

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 during Lent

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made,
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Margaret's Anglican Church

EASTER

SERVICES



24 March, 10.00am PALM SUNDAY
26 March, 7.00pm TENEBRAE
28 March, 7.00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY
29 March, 10.30am GOOD FRIDAY
30 March, 7.00pm EASTER VIGIL
31 March, 10.00am EASTER DAY

ALL WELCOME

www.stmargaretseltham.org.au Ph.9439 9238

DENDY HOUSE- Update

It was discovered that some of the flooring in the Vicars office was rotten. Termite review undertaken proving that there was termite damage in the 3 rooms, Vicars office, old kitchen (ie Christophers office) and Archives. It was recommended that all the carpets and floorboards be removed, termite treatment undergone then replace the floorboards.

- First job was to review current furniture, files etc. a large amount was discarded with thanks to Linda Mackenzie, Helen Robertson, Coralie Carew, Mary Lynton-Moll and Sally Petty.
- Several items of furniture were advertised free on Market place, including a desk, blue chairs, 2 draw filing cabinet.
- 2 removal men came and removed all furniture, archives, etc. These are stored in the meeting room attached to the hall.
- Several of the shelves and cupboard in Archives are considered no longer fit for purpose and will be discarded.
- The floorboards in 2 of the rooms were removed. There was concern that there may be asbestos in the tiles in the old kitchen. Report from expert, no asbestos
- Tiles removed along with all the bearers. There was no hope of retaining any boards. That room was so badly damaged, the tiles and Masonite board floor the only support!
- Extra soil now has to be removed and trenches created to enable the exterminator to gain access.

Helen Robertson applied to Heritage Victoria firstly for a grant, none available at the moment and secondly for a permit exemption for work to be done urgently on this heritage building.. This was successful enabling us to start work with a promise that we will return the house to its original state. (although replacing pile of bricks holding up the floor with concrete stumps seems a good idea!)

Diana Warrell and Kathleen Toal completed a grant application to Nillumbik Council for finance and were successful in receiving a Quick Response Grant of \$1000 towards work needed.

This is not a quick project but we have a plan and tradesmen lined up.



Vicars office below!



Memory Care Café. St Margarets, Eltham

The Café opened for 2024 on the 16 January and will continue fortnightly throughout the year. Carers attending the café in February heard about the imminent release of the New Aged Care Act and the strengthened Aged Care Standards which relate to legislated standards of care, expected by older people receiving aged care services in Australia. The new standards apply to Home Care Package Providers as well as Residential Aged Care Homes. During 2024/5 there will also be changes to home care package rules and these will be discussed at the café when they become available.

On 5 March the café hosted a speaker from Elder Rights Advocacy. Topics discussed were:

- Accessing Aged Care Services,
- Your Rights in Aged Care
- How advocates can work for you in helping you to navigate the aged care system
- The volunteer visitor service provided by Elder Rights Advocacy

The services provided by Elder Rights Advocacy are funded by the Federal Government and are free to users. The session was very well attended and enjoyed by all participants.

**To contact Elder Rights Advocacy,
Telephone:1800 022 887**

During the year it is planned to provide a speaker at the Eltham Memory Care Café once every 2 months. The sessions will cover various topics of interest to carers and interested seniors and **will be advertised in the St Margarets Pew Sheet**. The presenters of each session bring a wealth of knowledge to their topic and are always more than happy to answer questions.

The café provides tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits at a cost of \$5.00 per person. The café operates on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1.30pm–3pm and welcomes those living with Dementia and their carers as well as those who would like to hear the speakers.

Keep a look out for the next advertised speaker.

Sheila Cheary

Parish Council Summary

Parish Directory to be produced but privacy issues to be observed. Older parish databases information held in Dendy House has been sent for shredding.

Compliance: Updated key register to be tabled at next PC meeting; Diocesan returns have been lodged; First Aid boxes to be checked; ANC returns to be lodged end April; Asset Register to be checked; Wardens to check buildings; information on buildings re any Land Tax requirements sent to the Diocese; Food Premises registration lodged; ABM forwarded their project book, useful Lenten study information.

Vicar has been with us for 3 months and is enjoying the experience. Thanks were expressed for the Lenten Study Group.

Treasurer Report received. Increase in plate offerings. Possibly due to the electronic transaction system. Note to make this facility more prominent, particularly for Taizé and other services. Note that there will be large expenditure as we restore Dendy House.

Committee Reports:

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

Property:

Roof repairs to men leak appear to have worked but not a lot of rain to prove this!

Work on Dendy House moving slowly.

Pastoral Care

Report received. More Home Communion.

Marketing and Communications:

No report.

Do Justice:

Verbal report. Aim to select local and global activities for mission support. International Day of Inclusion and World Labyrinth Day to be supported. More work to continue on possible landscape project.

Music Committee:

No report

Vision 2024:

Deferred to next meeting.



The Vicar looking great! Thanks for Friday Lenten studies. So good. Thanks also to Mary and Chris.

TAIZE

A SUMMERS NIGHT BLESSED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT



A gentle summer breeze, the company of a small but dedicated following of Taize lovers captured by the Holy Spirit. The stillness that the open air creates, sets a beautiful space for song, prayer and reflection, it is very engaging as it brings us together.

Christina's guitar led us thoughtfully through this beautiful service, so accessible by any who wish to experience its intensity and beauty. Being in the environment is a way of expressing our faith without being surrounded by walls. Next time perhaps you might be tempted to try what this has to offer. It is only likely to happen once or twice a year weather permitting. You will be surprised how refreshing it truly is.

My thanks to Christina, Heidi and those who helped set up and pack up, it makes a difference. Looking forward to seeing you on April 28th our next service.

Helen Robertson

ANGLICARE VICTORIA

Thanks to all the parishioners who have brought foods for Anglicare to distribute. Bob, a driver for Anglicare has already taken bags of pastas and sauces and other items to distribute in Sunshine. Thanks also for the gifts of clothing and rugs. They are very much appreciated. After Easter we will concentrate on collecting bottles and tins of vegetables and fruit.

Jenny Disney

Flowers at St Margarets

As we draw to the end of Lent, and the celebration of Easter, flowers return to the church. How we appreciate those lovely people who supply and arrange. I am only rostered on for 1 Sunday a year, flower arranging not my forte, but some parishioners do many more and Angela manages this offering so well. With thanks Angela. Please contact her if you would like to join this group.



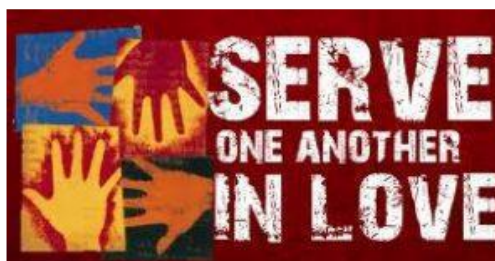
Ed this edition: Sally.
Pics thanks to Sally,
Harry and Helen

**Please remember
food donations**

Pastoral Care Report,

The March meeting was the second of the year owing to not meeting in January, After the acknowledgement to country Revd Yvette read the PCTeam confidentiality statement which reminds all team members of the need to keep within our group, issues of a confidential nature. The important points from the meeting were:

- It was encouraging to learn that several of those unable to get to church services because of lack of transport were given rides by parishioners of their own volition, on a weekly or monthly basis. It was mentioned that if people can get to church by taxi or family, there will always be someone available to give them a lift home.
- Our seminar for the year will be on Ageing in Body but Growing in Spirit to be delivered by Christine Winkett.
- The Extended Home Communion team will be having training by Yvette next month and will have new members: thanks to Barbara and Christine joining Adrienne, Harry and Helen. Noting that often EHC is shared with people with disabilities as well as those unexpectedly confined to home. See right.
- Sheila reported on the excellent presentation about Elder rights advocacy at the last Memory Care Café gathering and some plans to improve the care for those attending with intermediate memory problems.
- It was confirmed that the worship services delivered to SVCS aged care will be discontinued. A separate article covers more about it. Visitation of individuals will continue.
- The confidential contact list was reviewed. There are 11 people on the primary (of whom many have been in hospital recently), 2 on the secondary and 8 on the informal list.
- The monthly pub lunch continues to be a success as an informal meeting place. Numbers have ranged from 20 to 30 in the last three months. Thanks to Jenn for managing and advertising bookings
- It was a great mutual pleasure to have our vicar attend the last Men's Breakfast which had a record gathering of breakfasters. Thanks to David Tand John H for an excellent repast. Special welcome to Graham C and Chris Harris. Next session. Geoff S is going to introduce story telling with one from his huge repertoire.



- The celebration of team members birthdays will continue at a lunch before our next meeting.

It is with sadness to record Helen Costello's stepping down from the PCTeam due the change in meeting date clashing with her new grandmotherly duties. She will be missed particularly as our top sender of care cards. Very many thanks Helen for all those years of service.

For the team Revd. Yvette, Jenn G, Sally P, Adrienne W, Sheila C and Harry W. (There's room for more perhaps you?) **compiled by Harry W.**



End of Wednesday Services at SVACS

For a long time Anglican Holy Communion services were offered at Judge Book (now St Vincent's Aged Care Services) during the ministries of Revds Ian Brown, Ron Dowling and Val Rogers. Around 2008 we were concerned that there were 7 or 8 residents, who had used their God given gifts to serve St Margaret's while parishioners, no longer received spiritual care in their later aged care years, from the church.

At that time Adrienne Watson had began to take extended home communion (EHC) to these people following the creation of the PCTeam through our amalgamation with St Faith's Montmorency. Her discussion with Revd Libby Delbridge about having a service for this group, led to Revd Robert Street, who had recently joined us as our Honorary Assistant Priest, offering his time and skills as celebrant at this group worship service.

Joyfully, and as is our tradition, this service was not restricted to Anglicans, but open to God's people whatever their backgrounds and spiritual persuasions. What began as a 'mustard seed' blossomed very quickly. After a move from the Chapel to Willandra's Lounge 4 (which has a piano) so that the less mobile residents could participate, 3 years later, the Eucharist was shared with a congregation of a dozen to 28 people – a 'full house'!

Our contribution involved set up and take down of the lounge and walking people from their rooms to the lounge and returning them at the end. Over the 14 years when Fr Robert was unavailable Revds Clem, Keren and Linda have taken the services and several times at short notice the team have delivered the service with pre-consecrated bread and wine.

The arrival of COVID made delivery more complex, and even more compliance training including beyond the usual manual handling, safety and fire drills to include COVID hygiene practice, through to how to dress in full PPE clothing. Even with lockdowns and non-visitor days during this time we still managed to deliver about two thirds of the scheduled services but now in the main dining room for separation safety, and where there could also be the challenge of non-churched people with mental health problems.

The service itself was comfortably informal and time-wise less demanding than our regular church worship. It began and ended with hymns usually played by Fr Robert. The team communion assistants took turns to share the bread; intincted by the recipient resident, or may be done for them if necessary. Fr Robert followed, giving each communicant a personalized blessing. This blessing is seen to bring great joy and peace of mind and continues today for those visited with EHC.

Last year post COVID with Revd Linda we delivered several services. Revd Yvette was keen to continue our offering. However, several compliance and training issues were going to be very time demanding for the team. This compliance is not needed for us visiting individuals. So we have reluctantly agreed to discontinue services and take EHC or HC to the three remaining former church members, as coincidentally several of the regulars have passed away in the last half year.

Here we acknowledge with thanks the significant contribution of Fr Robert and Adrienne in making this worship opportunity available to several hundred residents over the past fourteen years. We also thank the many contributors to service support from St Margaret's -- Alan White, Sandra Archer, Harry Watson, Sheila Cheary, and occasional volunteers, Nicki Orford, Margaret

Drohan, Fay Gravenall, Diane Cutts and several others.

Harry Watson for Pastoral Care

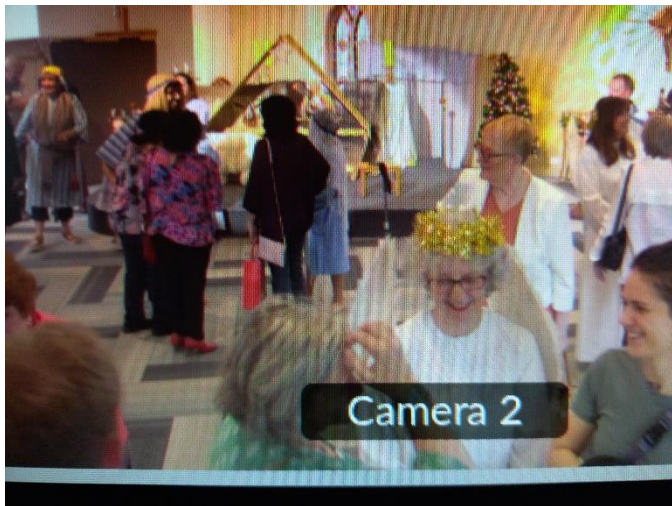


Snapshots of the Christmas Season



Hurrah! The choir is back, Thankyou Robert and choristers and for Revd Yvette's encouragement.

Our vicar during Christmas season and so good to have Julia (foreground) back with us permanently



Angels in the Childrens' Christmas service was a great success and was live streamed on Youtube for the first time thanks to Rob Mackenzie skills. You will still find it there if you missed out.



The same Mary and Joseph as in 2019, but this time Eshara and Shyan are really married. Thanks for coming back.