St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

# THE PARISH MATTERS

## SPRING EDITION

## 2025

www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Welcome to SPRING 2025.

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

## MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR

The word *ordinary* means 'with no special or distinctive features; normal'.

Yet we find ourselves in the Anglican Churches season entitled "O*rdinary Time"*.

*'Ordinary Time is the period after the Feast of the Presentation of Christ until Shrove Tuesday, and from the day after the Feast of Pentecost until the day before the First Sunday of Advent. During Ordinary Time there is no seasonal emphasis, except that the period between All Saints' Day and the First Sunday of Advent is observed as a time to celebrate and reflect upon the reign of Christ in earth and heaven.'*

Having "no seasonal emphasis" does not mean St Margarets Church ceases to be awesome during this time! This Spring Edition 2025 of The Parish Matters is a testimony to this.

Therefore, Sisters and Brothers in Christ – let us enjoy our ordinariness together as we read our publication from cover to cover as we thank our creator for what has been achieved with and through us, and what is to come.

Love, peace and all good

Revd. Yvette

*Thank you to the Editor Linda Mackenzie for this quarter's edition; and all those who submitted articles and pictures.*

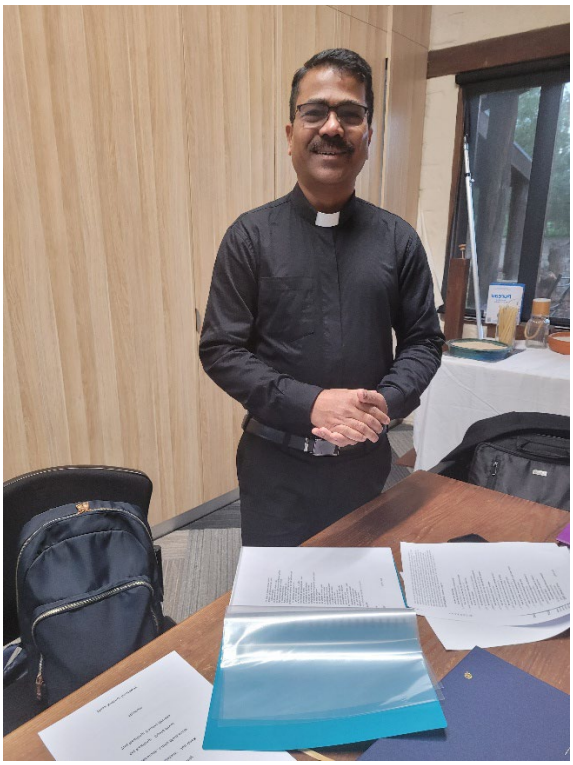
# WELCOME REVD. PRASHANT BHONSLE

Rev. Prashant S Bhonsle joined the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in December 2021 with Rev. Dr. Satvasheela Pandhara, his wife, in Craigieburn. He has served the Anglican Parish of St. Matthew's with St. Linus' in Glenroy and Merlynston and the Hume Anglican Parish, Craigieburn as a Parish Minister.

Rev. Prashant has worked extensively with the Justice and Development wing of the Church of North India and was in the University Sector as an assistant Professor in Bishop's College, Kolkata, India.

Prashant firmly believes local congregations can act as catalysts to bring about Justice and Peace in the word by upholding Worship at the centre, unearthing the Scripture, and celebrating life together in an inclusive Communion with Christ.

Prashant holds a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Theology; a Master's in Theology and has studied ecumenical theology at the University of Geneva.



## A Trio of Clergy

It is a gift to have clergy colleagues to toil for the Kingdom of God.

I have included an excerpt from The Ordination of Priests; and I ask that you please hold us in your prayers.

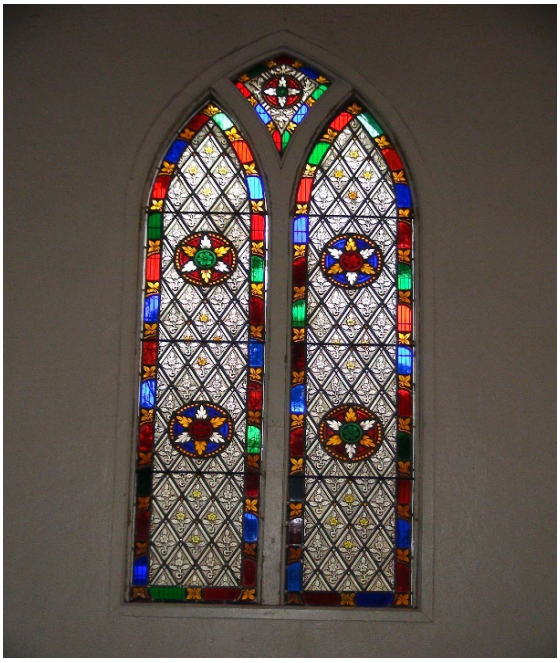
*When hands have been laid on all who are to be ordained priest, the bishop continues*

Grant to these your servants, merciful God, grace and power to fulfil their ministry: to proclaim the gospel of salvation through word and sacrament, to declare the forgiveness of sins, and to watch over and care for the people committed to their charge. As you have called them to your service, make them worthy of their calling. Accept our prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.

*The people respond* **Amen.**

**With gratitude, Revd. Yvette**

# HISTORY FROM OUR ARCHIVES
# ALTAR WINDOW 1861



From 1935 to 1963 this beautiful original 1861 stained glass window was covered by a Dossal (A **Dossal**, from French *dos* (*back*), is one of a number of terms for something rising from the back of a church altar). We are unsure why this was so. Apart from its spiritual significance, the window is very important architecturally and historically.

The window was one of the first made by Ferguson and Urie, a Company that became famous around Melbourne in the late 1880's for their skilled and complicated designs. The Company only started making windows in 1861, so the altar window is one of their first. A letter from Ferguson and Urie to St. Margaret's Church Committee dated 22nd November 1861 regarding the progress of the window mentions specifically:

> "*The production of imitation ancient glass for the small end window as being the first in the Colony*"

Previously, all stained-glass windows were imported from England, so the altar window is Australian made. It cost one pound!!!!

Thanks to Geoff Sandy – Celebrating 150 years – St. Margaret's Eltham

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 7th | September | Vocational Sunday |
| 14th | September | Holy Cross Sunday |
| 14th | September | Music Concert |

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

## SEPTEMBER MUSIC CONCERT

**2PM SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2025**

followed by refreshments

**FEATURING:**
PIANO SOLOS
ORGAN SOLO
OPEN DOOR CHOIR
E.H.S.STRING ENSEMBLE

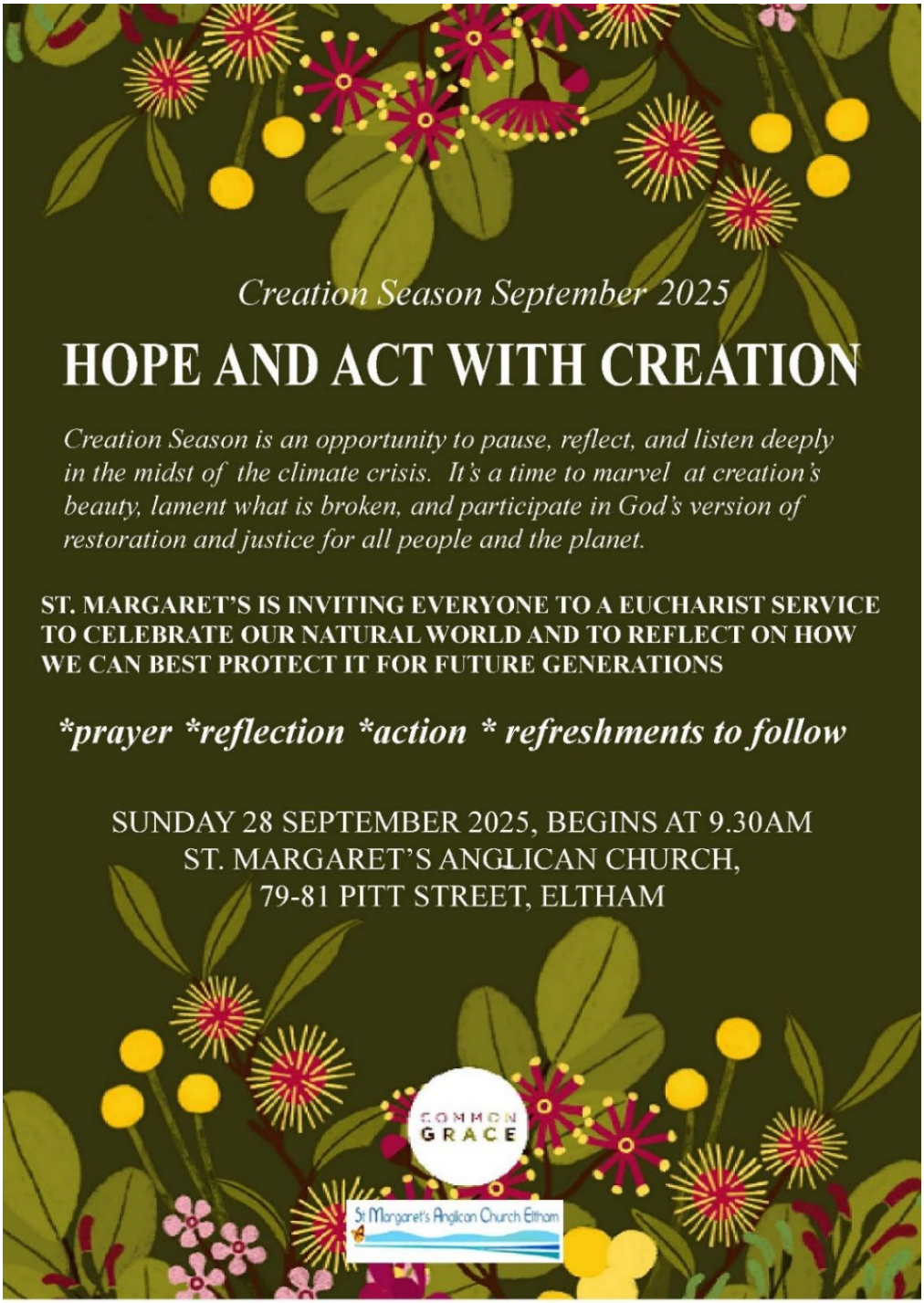
Funds raised will be used to support St.Margaret's Music Scholarship fund.

$20 per person. Children Free

To Book:
Use the QR Code (active1/8/25)
or follow the link
https://www.trybooking.com/ DDXXL

Ph. 9439 9238. www.stmargaretsemtham.org.au

28th September Creation Sunday



5th October

This year's Pet Blessing will have a slightly different tone. Revd. Prashant will be preaching and we are joining forces with our friends from Eltham Montmorency Uniting Church. This will not be a Eucharist service, however the service at 8:00am will be. We hope you will come along and join our EMUC friends and of course, bring your pets or photos of them to receive a blessing.

12th October Generosity Sunday God has shown His generosity to us, let us show ours to the Church.

12th October Life Matters – Dying & Death This will be a joint only 10 am service followed by the Pastoral Care Team delivering on Dying & Death.

2nd November Celebrating All Saints & All Souls Day

9th November Annual Meeting

16th November St. Margaret's Day – Details to be announced

# *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!!**

**Gwenda Schleiger for her wonderful piano playing at our Midweek service.**

**Roger Alcock for ringing our Church bell at our 10am Sunday services, weddings and funerals.**

**Jenny Disney & Barbara Speed for taking forward the Jumpers for June and July initiative.**

**Kevin Gillett who is part of the banking team.**

**David Pryor for all his "financial" help to make our accounts look easy!**

**Liz Pryor for actioning the mobile phone initiative for those fleeing family violence.**

**Helen Coutts for her important ministry as organist at our Sunday 8am Service.**

**All the Music players for sharing their gifts and musicality with us.**

**On behalf of St Margaret's Church**

## "WE THANK YOU!"

Below left; Helen Coutts, Below Right; Jason Zeng, Centre left; Coralie Carew, Below right; Roger Alcock, Bottom left; David Prior, Bottom right; Brock & Cecilia Spicer

## Active Pastoral Care

Just a few people may remember it was back in 2016, that Pastoral Care ran a seminar on Planning Health, Dignity and Spirit in Later Life which covered Advanced Care Planning by Austin Health and Spiritual Ministry in Later Life by Revd. Ruwan. A decade on much of the landscape about government and other support has changed. So, on October 12th this year after a joint/only 10 am service, the Pastoral Care Team will deliver.

## Life Matters - Dying and Death

A somewhat different approach, as a workshop, with some thought-provoking introductions by Revd. Yvette and others. It will be an opportunity for people to share in confidence their thoughts, needs, even fears, on this often-difficult subject area and suggest how it can be supported. Many will already have lived with loved ones through experience(s) of this process and by gathering the essence of stories, pitfalls and needs. We will respond with advice on opportunities for guidance, mostly through professional channels in the early months of next year, and if needed links to specific resources. As a congregation with an average age of late 70's, we will hope to see many of you participating.

Whilst preparing this topic has been part of our recent activity, more regular business has included an increase in the number of those unable to get to Church, and thus receiving home communion. The welcomed arrival of Revd. Prashant has increased the opportunity for more frequent visits. But thanks to Helen R, Barabara S, Adrienne, Harry and of course Revd. Yvette over 150 visits made in the last year. Recently two people have dropped off the list, including a former St Faith's member Beryl Hall whose funeral was led by Yvette quite recently (the funeral farewell is inset) and whose ashes have just been interred in the Memorial Garden.

**Men's Breakfast** has grown in numbers this year, regularly exceeding 14 with much pleasure taken in the prepared short stories told on most first Saturdays of the month at the breakfast. Even one by Geoff on his three most respected people. Not too many would dare to tackle such a topic?

**Pub Lunch** has grown too. Exceeding 30 for the first time recently. Not only is it good value for money (at least for pensioners) but value for good spirits too. Much laughter in our corner and great caring too.

None of us would doubt the power of prayer. There is statistical evidence for its good outcomes. So, remember that the **Prayer Chain** run by Mary LM is available to bring a group to bear on almost any intercession needs.

Over the last decade the team have usually encountered one 100th birthday every year. In this quarter there have been two. Pegg Lloyd who now lives with her daughter and not close-by and Val Phayer on August 14th. A few shots of a wonderful occasion delivered to the aged-care home with 8 past St Faith's people attending. There were lots of tears, as well as happiness and admiration for our centenarian, who sadly wasn't able to listen in on all of the fast-flowing conversation.

Please remember that the team needs to hear from you or yours whenever we might be able to help.

**HARRY**

for Yvette, Prashant, Adrienne, Sheila, Jenn, Sally and Helen R

# HOW THE APOSTLES DIED

Sometimes we can get caught up with all that the disciples witnessed, practiced and learnt during Jesus' 3 years of ministry with them. In addition, we can often forget that being disciples of Jesus today is not easy; despite what others may think!

Below captures how the apostle died in a life devoted to the proclamation of the Good News.

**Matthew** suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia. Killed by a sword wound.

**Mark** died in Alexandria Egypt after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

**Luke** was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.

**John** faced martyrdom when he was boiled in huge a basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison Island of Patmos. He was later freed and returned to serve as Bishop of Edessa in modern Turkey. He died an old man, the only apostle to die peacefully.

**Peter** was crucified upside down on an x shaped cross. According to church tradition it was because he told his tormentors that he felt unworthy to die in the same way that Jesus Christ had died.

**James** was thrown over a hundred feet down from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a Fuller's club.

**James the Son of Zebedee** was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the Church, James was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James, watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later the officer declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian.

**Bartholomew** also known as Nathaniel was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed for our Lord in present day Turkey. Bartholomew was martyred for his preaching in Armenia where he was flayed to death by a whip.

**Andrew** was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Patras, Greece. After being whipped by seven soldiers they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony.

**Thomas** was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the Church on the Subcontinent.

**Jude** was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.

**Matthias** the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.

**Paul** was tortured and beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero at Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment, which allowed him to write his many epistles which form a large portion of the New Testament.

# Quiz Night Fun at Faith Issues!

Who knew that theology could be this much fun?

We put our collective Anglican knowledge to the test at our very first Anglican Faith Issues Quiz Night — and what a night it was! There were 39 questions (a cheeky nod to the 39 Articles of Religion penned by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer back in 1552), and the trivia challenge was on.

We split into four *somewhat* competitive teams, laughed a lot, and learned a few things along the way and included lots of hearty discussion. There was also some head scratching, and lots of “oh, I knew that!” and “oh, I had no clue about that!”. Bishop Lindsay Urwin was with us and — no surprises — seemed to know just about every answer! (Though he did quietly confess that he had briefly seen some of the questions beforehand!).

The winning team took home the glory *and* a very special prize: a St Paul’s Cathedral bookmark. Not quite eternal life, but close! Thanks to everyone who came — it was a fun evening! We might just have to reconvene for a sequel — there are still 28 1/2 questions left to ask!

Thanks to Julia Urwin for questions and article.

# FIRST AID CLASS

Rev. Yvette and eight parishioners attended the First Aid class in the Church in June. It was fun and we learnt a lot…beware!!!

Thank you to Church Warden Coralie for organising.

## SAFE MINISTRY COURSES

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On the 4th and 5th July, Parishioners attended Safe Ministry Courses in the Hall. These courses, both first and refresher courses, were undertaken by volunteer who do tea, readings, AV duties, greeters and all the other duties which keep St. Margaret's going!

Thank you to all who attended.

Thank you to Carolyn Jung, Parish Office Manager for all her assistance.

# OUR EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

### LinC (Love in the name of Christ) Pantry

### at St. Margaret's Eltham

The pantry is administered by an ecumenical group of six local Christian churches who share concern about what is currently happening in our community and across Australia.

As Christians and followers of Christ's teaching we feel a mission to help those in need of emergency food which also impacts their spiritual/mental wellbeing

Foodbank Victoria's C.E.O. Dave MacNamara explains that FoodBank's Hunger Report (now in its seventh year) surveyed 2,000 charities and 1,000 individuals experiencing food insecurity across the country.

They reported the impacts of food insecurity goes far beyond just feeling hungry, with devastating mental health and wellbeing implications. Women particularly suffer high levels of psychological distress. They feel like bad parents when there is not enough food in the house. There is a loss of control over appropriate social behavior (regular schooling etc.) and health is often neglected in these anxious circumstances. We all understand that a well-nourished child has a better chance of staying well and learning, and adults feel more able to deal with challenging situations.

However, feelings of shame, guilt, and embarrassment tend to act as barriers for people accessing food relief. With this in mind, the Pantry at St. Margaret's is open 24/7 which allows people to take what they need with their private circumstances respected. It gives them time to adjust to whatever has caused this food crisis in their lives.

With the rising cost of living the demand for food relief continues to rise. Homelessness continues to grow (it jumped 20% since May 2022). The homeless face higher rates of violence and unemployment. Apart from nourishing food, their access to appropriate effective medical care including ongoing care is so

challenging chronic illnesses remain untreated. Toiletries too are considered too expensive (we provide them in our pantry) when one is struggling to put food on the table. The temptation to use street drugs or alcohol to alleviate anxieties is never far away.

We invite/ encourage everyone to participate with collections and donations to St. Margaret's Pantry. We would love you to join us, to share ideas on how we can best help those experiencing food insecurity.

A heartfelt thank-you to those generous caring parishioners who regularly donate goods. We pack the pantry three times a week, but this does not satisfy demand. Can we do more? Let us surround those people in our community particularly with Christian love and dignity to help them out of their circumstances to a better future reflective of our blessed country Australia.

Right: Pantry and below Diana Warrell, and Ann Hutchinson, Treasurer, receiving award from Nillumbik Council for services.

Diana Warrell Chairperson Eltham LinC

## 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

#### TAIZE SERVICE

5.30 pm Last Sunday of the month

#### 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.