St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

SUMMER EDITION

2024

WWW.STMARGARETSELTHAM.ORG.AU

Welcome to our SUMMER edition of The Parish Matters. Thanks to all the contributors to this edition.

Should you wish to contribute any articles or news, please email through to communications@stmargaretseltham.org.au. Please keep the content to +- 150 words and include photos where possible.

Note the subtle title change. It will be known as “THE PARISH MATTERS”. It can have a dual meaning.

Each quarter we will be putting “a bit of history” into the edition. This month it is about our stained-glass windows called “The Resurrection Pair”. There is a lovely story attached.

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

I am writing this vicar’s message sitting at my desk in Dendy house looking out of the freshly renovated sash window – which frames the gravelled pathway down to Pitt Street. The vista includes the statuesque gum trees (I think) the yarning circle, the nearside of the memorial garden, not forgetting the back of the stained-glass window of St Margaret’s Church.

The bird songs are now familiar to me, and I can differentiate between the parrots, magpies and kookaburras; today is the 1st of December – the first Sunday of Advent- the first day of our new liturgical year.

The Advent and Christmas seasons of my recent past have been mostly cold, dark, dreary – with the daily down pour of rain or a smattering of snow to keep us on our toes giving life to the seasonal hymn – *in the bleak mid-winter!*
– so looking out onto a bright and warm day is a very welcomed change.

As much as change can be good – I still look out for those signs and symbols in Church which keep us rooted in tradition, whilst giving expression to the liturgical season we are in. One of those symbols is the Advent wreath – those 5 candles that metaphorically light a darkened path for us that journey us from a time of waiting through to hope, awe and light. Thank you, Angela for creating this for us!

I am filled with hope, excitement an anticipation for our 2nd year of journeying together.

Statements such as '*The 5 Marks of Mission*', '*Growing our church younger' 'taking the church our doors and taking the church to the people'* and being on the same page with our 5-year strategic action plan – will become commonplace.

Our spirituality, the work of the Holy Spirit and prayer will be underpinning what we do and who we are as a Church.

Of course, this will not deter us from acting on those Holy Spirit nudges or continuing those ministries/committees we already carry out in the name of Jesus Christ here at St Margaret's Church – but we may have to become more discerning so as not spread ourselves and energies too thinly.

So, go well my sisters and brothers in Christ as I look forward to seeing what God does with and through us in the months and years to come.

I thank each one of you for all that you are and all that you do which enables us to be the worshipping community that we are .....and.....is to become!!

Season's greetings,

Love, peace and all good,

Revd. Yvette

ANNUAL MEETING & COUNCILLORS ELECTED

Nearly half of the parishioners on the electoral roll attended the meeting.

This was very encouraging to Revd. Yvette in the chair, and all who worked behind the scenes with the Governance compliance to produce the Annual Report. If you missed a copy, the office still has some. It is a good way to find out who does what, when etc.

Warden Coralie Carew not available for photo.

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care team, have been reinvigorated by Revd. Yvette's enthusiasm and role model guidance. The team is Jenny Gillett, Sally Petty, Sheila Cheary, Adrienne and Harry Watson. We continue to face some difficulties in regular visiting, to around 30 people, especially those in aged care.

All aged care facilities have some sort of entry restrictions It can be severe because of an outbreak of Covid or 'flu or similar. Several people visited are hearing or even severely hearing impaired and communication is nearly impossible when fully masked as required by the facility, making it frustrating for all involved.

In addition to being focused on good listening, delivering home or hospital communion was a very important part of spiritual are during the Covid times and the benefit has continued. Yvette has trained new volunteers to deliver extended home communion to replace those who stepped back from the ministry after years of service - thank you! We welcomed Barbara Speed and Sandra Brown-Holt to bring the visiting team to five people. Even so, Yvette does a significant share, particularly in response to urgent short notice issues. Together we have made almost to hundred visits in the course of the past year. For most, with terminal health conditions, or those in caring or emergency situations, the opportunity to receive communion is uplifting and greatly appreciated. There are ongoing severe health issues in several parishioner lives, who are o the Prayer List and need our continued prayers.

We are blessed in having Mary Lynton-Moll running the **Prayer Chain** so well, and her great care in asking for group prayer for so many people, most usually with health problems, about half of whom are non-parishioners. The prayer chain continues to pray daily, for each of those as requested for one month.

The target for the PC Team is to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. High on the Agenda is Confidentiality which is central to our being there to listen and offer care. It is essential that people can talk to any of the team, knowing that their conversation will go no further, unless there is an indication that they don't mind others knowing. At these meetings we review the pastoral care needs of those on the contacts list. There are presently 18 people on the list. Sadly, several people have been taken off the list as they have moved into God's permanent care.

As you have read the Pastoral Care Team's work is significantly out of regular view or conversation. Your prayerful support is valued.

SPECIAL ANGLICARE COLLECTION

Thank you to all who contributed to the special St Margarets Day collection for Anglicare Victoria.

A wealth of items ranging from pasta, cereal to sardines! Plus, a selection of knitting from MaryAnn. All items so very welcome.

LEST WE FORGET

Defence Sunday 10 November 2024 . . . . *from the Ad Clerum, 8 November 2024, Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.* Bishop Grant Dibden, the Anglican Bishop to the Defence Force has advised that Sunday 10 November has been designated as "Defence Sunday" as it is the Sunday prior to Remembrance Day. This day is an opportunity to thank the members of the Defence Force for their work, to remember those who have served in war and particularly to highlight the work of the Anglican church among Defence personnel and their families through Chaplaincy.

Remembrance Day Service at Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park and Tower

This was held Sunday 19 November 2024. Kathleen Toal read two verses from the Bible, led the Lord's Prayer at this service and laid a wreath on behalf of St Margaret's, remembering the Soldiers and Nurses from Eltham who served in World War 1.

The address at this service was given by Cindy McLeish MP "*Reflections on the Kokoda Trail".*

Thanks to

Kathleen Toal

VALE PETER JAMES WILTSHIRE

Peter's life
30/10/1943-05/09/2024

On the 20th September 2024 we joined together for a Eucharistic Service of Thanksgiving for the life of our parishioner and friend Peter Wiltshire.

The Church was full and the overflow of friends settled in the foyer and the parish hall.

Wonderful singing and playing by Kate and Simon Wiltshire, Sarah MacDonald and Emily Wiltshire. A delightful start to the service.

We learned about Peter's work and his contribution to the CFA; the Men's Shed, and numerous other organizations. For his long association with the Order of St John of Jerusalem- Knights Hospitaller, where he served as Grand Prior.

There were large numbers of representatives from the Order of St John of Jerusalem, the CFA and Men's Shed who formed a guard of honour at the end of the service.

A dignified and loving service to honour Peter. We all send our loving thoughts, prayers and support to Felicity and family.

Thanks to

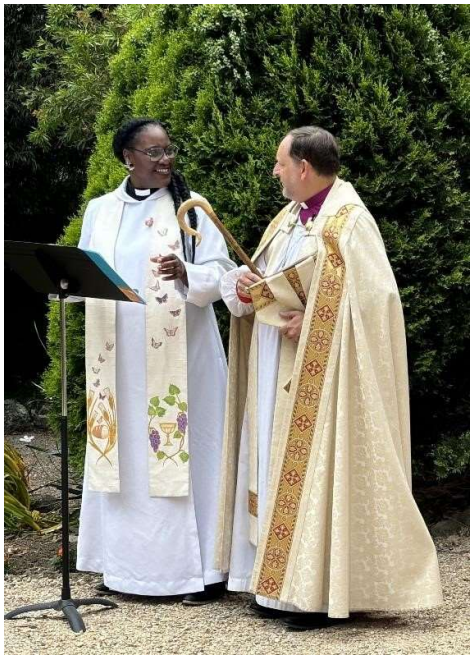
Sally Petty

ST. MARGARET'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

AND BLESSING OF DENDY HOUSE

BY BISHOP BRAD BILLINGS

Huge thanks to all who helped with the celebration, blessing, lunch and entertainment to celebrate our Patronal Festival on Sunday November 17th with Bishop Brad Billings as our Presider and Preacher.



THE RESURRECTION PAIR

A pair of stained-glass memorial windows were set in the east wall of the Church. They are known as “The Resurrection Pair”. The memorial inscription reads “*To the glory of God and for Anne Johnstone”, who died on 29th June 1975. Aged 21 years*.

Tragically Anne was killed in a road accident. Annie’s sister Marion provided some details about her and the memorial. Marion gave permission for the publication of these details.

My sister Anne (Annie) was a second-year student nurse at the Alfred hospital. She was only 21 when she died as the result of a car accident. We were parishioners of St Margaret's at the time, and lived in Lower plenty. My mother came up with the idea of a stained-glass window in Annie's memory, and I had seen a sign outside a house in Warranwood (just north of where the Shell petrol station is now) advertising stained glass windows by Uldis Balodis. I told Mum and she made contact with him. As I recall, he was a national of Lithuania. They sat down together to work out the theme. My mother chose Mary Magdalene to represent Anne as she felt she was the strongest and most tangibly human female character in the bible. It was really the character, rather than the scene that was chosen. I remember Uldis explaining how the windows would be so bright because they would be stained glass rather than the more traditional painted glass. As the glass would be transparent, they would allow all the light to shine through. Ian Brown was our vicar at the time, and he put in the application to the Arch-bishop to erect the windows. They were erected in 1976.

Thanks to Geoff Sandy

SEPTEMBER MUSIC CONCERT

What a wonderful afternoon of music and song was had by all! A sincere thank you to the Committee, catering team and all those involved in making the event so fantastic. A special thanks to the Open Door Choir and all the students and musicians who participated in the Concert. A total of $2573 was collected on the day and will go to a scholarship for a student next year.

Below: Open Door Choir; Audience with MC Shaun Islip: Margaret Sandy Past and present scholarship holders – Cecelia, Lachlan, Jason and Amelia

Our thanks go to the Committee of the Music Scholarship, Diana Warrell, John Humann, Margie Sandy, David Pryor, Robert Street and the catering team.

COMMISSIONING OF THE REVEREND DR LINDA FISKE

The New Vicar of the Parish of South Darebin on Tuesday evening 19 November 2024.

Four parishioners from St Margaret's were present at the Commissioning Service - our Vicar, Yvette Daniel, Barbara Alexander, Christine Winkett and Kathleen Toal.

The Right Reverend Dr Paul Barker commissioned Linda as Vicar of the Parish of South Darebin. The service was well attended by their parishioners as well as members from surrounding churches.

The printed Order of Service revealed a little of Linda's history: *After eight years at South Yarra, Linda spent time in a variety of Locum positions including a substantial period at St Margaret's Eltham and most recently at St Mark's Fitzroy. Her heart's desire has long been to put down permanent roots. The Parish of South Darebin has returned her to the area where she grew up.*

Those from St Margaret's were also delighted to catch up with Revd. Libby Delbridge (our vicar for 14 years) and her husband Revd. Stephen, who now attend the Parish of South Darebin.

Thanks to
Kathleen Toal

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS

LOVE! HOPE! PEACE! JOY!

AT ST. MARGARET'S

CHRISTMAS EVE

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24 2024

CHILDREN'S SERVICE 5PM

KIDS, JOIN THE VISITORS TO BETHLEHEM TOWN AND BE SURPRISED

CAROLS IN THE HALL 10.15PM

ENJOY MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES WHILE SINGING

MIDNIGHT MASS 11.00PM

SUNG EUCHARIST, CANDLELIGHT AND INCENSE

CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25 2024

ALL AGE EUCHARIST 9.30AM

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE. A LOVELY WAY TO BEGIN YOUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

ABORIGINAL SUNDAY

We will be journeying alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by holding an Aboriginal Sunday service at our Church on **Sunday 19th January 2025 at 10 am.**

What is Aboriginal Sunday?

On January 26, 1938, Aboriginal leaders including William Cooper met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship (though it would take another 30 years).

The Australian Churches were then asked to set aside the Sunday before January 26 as Aboriginal Sunday (previously called Aborigines' Day), a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced.

The first Aboriginal Sunday is thought to have occurred in 1941, although it was referenced in a letter from William Cooper to John McEwen, Minister for the Interior written on 19 January 1938 and also referenced in the Herald (Melbourne) newspaper on 18 January 1939.

Today, the Common Grace movement encourages individual congregations to reclaim William Cooper's Aboriginal Sunday.

To find out more, please speak with Revd. Yvette or a member of our Do Justice group.

ST. MARGARET'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

79-81 PITT STREET ELTHAM

OFFICE PHONE: 9439-9238

EMAIL: parishoffice@stmargaretseltham.org.au

WEBSITE: www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10.30 am Eucharist

SUNDAY SERVICES

8 am & 10 am Eucharist

HALL HIRE

Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals/Meetings & Activities

Contact: communications@stmargareteltham.com

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 First Peoples. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St. Margaret's. Everyone is welcome here, regardless of race, gender, sexuality or ability.

Photos: Barbara Alexander, Liz Pryor, Sally Petty, Diana Warrell, Mary Lynton-Moll and Harry Watson.

Editors Linda Mackenzie and this edition Harry Watson