St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

SUMMER EDITION

2025

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Patron Saint's Day

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Welcome to our SUMMER 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.

Who Are We?

A little while ago someone asked me to describe our church. I said…

"St Margarets Church is a loving, caring and inclusive community with a heart for social justice and Gods creation".

I believe this is true.

We are a community who each have their individual passions and interests but also passions that are held in common; and acted upon.

This issue of The Parish Matters only shares a little of what we have carried out in the last three months let alone what ministries continue to occur behind the scenes.

^ Tuke family September 'Seasons of Creation'

As we head into Advent, Christmas and 2026 I pray that you are as hope filled as I am as we focus on our 4 goals through the lens of the 5 Marks of Mission.

Finding new and inventive ways to grow our church, share the good news of the Gospel and to be our Lords hands and feet beyond our church walls – not for the betterment of our own self-interests **but always** for the building up of God's Kingdom here on Earth. It is truly a privilege to be carrying out Jesus' mission alongside you as we **all** go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Revd. Yvette

St Margarets Church.

Areas of Focus for the Next 5 Years

- To grow the Church Younger
- To be a spiritual place for the lost, seeking and found
- To live as disciples of Jesus Christ
- To take the Church outdoors and take the church to the People

The initiatives, ideas and practices that we decide as church to undertake to achieve the areas of focus will be discerned through the lens of the 5 Marks of Mission

5 Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Mission are an important statement on mission. They express the Anglican Communion's common commitment to, and understanding of, God's holistic and integral mission. The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.

The Five Marks of Mission:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

More information to come in 2026 …

Welcome to Andrew Murray

Andrew is our new Deacon joining us in February. He says:

Although I was born in Australia, I had an international upbringing, living as a child in England, Scotland, Vietnam and Hong Kong. This peripatetic childhood has been followed by an equally varied career as an adult: I have worked offices, for parliaments, and tried my hand at being a baker. This more vocational turn grew out of a year lived alongside an Anglican monastery in Boston, Massachusetts.

It was during this time, including thorough steeping in prayer, that I began to consider how God might be calling me to serve in the Church in a more integrated and particular way, and how I should response to that growing sense of calling. However, it would take a further six years of prayer, discernment, and the gentle pressure of the Spirit through friends before a greater sense of vocation came to bud.

Throughout my theological studies and ministry formation at Trinity College Theological School, I have completed placements at St George's Malvern, St Stepen's Gardenvale, Christ Church St Laurence (in Sydney), and St John's Footscray, together with a course of Clinical Pastoral Education at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Hospital.

My studies have also been a source of great joy and interest. My interest in, and enjoyment, of theology has borne fruit, and I have received university prizes for Biblical Greek, Church History, and Biblical Studies. I have a particular interest in our Greek and Anglican forebears in the Church, in a theology (or *a knowledge of God*) that is rooted in disciplined prayer, and in finding ways to effectively communicate the fullness of the mystery of God, which is Christ.

Although it is a certain sense of awe and trepidation that I approach ordination on 7 February, I do so with a confidence in Christ – and in the community in which the Church has called me to serve: among you, the people of St Margaret's, Eltham. Please keep me, and all those to be deaconed, in your prayers, and I look forward with gladness to living and ministering alongside and among you.

Let's give him a big welcome including us all wearing our badges when he joins on Feb 8.

Always supporting each other - Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team asked the Parish to respond to a survey about the content of proposed 2026 seminars by professionals, to give advice about managing End of Life

Very many thanks to the eleven people who responded to the request to complete the survey. Any response over 10% indicates an involved community so 15% was good.

The data can be summarised as follows **for practical issues** (a-c) and **spiritual issues** (d-h) as to topics for qualified presenters to cover:

a Deciding on my farewell location, its organisation and eulogies

b Reducing coffin wastefulness

c Finding holistic help and how to help others

[There was a definite 'no' to talking about cremation]

d Managing grief

e Facing the diagnosis of life limiting illness

f Becoming dependent on others

g Getting prepared to talk about death and dying

h Building trust in God and spirituality

In response the Team plans to hold four presentations in 2026 at about three monthly intervals as follows:

- End of January, An independent Aged Care Financial Advisor and likely a 2nd part about the Federal Government's Home Support Program introduced 1 Nov 2025
- End of April from Doula on end-of-life help and grief
- In July resource from a Palliative Care organisation
- In October Farewells and their management

In addition, we will provide access to several handouts/links and some guidance on other aspects such as the range in costs of funerals.

Again, special thanks for those who gave us feedback on their needs through completing the survey.

Of course, the usual pastoral care team visits or contacts with those in hospital and elsewhere or confined to home, and managing home communion visits will continue as usual. Don't forget to contact the office, Revd Yvette or a team member when need arises.

PCTeam

Pet Blessing October 5th- Pictures

St Margaret's Day Celebrations

Our Church celebrated our Patronal Festival of St. Margaret of Scotland, on Sunday 16th November. We were joined by Bishop Brad who presided and preached.

Welcome Tim Beattie!

Bishop Brad led us through the Rite of Reception into Communicant Membership.

A few of you were not too sure what this means so please find below an 'explanation'

'When a person who has been a communicant member of another church which holds the apostolic faith desires to become a communicant member of this church, the priest, being assured that such is his desire, shall present that person to the bishop at the time of confirmation or at some other time.

The bishop may receive and welcome him into communicant membership of this Church, laying hands on him with prayer for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

A person so received into communicant membership shall have the same status in this Church as a person who has been confirmed in accordance with the rites of this Church.'

Thanks Vicar Yvette for information.

The Service was followed by a scrumptious lunch with lots of fun, laughter and togetherness.

Linda Mackenzie

St Margaret's Refugee Support

As we all know, with the instability in our world, globally there are millions of refugees. St. Margaret's has been actively involved in supporting the local refugees for many years.

Previously we have had monthly craft sessions for the Syrian refugees prior to them leaving Eltham last year. During the last 12 months we have been involved in different ways.

Through and with Welcome to Eltham, we collected food for the new Syrian family who have been adopted through the CRISP program, the commonwealth support program – see below. They arrived in August this year.

This was gratefully received as President of Welcome to Eltham Vicki Fitzgerald says:

"We have collected so much food from St Margaret's that their pantry is overflowing. We have always been able to rely on St Margaret's for their generosity and open hearts and friendship we thank you so much, once again. A special thank you to Mary & Yvette.

St Margaret's also acts as a collection point for their Easter & Christmas Baklava Drives.

Likewise, we have supported fund raising for the Second Embrace group, also involved in the CRISP program. They hosted a movie "Peace by Chocolate" which was very successful.

'Second Embrace' has been allocated a Syrian widow with 2 teenage kids. They will arrive from Turkey next January.

Regards,

Don Stokes

Deputy Coordinator, 'Second Embrace'

The support of St Margaret's contributed to our successful Film night which brought forward our ability to be allocated a refugee family.

On behalf of the group, we very much appreciate the support of St Margaret's.

The "Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot" (CRISP) is a program run by the Australian government to support refugees in settling into Australia. It pairs refugee families with community groups who provide practical assistance and social support from their arrival. The program is designed to enhance settlement outcomes by leveraging the support of community members.

Our support of the refugees ties in with our **fourth mark of mission** "To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation".

Mary Lynton-Moll

Finance, Property and Other Things

In a response to Diocesan concerns arising from a recent accident to a Parishioner hit by a falling church bell and the involvement of Occupational, Health and Safety we were instructed by the Property dept of the Diocese to undertake a revue of the safety of our own bell.

We were quoted a cost of over $2,000 to undertake the necessary inspection. Our resident engineer Harry with assistance of a drone supplied by Ross (men's breakfast) offered to provide a detailed inspection of the bell and it's housing.

Harry's report, which concluded there was no immediate concern, has been submitted to the Diocese property department. His report found that there was only a small movement of the bell in it's housing, however he did recommend that at some time in the future that we ought to consider a steel replacement of the bell housing. Thanks to Harry and Ross who saved us from additional expenditure.

The installation of the grease trap tank at the Research Child Care Centre at a cost of $15,500 has been successfully completed and the appropriate certification lodged with Yarra Valley Water. This work was a requirement of Yarra Valley Water, despite the premises having operated without this facility for 20 years. Cheers to bureaucracy

Ongoing maintenance of our Pitt Street property is a must. Gutters are regularly cleaned and Air conditioning units throughout the buildings are cleaned and tested. Weekly cleaning of Church. Dendy House and the Hall is contracted to Isobel Vertigan. Thanks to Sally Petty who keeps an eye on these matters. Our licence to operate the hall kitchen hall is due for its annual inspection and renewal. Users of this facility, please help, by complying with the many instructions in the kitchen, especially ensure that the fridge is kept free of unwanted food and drink.

Note Gluten free biscuits must be provided for suffers of Coeliac and others who are gluten intolerant. **If you don't need them please don't eat them**

Our annual audit was successfully concluded in time for the November annual general meeting. Due to ill health our appointed auditor, Lionel Arnold was unable to undertake the audit. BHT (Audit) P/L. was appointed at a cost of $1410, twice the previous fee charged . Our prayers go to Lionel for a successful recovery.

David Pryor for Property Committee and more!

Henry Dendy **by Geoff Sandy**

Most of you are aware that we have a building, referred to as Dendy House. Currently it mainly houses our office and the clergy. Until 1958 when the “new” vicarage was opened it was the house of the vicar and his family and was known as the parsonage. It is now named in honour of Henry Dendy who was an important laymen instrumental in the building of the Church and who gave great service to the life of the early worshipping community in Eltham and beyond. The parsonage was opened in 1870.

Henry Dendy was born on the 24 May 1800 in Abinger in County Surrey England. His father Samuel was a farmer of considerable property. His mother Sarah nee Hampshire died when Henry was three. His father died in 1838 and at that time Henry was a brewer in Dorking. He sold the farms he inherited in 1840 and decided to emigrate to the Port Phillip District. Victoria was not yet a colony.

He had acquired in England the “right” under a short-lived scheme known as Special Survey to purchase eight square miles of land or 5120 acres for the price of only one pound per acre. He was the only person in England to do so. The scheme was to entice free settlers of some substance from Great Britain to the recently opened –up Port Phillip District to develop marginal lands. However, by 1841 land around Melbourne was selling at a price 10 times what Dendy paid.

His arrival generated great concern to the officials as the price differential was now so great. When Dendy attempted to exercise his right in Williamstown the Superintendent La Trobe and Governor Gipps, himself far off in Sydney Town, prevented it. They told Dendy he could only acquire land beyond the five mile limit of Melbourne.

Henry Dendy is often described as **the founder of Brighton**. The decision to force him beyond the 5 mile limit saw him choose “wasteland” in what is now called Brighton. On taking possession of the land in 1842 a surveyor was commissioned to draw up plans for the Brighton Estate. House sites were sold with the seafront the most expensive. A two storey mansion on the seafront called Brighton Park was built for Henry Dendy himself. He played a primary role in founding the forerunner of St Andrews Church of England with a grant of 10 acres from himself and four others and was a leading layman. Brighton Grammar was also built on the land.

Late in 1842 Dendy received the second part of the Special Survey, emigrant workers, 139 in total including children, from England whose passage was paid by the crown. However, Dendy had few agricultural jobs for them. They had put their trust in Deny but he largely failed them although he did attempt to resettle them in the area so they became pioneers like him.

The depression of 1843 saw the demand for land fall and with it land sales. Dendy’s bad debts accumulated. In April 1845 Dendy was declared insolvent although he and his wife retained Brighton Park through his wife’s ownership as dowry. Dendy attempted to return to brewing in Geelong through1846 to1848 but it was not enough to retain the property. The mansion was sold in 1848 and he lost stock and other goods. Dendy tried squatting at Christmas Hills (1843-1853) and sheep farming at Upper Moira (1835-1855). The latter was the most successful and when sold it enabled Dendy and his wife to return to England for a year before returning to the colony to farm sheep near Werribee and then to a Flour Mill at Eltham.

Henry Dendy **moved to Eltham with his wife Sarah** and son Henry Jnr. in 1857. It would appear he owned a cottage and the Flour Mill. He quickly became a well-regarded member of the local

community. When a Public Meeting was held in May 1860 to plan the establishment of a Church of England in Eltham, Henry Dendy was called to the Chair unanimously. He was also elected treasurer when a committee of nine men (no women in those days) were elected. On the 9th of July Trustees were elected. They were Henry Dendy - Chairman and Treasurer of the Church committee, Henry Stooke - JP, Chairman of the Eltham Road Board, John Lindsay Beale - of St Helena, Thomas C B batt and Alfred Armstrong – Civil Engineer and Mining surveyor.

Henry Dendy, as he had done in Brighton, donated the land, half an acre, on which St Margaret's Church and Dendy House stand today. On 1 December 1860 he consigned the land *" to be used by the Ministers of the United Church of England and Ireland having for the time being the Spiritual charge of the Ecclesiastical Parish or District connected or to be connected with the Church of England known as the parish of Eltham…"* And, what was the land to be used for? The Trustees was to use the land for the purpose *"for the erection of a parsonage house for the Ministers"*. The parsonage was completed circa 1873. And was mentioned previously it is now known as Dendy House. The land was also to be used for *"erection thereon a Church and School house under the said Church of England and for no other purpose or purposes whatsoever".*

The building of the Church at Eltham differs from what may be considered the norm for most other Victorian churches. The laity had it built and then sought from the Diocese a Vicar. There is no doubt that Henry Dendy was leader of this group and exercised project management of the church building. Early meetings are concerned with fund raising and it was the practice to list the subscribers and their donations in money and kind monthly on the door of the temporary church used for worship. Despite some usual problems associated with the effectiveness of groups composed of differing personalities the project progressed well. February 1861 is a key date when tenders were called for the building of the Church. The foundation stone was laid 4 April 1861 and the Church was dedicated and opened on the 12 December 1861.

During the 1862-1867 period Henry Dendy continued to exercise leadership in the Parish as Chair of the Trustees and various positions on the Church Committee. Although the church building was opened there were still many "finishing" things to be undertaken. Dendy was involved in the appointment of Dixon Bertram Lay Reader to take Divine Service in the new Church as no Vicar was appointed until. In 1863 Robert Mackie was appointed Vicar by the Bishop.

Again Henry Dendy in 1866 was still a prominent leader in the Church and organised the welcome, settling in and ensuring an acceptable stipend for the new Vicar J Hollis. There seemed to be some difficulties with the latter however. In 1867 Henry Dendy sold the Mill and moved to Gippsland.

Henry Dendy sold the Flour Mill at Eltham to raise funds for his copper mine venture in Gippsland. He moved to Gippsland, but the venture proved to be unsuccessful. He had been Director of the Thomson River Copper Mine. In later life he lived with his son in Walhalla who drove the engine at the Long Tunnel gold mine. Henry Dendy died in Walhalla 11 February 1881 and is buried there in an unmarked grave.

However, through poor in business he appears to be a man of good character. We can point to his efforts he made to settle the emigrant families, his endowment of land to the Church in Brighton and later at Eltham. Historians record the words of one of his emigrants John Booker concerning Henry Dendy "a good, honourable, kind master, but no businessman".

Kangaroo Ground Service of Remberance

This year the Remembrance service clashed with our Annual Meeting. Moreover, it was held at the Kangaroo Ground Emergency Centre as the Kangaroo Ground Memorial Tower is closed at present for restoration.

We were represented by Kathleen Toal who led prayers, her daughter Deidre and beyond.

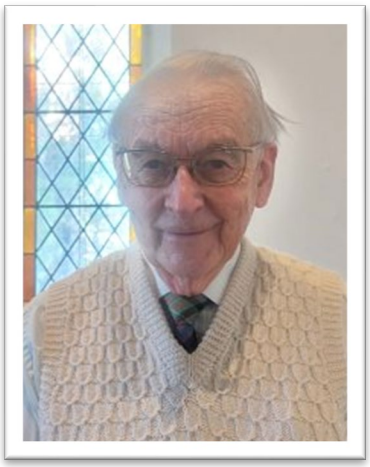
As always, pictures describe our honour of those fallen in the fight for freedom in the last century.

The ’25-26 Parish Council

Following elections at the Annual Meeting Nov. 9

Wardens

Sally Petty



David Greenfield

Harry Watson

Councillors

Kathleen Toal

Linda Mackenzie

Tony Michaelson

Barbara Speed

Sandra Brown-Holt

Sheila Cheary

Stop Press: Passed –Victorian Aborignal Treaty

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Lomandra Welcomes Historic Victorian Treaty Bill
31 October 2025

Lomandra, the provincial Anglican body for Reconciliation, Aboriginal Recognition and Treaty, welcomes the passing of the Victorian Treaty Bill — an historic step toward a statewide treaty and future local treaties between the State of Victoria and First Peoples.

This milestone, led by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, represents a significant move toward justice, recognition and self-determination. Lomandra celebrates the leadership and persistence of First Peoples whose vision and advocacy have made this moment possible.

Lomandra's Commitment
Lomandra commits to working alongside the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and local Aboriginal communities to support the treaty process.

We will continue to promote open dialogue, education and partnership within the Anglican Church and the wider community to ensure treaty becomes a lived reality of respect and shared responsibility.

"This is a day of hope and renewal," said Archdeacon Glenn Loughrey, representing Lomandra.

"The Treaty Bill opens a pathway for truth and justice to shape our shared future. Lomandra stands ready to walk with the First Peoples' Assembly and our communities in making treaty real — in our churches, our relationships, and our daily life together."

We affirm that treaty is not only a political agreement but a moral and relational commitment — a step toward healing and a just future for all Victorians.

Media Contact:
Archdeacon Glenn Loughrey
Lomandra – the Provincial Anglican Body for Reconciliation, Aboriginal Recognition and Treaty
glenn.loughrey@bendigoanglican.org.au
0418 911 714

Upcoming in January +

The Vicar is encouraging most Council Committees to meet in January and moreover she notes

Sunday 11th January The Baptism of our Lord . We will be having a baby baptism for Thomas. His family are looking forward to joining us at the 10am service

Wednesday 14th January 24-hour day of prayer – to pray for our church, her community and her mission

Monday 19th January -- Parish Council 5pm

Sunday 25th January 2026 – Aboriginal Sunday

Sunday 2nd February Pastoral Care Seminar 1 (See above)

Wednesday 18th February – Ash Wednesday

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

Prepared by Communications Committee Ed this edition: Harry
Photos: Yvette, Linda, Harry, Mary, Andrew and Kathleen and our Website