St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

THE PARISH MATTERS

SPRING EDITION

2026

BAPTISM OF CLARA & ISOBEL WITH REVDS. ANDREW & YVETTE

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

There is something wonderfully joyful about life in our parish at the moment.
In this edition of *The Parish Matters*, we celebrate the joint baptism of Clara and Isobel. What a joyful occasion it was to welcome them into the family of God and share in the love and promises of baptism. These moments remind us of the privilege of being a community where faith is nurtured and shared across generations.

At the same time, we sadly say goodbye to another member of our church community, Margie Dahl. We give thanks for her life and the part she has played in our parish.

As we look around St Margaret's, we cannot fail to notice that our church family is growing — not only in numbers, but also in the wonderful diversity of ages and stages of life among us. Change can be confronting, yet Scripture reminds us that God is always at work, bringing new life while remaining faithful to all that has gone before:

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

Our new *Getting to Know You* articles are a lovely addition to *The Parish Matters*. They give us an opportunity to discover more about the people sitting in the seat next to us. The Bible study has also proved very successful, with many people keen for it to continue. Thank you to everyone who participated, and to David Greenfield and Rev'd Andrew for helping to lead it. We look forward to more opportunities in the future.

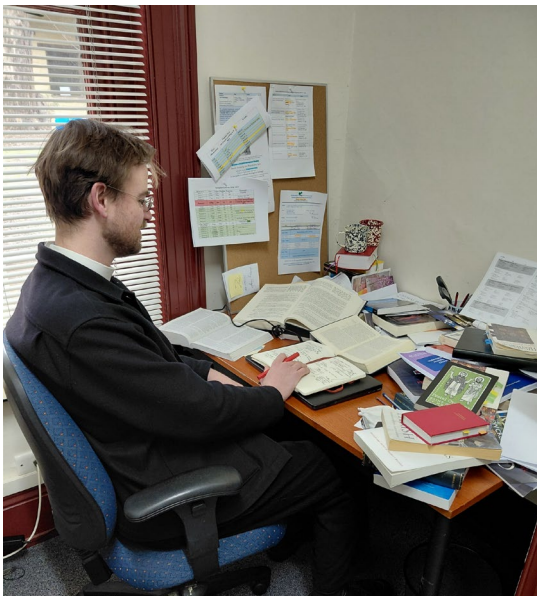
As you will see from our *Dates for Your Diaries*, there is never a dull moment in parish life! There are many opportunities to gather, worship, learn, serve and enjoy being together. We also have a parish stall planned for the *Eltham Festival on Saturday 14 November*. Thank you to Diana Warrell and the Marketing and Communications team for all their work. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition, and especially to **Linda Mackenzie, our Editor**, for bringing it all together with such care.

Thank you, St Margaret's family, for all that you are and all that you do. May we continue to make room for one another — cherishing those who have gone before, celebrating those who are with us, and joyfully welcoming those who are coming among us.

May you have peace and all good.

Rev'd. Yvette

FROM THE ASSISTANT CURATE'S DESK



Over the past six months I have spent ministering with and among you in the parish, I have been deeply moved by the commitment the people of
St Margaret's have to the mutual flourishing of the body of Christ. From our bible studies to our Sunday and weekday services, from welcoming newcomers to caring for longstanding members of the parish. This shared concern for our common life extends, too, to those outside our gathered congregation, and throughout our geographic parish of Eltham, Lower Plenty, Montmorency, and Research.

As the seasons have turned, I have been reading again from the seventeenth century poet and priest Thomas Traherne, much of whose work has only been published in the last thirty or so years. Traherne writes of God being "Goodness, infinitely Communicative;" a God who longs to communicate something of the vastness of his love through the beauty of each and every one of his works.

From Sunday, 6 September we will begin our observance of the *Season of Creation*, a season which celebrates the revelation of God through the natural world and its beauty. Flowing from beauty of this natural revelation, and delight God has in Creation, should then inspire our caring and loving stewardship of the world. A commitment to flourishing together in righteousness and justice, rather than relationship of extraction and exploitation. For every one of God's works distinctively refracts some small facet of the glory of God, and is therefore to be cherished.

Peace.

Rev'd Andrew

THE ST. MARGARET'S OAK

Have you ever wondered?

The St. Margaret's archives do not reveal the details or the date of the planting of the St. Margaret's front garden oak. It remains a mystery

It is partnered by a eucalypt, thereby entwining the indigenous heritage with a new colonial arrival.

Those who plant oak trees are touched by a sense of eternity. Rarely does one wo plants an oak live to see its completed life cycle. The tree lives longer than most people.

You plant an oak for a time you can only imagine or dream of; for people
you probably will not know. You plant an oak in the hope that it will shade and shelter another, give joy and comfort to someone in need or sorrow, offer a climbing challenge to a child as yet unborn. There is a lot about an oak to connect us with the themes of Christian living.

The St. Margaret's oak is unusual. It is an Algerian or North African oak – quite different from the English oak familiar to many of us. Its leaves are smaller and have more angular edges than its English relative. It behaves differently too.

The English oak sheds its leaves in autumn and stands with bare branches throughout winter. The St. Margaret's oak retains its leaves until spring when the new leaves replace the old. So, it remains an effective shelter all year round. That may well be why the early settlers chose to plant them.

If you are interested to make the comparison, there is an English oak in our garden beside the church that pass on your way to Dendy House.

Thanks to Felicity Wiltshire

Algerian Oak leaves

English Oak leaves

SAFETY AT ST. MARGARET'S

St. Margaret's view safety as a priority. Below are examples of what we are doing to ensure the safety of all visitors to our Church.

A fire drill was held at Church Services as part of our Safety Programme at St. Margaret's.

FIRE DRILL– Led by Rev.Yvette at the 10 am service showing the parishioners the way out of the church in an orderly way to the outside near the Yarning Circle.

At the Wednesday service, parishioners were led by Rev. Yvette and Andrew to the front of the church.

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING – A few parishioners attended the refresher training session on 22 August.

GETTING TO KNOW FELLOW PARISHIONERS

The following is some information about your fellow parishioners that you may or may not have known. The following questions were put to them and these are their answers.

8.00 AM SERVICE

DAWN GREENFIELD

1. WHY DID YOU COME TO ST. MARGARET'S?

We looked for an Anglican Church in Eltham and found St. Margaret's.

2. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE LINE FROM SCRIPTURE?

No..... they are all lovely!

3. WHAT SPARKS JOY FOR YOU?

Seeing my grandchildren often.

4. THREE THINGS ABOUT ME!

- I am a qualified nurse and tutor.
- Love the outdoors.
- Enjoy cooking, baking, sewing and embroidery.

DAVID GREENFIELD

1. WHY DID YOU COME TO ST. MARGARET'S?

While on holiday (back in the 1990's) came to St. Margaret's because it was the local parish church. Continued to come because of the warm welcome every time we came.

2. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE LINE FROM SCRIPTURE?

"there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord"
Romans: 8.39

3. WHAT SPARKS JOY FOR YOU?

- Spending time with family – best on a one -to-one basis.
- Seeing the results of developing a garden.

4. THREE THINGS ABOUT ME!

1. Grew up and worked for +- 20 years in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe (Medical Mission work).
2. Spent the next 30 years in Cape Town, South Africa working with newborn babies.
3. Came to live in Australia 4 years ago because our children all live here.

10 am Service

ROGER ALCOCK

1. WHY DID YOU COME TO ST. MARGARET'S?

Following the closure of St. Faith's Montmorency on 3rd June 2007, I and other members of the congregation, processed with the cross bearer first, followed by other symbol bearers, to St. Margaret's (a walk of about 3 km.) Here we were most warmly welcomed by the people of St. Margaret's.

2. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE LINE FROM SCRIPTURE?

Not really, however the following would be on the list;
"Welcome the person who is weak in faith" Romans 14-1
"*By love serve one another"* Galatians 5-13

3. WHAT SPARKS JOY FOR YOU?

Yes, ringing the bell on Sunday morning - it is rather special as I say a prayer of thanks as I do so.

4. THREE THINGS ABOUT ME

- I became an Australian Citizen on 4th March 1992 – I am an Englishman from Northamptonshire.
- My wife Katrina was born at Blacktown – we have a daughter Rachel, a son Michael and a granddaughter Clara.
- I am writing "Roger's Journey" an autobiography. It will tell the story of how I come to be here sitting in these pews, warts and all.

LINDA MACKENZIE

1. WHY DID YOU COME TO ST. MARGARET'S?

A fellow parishioner at St. Mark's in Templestowe heard that we were moving to Montmorency and said that the Rev. Robert Street was a wonderful man and was sure we would like St. Margaret's!!! That was just before Covid and we certainly made the right choice!!

2. DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE LINE FROM SCRIPTURE?

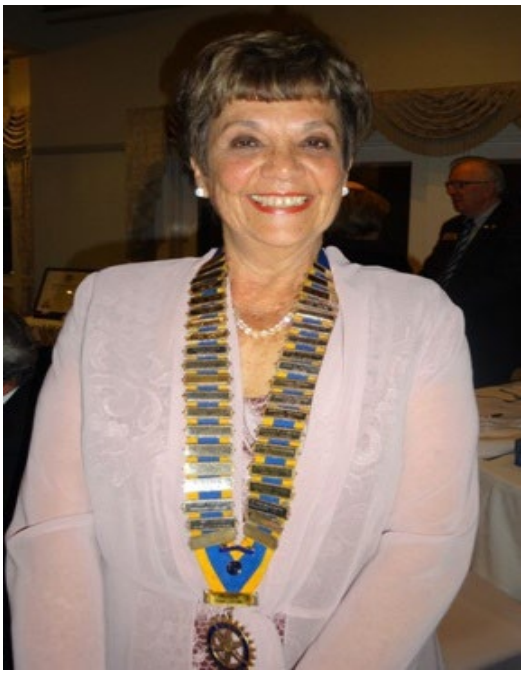
"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"
is found in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31, known as the Golden Rule. It is my favourite and believe if we all lived by this rule we would have a very happy world!

3. WHAT SPARKS JOY FOR YOU?

My family, my friends, my health, travel and life! Living in a beautiful country and having the opportunities to do all kinds of things in freedom and safety!

4. THREE THINGS ABOUT ME!

- I am South African by birth and have been in Australia for 18 years....now an Aussie...Oi! Oi! Oi!
- I was the first Female President of the Rotary Club of Templestowe.
- I owned my own Wine Distribution company in South Africa and needless to say...love wine!



WEDNESDAY 10.30 AM SERVICE
FOLLOWED BY BIBLE STUDIES

What a treat it was to attend the 10.30 service the past few Wednesdays, followed by a Bible Study with both Revd. Yvette, Revd. Andrew and David Greenfield. Everyone contributed and it was an inspiring morning. The music played was beautiful and brought me to tears when everyone gathered around and sang SHALOM!

Shalom to you now
Shalom my friends
May God's full mercies bless you my friends
In all your living and through your loving
Christ be your shalom
Christ be your shalom

WOMEN OF SPIRIT

On Sunday 9th August, Women of Spirit had a very interesting topic led by Revd. Yvette - "Perimenopause and Menopause"! We took a photo of ourself, young and to-day, and openly discussed our situations! A time where we explored, embraced and honoured our womanhood regardless of the season we are in. A table was set up with different articles and we were invited to take one.....whereupon Yvette gave an explanation of what we had taken and its meaning to us! It was a wonderful experience for me and I invite you to join these Women of Spirit in the future.

LINDA MACKENZIE

LOST PROPERTY

A container for LOST PROPERTY has been placed in the Church Foyer. There are reading glasses and other items which may be important to someone. Please pass the word around.

"KNEELERS" FROM ST. FAITHS & ST. MARGARET'S

At St. Margaret's Church, we have a number of kneelers embroidered by the parishioners of both Churches. Below is a picture of some of the kneelers – they are beautifully embroidered and probably have some sentimental value to someone! There are some on display in the Foyer with a book of stories of the kneelers.

Dates for our Diaries

This quarter's ***The Parish Matters*** takes us through the season of *Creation* within *Ordinary Time*, which concludes with the celebration of Christ the King before Advent Sunday on 29 November heralds the start of our preparations for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Important dates:

Saturday, 5 September: Parish 'Away Day,'(gathering) 1pm-4pm.
Sunday, 6 September: the Feast of Creation in Christ, beginning the *Season of Creation*.
Sunday, 6th September: beginning of the Diocesan week of prayer
Sunday, 13 September: Music Scholarship Concert.
Sunday, 13 September: Women of Spirit: Tarrawarra Abbey.
Saturday, 19 September: Consecration of Bishops, St Paul's Cathedral, 10:30am.
Sunday, 4 October: Blessing of the Animals (St Francis' Day), end of the *Season of Creation*.
Wednesday ,7 October to 10 October: Diocesan Synod
Sunday, 11 October: Women of Spirit: Embodying the Fruits of the Spirit.
Sunday, 18 October: Pastoral Care seminar: Funerals and Farewells.
Sunday, 1 November: All Saints' Day, together with remembrance of All Souls.
Sunday, 8 November: St Margarets Church Annual Meeting**.** Women of Spirit: Woman Wisdom.
Saturday, 14 November: Eltham Festival – St Margaret's Stall.
Sunday, 15 November: St Margaret's Day – our Patronal Festival!
Saturday, 21 November: Diocesan Ordination of Priests, St Paul's Cathedral, 10:30am.
Sunday, 22 November: Feast of Christ the King. The Reverend Andrew Murray presiding his first Mass as Priest.
Thursday, 26 November: The Sixteen Days of Activism against gender-based violence begins.
Sunday, 29 November: Advent Sunday

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
Memory Care Cafe – Second and Fourth Tuesdays of the month

Jumpers and Beanies 2026

It is with immense pride in my sisters and brothers in Christ that I bring thanks to you all for the wonderful response that you made to the Jumpers and Beanies appeal both last year and this year.

This year, at least three dozen jumpers, tops and jackets of every possible variety were given, along with numerous beanies, socks, gloves and one lucky child will be the recipient of a pair of brand-new black runners.

It makes my heart glad to know that so many children will be warm through the winter, will know the joy of owning something new, and I have to say, in wonderful good taste, trendy clothes that will keep out the cold and the rain.

Thank you all so much from the children who you will never meet, but they will never forget the gifts that you gave.

With heartfelt gratitude.
Barbara Speed

BAPTISMS

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026

THE PARISHIONERS OF
ST. MARGARET'S
WELCOME

ISOBEL & CLARA

TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Help in Managing Your Farewell

This year Pastoral Care has presented three seminars related to end of life. For most people a really busy and challenging time. These seminars provide an opportunity to inform and thus reduce some of the potential stress.

Our last seminar in the series will be presented by **Rev'd Yvette** and the outline title is:

FAREWELLS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

On October 17th in the Hall after the 10 am Sunday service

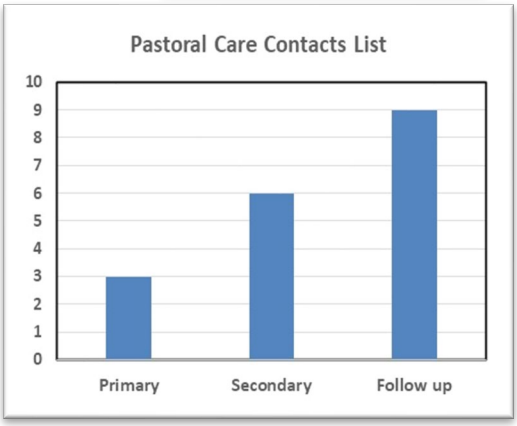
1) What's important to you?
2) Types of services.
3) Hymns and service details.
4) Last rights.
5) Costs.

There are already some booklets in foyer in the box on the bureau for you to start thinking about this. Take a look!

The previous seminar attended by 25 people was a two-part one on:

Palliative Care and Dementia

The speakers were Renee Yerondias from Banksia Palliative Care and our own Sheila Cheary (see right) who manages our support for the Memory Care Café amongst several other activities. The handouts from their talks which covered the wide range of free resources from the Banksia Foundation and assurance that their help is not only for the terminally ill. Sheila told us about the major types of dementia and their widely varying symptoms. Then added some guidelines in how to deal with loved ones or friends afflicted with this condition; and especially the role of our Memory Care Café in providing support for carers as well as those with memory problems. You might also like to know that Pastoral Care has on their unpublished list of contacts about 20 people needing care as seen in the bar chart.



The primary category is people in long term aged care or hospital and the secondary is those in recovery, usually at home. We try for better than once a month contact for these categories usually taking to them Holy Communion or extended HC.

The latter means by a trained lay person. We sometimes only learn about people in need through friends. Please let the clergy know.

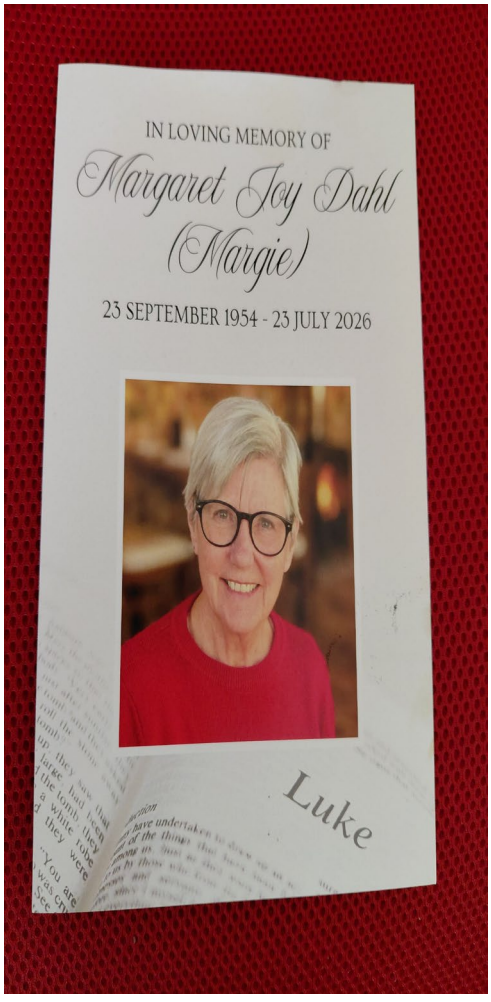
Harry Watson
Pastoral Care Team

FAREWELL

We have said “farewell” to two special ladies recently!

Marg Sandy and Margie Dahl. The name Margaret means “Pearl” – this represents purity, beauty and spiritual value.

Without doubt, these two “Margarets” meant that to us!
Rest in peace!



The Season of Creation

From 1 September to 4 October, Christians around the world are invited to pause, celebrate and reflect on the wonderful gift of God's creation.
You may know this time as Creationtide or, more recently, the Season of Creation. It is a special time in the Christian calendar to reflect on our relationship with the natural world — and our responsibility to care for it.
The idea of a dedicated season for creation was introduced in 1989 by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I, spiritual leader of the Orthodox Church. September 1 marks the beginning of the Orthodox ecclesiastical year, and over time, churches across many Christian traditions have embraced the season.
The season concludes with the feast of St Francis of Assisi, who is remembered for his deep love of creation and his sense of kinship with all living things.
The Season of Creation is about more than simply thinking about the environment. It invites us to see the world with fresh eyes, give thanks for its beauty and wonder, and reflect on how our choices affect the Earth and all who share it.
It is a time for Christians from East and West to come together — celebrating creation, considering our responsibility as stewards, and asking how our faith can inspire us to care for our common home.

What will be happening at St Margaret's?

A Season of Creation, Hope and Action
This spring, we're going to take some time to pause, wonder and reflect on the gift of God's creation — and on our calling as Christians to care for the beautiful world God has entrusted to us.
There will be a number of opportunities for us to pray, learn, worship and think together about what it means to live faithfully and hopefully in the face of the climate challenges of our generation.

A new Feast Day: Christ in Creation

On Sunday 6 September, we will celebrate a new Feast Day: *The Feast of Christ in Creation.*

Sermon Reflections

Rev'd Andrew and I will both be exploring creation themes in our sermons, inviting us to reflect on the presence of Christ in all that God has made and on our own calling to be faithful stewards of creation.

A prayer for creation

Every Friday during this season, there will be a prayer for creation in our Pew Sheet.
I encourage you to take a few moments each week to pray — perhaps with your family or friends , over a cup of coffee(or tea!), or simply in a quiet moment during your day. Small acts of prayer can help us to see the world around us with renewed gratitude and hope.

Called to Care

I would particularly encourage everyone to read *Called to Care – A Christian Response to the Climate Challenge of Our Generation*, written by Jo Knight, CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid, and a wonderful resource for thinking about how our Christian faith calls us to respond to the climate crisis.
I'm delighted that Jo's book has been shortlisted for the 2026 Australian Christian Book of the Year
This is not a book about despair. It is a book about faith, hope and action — and about discovering how our Christian faith can shape the way we care for our neighbours, our communities and God's creation.
I hope **we might** gather together after this season to share our reflections and discuss the book. **More information will come soon!**
You can find out more about *Called to Care* and purchase the book here:

Called to Care

And some good news!
I have **four free copies** of *Called to Care* available for anyone who would like to read the book during this season.
Let's use this season not simply to think about the challenges facing our world, but to ask together:
What is God calling us at St Margarets to do?
Where can we find hope?
And how might we, as a community of faith, become people who care more deeply for God's creation and for one another?
I look forward to sharing this journey with you.
May you have peace and all good.

Rev'd Yvette

Basic Cookie Recipe

What can you do with children and grandchildren in the school holidays? How about spending some time together baking these easy biscuits, enjoy!

Ingredients

- 225g butter - softened
- 110g castor sugar
- 275g Plain flour
- 1 tsp Cinnamon or other spices
- 75g white or dark chocolate chips (optional)
- Makes 25

Method

Heat the oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Cream the butter in a large bowl with a wooden spoon or in a stand mixer until it is soft. Add the sugar and keep beating until the mixture is light and fluffy. Sift in the flour and add the optional ingredients, if you're using them. Bring the mixture together with your hands in a figure-of-eight motion until it forms a dough. *You can freeze the dough at this point.*

Roll the dough into walnut-sized balls and place them slightly apart from each other on a baking sheet (you don't need to butter or line it). Flatten the balls a little with the palm of your hand and bake them in the oven for around 10-12 mins until they are golden brown and slightly firm on top. Leave the cookies on a cooling rack for around 15 mins before serving.

(Recipe from The Good Food Guide accessed 21/08/26)

From Vicar Yvette

SOME TRIVIA FOR THOUGHT

The First Message Sent Via Morse Code

The inventor of the telegraph, Samuel Morse, was the first man to transmit a message using the Morse code. On 24th May 1844, Morse tested a message transmission from Washington to Baltimore. A biblical text was suggested to Alfred Morse by a young lady named Ellsworth.

- **Divine Protection:** The verse reassures believers that God shields His people from harm, whether through magic, curses, or other negative influences.
- **Faith and Confidence:** It encourages trust in God's sovereignty, reminding believers that His plans cannot be undermined by human or supernatural opposition.
- **Celebration of God's Works:** The repeated phrase, *"What hath God wrought!"*, invites reflection on God's marvelous deeds and blessings in the lives of His people.

The first text message was "What Hath God Wrought" This quotation was taken from the book of Numbers 23:23

"For there is no sorcery against Jacob,

Nor is there any divination against Israel,

It now must be said of Jacob and of Israel,

What hath God wrought!"

"What hath God wrought", as dots and dashes in Morse code would be:

dot-dash-dash dot-dot-dot-dot dot-dash dash dot-dot-dot-dot dot-dash dash dot-dot-dot-dot dash-dash-dot dash-dash-dash dash-dot-dot dot-dash-dash dot-dash-dot dash-dash-dash dot-dot-dash dash-dash-dot dot-dot-dot-dot dash

Separated at birth?

I recently visited friends of mine in Avoca in the Pyrenees region of Victoria, and the local Anglican church behind their house looked very familiar…see if you can spot the differences!

From Revd. Andrew

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 Sung 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.