St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

AUTUMN EDITION
2025

www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR

Dear St Margaret's Church Family (citing the words of Jennifer Gillett!)

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passiontide, Holy Week, Easter, Trinity to All Saints, All Saints to Advent… and then …we …begin again.

As members of St Margarets Church, we honour the Christian Year along with its Times, Seasons and liturgy. Some may wish that we were 'less formal'; yet, what I appreciate is the richness of our Anglican tradition and spirituality which allows us to adventure together through the varying terrains of the seasons.

What I love about our publication '**The Parish Matters**' is that it charts this journey. It enables us to look backwards, get ready for the future – whilst being very much in the present. It shows us (and those outside of our Church walls) that we are a people who try to live out our Christian Faith in relationship with the Trinity. It evidences that we are being our Lords hands and feet. It makes known that we have hearts for those on the margins and those whose voices are silenced – we stand alongside them and advocate for them. In addition, the photos showcase our joy, creativity, inclusivity and our musicality which seem to be part of our DNA which makes us …us !! and long may this continue.

What has given me great joy this year is being witness to one of the youngest members of our Church community process in with the Gospel book, reverently placing it on the altar, bowing and then walking (at rather a fast pace to his family) …simply wonderful.

Let us give a huge thank you to the Editor of this edition Linda Mackenzie and the Marketing and Communications Committee and to everyone who submitted an article or photograph. So let us grab our most favoured beverage, get comfy in our favourite chair and let us read this from cover to cover …as we enjoy the fruits of our labour.
I will leave the final words to Michael Leunig (2 June 1945 – 19 December 2024) - Australian cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher and poet.

God bless our contradictions,
those parts of us which seem out of character.
Let us be boldly and gladly out of character.
Let us be creatures of paradox and variety:
creatures of contrast; of light and shade;
creatures of faith. God be our constant.
Let us step out of character into the unknown,
to struggle and love and do what we will.
Amen
Love, peace and all good
Revd. Yvette

Welcome to the Autumn edition of The Parish Matters. 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 any photos.

Since the last edition of The Parish Matters, we have celebrated ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, ABORIGINAL SUNDAY as well as had Hamper Packing Day not to mention many other activities. Enjoy the read!

ADVENT

The beginning of the Church year.

HOPE

The confident expectation of what God has promised.
It is not just wishful thinking; it is a firm assurance that what God has promised will come to pass.
Hope of forgiveness of sins and a heavenly home.

PEACE

Peace is a fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22).
We must seek peace and make peace (Psalm 34:14).
Peace brings joy.
Peace comes from God.

JOY

A state of deep-rooted, inspired happiness that comes from God. Not dependent on favourable circumstances but is a gift from above, but lasting forever.
A reflection of a strong relationship with God.

LOVE

Selflessness.
Sacrifice.
Unconditional commitment.
Forgiveness.

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024
Scenes from Children's Service
Thanks to Adrienne & Harry Watson

The Vicar and her Angels

Innkeeper with Joseph and Mary

Nativity Scene with everyone and our youngest villager!

CHRISTMAS CAROLS
AND CHRISTMAS DAY

St. Margaret's Band playing and singing carols in Hall with mince pies and mulled wine - enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who helped make it a very special night.

Christmas Day Service

HAMPER PACKING DAY FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

LinC (Love in the name of Christ)
Christmas Hampers

This day captured the Christmas spirit of giving and a core value that LinC holds. The resources we gathered are not our own. They are a sacred trust from God on behalf of those in need in our community who welcome the hope and love this simple task of hamper packing and delivering brings.

We thank Encompass Care for donating food items, The Lion's Club Eltham, Open Door Diamond Valley Singers, Nillumbik Council for the grant money that allowed us to purchase more. To all the groups who put out a collection basket-St. Margaret's Eltham, Health Ability, Positive Ageing Committee, The Men's Shed, the GEMS, Aligned Leisure and money raised by Marg Sandy and other generous donors. To Morrison Kleeman who donated seventy - four wrapped gifts for children of different ages.

Thank you to the efficient volunteers from Eltham Rotary, St. Margaret's, the Uniting Church, Glen Park Gospel Church, who packed and delivered the sixty-two hampers. Leanne Hankes, Kevin Hardingham, Sally Petty, Marlene Coomer, Clayton and Pricilla Hedge, Alan White, Alex and Mary McClear, Ian Toohill, Dale and Penny Atkins, Jenny and Dave Kelly, Kelvin Spiller, Silvia and Emerson Gilbert, Roger Allcock, Mandy Stevens, Sally Warner, Mary Lynton Moll, Jo and Graham Norman, MaryAnn and Graham Wilkie, Natalia Yap-Gunawan with her husband and son. Ann Hutchinson's two neighbours who helped with the setting up.

A special thank-you to our Vicar Yvette for her hands-on support and enthusiasm.

Diana Warrell

mk

morrison kleeman

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Aboriginal Sunday 19th January 2025

Defiant Hope

At St. Margaret's Church in Eltham, we were delighted to embrace and celebrate Aboriginal Sunday on 19 January 2025.

Altar set-up for Aboriginal Sunday : Photos Diana Warrell

The theme for this year, "Defiant Hope", was shared with us from those who work throughout Australia with Common Grace.

Aboriginal Sunday is celebrated annually in Churches on the Sunday before January 26, as an opportunity for individual congregations and faith communities to reclaim William Cooper's Aboriginal Sunday, which is a call to the Australian Church to stand in solidarity and pray for justice and the flourishing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Aboriginal Sunday was conceived of by William Cooper in 1938, 150 years after European colonisation of Australia, and the first Aboriginal Sunday service is thought to have been held in 1941. Aboriginal Sunday is an important opportunity to go deeper in listening, learning, and being led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christian Leaders. A set of resources is prepared annually by Common Grace, which are available on application in December, (see the Common Grace website) and Churches are free to adapt them according to their needs.

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A team of St. Margaret's parishioners led by the Do Justice Committee, prepared a Service based on the resources from Common Grace that honoured Aboriginal Sunday in song, prayer and reflection of the past and the future walking alongside each other with Hope of Reconciliation. We were joined by local Councillors and other visitors in an uplifting service that had all present touched and reminded of what as God's children we are here to work towards.

We set up displays in the Church hall of artifacts and books for people to view over morning tea afterwards. Thanks are extended to Mitzi for the beautiful morning tea enjoyed by all who were present. Many people engaged with the displays, commenting and asking questions, and also taking photos of book titles.

Some of the congregation at St Margaret's

The organising committee and Nillumbik Mayor, John Dumaresq (third from left) and Nillumbik Councillor, Kim Cope (fourth from left). Vicar, Rev Yvette Daniel, is third from right, with Diana Warrell, Helen Robertson, Mitzi and David Tuke. Kathleen Toal not in picture but on Committee.

Service to mark the 70th birthday of Archbishop Phillip;
his retirement and the
Laying up of the Pastoral Staff

On December 2006, Philip Freier was installed as the thirteenth Bishop of Melbourne. During his 18 years of faithful ministry, he maintained a cohesive Anglican Church and was a strong advocate for First Nation Justice; Refugee Justice; Climate Justice; Women Clergy and Safe Kids and families. Those in attendance at the service asked for God's rich blessing on him, his wife Joy (who provided a special abundance of support to their ministry) and for all his family for the years to come.

With the laying up of his Pastoral Staff, we gave thanks for his dedication, care and leadership of our province and Diocese and the wider Anglican Church. When the Archbishop introduced the Laying of the Staff on the Nave Altar table, he took up the Pilgrim Staff given to him by the Anglican Schools of the province of Victoria. He made the following statement:

"As I leave, I give thanks for my ministry among you.
I ask forgiveness where I failed you.
Give thanks for all you have given me.
I assure you of my continued care and prayers."

With his retirement, Bishop Genieve Blackwell will become the Administrator of the Diocese. She will exercise all rights and responsibilities of the Archbishop until the Synod of our Diocese elects the new Archbishop. This service of prayer and Anglican ceremony was beautifully supported by singing and organ music.

Left: Archbishop Freir and wife, Joy
Below: Altar with Pastoral Staff

This article introduces the topic which Geoff Sandy will present on March 17 at Faith Issues. The paper on which this is based was published in the journal Religion and is referenced at the end.

Conservative and Progressive Mindsets: Religious and Political Domains

Have you ever wondered why some Christians claim the Bible was written by human authors and the Bible must be interpreted against reason and science? Some may deny the supernatural contained in the Bible in entirety.

Have you ever wondered why some Christians believe that the Bible is literally the Word of God, and where reason and science appears to contradict it, then this must be ignored? For example, that the world was literally created in 6 days and that the first humans, Adam and Eve, were real people, or, that women must be submissive to their husbands. These Christians hold a very conservative outlook or mindset.

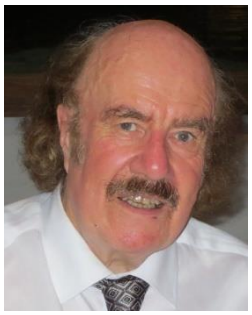
These two extreme outlooks or mindsets also exist in the secular world, and there is much in common with the extremes from religion. Scientific research reveals that those who hold strongly conservative or strongly progressive values and beliefs, largely result from their genetic inheritance. In a sense they were born that way. Of course, between the two extremes there is a range of outlooks which are influenced by lived experience.

Recently I had a paper published in the International Journal called Religions. It is titled Mindset, Schism and the Contemporary Transformation of the Anglican Communion. I used scientific research on what influences religious (and political) values and beliefs and applied it to the 'battles' which have taken place in our Anglican Communion over the last 50 years. They still continue. Over the last 50 years those of a strong conservative outlook could not agree with those of a strong progressive outlook and chose to separate themselves from the latter. As a result, the Anglican Communion has been split in half. It is called Schism. The two most recent disagreements were first about gender equality, specifically the ordination of women to the priesthood and their leadership in the Church. The second issue was about 'homosexuality', specifically the blessing of same-sex unions, the ordination of openly gay priests and the acceptance and inclusion of transexual persons.

I commend the paper to you, and if interested you can access the paper using this URL
https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/16/1/48
Or, access the "Religions" Journal website using this URL
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions
And typing: *Sandy* into its search box
Or, contact me and I will give/ send you a printed copy of the paper. Feedback is most welcome.

Dr Geoffrey A Sandy
MOB: 0434422768

Fifty Years of Service



Adrienne and Harry Watson were enticed to join St Margaret's in 1973 by the Fr Ian Brown when, needing a minister's reference so that they could become adoptive parents, from the Berry Street Babies home. He wrote the reference within a few minutes of this first meeting and the next Sunday they and their 3 children were in the pews. Three months later Adrienne was part of the Sunday School team led by Jacqui Weeks.

Later in the 80's she with Kathleen Toal and Catherine Pearson founded Monday Club for older children, meeting on Monday evenings for religious instruction, fun, games, outings and sleepovers. This was subsumed into a joint program with Eltham Uniting Church called 'Selihoo', which in the early '90's had participation, including a meal, of up to 250 children and youth. Adrienne became one of the leaders of this very demanding undertaking and her specialty in making the Bible come alive. She was able to hold a multi-age group of often a hundred or so children spell bound with Bible stories or encourage their participation in acting or hand-held or shadow puppetry, or story related creative games.

Since the first production, at the behest of Fr Ron Dowling, she has written and produced more than a dozen plays, mostly about the Easter and Christmas stories, sometimes involving casts of up to thirty players of all ages. The plays have become the most well attended of St Margaret's Christmas services, now better accommodated in the extended Church than the hall. These Christmas plays have been produced for local radio including Vision Australia, where she was a presenter to an audience of nearly a million nationally
When St Margaret's children's education program was 'reborn' after Selihoo, in 1998 she coined the name of 'Fishtales' (Christian Stories) for the first Sunday of the month afternoon session, at which 3-to-10-year-olds heard how to be followers of Jesus. She was a regular Bible storyteller making stories feel relevant today and her ability to listen to the young and join in their world made her 'mum' to more than her own family.

When she moved to Pastoral Care in 2008, she with Fr Robert, was instrumental, in bringing a monthly service to St Vincent's Aged Care as well as helping to take Extended Home Communion to other St Margaret's people, in aged care facilities and homes. Amazingly she has found herself called to be with several people as they have passed over into God's care.

Over the last half century, she has had many roles as she does today, supporting St Margaret's worship, a highlight of which was organising the Holy Thursday Seder meals before foot washing.

It was only in 1983 that Harry was elected to vestry (Parish council) but he has missed only two years since due to the 'sabbatical' rule, so this year is his fortieth. He has served in many roles: for 12 years as warden and several spells as Parish Secretary. His first contribution in the property portfolio was finding himself the manager of the Vicarage extension team when the builder/manager died just before its first meeting.

A more recent initiative when the first Church extension plan, at over $300k above budget, was to transpose the layout of architect Wagner's' earlier sketches, East to West, to come up with the outline of the present layout. The 'screen-free' projectors in the Church and hall were specified and installed by him to keep costs down.

He also contributed to the air conditioning when fans were thought to be adequate and designed the movable dais, now in its fourth position in the Church extension. Harry has also served on other vestry committees including mission action planning, Parish statistics and Pastoral Care.

Since going part time in his job at the University of Melbourne in 2010, he has been part of the Pastoral Care team as well as continuing with the monthly Fishtales program until it finished in 2014. Prior to this, for ten years he was on the roster for Sunday morning Children's Time where one of his specialties for children's art with dirty hands, was introducing them to making moulds for quick setting concrete! The model of St Margaret's was amongst their favourites. A good note to close on perhaps, lest Men's Breakfast and other things drags this out too long. He is convinced that St Margaret's, in the future will have an increased role as a welcoming community, as the full impact of the harm caused by social media and artificial intelligence is felt, by giving solace and connectivity through spiritual care and the comfort of faith.

St Margaret's Band

It's official! We have a Church Band and, thanks to Rev Yvette, we have been inspired to meet and make music together for the people of St Margaret's.

Astute readers may have noticed some recent band performances - for example at the 10.15pm Carol Singing on Christmas Eve, and before that at the Pet Blessing service in the Church last October.

At the heart of the band is the musical collaboration of John Humann and Mike Dobson, who both play guitar and ukulele, and have been singing and performing together in the Diamond Creakers group for over a decade. John and Mike are joined by two other St Margaret's members, who also sing and play ukelele with the Diamond Creakers, namely Sheila Cheary and David Tuke. Rev Robert Street joins us on keyboard whenever possible.

In 2025 we aim to build a repertoire of hymns from "Together In Song" plus contemporary worship songs and traditional folk music numbers.

The band is deliberately non-exclusive and we invite others who might share our musical interests. We have already been joined by Judy Scott on autoharp and David Scott on mandolin. Furthermore, we aim to collaborate with the talented young pianists / organists who have been our St Margaret's Music Scholarship holders when their busy schedules allow. If you have questions about the Band, please contact John Humann (0438871357).

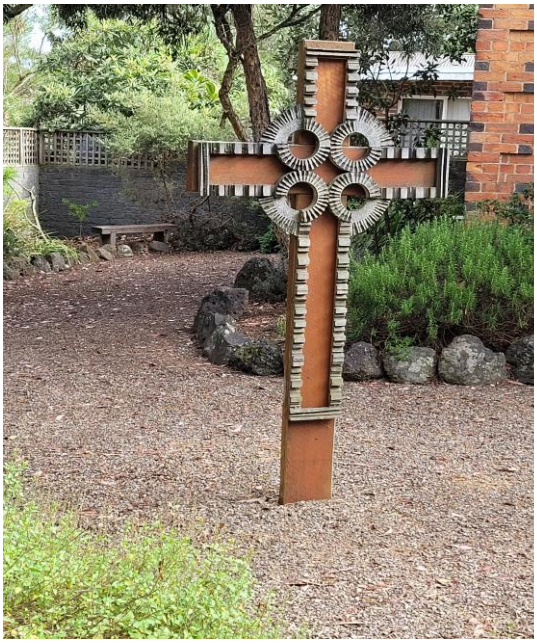
Very serious members of our Band!

Left: Christmas Eve Carols

Above: Memory Care Café Christmas function

GARDEN OF REMEMBERANCE

Over the last few weeks, the Garden of Remembrance has been undergoing some “cleaning”. The benches have been cleaned and cleared of bushes so you can sit and meditate and enjoy the peace of the garden.



Thank you to all our Church members – young and old – for the time and help to make our Garden lovely.

If anyone has some spare time to go down to the Church, Dendy House garden and the Garden of Remembrance always needs some water and “love”!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

LENTEN CHALLENGE

Reading the Gospel of Luke in 6 weeks

In the week leading up to Ash Wednesday – each member of our Church community will be given a copy of The Gospel according to Luke (NIV).

In addition, each will be given a Lenten Bible reading plan to go alongside it!

To keep us on track there will be moments during the week when we will be able to check in with each other to see how we are doing.

These gatherings will be led by Michael Tucker, David Greenfield and Revd. Yvette

More information will be in up-and-coming pew sheets.

Are you ready ??????

Shrove Tuesday

Why we have Pancake Day

Pancake Day is also called Shrove Tuesday and is one last chance for a big party before Lent begins with Ash Wednesday the next day. Long ago, Christians traditionally used up all the eggs and fat they had in store by making pancakes and feasting on them. This was because when Lent came, they would eat less food, or even fast to help them focus on God and not on the things they wanted. This tradition has been passed down the generations. Shrove Tuesday always falls 47 days before Easter, a date which changes every year.

An easy pancake mix to make with your children, grand children or even yourself Enjoy !!

RECIPE FOR PANCAKES

Ingredients

- 100g plain flour
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil plus a little extra for frying
- Lemon wedges ad castor sugar to serve (optional)

Method

- **Step 1**

Put 100g plain flour, 2 large eggs, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp sunflower or vegetable oil and a pinch of salt into a bowl or large jug, then whisk to a smooth batter. This should be similar in consistency to single cream.

- **Step 2**

Set aside for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.

- **Step 3**

Set a medium frying pan or crêpe pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.

- **Step 4**

When hot, cook your pancakes for 1 min on each side until golden, using around half a ladleful of batter per pancake. Keep them warm in a low oven as you make the rest.

- **Step 5**

Serve with lemon wedges and castor sugar, or your favourite filling. Once cold, you can layer the pancakes between baking parchment, then wrap in cling film and freeze for up to two months.

5th MARCH
AT 6 PM
Ash Wednesday Service
Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent,
the 40-day period in the lead up to Easter.
Lent is a chance to slow down and be more intentional
about giving your time and priorities to God,
whether through prayer, acts of kindness, or giving something up.

30th MARCH

We'd love you to join us for an afternoon

Taizé retreat

at **St Margaret's Anglican Church**, 79–81 Pitt Street, **Eltham**
with **Brother Merric** from the Taizé community in France on:

Sunday, 30 March: 3pm-7.30pm

On the day:

- Learn more about the Taizé community
- Hear from Brother Merric
- Learn new song parts
- Walk the labyrinth
- Taizé evening prayer.

A simple meal for dinner is included.

Can't make the full day? Join us for Taizé evening prayer at 6.30pm.

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Email: **parishoffice@stmargaretseltham.org.au**
79–81 Pitt Street, Eltham.

Places for the retreat are limited.

Please register online:

APRIL

6TH

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour today or you may be late for Church on Sunday!

Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

The observance of the week during which our Lord entered Jerusalem in triumph, celebrated his last supper with his disciples and friends, was crucified, died and risen to new life is at the centre of Christian observance.

Palm Sunday	April 13th 9.30am
Holy Monday	April 14th Holy Communion 7pm
Holy Tuesday	April 15th Holy Communion 7pm
Holy Wednesday	April 16th Tenebrae 7.30pm
Maundy Thursday	April 17th Eucharist of the Last Supper with Foot Washing
Good Friday Liturgy	April 18th 10am
Easter Dawn Service	April 20th 6.30am
Easter Day	April 20th 10am

ANZAC DAY
Friday 25th April

In 2025, Australia will commemorate a major milestone,
the 110th anniversary of Anzac Day.

Montmorency-Eltham RSL Anzac Day Dawn Service

Join our veteran community in commemorating our National Day of Service.
Join one of the largest Dawn Services in the northeastern suburbs.

6am-7am:	Dawn Service at Eltham Cenotaph, Main Road
10am:	Anzac Day March at Were Street, Montmorency.
10.30am:	Anzac Day Family Service at Montmorency Eltham RSL, 16 Mountain View Road, Montmorency.

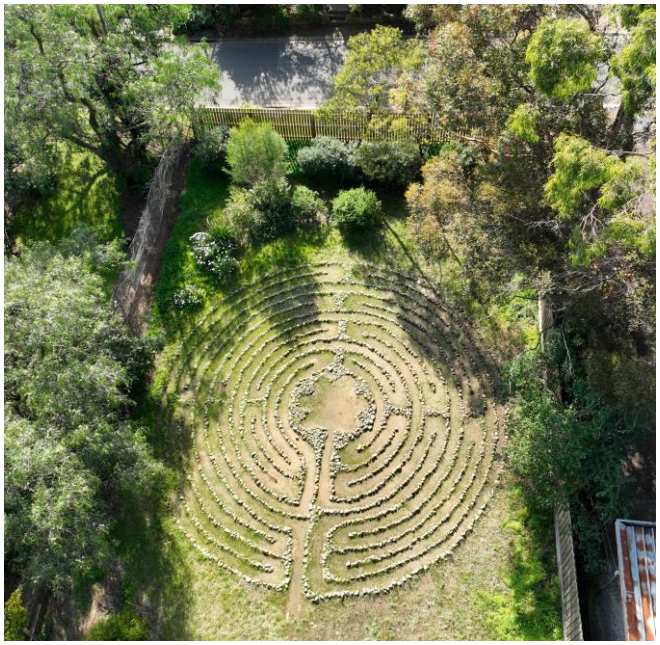
Friends of Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Park Inc. Anzac Day Service
(The time for this service is to be confirmed)

It has been the custom for the Priest from St Margarets Church to lead those gathered in praying together the Lord's Prayer, which was led by Revd. Yvette last year and Revd. Keren before that.

MAY

3RD

WORLD
LABYRINTH
DAY



Details to follow
Or contact
David Tuke

26th

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION DAY

Details to follow or contact David Tuke.

31st MAY

HOPE25

HOPE in an uncertain world

Hope25 is an initiative of the Anglican Church Australia

It is an intentional season of sharing hope in Jesus for every parish and community in the Australian Anglican Church.

Each Parish Church has been asked to carry out an initiative during the season of Pentecost.

In response to this The St. Margaret's Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) committee is planning an informative, interesting event

to take place on Saturday May 31st

Please mark it in your diary and support us as we try to help victims of domestic violence.

More information will follow ……

ART DEPICTING HOPE

WE ARE INVITING PEOPLE TO DEPICT MESSAGES OF HOPE BY THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERSONALLY OR THAT OF A LOVED ONE.

These art pieces would be displayed at our event on Saturday May 31st.

For further information Ring Diana:0414308565 or email: warrelldiana@gmail.com

Some history to catch up on and interesting news!

A BLAST FROM THE PAST!

REVD. DR. ELIZABETH SMITH AM

The Revd. Dr Elizabeth Smith will be remembered by many in the parish. Elizabeth was a theological student at St Margarets - it was her first placement, and was also Ron Dowling's very first theological student! They learnt the trade together! Elizabeth remembers with great affection her year at St Margaret's Eltham with Ron Dowling, when her liturgical talents were just beginning to emerge, and all the encouragement and support she received over many years from so many in this parish!

She has been presented The Archbishop of Canterbury-Thomas Cranmer Award for Worship. Recognising her outstanding contribution to liturgical scholarship and the worshipping life of the Anglican Church of Australia and beyond.

Story of our Church with thanks to Geoff Sandy
Parish Archivist and Parish Historian

Introduction
As many of you are aware our Church was constructed during 1860-1861. It opened for Divine Service on 12 December 1861. One of the 'treasures' from 1861 is the bell and bell turret, another is the stained-glass altar window. The bell and bell turret remain where they have been for 164 years. The altar window was relocated in the north wall of the 2014 Church extension.

The Bell and Bell Turret
Look up to the roof of our 1861 Church from Pitt Street and you will observe our bell and turret. Henry Dendy informed the Church committee on 24 August 1861 that £20 had been subscribed to purchase the bell. He went on to say it should be obtained at once as the scaffolding around the bell turret was to be removed shortly. The bell frame and wheel had previously cost £22.

The chairman, Henry Dendy, told the committee that he had consulted with the Church architect, Nathaniel Billing. The sketch by the Architect is held in the Parish Archives and shows that the bell and turret were included right from the start. Henry stated that the Architect had said the bell could not be heavier than 138lbs otherwise the turret could not bear it.

Down the Ages
Our bell has been rung to call the Church of England people of Eltham to their Church for 164 years. It was usually rung about 15 -20 minutes before the start of Divine Service, and again 5 minutes before the service began. Parishioners would walk, ride their horse or arrive in a 'trap'.

We still ring the bell today. And, in very recent times we use it as Sanctus Bell to remind us that Jesus has a real spiritual presence in the Eucharist. It has been rung on momentous occasions. On Armistice Day 1918 the ringing of the bell was so joyous and boisterous that the rope broke. It also broke in 1873 and probably at other times. There have been instances over the years when Elthamites, usually not Churchgoers, have said to me that there is something reassuring about the sound of the bell.

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 and 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.