

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 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.

A Celtic Prayer

Deep peace of the
running waves to you.

Deep peace of the
flowing air to you

Deep peace of the
quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the
Shining stars to you

Deep peace of the
Son of peace to you

TAIZE OUR WARM SUCCESS STORY



Hurrah for the commitment of all you wonderful people. Our prayer, song and reflection is such a joyous beginning to a week. Sooo many of you defying the cold to join in. Special thanks to our musicians, Robert and Tim. Our host Kathleen Toal and Linda McKenzie for a splendid effort with her soups.

I think for many of us attending we are learning to dig deeper and listen from the heart, finding reservoirs of untapped spiritual joy.

Every month new music, songs and prayer. We would love you to join us and find a spiritual place for you to celebrate with others.

July's service will be on Sunday 30th, 5:30 to join in our meal **and 6:30 service start time.** Remember it is not a long service, you'll be home by the fire by 7:30 or so. See you then. Remember if you are tempted and need a lift contact the Office or myself.

Helen Robertson 0434 878 246

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING SUPPLIES FOR THE TWO FOOD BAGS

ANGLICARE VICTORIA : LAUNCH OF WINTER APPEAL

I attended the launch of Anglicare's Winter Appeal. This winter, Anglicare will need to help more than 5000 clients, over 5% more than last year. A snapshot of the clients to whom food parcels were given:

- 30% are parents with children
- 26% reported mental health problems
- 10% had difficulties with drugs and alcohol
- 2% reported gambling was a problem
- 25% had reported family violence
- 78% had less than \$100 in the bank.
- 97.5% WERE UNEMPLOYED. Of these people, 10% had no income, the rest depending on Government handouts.
- Many people were from overseas and lacked family networks as well as having language problems.
- And more than half reported difficulties paying electricity, gas and water bills.

This year Anglicare has some 17 centres from which it will use to give out foods. It also aims to have some financial counsellors and mental health counsellors who will offer budgeting tips and help people in debt.

Support is not just in foods. Anglicare suggested the \$250 rebate on electricity in Victoria and helps people apply for it. Anglicare wants to offer more food vouchers so the clients can choose what foods they want.

We were assured that parishes like St Margaret's where parishioners regularly donate foods are much appreciated. **However, the Winter Appeal is hoping to raise \$360.000 and some parishioners might like to send money directly to Anglicare.**

Jenny Disney

Violence against women Response and Prevention Training Days

We know that violence is not God's intention for families and communities but do we know how to recognise it? Violence may not be physical but emotional and psychological stressors may impact a woman's sense of well-being. Do we know how to make our churches safe and supportive places for people who experience violence? Do we understand why violence against women is so prevalent and what we can do to help prevent it?

With the right knowledge and skills, we can all

play an important and influential role in preventing violence against women and supporting people who experience family violence. The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Preventing Violence Against Women Program has created a training program to equip church people in this task.

As many of you know, St Margarets has signed up to be part of the whole church project for the prevention of violence against women. Linda recently sent a letter to the whole parish inviting people to be part of the team that will help coordinate work in this area for our parish. A very big thank you to those who have come on board already and remember you might also be approached by Vicar Linda in the near future to be part of this team.

One of the first actions we will take is to deliver some training to the parish. This training will be delivered at St Margarets by the Diocese of Melbourne team (including our own Mandy Stevens). Dates to put in your diary are as follows:

- **Saturday 5 August from 1.00-4.00pm (Responding to family violence)**
- **Saturday 2 September from 1.00-4.00pm (Preventing family violence)**

We encourage you to put these dates in your diary and come along to participate in this important initiative of the Diocese of Melbourne and St Margarets.

Further information on the Preventing Violence against Women program can be found here: <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/pvaw/>

MEMORY CARE CAFÉ

Many thanks to the St Margarets volunteers who continue to volunteer to keep the café up and running. Anna Mott, Jean Taylor and especially Diana Warrell who is filling in for Sheila.



Wedding at St Margarets. All good wishes to Rose and Lyle Service performed by The Revd Tim Costello

CAVE LUNCHEON

We had an enjoyable lunch that the CAVE Committee had prepared for our lovely supporters. Illness kept some away even one of our Committee members who had the raffle and receipt books! However, we had other raffle books but will give out receipts later. Thanks too to the many who donated money and said they believed in what we are doing. Your support gives us the drive to continue.

We raised \$1307.00. This is are only fundraiser for the year. This money will go towards the 22 Judith Ireland Studentships given to a grade 6 student to be used to help with educational expenses when they start Secondary school. Last year we gave each student \$500.00. We also dedicate \$300.00 per month to assist secondary school students with any educational expenses that their school has informed us about.

We had Councillor Geoff Payne attending and many family members of the flute performers who gave us an enjoyable collection of classical flute music. They were glad to have an audience and opportunity to play this classical music as we were an appropriate audience appreciative of this music.



Thanks again to all who came, donated money and helped. **Diana Warrell**

Using Technology Wisely

St. Margaret's Parish Council would like to introduce our Donation Point-Tap to you to familiarize yourself with what is coming and what it may look like.

Many churches in the Diocese and at *St. Paul's Cathedral* are using this particular or similar technology.

The decision has come about as many no longer carry money with them and this it is hoped will assist you at church or when attending functions.

It is realised that many already make electronic donations through ADF and that many will still wish to use the plate. This will also be possible as a plate and our new technology will be placed near the door. Parishioners will be able to choose an amount most suits them. However, the terminal can be set at a function using a set price, such as tickets.

We can choose to have the DPT on a stand or as in some churches it is in the plate as an accessory.

The DPT Mobile Donation Terminal will be visible and able to placed almost anywhere at other times.

For church services alone you have a choice to use or not to use. We trust Parishioners and Visitors will find this convenient and helpful.



PARISH COUNCIL

June meeting of Parish Council was held by zoom on Monday 26 June.

- Letters of thanks received from Trinity College and the National Council of Churches.
- Information about National Reconciliation Week was received
- Archive material from Betty Lacy. Parishioners may remember Brian and Betty some many years ago. Brian passed away mid 2021.
- Jenny Disney reported some of the donated socks have been taken from the Anglicare box.
- Vicar reported on her ongoing work.
- Financial report received.
- Sub Committee reports received from: Pastoral; Care, Finance, Marketing and Communications and Do Justice.
- It was agreed to acquire a Fixed Point Donations System on a trail basis. (see article)
- Plans for Parish Concert underway.
- Mission Allocation approved. (see article)
- Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities to be collected and documented. (see article)

Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities

Dear Parishioners,

Last Parish Council Monday 26th June, it was agreed that it is time to have all our Policies, Procedures and Responsibilities in place.

St. Margaret's has grown from a church supporting its parishioners and community to a more vital hub in a community undergoing considerable needs being acknowledged by Nillumbik Shire, the Wurundjeri Elders and surrounds. The many groups and committees that make up the church of St. Margaret's have supported it well. However, the outside

needs and demands now acknowledged, require a more formal structure to support its people. One that has clear Policies and Procedures that can be relied upon with leaders and responsibilities clearly known to all.

Although numbers in any given service may have lessened, the work carried out by our many and various groups/ committees has not.

Nearly two years ago when we embarked on the study of HeartEdge we became inspired to embed the ecumenical ideas of the "4 C's" [Congregation, Compassion, Culture and Commerce] into our practices. This invigorated many to review and rethink how we go about our daily way of working and our core business. With the possibility of a new vicar in the offering we would like to tighten up our policies so that they clearly state our purpose, objectives, scope and policy elements. All of this requires a line of responsibility within the groups/ committees to *Parish Council* and through to the *Vicar*.

A draft Policy sheet that we hope will help you in working through this process, this can be obtained by requesting it from Carolyn in the Office. Your Procedures will be like guidelines informing how you intend carrying out your Policy. The responsibilities will not require a persons name rather the position that a person may hold.

Some groups/ committees, will have an old policy to work with or may have recently completed one. A policy more than 12 months old will require review and be dated, indicating its next review.

There are a few policies known in our Administrative Model but *we require yours*. Please set aside time at your next meeting to start this work so that we can have it completed by the end of August.

We appreciate your time and effort being put to this, however once done it will only require review on the date you will set down.

***Helen Robertson
Parish Councillor/ Warden***

A Voice in the Wilderness: Listening to the Statement from the Heart.

St Margaret's Do Justice Group recently held an eight week Forum & Conversation via Zoom ***A Voice in the Wilderness: Listening to the Statement from the Heart*** for parishioners.

We were joined by a number of members from The Living Faith Church Greensborough congregation in these sessions where we followed the ABM study which is divided into eight parts.

Six of the weeks there was a guest presenter and two of the weeks the format was a discussion group.

1. the Doctrine of Discovery – the Rt Rev'd Keith Joseph, Bishop of North Queensland
2. lucky for who? Rev'd Dr Joy Sandefur, Associate Priest, All Saints Greensborough.
3. we Don't listen – Auntie Dr Rose Elu an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Wellbeing Worker
4. the torment of our powerlessness – Auntie Janet Rev'd Turpie-Johnstone
5. "the problem of the 3 per cent mouse and the 97 per cent elephant" Dr Carolyn Tan, a Native Title Lawyer & member of General Synod, Anglican Church of Australia – Dr Tan combined this topic with a focus on the Reference: ABM website:

www.abmission.org/resources/a-voice-in-the-wilderness

Kathleen Toal



St Margaret's Mission Allocation

- (1). **Trinity College, Melbourne for Training Clergy \$4,000.**
- (2). **Australia: Wontulp Bi Buya College \$4,000.**

"This College is God's gift to our people" says one student from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait. "I was on a little island, and now I can understand the Bible and talk about the Bible. Before, I never knew what the Bible was all about". As well as courses in Theology and Ministry, Wontulp offers courses in Addictions Management, Community Development, and Indigenous Mental Health. Wontulp-Bi-Buya College provides culturally grounded training, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Your support enables Wontulp-Bi-Buya College to equip Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders and contributes to the building up of an important institution for the entire church. Find out more from this video: <https://youtu.be/kk7ubedefVs>
Image: Regional workshop in the Torres Strait ©Wontulp Bi Buya College
Image: Alanga from Nungalinya ©Nungalinya College
Donation code: AU016WB In 2023 we hope to raise for this project: \$62,500

- (3). **Holy Land: Gender and Nutrition in Gaza Project \$4,000.**

The Ahli Hospital in Gaza recently treated two-year-old Hala for malnutrition. Her mother, Shorouq, joined the women's community health and empowerment sessions which now form part of this project. Shorouq's husband had become violent after an accident which affected his mental health. Following the training, Shorouq said: "I acquired more and more knowledge. My health awareness increased through the woman-to-woman approach. The community mobiliser visited me twice a month...[teaching] communication skills, gender, and

protection concepts, as well as other important topics. All of this knowledge and skills positively impacted my life.” **Your support of this project will empower vulnerable women like Shorouq and give their children a much greater chance of a healthy life. Holy Land: Gender and Nutrition in Gaza Project \$70,000 Donation code: XG011HL**

For further information:

<https://www.abmission.org › resources › abm-project-...>

Help Needed for Rosters

We are conscious that so many members of the Congregation help as they can whether that be LA, Sacristan, readers, or intercessors. All of you help to enrich our worship. However, we are desperate for more helpers to do morning tea, AV (overheads and camera.) Please consider offering for these roles also.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On June 10th Amnesty International, OXFAM and SAGE (from St. Margaret's) Celebrated World Environment Day. Normally it is celebrated on June 3rd world wide to encourage awareness and action for the protection of our environment. It represents the primary United Nations outreach day for us all to be aware and support environmental issues.

Initially Suggested by Katrina North from Amnesty International, OXFAM and SAGE were invited to join with the presentation of the documentary "Franklin"

This documentary was reliving the trip a young Tasmanian's father did to protest the proposed Gordon Below Franklin dam in Tasmania. It showed the natural beauty of the majestic Franklin River and it relived the journey protesters took to protect forests and the environment. Their voices were heard around the world and are a testament to the power of people who stood up for what they believed was for the good of others and the health of our planet.



Peter Campbell -
<http://www.greenlivingpedia.org>

Over many years concerned people in Victoria have protested against the logging of Native forests. These people include the Friends of the Kinglake forests, and our own Mitzi Tuke. Native forests include our Old Growth forests critical to our ecosystems. Here in Victoria less than 5% of our native forests remain as old growth. An extraordinary victory that was decades in the making meant the Victorian government has announced "native Forest logging" will end by January 1 2024. Our forests will keep standing. Our wildlife will be safer. The value of carbon intake too will make for a healthier plant. We hope other states will follow this example. Currently Australia spends billions planting trees then logs them wiping out the carbon and environmental gains for the sake of cardboard boxes.

Thanks to our speakers on the Day:
Marguerite Marshall Our Keynote Speaker. A Climate Reality Leader who was trained by Al Gore, **Don Stokes** from Oxfam an active volunteer for social justice and Climate awareness. He gave a brief description of the work of OXFAM in this area. **Katrina North** from Amnesty International spoke about the work of Amnesty International and also talked about how the right to protest is powerful when passionate and courageous people raise their voices to make the world a better place - eg in the protection of the mighty Franklin River. And **Mitzi Tuke** our MC .Thanks too to the ladies led by Cathy Robie (OXFAM) who provided afternoon tea that allowed people to talk and exchange ideas. We had a wonderful display of felt critters from Elizabeth Doig who heads up the Climate Café held at 3095 Station Street Eltham and other information tables from other environment groups.

Our 70 attendees were provided with a full afternoon.

Diana Warrell

Soldier Welcome Home Committees

Soldier Welcome Home Committees (SWHC) were ubiquitous throughout Australia during the latter years and aftermath of the Great European War 1914-1918. It seems nothing of substance has been published concerning them. What is fortunate for Eltham is that the Minute Books of its SWHC are held in the parish archives. The reason for this is that the establishment of the SWHC was at the instigation of Saint Margret's vicar, the Rev. Thomas Henry Sapsford. He was secretary for its entire existence.

The inaugural meeting of the committee was a public meeting held at the Rechabite Hall on 18 August 1917. There were sixteen persons present and all were elected as committee officers and members. Most were Church of England. Not all SWHC was as fortunate as Eltham in having a powerful patron. He was Sir Wiliam Irvine. Among many positions he held was a former Federal Attorney General and Premier of Victoria. He and Lady Irvine moved from Toorak to Eltham later in life. They lived at *Killeavy*. He is buried at the Eltham cemetery.

The SWHC was established by volunteers from the local community to which the soldier belonged. It was established to recognise and honour the military service of returning soldiers and provide assistance to them into returning to community life. It also recognised and honoured who had died because of the war. They were either killed in action, died of wounds or disease. It also recognised and honoured those who had enlisted and were to travel to the front.

In Eltham the recognition and honouring of returned soldiers was undertaken in a variety of ways. The soldier was met by members of the SWHC as well as family and friends at the train station or sometimes they were picked up and brought from the city. They were then

escorted to the family home for a patriotic celebration.

Another common event was a social usually organized for a number returning soldiers. Again, there was patriotic songs sung and speeches. In Eltham the returning soldier was presented with a gold medallion. On the front was engraved an Australian soldier at arms. On the reverse was engraved the soldiers' name and the words "We Honour You, Great War 1914-1919".

Two other ways of recognition and honouring were to inscribe the serviceperson's name on a Honour Board, and on a copper plate on a tree from the Avenue of Honour. These will be discussed later.

In Eltham fallen soldiers were recognised by the SWHC by conveying 'official' condolences to the family of the soldier on behalf of the local community. It also presented an engraved gold medal to the parents of the deceased soldier. Few were married. For the deceased the front of the gold medal was engraved with an Australian soldier at arms but on the reverse were the words "Killed" and "We won't forget".

At Eltham it was the practice of the SWHC to recognise the enlistment of a soldier and mark the occasion of his move to the war zone. The gift was a wallet. If a person had already moved to the front the wallet was given to his parents.

As travellers approached Eltham from the south, post 1918, they moved past an avenue of honour of plane trees. This avenue survives but are later plantings to the original.

The SWHC was responsible for the avenue of honour to Eltham WW1 soldiers. They purchased, planted and watered the trees. It purchased and installed about 100 tree guards costing 6s 7d each. Roughly the same number of copper plates on which were engraved the details of each soldier were affixed at the specific tree at the cost 2s 6d each. Sadly no tree guard survives. More sadly no engraved copper plate survives. The

Minutes of the committee meeting are silent on what the engraving was.

Throughout Australia Honour Rolls, and Memorials to WW1 service personnel were erected in churches and a variety of public places. Again, it was to honour and recognise military service. An Eltham Honor Roll has hung in Saint Margaret's for 106 years. This was the initiative of the Revd. Thomas Sapsford, Vicar of Saint Margaret's, and with the backing of the vestry. Indeed, most of the membership of the SWHC were also parishioners of the Eltham Church of England.

Inscribed on the Honor Roll are 74 names. A small red cross against fourteen names signifies that a person died because of the war. Recent research suggests that seven soldiers without crosses died after the Honor Roll was made, making 21 soldiers in all. The rest, 53 persons, survived. As an aside our memorial altar which we still use originally had a small silver plaque on the front with the names of those who died as a result of the war. Have a look at your leisure.

Recent research has also discovered that two names on the Honor Roll are female. It was assumed for over 100 years all were male. They are Edith Caroline Munckton Miller and her sister Frances Mary. They were nurses who cared for the wounded and dying in France. Their brother Ernest Russell is also listed on the roll. All three survived the war.

The Honor Roll is of Queensland Maple and Victorian Blackwood. The heading of the Honor Roll and the names of the service personnel were to be in gold letter with dark shading at the cost of 1s 9d each. The Vicar collected £14.10.8. which was enough to purchase the Roll from a South Melbourne manufacturer.

It should be noted the Honor Roll is not one of Saint Margaret's parishioners, but many were. Again, it is not just for those who are Church of England although they are the largest denominational group. Rather the Roll is an Eltham Honor Roll and that was always intended to be so.

We are lucky as a Parish to have a continuous record of the decisions and

knowledge of the organisation of the Eltham Soldier Welcome Home Committee. They have survived 106 years, and have been stored in our archives since the mid -1980s.

The SWHC at Eltham and elsewhere were great examples of a local community supporting their local soldiers and nurses. It was volunteers which established, operated and raised the funds. The SWHC also welcomed women and valued their skills and talents. This was not confined to socials and entertainment but to committee work as policy and decision makers. Women were effective in soliciting donations and other fund raising. SWHC were ubiquitous throughout Australia and yet little is known about them.

Summary of a presentation on the WW1 Soldier Welcome Home Committee at Eltham, given to the Eltham District Historical Society, Saturday 10 June 2023 by Geoff Sandy, Parish Historian and Parish Archivist

Ed: Thanks Geoff, we are so fortunate that you have taken responsibility for the Archives. These words bring alive the history of St Margarets and its position in the area.

Ed: Many thanks to David Tuke and Helen Costello for contributing articles. Just not enough room. I wonder if there is an appetite for a separate publication showcasing the talents within the parish Thoughts please.

Ed this edition: Sally.
Pics: Rob Mackenzie, Diana Warrell.

