

# What's on at St Margaret's

## MARCH Diary Dates

SUNDAY	19th	9.25am	Candle lit – Quiet time
		9.30am	Sunday Service
TUESDAY	21st	7.30pm	Bowls
WEDNESDAY	22nd	9.15am	Bible Study
		7.30pm	Church Council
THURSDAY	23rd	9.45am-10.45am	Music Together
		10.30am	Walmsley Village Communion
		10.30am-12 Noon	Church Office open
		7.30pm	Band Practice
SUNDAY	26th	9.25am	Candle lit – Quiet time
		9.30am	Church Service
		5.30pm	Family Gathering

**ARNIE WIERENGA.** INFORMATION Please note that Arnie may be contacted in the following ways:- MOBILE: 0419 553 434 EMAIL: arniew1965@gmail.com  
MAIL - P.O. BOX 306 MOOROOLBARK, 3138 Arnie will take his day off on FRIDAY each week . Unless there is an emergency please respect his opportunity to relax on this day free from phone calls.

**OTHER CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:**

Chairperson: Marj Hookey 9726 7286 Secretary: Robert O' Shea 9735 2393

**UCAF** The next meeting of the UCAF will be on Monday April 5th at 1.30pm in the Chapel. Theme is Lent with the Rev. Arnie Wierenga. ALL WELCOME. Please check the notice board in the hall for interesting information and news on the UCAF

### MARCH 26TH

<u>Reader:</u>	Pat Hamilton	<u>Ushers:</u>	Leanne & Pam
<u>Tea Station:</u>	Karen & Stephen	<u>Sound Desk:</u>	Dal Driberg
<u>Power Point:</u>	Franklyn Parrent	<u>Chapel Cleaning:</u>	G & M Munday

**. An invitation to St Margaret's: KEEP CALM and BAKE 70,000 BISCUITS**

This Easter Prison Fellowship will provide every Victorian Inmate with 10 home-made biscuits, together with a card that explains the meaning of Easter. Can you and your friends, church community or school group help us? Help us to show the prisoners of Victoria that God loves them. St Margaret's was very generous in supporting this last year with many varieties of delicious biscuits put in sealed containers. Julie Robinson will collect and take the biscuits to a pick up point before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Details of the required type of biscuits are available from her today. They will also be posted on the notice board in the foyer. Thank you. Julie.

**Celebrate Mooroolbark**

Next Saturday March 25th we will be part of the local community as we Celebrate Mooroolbark. St Margaret's will have a stall.

The theme is 'It's easy being green'. We will have some activities for children. If you have any spare egg containers they could be used to plant seeds in. If you'd like to be part of our team you could help with the activities, talk with people who drop in or you could pray for us all. Please contact Jan Down or Joyce Dodge if you can help.

**FAMILY GATHERING Sunday 26th March**

All are invited to our next Family Gathering in the Chapel at 5:30p.m. on Sunday 26th March. Our special guest will share personal experiences of life and the story of Clyde North. Bring along some savoury and sweet finger food to share and enjoy fellowship together with friends.

Robert O'Shea 9735 2393



## SEIV X

On the shores of Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin is a memorial to the SievX. On 19 October 2001, an unseaworthy fishing boat called the SievX was carrying 400 asylum seekers towards Australia; 353 of them drowned off the West Australian coast. I heard about the memorial through Uniting Church members, part of a larger group of concerned citizens who'd instigated the project.

Although the memorial signals a loss of monumental proportions, it is compellingly simple. When I look up the grassy slope above the windswept edge of the lake, a long line of wooden posts curve away from me. Each post represents one adult or one child; some of them are named. Schools and community groups across Australia were invited to paint and inscribe a wooden post. It takes a thought-provoking stretch of time to read the inscriptions.

The schoolchildren's words are heartfelt and direct. The post in memory of Saed Kareem is inscribed by the children of a school in Thora NSW:

*You could have lived in our beautiful valley. You could have had a happy life. You could have been my friend.*

Students from a school in South Australia quoted a Middle Eastern proverb in memory of Donya Sobie, aged 14.

*How do we know when it is dawn? When we have enough light to recognise in the face of a stranger that of our sister.*

Sometimes we need the voices of children to remind us of this.

This is an extract from Spinifex Blessing, stories of faith and life by Julie Perrin, available at [ctmresourcing.org.au/spinifex-blessing](http://ctmresourcing.org.au/spinifex-blessing)

What honest questions have you heard from children recently? How can we live in a way that welcomes the stranger?

**Julie Perrin**

**PROPERTY & FINANCE** Please note. The next Property and Finance Committee meeting will be held on Monday 27th March at 5pm.

**THE LENTEN OFFERING** will support the following projects:-

- **Dignity for girls:** To provide sanitary supplies to girls growing up in developing countries and to provide sewing machines and overlockers, fabric and other materials needed to produce the sanitary hygiene kits.
- **Ministry Training, National:** To provide ministry candidates with additional training about the formation of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) and recent developments in biblical and theological studies as they prepare to become a Minister of the Word or Deacon in the UAICC.
- **Live church streaming, Victoria:** To help Hamilton Uniting Church purchase the necessary equipment to live stream their weekly church services to ageing congregations members in local hospitals, aged care facilities and homes.
- **Growing Together, Tasmania:** To help cover the costs of employing a part time gardener for a community garden in Tasmania where people grow friendships, develop community connections and improve their nutrition by learning horticulture and planting skills.

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR LENTEN OFFERING BY  
SUNDAY – EASTER DAY**