St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

WINTER EDITION

2025

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St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Welcome to our WINTER edition of The Parish Matters. Thanks to all 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 +- 150 words, include photos.

Being at Home

Henning Mankell the Swedish crime writer best known for his Kurt Wallander books allegedly said,

'You can have more than one home. You can carry your roots with you and decide where they grow'

On Sunday 11th May friends from my sending church (St Francis Church, Newcastle Upon-Tyne, UK) Sheila and Brian Smith joined us for our 10am Eucharist Service. After being alongside you all here at St Margarets (for 18months now!) it was so lovely "having a little bit of home among my new home".

Home …a place where we can just be, a place where you are known, a place where we are loved and appreciated for who we are, a place where our family live, a place we look forward to going back to or visiting when we leave it. Having said that - our HOPE 25 initiative reminded us that not all homes are safe and filled with love.

As Christians we are promised a forever home – a loving home, a safe home one filled with songs of never-ending praise – (regardless of how our earthly homes have been).

At the last supper, after Jesus had washed his disciples' feet, foretold of his betrayal and how he would be denied and abandoned by some of them and that he would eventually have to leave – Jesus said to those gathered

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe
in God, believe also in me. In my father's house
there are many dwelling places.
If it were not so, would I have told
you that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
so that where I am, there you may be also.
(John 14:1-3 NRSV)'

St Margaret at home

Jesus is letting us know that with God we find our permanent home, regardless of our geography and regardless of how we have been shaped by our earthly homes.

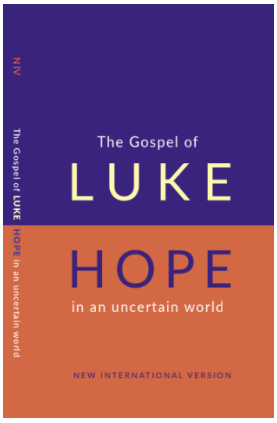
St Margarets Church is family for many of us – one which we can call home – and I for one thank you for making it so.

Enjoy this edition of The Parish Matters.

Love, peace and all good.

Revd. Yvette

Lent/Easter 2025



This years' Lenten studies took the form of reading and discussing Lukes Gospel held after each service. Lively discussions and interesting observations. Thanks to the Vicar, David Greenfield and Michael Tucker for leading the sessions.

Palm Sunday

We started outside near the Memorial Garden and proceeded into the Church with our palm crosses and singing "All Glory Lord and Honour." A deeply moving service led by Revd. Yvette

Holy Week

Tenebrae: (a service of shadows) Mandy Stephens led this quiet and significant service. Held in a darkened Church with the gradual extinguishing of candles after each reading. If you have not been to this Service please look out for Tuesday in Holy Week next year.

Wednesday: Regular mid-week service always a special, friendly, affirming and loving service.

Maundy Service: Deeply thoughtful service including washing of feet and expressions of this service to each other. Followed by striping of the altar and removing of all furniture from the sanctuary. We departed in silence leaving a stark reminder of the events to come.

Vigil: Some stayed to sit and pray.

Good Friday: We entered the church in silence and heard the readings for this sad day when our Lord was crucified on the cross.

Easter Day: He is risen, he is risen indeed. Halleluiah!

The early service started in the Yarning Circle and moved into a darkened Church. Then the glory of this special day progressed with music, singing and thanksgiving. This was repeated at the later service.

Breakfast: Once again, organized by our very special Coralie and enjoyed by all.

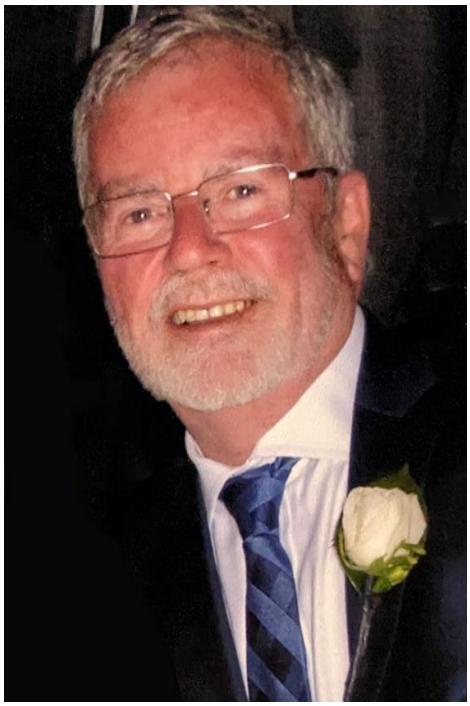
Parish Council make a point of thanking Revd. Yvette for all the work undertaken to make this season special for us all.

Thanks were also expressed to Babara Speed and Jan Gack, our Sacristans. A huge amount of work involved for each of the services. Have you noticed the new altar frontal and the white chasuble. Beautiful!!!

Sally Petty

GRAHAM WATSON WILKIE

28 April 1950-15th February 2025



On 3rd March 2025 we joined a full Church at St Margarets to remember and give thanks for the life of our dear friend Graham. We joined friends, work colleagues, and parishioners. A wonderful memorial service led by Revd. Yvette. Ross Bates, played the bagpipes to begin and then again at the end of the service. Bill Kelty, a neighbor and dear friend, made us laugh and cry with his heartfelt tribute to Graham. Alexandra and Michael, along with Brent and Lauren, and MaryAnn and Graham's grandchildren Tommy, Patrick, Hazel, Lucy, Jacob and Millie all expressed their love and remembrances of Graham. We all loved Graham, his cheeky sense of humour, his devotion to his family, his commitment to his profession, his passion for his garden, his love of Eltham and lifelong participation in so many community activities. These last 2 years Graham confronted many health challenges but with amazing support, and Scottish stubbornness, he battled with strength and determination.

The issue about Memorial services is that you learn but also remember so much. Thanks to Graham as a former Town Planner for Eltham, (before moving to Monash), we have many defined walkways throughout the Shire. He gave his support to the Parish, doing jobs, giving advice and being an amazing salesman at Garage and Goodies sales.

So, along with his family and our dear MaryAnn, we will remember Graham, with love and sincere thanks for all the fun, all the laughter and all the sincerity of a thoughtful and dear man.

Sally Petty

ANZAC Day Memorial Service

Revd. Yvette said the ANZAC prayer and Lord's Prayer and laid a wreath on behalf of St. Margaret's with Kathleen Toal.

Michael Tucker led the Lest we Forget statement when the young bugler played and we held a minute's silence.

Kathleen was involved in the organising of the event.

Diana Warrell

Mystery of a Dadirri at the Gawa Trail

A group of 14 people from our Church community went on an excursion to the Gawa Trail in Watson's Creek for a Dadirri experience to enhance understanding and connection to First Nations peoples and spirituality. Lyn and Mitzi led the group with an Acknowledgement and reflection activity around a fire.

Standing for the Acknowledgement said by Mitzi. **Photo: Kenny, our bus driver**

Tim read us a beautiful First Nations Creation story, then we walked and experienced the trail reflectively in our own ways in the spirit of Dadirri. We finished with a shared lunch. As the photo shows, the weather was glorious.

Lyn took us through Dadirri, which is an Aboriginal word and means "deep listening". Lyn said, "Dadirri is a way of embracing quiet still awareness and allowing nature, country or place to speak to us. To listen deeply is to connect; it is the sound of deep calling to deep". Lyn drew on the knowledge and wisdom of Elder, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, who says that Dadirri is a gift from Australia's First Nations peoples to the whole nation. In Miriam's words,'Dadirri is the deep inner spring inside of us; we call on it, and it calls on us'.

Lyn described how to “do” Dadirri. Prepare yourself by listening to the quiet still spirit within and be open to connection with place and Country. Be aware of the trees, the birds, the grasses, the earth, the sky. Breathe deeply, walk humbly …. Then we realised that there is a remarkable similarity with our own spiritual practice as a faith community, when we commune with the God within with open hearts and find connection. We also did “Mirri” - a way of deep seeing.

So we walked the short trail each in our own ways, lingering over anything in the natural environment that held our attention, in the spirit of Dadirri and Mirri, and our own spiritual practice. We took about half an hour, then shared our experiences.

David has captured some gems from our afternoon which include the sharing time after the trail:

We heard the wind rustling in the trees

Little insects chirrup

Saw the gumleaves glitter

Felt the sun warming us

Learned some words in Woiwurrung language

Heard a creation story

Walked the trail

Read the information boards

Gawa is the W. word for the Echidna

The afternoon was a rich spiritual experience and the timing of 25 May was significant. Each year, “Sorry Day” is marked on 26 May, where Australia remembers the pain experienced by the Stolen Generation, and Reconciliation Week follows, from 27 May to 3 June. This is a time when all Australians are invited to explore First Nations and others’ shared histories and cultures.

Thanks go to everyone who attended the afternoon and made it such a success. Thank you to Lyn and Mitzi, and Tim and David, also to Do Justice and Revd.Yvette, who supported the event and was so keen for our Church to continue our pastoral journey with understanding and connection with First Nations peoples and cultural practice.

Delicious shared lunch.

MITZI TUKE

Behind the Scenes

If something happens behind the scenes, it means it happens without most people knowing about it.

A lot of what happens here at St Margaret's Church is a testimony to those small and large acts of service that we subconsciously notice in our everyday interactions with our Church and worshipping community.

I would like to take this opportunity for these people to metaphorically walk to the front of the stage and take a bow on the following pages!!

Graham Constantine for our outside (and inside) maintenance.

Harry Watson for erecting and making good the Church gate.

The Sacristans Barbara Speed and Jan Gack for ensuring that the signs and symbols of our liturgical year are mirrored in our services.

The Church Band who are currently practicing to accompany us in our singing later in the year.

Linda and Rob Mackenzie for caring and tending our memorial gardens and around Dendy House

On behalf of St Margaret's Church ……

"WE THANK YOU"

Memories

St Margaret's Church clearly holds special memories in people's hearts and minds. Michelle and Glenn Wisbey married here 30 years ago and on this special anniversary they came back to visit and reminisce and shared with me the memories they had of being part of our church community all those years ago. They were happy for me to share these photographs with you.

The Baptism

Maggie Valerie Park Saturday May 24th

Cold Fighting Chicken Noodle Soup
by Revd. Yvette

Even for me it has become a little bit cold!! Here is a recipe that I will be trying sooner rather than later!

For the vegetarians amongst us I wonder if tofu and vegetable stock will work …let me know.

Keep warm

Yield: **4 servings**

Prep: **20minutes minutes**

Cook: **30minutes minutes**

Total: **50minutes minutes**

The most soothing, comforting soup for flu season!

So easy to make, you'll be feeling better in no time!

Ingredients

- **1 tablespoon** olive oil
- **1** onion, *diced*
- **3** carrots, *peeled and diced*
- **2 ribs** celery, *diced*
- **3 cloves** garlic, *minced*
- **1 tablespoon** freshly grated ginger
- **1 tablespoon** minced lemongrass
- **1 tablespoon** chopped fresh thyme leaves
- **1 tablespoon** chopped fresh rosemary
- **5 cups** chicken stock

HOPE 25 ART EXHIBITION

This year, the Anglican Church of Australia invited each parish Church to develop and deliver an event reflecting Hope 25 with the subject of HOPE being at the core. In response to this, St Margarets chose to focus on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) and to hold a forum of expert speakers and an art exhibition by survivors of domestic violence.
After much planning and hard work, the exhibition was held on Saturday 31 May. It was a wonderful event and so heartening to see the Church filled with people – many of them from the wider community. Revd. Yvette had prayed for at least 77 people to turn up and this indeed appeared to be the number that attended. The Holy Spirit was with us!

The artworks were beautiful and it was incredibly moving to speak with some of the artists, many of whom were so appreciative that their art and stories were being displayed to a wider audience. The afternoon started with an opportunity to view the art and then opening remarks were provided by Reverend Yvette and myself to set the context of the day. The panel of speakers included Vicki Ward (local member of Eltham and former Minister for the Prevention of Violence against Women), Kerryn Lewis (Manager of the PVAW program of the Diocese of Melbourne), Revd. Scott Holmes (formerly of Our Watch) and Leading Senior Constable Jamie Germantis (Victoria Police). Each person spoke passionately about the topic of violence against women and provided compelling insights into the hope they held for things to improve in this area. The panel then answered a range of questions from the audience.

At this point, there was then an opportunity to honour victim survivors. Dana Robson from Holstep Health introduced a number of women who were survivors of family violence. She spoke about the artwork and how the process had been incredibly healing for many of the women. A woman named Barbara then bravely told her story of escaping a controlling and abusive relationship after 40 odd years. It was so moving to hear of her courage after many years continuing in the relationship so that her children were not left with their father alone. At the end of the proceedings, there was an invitation to anyone who wanted to light a candle in honour of those affected by family violence whilst gentle music played in the background. I had assumed that because there were so many unchurched people attending, that this may not have been something they were comfortable with however the Church was filled with people lining up to light a candle and I found this an incredibly moving part of the day. You could see the emotion and tears on the faces of people as they did this. Finally, the afternoon ended with a lovely afternoon tea and many continued to mingle, talk and view the artwork.

Thank you so much for the tireless work of the PVAW committee who gave so much of their time and expertise over months to get this event happening. A special mention to Diana Warrell who made so many connections in the community to gain the artworks. Our thanks also go to Rob and Linda Mackenzie who were not on the committee but helped with the AV and editing of the brochure. And last, but not least, thank you to the many folk of St Margarets who turned up to support the event and show our community that the Church can be agents of change for good. The exhibition will be in the Church for the next 2 weeks (times can be found in the pew sheet) so please take the time to view these beautiful and important artworks.

Mandy Stevens
Chair for Prevention of Violence against Women

SUNDAY 15 JUNE from 4.30 – 6 PM

MIDWINTER MUSIC FOR WOMEN

Christina Green will present her images and composed music from her “artist in residency” during winter on the Island of Gotland in Sweden

A FREE event with chai and mulled wine. We will gather at the Yarning Circle fire and then move to The Hall.

Volunteers Needed – This might be for you!

Property…

Pastoral…

Finance…

Do justice…

Hospitality …

Marketing and Communications …

Home Communion & home visiting …

What do these all have in common??

No idea!

Well, all of these are committees in our Church with each one needing additional members to support their specific ministries in the life of our Church of St Margarets. Without volunteers many of what we offer as Church – across our mission, pastoral ministries, governance and services will grind to halt.

Some of you may think you do not have much knowledge in a certain area – however, that would not be true as we all come together to make up the body of Christ.
If you are interested in any of the committees and would like to find our more, please speak with: -

Sally Petty – Property

Kathleen Toal – Finance

David Tuke – Do Justice

Coralie Carew – Hospitality

Harry Watson – Pastoral

Linda Mackenzie – Marketing and Communications

Home Communion and home visiting – Revd. Yvette

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@stmargaretseltham.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.