his fighting style indicates: Digger comrades dubbed **Barney** 'Wild Eyes' and his escapades soon became famous. Disdaining to use his .303 rifle, he went into action clutching two sand bags stuffed with Mills bombs.

His battalion officers recognised his natural fighting ability but despaired of ever turning him into a trained and disciplined soldier. His commanding officer thought of attaching the big fellow to a Lewis gun. **Barney** was

entranced by the weapon and its spraying power. '**This'll do me**', he growled ... '**it's just like hosing the bastards down**'.

It is suspected that **Barney** had killed more German Soldiers than any other person in the **AIF**. **Barney's** passion was souveniring and his first taste of it came when he found a donkey and cart. The donkey was careering along the road after an officer of the **46th Battalion** had caused the animal to take fright.

Barney tried to stop the donkey but, in so doing, was catapulted over the beast's head, dislocating his shoulder. **Barney** regarded the injury as little more than an inconvenience, but he feared he now might only be able to carry one bag of bombs into battle.

The men of the **45th** liked having this unconventional Digger fighting beside them. The man was fearless, and his natural ability to inspire confidence in his fellow soldiers was immensely reassuring. Yet, at times, he would behave in the most reckless, unorthodox, gallant or inexplicable manner.

There were many occasions when his conduct could only be described as bizarre. One day, as the men of the **45th** marched from their lines, **Barney** broke ranks and rushed up to a Chinese man working on the road with a labour unit. He smothered the little man in a bear hug, and then kissed him. The startled man took fright and, while trying to escape **Barney's** attentions, ran blindly in front of a truck and was killed. Without any apparent show of remorse or emotion, **Barney** checked the body, shrugged his shoulders, then rejoined the ranks.

Barney was renowned for refusing to leave a wounded soldier behind. He repeatedly set off on his own, under heavy fire, to rescue casualties. Whenever possible, he buried those of his own unit who had been killed in action. Even after long periods of heavy fighting, **Barney** never tired of searching for and burying bodies that had been missed or forgotten.

One day, in the mud and slush of a little-known place named **Octagon Trench**, **Barney** and an officer, **Second Lieutenant Hopgood**, had become separated from the rest of their platoon. Suddenly, the uneasy quiet was pierced by a burst of machine-gun fire. One of the rounds found its mark, wounding **Hopgood** in the arm.

The salvo had come from a German pillbox, and **Barney** realised he had to eliminate the enemy gun if he and the lieutenant were to survive. He crept forward, climbed on top of the offending concrete fortification and, to the astonishment of the resident Germans to get them to come out of hiding, he danced on the roof taunting them and then dropped right in front of the door and threw in a few Mills bombs.

The surviving 63 Germans, including a general who had taken shelter in the machine-gun post, offered no resistance and surrendered to **Barney**. Later that day, **Barney** ventured out alone again and destroyed another German machine-gun post. He was wounded during this latter action and spent the next six weeks recuperating in hospital.

During a day's convalescent leave from the hospital, he found a fine chestnut horse with a saddle but no rider, a British Officers horse no doubt. He took it 'home' and traded it for a bottle of whisky. At **Zonnebeke**, armed with a handful of bombs and with his Lewis gun slung across his back, **Barney** set off on one of his lone forays. He stumbled upon an enemy dressing station. The German occupants were all dead, but a British soldier lying on a stretcher on the floor was still alive. With a gentleness that one would not normally associate with a man of **Barney's** size and appearance, **Barney** gently shouldered the wounded man to carry him back to safety. His efforts were in vain, however, as the Englishman died on the way. **Barney** buried him, then, ever the opportunist, went back to collect a few coins and other odds and ends from the 'morgue' that once had been the dressing station.

The following night, **Barney** accompanied a **Captain Dibbs** on a reconnaissance patrol. A raid on a troublesome pillbox was considered, but **Captain Dibbs** decided, prudently, that they should first ascertain the strength of the enemy's defences. **Barney** worked his way up to the front of the fortification and counted about 20 Germans. **Dibbs** questioned whether they should return for reinforcements, but **Barney** was determined to try out his latest toy—an incendiary bomb. He prised open the door of the pillbox and launched his missile. In his own words, '**The egg went straight in among the bastards**'.

There was no need for reinforcements or a raid as he had killed them all. On the way back to the lines, **Barney** encountered ten Germans taking refuge in a shell hole. He rushed in and took them all as his prisoners. Others from the battalion came to assist, but **Barney** warned them off in no uncertain terms. These were his prisoners and he was not about to share his loot. He wasted no time relieving his somewhat indignant captives of their personal possessions and equipment—watches, cash and any other saleable items were added to **Barney's** growing stash of 'finds' as he always stole all sorts of items from German Soldiers who are either dead or captured. His booty wasn't confined to portable keepsakes.

At **Villers-Bretonneux** he liberated a piano which he managed to keep for several days until he was persuaded to give it away. On another occasion he scored a grandfather clock which he carried back to the trenches. But, after its hourly chimes were found to attract German fire, his mates blew it up with - what else? - a Mills bomb.

In **Armentieres** he came across a keg of Bass beer which he started to roll towards the battalion. He was stopped by military police and told not to go any further with it. Unfazed, **Barney** left the keg and went ahead to round up fellow Diggers who returned to drink it on the spot.

When the **AIF** reached **Amiens** in 1918 they found the beautiful cathedral city deserted. It was too much for **Barney**. He disappeared and was finally sprung by British military police in the vaults of the **Bank of France** where he had already squirreled away millions of francs, packed neatly in suitcases. He was hauled off for

questioning by the British who, nonplussed on what to do with the reprobate, returned him to his unit. Later he was to boast that the escapade had cost him no more than 14 days' pay and that he had been allowed to keep the banknotes he had stuffed into his pockets.

Barney was also renowned for the party he held at **Villers-Bretonneux** after he found a cache of 1870 champagne and tinned delicacies. His mates were all decked out in top hats and dress suits which he had also acquired along with some very fine women's clothing and underwear. His mates found that the silk underwear was a less of an attraction to the lice than the army issue underwear.

All was good until a couple of them were wounded and sent to hospital. Can you imagine the surprise and shock for the poor nurses when they removed the soldiers blood stained uniforms to find that they were attired in finer undergarments than they were.

It was to be his last party for some time. Just after it ended he scored a bullet wound over his eye, another in his leg and a whiff of gas. Despite protests, he was hospitalised at Etaples, being almost blinded.

Any time the Diggers wanted such items as Zeiss field-glasses or a Mauser pistol, **Barney** could supply them, but always at a price. **Barney's** souveniring escapades soon became common knowledge amongst the Diggers.

An official army photograph of **Barney** taken at **Polygon Wood** made headlines in a variety of newspapers and broadsheets around the world. The image portrayed an unshaven, dishevelled **Barney** wearing a German forage cap and surrounded by the 'treasures' he had scavenged during a day of souvenir-hunting.

On that particular day, he had amassed more than 4000 francs, a bottle of whisky, a pair of earrings, a diamond brooch, a gold ring, around one million German marks, a variety of watches, and sufficient iron crosses to fill a sandbag. **Barney's** notoriety was now widely known. The photograph was even reproduced in Germany, where the **Kaiser** was incensed at the sight of the scruffy-looking Digger surrounded by the piles of equipment and personal effects he had taken from German soldiers.

The image caption described **Barney** as typical of the impossible, uncultured Australian savages that the German soldier had to contend with on the **Western Front**. **Barney** was hated by the Germans, especially by the **Kaiser**. It was rumoured that the **Kaiser** was so furious that he put a price on **Barney's** head of 100,000 marks. The money would be paid for **Barney's** capture, dead or alive, and represented a small fortune in those days.

At **Passchendaele** in 1917, **Barney** was the only member of his Lewis gun team to survive a direct hit by an enemy shell. The force of the exploding missile ripped the soles off **Barney's** boots and threw him some distance from his post. He crawled back to the gun position to bury the dead, including his best mate, **Private Colman**. He restored the gun to working order

and carried on alone until hit in the knee by a splinter of spent shrapnel.

Barney was granted leave in **England**, where this ferocious fighter—whom many believed was worth two in the line—gave the trouble of ten while on leave. **Barney** turned up a week or so late to return to **France**. He had found a new cobbler and a bottle of whisky to enjoy before he returned to the war. **Barney** had so many brushes with military law—particularly for being absent without leave, resulting in fines or loss of pay—that many say **Barney Hines’** pay book was possibly one of the most graphic documents to emerge from the First World War.

It could be argued that **Barney’s** souveniring for profit was born of a need for additional money, to compensate for the pay he had lost in fines. **Barney’s** fearless assaults on enemy strongholds with his ‘pins out of grenade’ style; his fierce, wild-eyed demeanour; his large, intimidating body; and his bags of deadly bombs produced many enemy dead and induced numerous terror-stricken Germans to surrender.

In the spring of 1918, **Hines** fought with the **45th** in the crucial battle of **Dernancourt**, preventing the Germans from breaking through the British front. Soon after this action, **Barney** became the casualty of a gas attack. He was reluctant to leave the combat area, but had been temporarily blinded by the chemical vapour and was sent to the rear area for medical attention. The hospital train was bombed en route—did the Hun know **Barney** was on board?

Barney had been undergoing hospital treatment for three weeks when German planes launched a savage attack on the facility. Casualties were heavy, and included **Barney**, who caught a piece of shrapnel in his heel. Despite his injuries, and supported by a makeshift crutch, **Barney** worked through the night to help the hospital staff move the patients to safety. **Barney** did not recover sufficiently to return to active service and was

repatriated to Australia in 1919 and discharged as medically unfit.

Post war **Barney** wandered the countryside trying his hand at a variety of jobs. He returned to the outer **Sydney** area of **Mt Druitt** where he lived a lonely existence in a little old bag shack. He had to survive on his war pension, income from odd jobs and money from the sale of his precious souvenirs.

In the early 1930s, at the height of the Great Depression, **Barney** gained prominence when his plight was featured in the Returned and Services League (RSL) of New South Wales’ magazine, *Reveille* in an article entitled, ‘Souvenir King has no Souvenirs **NOW**’. Old Diggers from around Australia dug deep and sent donations to help their old mate. A cable received at RSL Headquarters simply stated: Have just received my December “Reveille” (stop). Wiring two pounds for **Barney Hines** for Christmas (stop).

Barney’s appreciation of his fellow veteran’s generosity was heartfelt and sincere. When he sat down to his first real Christmas dinner for many years, he said, ‘I’d like to meet that bloke and keep an eye on him in the next war’. **Barney** passed away on the 29th January 1958. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Sydney’s Rookwood Cemetery and is commemorated in the cemetery’s Garden of Remembrance. In honour of a local hero, Blacktown City Council renamed a street in suburban Minchinbury, ‘John Hines Avenue’. After he was buried in **Rookwood Cemetery** in a grave which was unmarked until 1971, when the Mount Druitt sub-branch of the Returned Services League of Australia paid for a headstone.

**God bless you Barney!!!
Lest we forget.**



Terry Phillips



Wreath laying at Kangaroo Ground Memorial

Ed this issue Sally
Photos: Diana Warrell, Helen Robertson. Kathleen Toal, Mary Lynton-Moll.