St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

WINTER EDITION

2026

WWW.STMARGARETSELTHAM.ORG.AU

Moving in Body and Spirit
St Margaret's participating in
World Labyrinth Day May 2nd

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 +- 250 words, include photos.

Easter Season

Dear Church Family,

What a season this has been.

This quarter's ***The Parish Matters*** enables us to reflect on the journey we continue to share together.

This past season has been filled with many opportunities and the odd challenge!

We have celebrated joyful events and feasts, and we have also walked together in loss. Yet through it all, your unwavering commitment has been a true blessing.

Because of your compassion and willingness to serve, lives are being touched, hope is being shared, and our church continues to be a welcoming place for all who enter.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your support, and the many sacrifices you make for our congregation, parish community and beyond.

Ministry is never the work of one person alone; it is the faithful work of a caring congregation united in God's purpose.

It is a privilege to serve alongside such caring and devoted people.

Thank you to the editor of this edition- **Harry Watson** and all who have submitted articles and photographs .

May God continue to bless each of you and your families abundantly.

Peace and all good

Rev'd Yvette

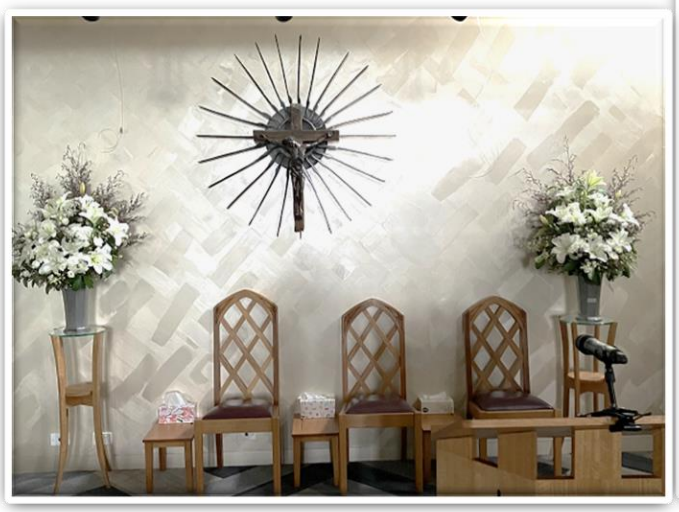
Easter Flowers

Dave, at Creative Flowers - who run the flower tent opposite the miniature train park in Eltham kindly donated the Easter flowers. The large vases that we see in church on special occasions are often arranged by Tiffany and donated by Dave's business.

He is following in his parents' footsteps in providing such an easy to find flower stop.

So, if you go there buijng their flowers, it would be nice say how great they looked.

Hopefully we'll be able to get flowers for another Festival too. (I never like to assume)



Angela Langan Flower roster coordinator
{Wonderful work you and the team)

Easter Settings

Ever wondered how the myriad of settings and colours used in the Easter season appear and how sanity is maintained in the sacristy where the fresh supply of linen, wine, cups and glasses come from?

Our ever-dedicated sacristans are Barbara Speed (left) and Jan Gack, (right) supported by half a dozen assistants noted in the roster for each Sunday. These behind-the-scenes people deserve a big thank you and admiration for preparing for dawn and mid-night services, foot washing and other unusual events as well as the nearly two hundred regular and special services each year. In acknowledging our admiration and thanks here, it would be good to say so in person the next time you bump into them or their assistants at work.

Let us Raise a Halleluiah

A huge thank you to our Prevention of Violence against Women and girls Committee (PVAW) and Shaun Islip and The Open-door Gospel Choir for such a wonderful joy-filled Voices Together Concert, raising awareness of family violence and raising funds for a survivor of this crime for her to further develop and publish resources to support children and young people. We heard from the author Kelly (above left), the story of the creation of the ideas for the book and saw a pilot version of the content. She was thanked profoundly by the Rev'd Yvette for sharing this story (above right).

The 40 or so, Open-door singers, (seen above and conducted by Shaun on the right), flooded the church with their glorious singing and invited the audience' participation in several pieces. Many left enthralled with the experience and pleased to have contributed to such a worthy fund raising cause.

The event raised over $2,500 for this inspiring cause Thanks to all those who attended and the significant number of donations. A huge thank you to John Humann who was a conduit for the planning and delivery of the concert.

Harry Watson

Pentecost At this service we lit candle tapers from the Paschal candle, symbolising the Holy Spirit's fire spreading among believers.

On Friday 22 May we joined together to give thanks for the life of our friend, Margaret Sandy.

What a wonderful celebration! St Margaret's Church was full to overflowing, plus many viewing online. The service started with several sentences from Scripture then Rev'd. Yvette welcomed us to this sad but joyous occasion.

Margaret and Geoff's grandchildren, Ava, Lauren, Abagail, Aoiffe, Heath, Cooper and Sidney, all placed a beautiful red rose in front of a delightful photo of Margaret.

This was followed by a eulogy delivered by Geoff. What a lady, wife, Mum and Grandma! A family brought together with such love.

We enjoyed a collage of pictures of her life and family. Followed by Psalm 23 sung beautifully by Margaret's niece, Jessica.

Prayers were led by Margaret's four children, Ken, Mark, Kathryn and Elizabeth. Thanking for the life of Margaret, asking comfort for those who mourn. Revd. Yvette delivered the homily.

Holy Communion was given and finally, Margaret was commended into the hands of God.

it was wonderful to see many of Margaret's music students, both past and recent, including those who were our church music scholars and now organists.

It is so hard for all of us to understand that Margaret, with her sparkly jewellery, her wonderful personality and her huge ministry of music will no longer be there for us, but all at St Margarets will remember her with many thanks and a deep expression of love. We send our love and support to Geoff (Centre) and to (R to L) Ken, Mark, Kathryn and Elizabeth and their families.

Sally Petty

Courage in Our Actions for the Climate Crisis

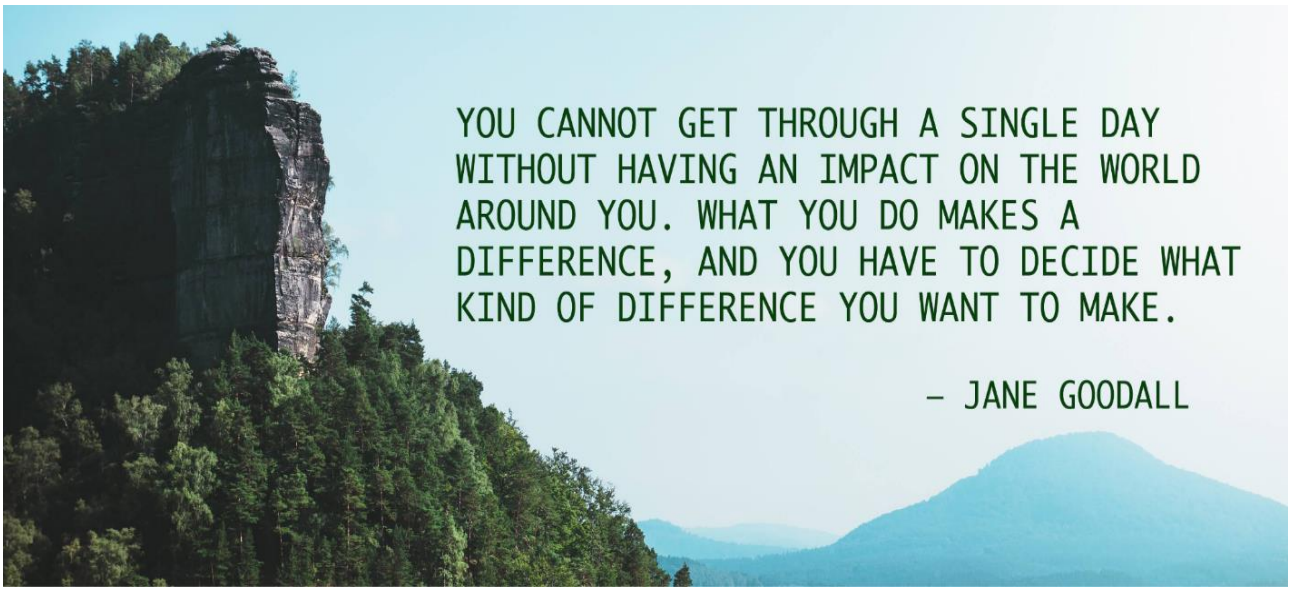
This is the first of a series of articles exploring the climate and environment crisis and suggesting actionable steps for environmental stewardship. Climate harm is no longer a future threat; its impacts - accelerated by the production and burning of fossil fuels - are here now, with critical ecological tipping points approaching. We need to act quickly, with leadership coming from decision makers in government and industry, in conjunction with civil society. Also, global action for climate justice in helping countries to decarbonize is called for urgently.

As Christians called to be custodians of God's creation, we cannot look away. Instead, we must face the crisis with courage, stepping out in "active hope". Our individual actions are not futile; when multiplied across communities, they drive necessary systemic change. The renewable energy transition is well underway, and we can help accelerate it. We can electrify homes and transport, install solar panels and batteries, and increase energy efficiency in our homes.

Financial stewardship is equally crucial: we can move super funds and bank accounts away from coal, oil, and gas, divesting from destruction. Finally, by lowering consumption, wasting less, and reducing flights, we shrink our footprint. Together, these steps represent powerful, proactive stewardship.

The local climate group, Nillumbik Climate Action Team, of which I am a member, has a climate cafe on the last Thursday of the month from 7.30-9.00pm, with presenters on a wide range of climate and environment topics. You are welcome to come.

Jane Goodall inspired hope and action for conservation and ethical living. She said:



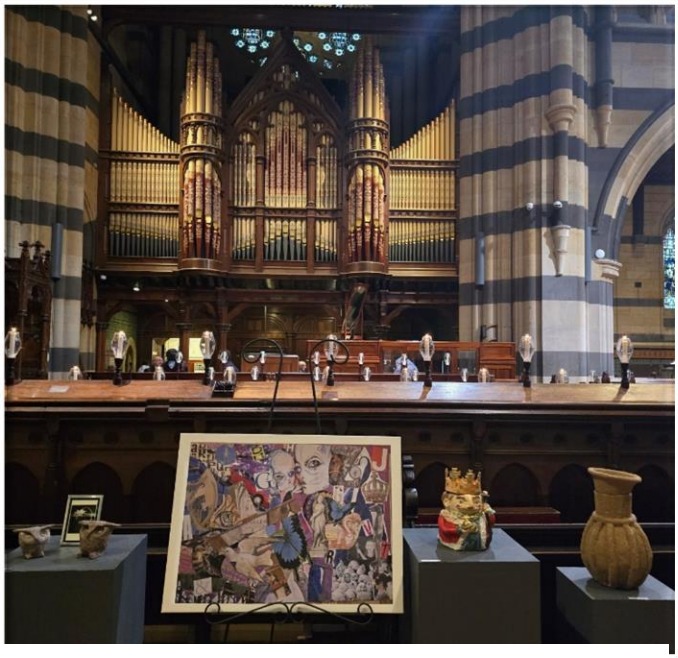
Mitzi Tuke President of NCAT

Art as Healing: Voices against Violence Exhibition Reception

At our cathedral May to July (Extract from Website)

We are proud to introduce a new exhibition to our Transept Gallery called 'Art as Healing: Voices against Violence.' The exhibition is presented as a partnership between the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, Holstep Health's Living Well Family Violence Group and St Margaret's Church, Eltham. The artists featured come from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. Each has been directly impacted by family violence, and many are survivors. Through their artwork, they explore themes of trauma, transformation, rebirth, and healing, offering a powerful message of hope — that resilience, strength, and faith can endure even in the aftermath of violence.

'Art as Healing: Voices against Violence' is on display until late June in the Transept Gallery. Please be aware that this exhibition contains themes of domestic violence and contains images which some people may find disturbing. Viewer and parental discretion is advised. **[Now open – go and see it]**



Collage created by Anna Mott as part of display.

Monday Circle

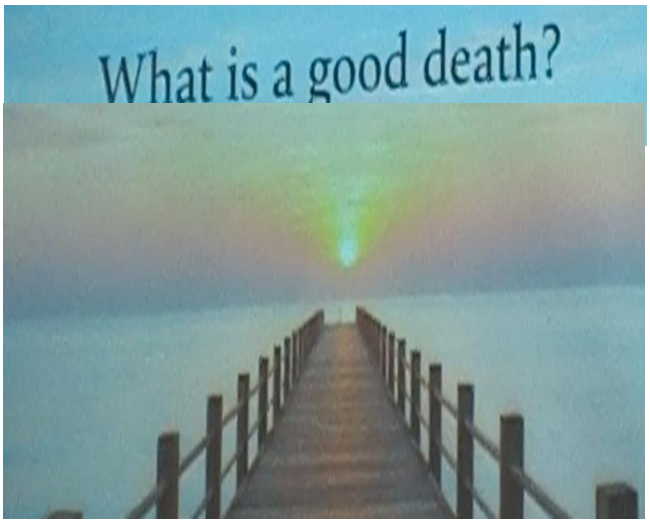
Monday Circle for many, many years, met as a small group of women for creativity, spiritual connection and company on three Mondays a month in the hall. They are now taking a well-earned breather : -- no longer meeting again his year. Remembering particularly Barbara Talbot who was a long-time coordinator. Barbara's memorial service was at the RSL several weeks ago.

Our Thanks to Bp Brad Now AB of Adelaide

Parish Council felt strongly that we should thank Bishop Brad, who as our Regional Bishop was always ready to support and look after St Margaret's. We thanked him for his oversight of our parish, wished him and his wife, Karen every possible good wish in his new ministry as Archbishop of Adelaide. On your behalf we send him a donation of $200. Hopefully used for a good night out.

Sally Petty

Life Matters' Series of Presentations

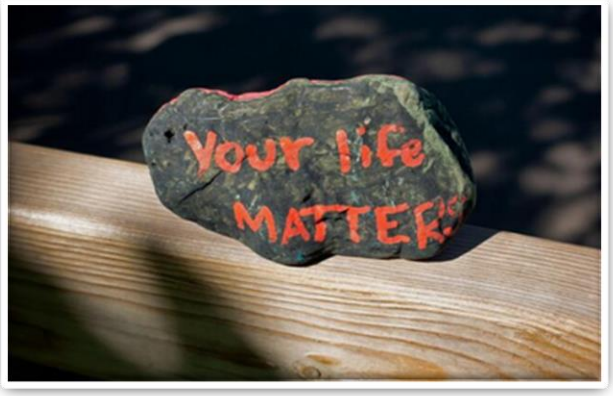


The Pastoral Care team are continuing with the presentation of 'Life Matters' topics at St Margaret's this year. These events are in response to the issues parishioners highlighted as important to them, in a survey conducted at the beginning of the year and have been very well received by those attending.

The second presentation was in April presented by Yo about alternative care for late life by Doula. It was well attended and there is a picture later in this PM..

The third event, discussing Palliative Care and Dementia Care will take place on
Sunday 26 July at 11.30am – 1.00pm. in the Church Hall.

Part 1 will be delivered by Renee Yerondias a Palliative Care Professional will discuss the **'palliative family centred model of care'** which includes planning, decision making and goals of care.
She will also speak about the benefits of palliative care for people living with a life limiting illness and accessing palliative care services.
Renee is representing Banksia Palliative Care and is highly experienced in the provision of Palliative Care.



Part 2 will be presented by our Sheila Cheary and will reference different types of **dementia diagnosis, common symptoms** and meeting the needs of people living with dementia.
She will also speak about the operations of the Memory Care Café at St Margaret's and how the volunteers at the café provide an enabling environment for carers and those they care for.
Sheila is a retired registered nurse with many years of dementia care experience.

Everyone is welcome to attend this session, which will provide valuable information to those supporting a loved one through a life limiting illness.

The fourth and last session in the series will be held in October this year and presented by Rev'd Yvette. Details will be made available nearer the time.

Sheila Cheary for the Pastoral Care Team

Building Maintenance to May 2026

The upgraded switchboard was installed in March in the Research Child Care Centre at a cost of $12,100. The circuit breakers in Dendy House have also been upgraded at a cost of $1,700.
The Diocesan Essential Services Program covers all properties we manage i.e. Church, Hall, Dendy House, Vicarage and Research Child Care Centre. Regular inspections covering Electrical safety, Fire safety and Planned Maintenance, Asbestos Management, Emergency Evacuation Diagrams and internal recording systems are scheduled.
We have been billed $7,416 for our share of the costs of the program.
In May our properties are being appraised to determine values for insurance purposes.
Recent heavy rains have exposed the Vestry and Foyer to water damage. Last year repairs were undertaken to remedy the problem but have failed to prevent water damage to the Vestry. Water damage is also now occurring in the Foyer.
We have appointed a plumber who has prepared a detailed report on the extent of the damage, cost of $2,000 and quoted $11,100 to replace down pipes, guttering, surface sheeting and flashing.
After only 10 years since the construction of the extension to the old church, it is disappointing to have to undertake such major repair work.
Wear and tear of our buildings remains a constant financial burden to the Parish.

David Pryor

The Importance of Tithing

St Margarets holds a unique position in the Eltham community, providing a place of worship and significant outreach to the community in so many ways.
We employ two fulltime clergy, two parttime office staff. a maintenance man and a number of organists and have an annual expenditure budget of **$475,000**. Income is derived from rent received for the hire of the Hall, Vicarage and the Child Care Centre as well as other minor sources and totals **$349,000**. This shortfall of **$126,000 or $2,423 per week** is in part offset by contributions from Parishioners.
For the first seven months of the financial year **$47,000 or $1,567 per week** has been received. leaving a weekly shortfall of **$856**. This reduces our cash resources.
Many Parishioners have already committed to regular financial contributions. Every year we lose some, either leaving the Parish or given their age pass on. hopefully to be replaced by newcomers.
The establishment of regular tithing can be either through our Anglican Development Fund facility, directly to our Westpac account or weekly giving envelopes.
Please consider your support and set up a regular commitment
For information on regular giving, contact either Treasurer Kathleen Toal or David Pryor for details

David Pryor

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Notes from the Assistant Curate's Desk

Having now been with you more than three months, I feel that I have begun to settle into place at St Margaret's and in Eltham. Place—both geographic location and the more vague 'idea of place'—is of vital importance to our understanding of the Church. As a parish community which tries to take in a distinct geographic area (Eltham, Research, Montmorency, Lower Plenty), we stand out from groups that may self-select or identify. Our life is drawn *from* the whole body of the community; in mission and witness *to* the whole of that community.

As we mark one hundred and fifty years of our dedication and consecration; and consider what it means to be 'set apart' for God's purposes—that is, being made 'holy,' I think that this setting apart is really about setting us in place and in a renewed way. As these months have passed, I have become more committed to *this* place: our place of St Margaret's, that I might grow and learn here, with and among you—the people of God who gather here.

Twice in the past month I have had the opportunity to represent our parish in the wider life of the Church: first at the collation of our new Archdeacon, the Venerable Denise Nicholls (the vicar of St John's, Heidelberg); and later in the same week at the induction of the Rev'd John Carrick as the vicar of our neighbouring parish, St John's, Diamond Creek.

Ric, Archbishop of Melbourne, with the Venerable Bree Mills (Archdeacon, Church Planting), the Venerable Kate Beer (Archdeacon, Diocesan Director of Ordinands); and the Venerable Denise Nicholls (Archdeacon of the Yarra)

Bringing the Bands Back Together: the Assistant Curate and the Precentor, the Rev'd Dr Tim Watson, reviving the wearing of bands at the Collation

A brief note on collations: the word comes to us from the Latin for a small meal freely given; it became the term used for those installed 'in' a benefice or other position from which the incumbent would derive an income or benefit. Hence Archdeacons, and clergy appointed to the freehold of a benefice (in the Church of England) are *collated*, or awarded their free meals!

Rev'd Andrew

AI says **Collation** refers to the assembling, comparing, and organizing of items into a logical, desired sequence (Living in the present Ed – Harry)

The Layout of this WINTER Edition, you may have noticed, is a wind-back in time.

This wind-back continues towards the beginning of the Easter season which began on shrove Tuesday with prayers, the preparation of the ashes (right) from our old palm crosses for the Ash Wednesday 'ashing' services. Hopefully some celebrated too with pancakes to start again; allowing us in thought if not in practice, to begin Lent with fresh unleavened bread.

Whilst this edition tracks in pictures, more of the Lenten story, please note almost at **the end** of this Parish Matters is *Dates for Your Diaries* **the planned activities ahead** as we work to live out our Mission Action Plan. May you be fulfilled by being part of it.

Ed -- Harry

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Evensong to Celebrate 150 Years Since Consecration May 16 1876 Celebrated on May 17 and organized by Rev'd Andrew

Easter Day Dawn and 10 am Services

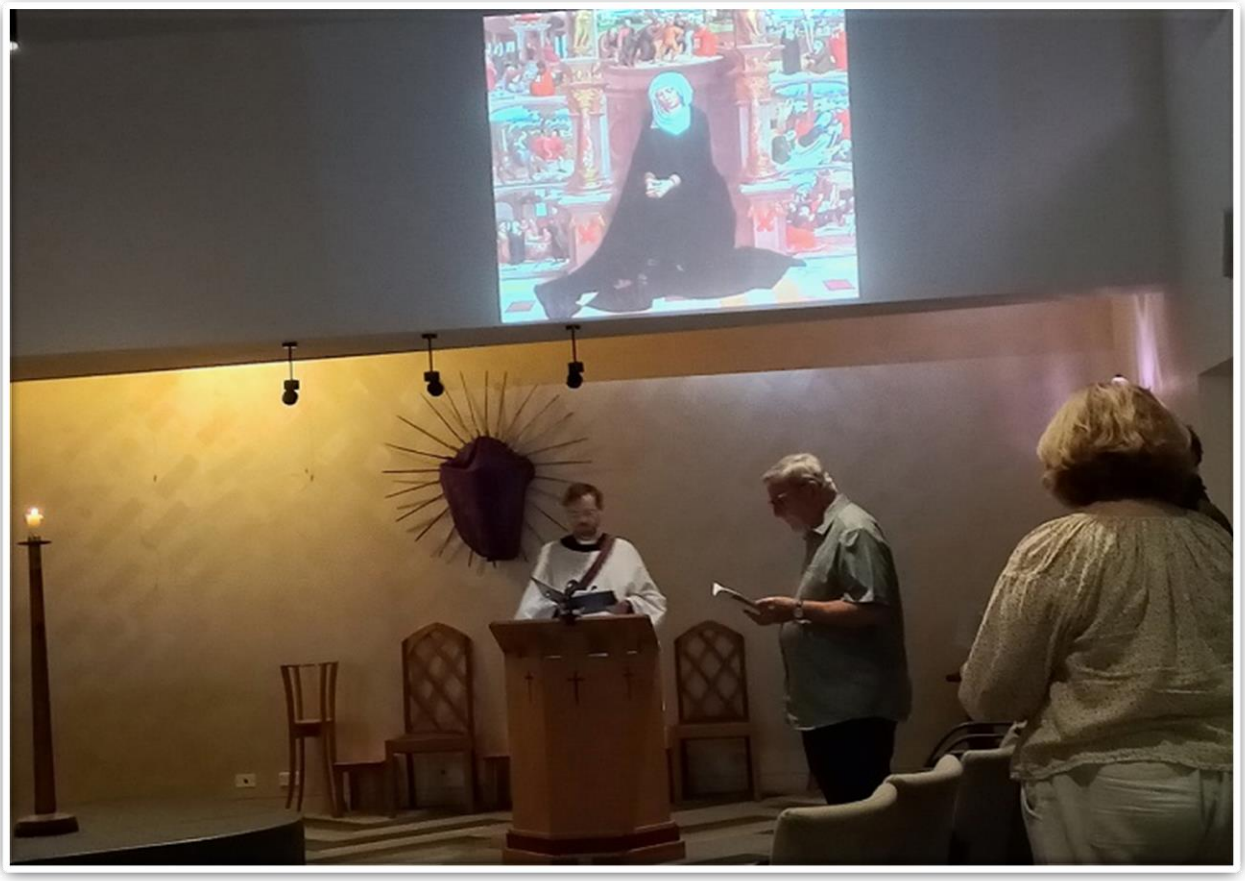
Pre-Dawn: The service begins (below) in which the Paschal Candle is lit at the ‘Great Easter Vigil’ fire to symbolize Jesus rising from the dead, bringing light and hope to the world.

Dawn breaks through during the Eucharist

Spectacular 10 am Service

Good Friday The Church stripped bare and the presence of the cross on which He died

The Stations of the Cross led by Rev'd Andrew on Holy Wednesday



Palm Sunday

Gathering next to the Memorial Garden (below)

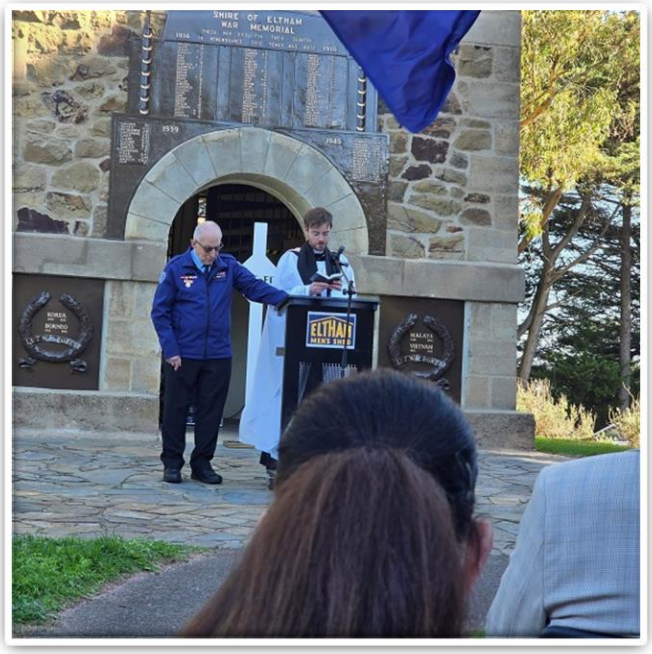
Blessing of our Palm Crosses (right)

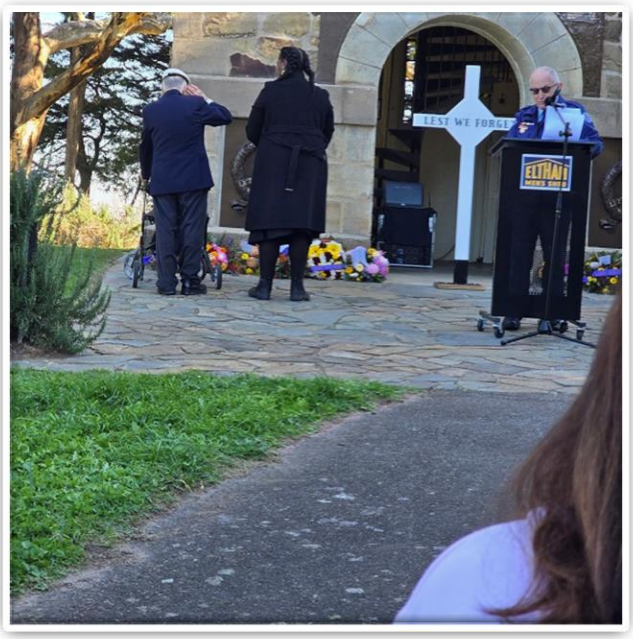
At the table prepared for the Eucharist (bottom)

Taizé - Palm Sunday Evening - the prayer candles light the worship space (Bottom right)

Remembering -- ANZAC Day

Rev'd Andrew leading prayers and Rev'd Yvette with Michael Tucker presenting our wreath





Meeting of the Extended Home Communion Team

'Life

Life Matters' seminar 2 by Yo on Death Matters with Doula Care

Rev'd Andrew at his first Pub Lunch March
with a long table of parishioners– All Welcome any 1st Sunday at noon

Dates for your Diaries

The next quarter's *The Parish Matters* will take us through the season of *Ordinary Time.*

In the Anglican Church, Ordinary Time is the period of the Christian year that falls outside the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. It is called 'ordinary' because the Sundays are numbered in order, not because they are unimportant.

During Ordinary Time, Christians focus on the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ, and growing in faith through worship, prayer, Bible reading, and service.

The liturgical colour used is usually green, symbolising spiritual growth and hope.

In adherence to this season and its prayerful and hopeful focus, we will be holding another 24-hour day of prayer. We have all seen how has been fruitful our first day of prayer has been, with church growth across all of our regular services.

We will be piloting bible study/reading – and more details will follow soon!

Important dates:

27 May to 3 June: National Reconciliation Week

14 June: Women of Spirit – *Midwinter Festival*

14 June to 20 June: National Refugee Week

27 June: Baptism of baby Millie Thomas

12 July: Women of Spirit – *Holistic Bodies, Holy Lives*

14 July to 17 July: Diocesan Clergy Ministry Conference (NB: Rev'ds Yvette and Andrew unavailable).

26 July: Palliative Care and Dementia Workshop (Life Matters series): Speakers Renee Yerondias and Sheila Cheary.

30 August: Vocations Sunday

6 September to 4 October: the Season of Creation, concluding with the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday 4 October.

During Ordinary Time We hope to arrange an 'Away Day' on a Saturday in the Hall. Details are still being developed.

Not forgetting

Men's Breakfast – First Saturday of the month

Pub Lunch – First Sunday of the month

Faith Issues – First and Third Mondays of the month

Taizé Prayer – Last Sunday of the month.

From the Vicar and her Diary

Photos from Sally, Harry, Diana, Sandra and St Meg's Website |
Ed. This edition Harry.

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.