

What's on at St Margarets

APRIL Diary Dates

SUNDAY	15 th	9.25am 9.30am	Quiet time – candle lit Sunday Service
MONDAY	16 th		
TUESDAY	17 th	7.30pm	Bowls
WEDNESDAY	18 th	8.00pm	
THURSDAY	19 th	10.30am 10.30am- 12 noon	Church Office Open
SUNDAY	22 nd	9.25am 9.30am 5.30pm	Quiet time – candle lit Sunday Service Family Gathering

INFORMATION: 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.

CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:

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

22nd April 2018

<u>Reader</u>	Katharine Davies	<u>Ushers:</u>	Judy & Noel
<u>Tea Station</u>	Fay & Rex	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Dal Drieberg
<u>Power Point:</u>	Franklyn Parrent	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Clive Hamilton

The Church Office is open on Thursday mornings 10.30am – 12 Noon telephone number 9723 7323 Notices can be emailed to stmargarets@netspace.net.au by 10.30a.m. each Thursday



COMMUNITY AT WORK

Every year, our congregation organises Christmas hampers for families of people in prison. Many of them come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Nearly all have young children.

Our congregation has run the Christmas hampers for more than 20 years. It is a great way for families to shop together and make a difference. The kids in particular have fun choosing their favourite snacks for the hampers. It's also a valuable lesson for them to remember there are children in the community who are not as lucky as they are.

We always have a Christmas hamper service in early December where all the hampers are gathered together in the back of the church. After the service, the younger members of the congregation help carry the hampers over to the truck. Some of the hampers are quite heavy, so the elderly members watch on and provide words of encouragement. The hospitality team brings out tea and coffee for the volunteers, as well as icy-poles and hot cross buns for the kids. There is a real community spirit, which is made all the more rewarding by the knowledge that we have contributed, in a small way, to making Christmas a little brighter for those doing it tough during the festive season.

Let us not be quick to judge those who are in prison for whatever reason.

Instead, let us open our hearts with love and generosity to all of God's children.

Brian Lee

HIGH CHURCH WINDOWS It is great that, at last, the work on the high church windows has been completed after months of waiting when the original contractor VANISHED. We are grateful to Stevens Glass who completed the task including rectifying the faults that existed. All the bills have been paid and total cost of the project was \$25,472. Advance Windows (original contractor) received \$17,180. Steven's Glass was paid \$7,792. This includes the cost of the scaffolding. The Tiler was paid \$500 to check and replace damaged tiles following removal of the scaffolding. We are now seeking quotes for the painting of the exterior of the church.

On Monday, May 7th the St Margaret's Uniting Church is to be the venue for the Yarra Yarra Presbytery UCAF May Gathering, hosted by our own UCAF group. We need a lot of help to do this well! We have already had agreement for **some to help us, but this is a particular appeal for help in** the catering department and help with setting up, serving etc. We are to provide Morning Tea for about 70 people from 9.30 till 9.50 am. Then at lunch time, participants consume their own lunch, and we are to provide the tea and coffee to go with it. We need help with providing the food, setting up, serving and clearing away. If you can help with food for morning tea, or time on the day, please contact Dorothy Gordon 9725 0733 or emhill@iinet.net.au or write your name on the list .

NATIONAL DAY OF THANKS MAYORAL BREAKFAST.

Will be held on Saturday 26th May 7.45am – 10.00 am at the Foothills Conference Centre, Edinburgh Rd. Lilydale. The guest speaker will be Tim Costello. Marj is now seeking expressions of interest for what should be a really popular event. We would like to book a table but need 10 names(or more) for a firm booking. \$25 per head.

marjhoockey@hotmail.net.au or 9726 7286.

FAMILY GATHERING Everyone is welcome to join with us next Sunday 22nd April at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel when Marj Hookey will be our special guest to share some "Sanctuary Tales". Please bring along some savoury and sweet finger food to share. An interesting and enjoyable evening is assured.
Robert O'Shea

WHAT'S OFFERING Offerings for the first quarter this year are a little below budget. At March 31st \$18,26 had been given through envelopes/direct debit some \$1,974 or 9.0% below budget. Please remember to make up your offering if you are absent from worship and doing this will ensure we can reach our Budget target again this year.

Robert O'Shea Planned Giving Elder

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER 1st June – 31 August

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Local churches are working together this winter to help men and women experiencing homelessness in the Yarra Ranges area. They are needed every day to staff evening (5.30 – 10pm) overnight (10pm – 7am*) and breakfast (7am – 9am). We will also need drivers to move the trailer during the day between venues or to drive guests to the church at 6pm. We also need people to staff the Daytime Support Centre which will open from 1 -6pm Mon-Fri in Mt Evelyn. Go to stableone.org for more information. There are some flyers available. **Three volunteers are rostered on this shift including at least one male. Turns are taken to sleep with two always awake.*

A Petition about Refugees

In a couple of weeks we will give everyone a chance to sign a petition about our country's treatment of refugees. If you read the content of the request below then you can decide if you will sign.

Justice for Refugees

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of the Australian Refugee Action Network, draws to the attention of the House that:

- Indefinite detention has undeniably harmed innocent people seeking asylum, both on shore and offshore,
- Refugees have the right to protection, and opportunities to rebuild their lives in a safe environment, and
- Nauru and PNG do not offer prospects for a reasonable future for people in need of protection.

We ask the House to:

- Provide permanent protection to refugees who have sought protection in Australia,
- Evacuate all offshore camps and bring all of the people detained there to safety in Australia,
- End indefinite detention,
- Ensure that determination processes are thorough, fair and timely,
- Cease the demonisation of refugees, and lead a constructive and respectful dialogue, and
- Legislate to protect the rights of refugees and people who seek asylum in Australia.