

St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham



the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting
Find us on the web at www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/ Facebook at www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham

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 Aboriginal people. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's.

**Living God, present in us, around us, beyond us
be present to us now,
breathe in an through our lives,
that we may know you more clearly
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly
every day.
We ask this is the name of Jesus. Amen**

Revd. Yvette's Institution

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Please don't forget and add to the tubs for food in the Foyer each week. For the LINC basket and St Mark's Fitzroy and is distributed by Anglicare

Our patron Saints Day is November 16th. It was so appropriate that the institution of our new vicar Revd. Yvette Daniel should be on Saint Margaret's. Afterall, she had come from Whitby Bay, about 80 km from Edinburgh Castle, the very caring Margaret's home, to our Parish where we are relatively new, but caring for community only since 1861.

There was a rapturous welcome for Yvette to at the end of her institution by Bishop Brad, supported by many local clergy and friends of St Margaret's. It was an event to remember by all who attended and if you missed it, look up Saint Margaret's Eltham on YouTube. You will find the live event there <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU8zWevMdRsIRq70IA6MUlg/live>





Bp Brad welcome's Revd. Yvette to St Margaret's

(See the Vicar's Advent Challenge last page)

St Margaret's Day Lunch

Those many people who had the pleasure of attending a Celebratory Lunch in honour of our patron saint, really enjoyed the opportunity to share and care, and it was very special to have our first meal with Yvette.

The food was plentiful and delicious. And Caterers we should definitely welcome again. Also a significant opportunity to see visuals of our Scottish connection, beyond the 'Macs' (Mackenzies to the right) and other descendants.



The quiz was an introduction to newcomers and a test for the old to Margaret's story. Even some contradiction at times about how many children and foster children she had. 8 + 8 is the right answer. And of course, she brought Malcolm into line with respect of his Christianity. A role model for some even today! We may have overlooked much of the sadness in her life as ours. Some of the story is told in Shakespeare's Macbeth.

A big thankyou to Liz Pryor who coordinated all the activity and special thanks to the usual group and a few newbies who managed the kitchen clean up and restoration. Even a two-minute dish washer can still feel too slow at times. Well done everyone.

It has been a long time since we had such a large parish function. It has been suggested that we should do it again soon. Tell one of the new Council members if you agree.

When there is laughter, we move closer to God's grace.

Parish Council Report

The first meeting of the new Parish Council was held on Monday 27th of December.

Welcomed to the new Parish Council for 2023/4 were:

- The Vicar, (Chair);
- Robert Brazenor (Parish Secretary)
- John Humann (Treasurer)
- Helen Robertson (Warden)
- Coralie Carew (Warden)
- Sally Petty (Warden)
- Tony Michaelson
- Linda Mackenzie
- David Tuke

A brief summary of business follows:

- Necessary maintenance approved for John St house
- Event Planning Sheet for Aboriginal Sunday 21 January noted with more information to come.
- Advice given as to how to access Diocesan publications and legislation via the Parish Portal.

And so the parish year begins. We continue to ensure Safe Ministry guidelines are observed and the finances and governance of the church are handled appropriately.

Sally Petty

January Next Taizé Service



TAIZÉ'S CANDLES WILL DIM GENTLY UNTIL JANUARY 28 WHEN ONCE AGAIN THEY WILL BURN BRIGHTLY.

Last Sunday saw our last Taizi for 2023. Our minds and hearts will now turn to Advent and the joy of this season.

However, to not reflect on the Taizé services we have shared with St. Margaret parishioners and the community would be remiss. Over the year a number of visitors have crossed our threshold as we have welcomed them into our spiritual space. Sharing can bring such joy be it with our own congregation or those that join us from the community.

Our musicians, those young and a little older have brought their gifts to share and have given us the threads that bring the service together. Yes, next year we hope to have a retreat day that will involve spending time learning more of the music, this will give us all the confidence to participate.

The light meal offered has also been a time for one another to get together and have a chat before moving into the service.

I thank all of you for your time and generosity in sharing your gifts in whatever way you have. We look forward to 2024 to flourish and spread the word beyond our boundaries.

For those of you who as yet feel unsure about the service, please read the following and perhaps be tempted to come along with a friend or family member.

“Taizé is light, prayer, and music in a beautiful setting, woven together in contemplative prayer. We sing simple harmonized tunes, often in various languages, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence. Participate or just sit back and relax as we listen to beautiful music and reflections.”

Coordinator Helen Robertson

Memory Care Café - One year plus

The café celebrated its first year in operation on 5 September 2023. What an eventful year it has been and we look forward to continuing welcoming customers with their carers on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month throughout 2024.

During 2023, the café hosted six speakers whose presentations to carers included Palliative care, Dementia support services, Self-care when caring, Comparative care services operating in other States, Respite services and new programs available to carers within Victoria.

The café was involved in Dementia week in September and will be taking part in Senior’s week in November. The café will participate in the International Day of People with Disability on 17 November. This will involve all three Nillumbik Memory Care Cafés. Featured will be the Nillumbik Dementia Choir (Rewire Choir) Banksia Palliative Care, Prime Care financial Services, The Carers Collective, HealthAbility and Aged Care Residential services including the Diamond Creek Care Community (Opal) and Estia Aged Care. It promises to be an informative and enjoyable day commencing at 1pm Friday 17 November at Hurstbridge Hub. All interested parishioners are welcome.

Memory Care Café Dates

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 1.30pm to 3.00pm

DECEMBER (5 & 19)



The café volunteer team continue to be inspirational to customers and bring laughter and joy to all attending the café. Jip the emotional support dog

attends the café with his owner and participated in the recent Blessing of the Animals Service where his owner Sandra spoke about the importance of support animals in the lives of those living with Dementia.

The Café is planning a Christmas event on December 19 by hosting a Guitar and Ukulele band to celebrate the end of an eventful and rewarding year.

We look forward to the cafés continued success in 2024 and wish everyone a joyous and peaceful festive season.

Sheila Cheary.

Lest We Forget



On Saturday, 11th November, we attended the Memorial service for Remembrance Day at The RSL in Eltham. It was a wonderful celebration with the Primary Schools of Eltham singing the National Anthem, delivering the Ode and Address.

Michael Tucker and Rob Mackenzie.

PVAW Activism

Following Mandy’s invitation to join a committee at St. Margaret’s that is looking at ways St. Margaret’s can contribute to the Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW) I heard about the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The statistics are frightening, alarming with one woman losing her life to domestic violence every week. And last week we saw one woman per day losing her life as a result of domestic violence

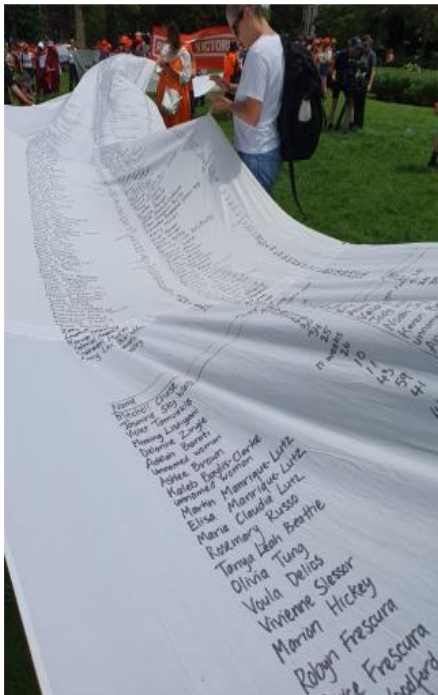


The PVAW organization (approved by the Dioceses) invited us to put up our billboard ‘Love does no harm’ and to participate in a number of events.



I selected to participate in the walk held to mark “The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” on November 25th.

It was a moving event with people in the crowd sharing stories of loved ones who had been victims. I have included a picture of a banner several metres long which had the name, age and date of a woman who lost her life to domestic violence.



Aboriginal women made a statement too with their banner that “Aboriginal women’s lives matter”

It was a moving event and as we marched, I felt we were doing something to remember all the victims of domestic violence.

Diana Warrell

More on PVAW

On the 28 November, the Diocese of Melbourne held an Evensong service to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. The service was a moving one and included beautiful hymns sung by the choir and an interview with Bishop Genieve Blackwell on what leadership in churches can look like in this space. Prayers were also said by members of churches who are part of the Preventing Violence Against Women whole church project including our very own St Margarets. I was asked to read a prayer as our Family Safety Champion and then light a candle. One of the most moving parts of the service for me personally, was when the congregation was invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of someone they knew, who has or is experiencing family violence. There was a long line of people which was very poignant and highlighted again how the tragic figures touch so many in our society.



Mandy Stevens

Farewell and Thanks to Linda

At the joint services breakfast on December 12th we said farewell to Revd. Linda Fiske who had originally joined the Parish as Keren’s assistant and then became our Locum vicar when Keren moved to become Dean of Sale Cathedral in April last year.



Linda’s spiritual leadership will be missed by many and we wish her well in her new parish of North Fitzroy. At the breakfast (thanks to Coralie and team) attended by about 40 parishioners, she was presented with a copper butterfly brooch by Michael

Wilson, \$500 voucher from the Arts Centre and \$130 voucher for St Peter's Eastern HIL Bookshop organised by Sally on our behalf. In addition, Linda Mackenzie had put together a book or multipage card of photos of Linda's time at St. Margarets with the farewell comments from parishioners on the back pages, as a chance to treasure her time with us.

Harry

Join in Advent Examan Prayer

As one of the most important seasons in the Christian calendar, Advent is a time for us to gather our thoughts and wait in anticipation of the coming of Christ. Advent is the start of the Church's Liturgical Year, and this 'New Year'; starts not entirely with a party but with a season of thoughtfulness and waiting, expectation and quiet.

One of my practices during this time (from Advent Sunday to Christmas Eve) is to pray the Advent Examan and to journal my thoughts, prayers, revelations, and thanksgiving. Why don't you join me this year and make this your daily practice as we watch and wait together for our savours birth?

The Ignatian ADVENT EXAMAN or the Daily Examen, is a contemplative prayer led by memory. During an Examen, one reflects on the current day, focusing on memories from the events of the day as a way of recognizing Gods Divine Presence.

Begin by taking in a deep breath taking in God's love, the light of Christ, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Exhale all your worries, your challenges, and your fears. During this time of Advent let us reflect what we can do to prepare for the Lord.

1. **Invite the Holy Spirit** to help you see the day as the new-born baby Jesus sees it. What joy have you found today? Where have you felt Gods love? What have you done today to prepare the way for Jesus to be born into this world for you?

2. Now, **think about your day** as if looking at it through the eyes of a child; what do you see?

Did something surprise you? Was it something someone said to you or something you are grateful for? What did you recognise as gifts (thinking about the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh brought to Jesus)? Thank God for the gifts he has given to you today. Which of those gifts have you brought to Jesus in gratitude?

3. Take a moment to reflect on the times today when **God was especially present to you**. Recognise your feelings in those moments. How did you prepare your heart for God's presence in the coming of Jesus? Where did you feel Gods loving arms wrapped around you the way Jesus felt Marys arms? How did you prepare to experience Gods love, forgiveness, and hope?

4. Now, take a moment to think about the times when **God seemed to be hidden**. Where did you struggle to see the Messiah in your life—the way some fail to recognise the Messiahs birth when Jesus was born. When might you have seen the need for love and did not respond (maybe like the innkeeper), or the opportunity for forgiveness, and walked away? How was your heart prepared? Ask God to forgive you for anything that moved your heart away from Gods love and recognise the birth of Jesus in you. And ask God to help you open your heart and become the person God created you to be.

5. Finally, **prepare for the hope of Jesus Christ in your life**. Think about what you are hopeful for and what you are looking forward to during Advent and Christmas. Is your hope like that of a child on Christmas morning? What gifts will you share to be hope for someone else? Ask God to bless all in your life as you prepare the way of the Lord and ask God to be with you today and every day.

End with the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Yvette

For Your Diary

Christmas Services at St Margaret's Church, Eltham.

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

10.00am Holy Eucharist

5.00pm Children's Christmas Service

A joyful reminder of the story of Jesus with well-known Christmas hymns

10.30pm Carols

Atmospheric short service of hymns by candlelight; leading us into Midnight Mass.

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Marking the first service of Christmas. Sung eucharist, candlelight and incense.

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

09.30am All Age Eucharist

A service for everyone. A lovely way to begin your Christmas celebrations.

Editor this edition Harry

Pics: Sally, Rob M, Diana, Helen and Harry

Next edition. Copy February 2??

We may have Jan edition