

WHAT'S ON AT ST MARGARET'S

DECEMBER Diary Dates

SUNDAY	2 nd	9.25am 9.30am	Quiet time – candle lit Sunday Service
TUESDAY	4 th	9.30am 7.30pm	Market Day Dad's Army Bowls
THURSDAY	6 th	9.45am–10.45am 8.00pm	Music Together Christmas Choir practice
SUNDAY	9 th	9.25am 9.30am	Quiet Time – candle lit Sunday Service

MINISTRY DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December 9th, 16th and 23rd - Rev. Dr. Barry Brown.

Christmas Day – A service of Lessons and Carols. – Lay Leadership

December 30th- Lay preacher, Lyn Bromage.

Please note - that for this year we will be unable to participate in a Messy Church activity for families or a Christmas eve Service.

A Christmas Eve service will be available at Croydon North UC.

JANUARY 2019

All January services will be led by Supply Minister Rev. Ric Holland.

CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:

Chairperson: Marj Hookey 9726 7286

Secretary: Robert O' Shea 9735 2393

St.Margaret's website maintained by Franklyn -

<http://wordpress.stmargaretsuca.org>

9TH DECEMBER 2018

<u>Reader</u>	Dorothy Gordon	<u>Ushers:</u>	Graeme & Merle
<u>Tea Station</u>	Jean & Bev	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Rex Phillips
<u>Power Point</u>	Franklyn Parrent	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Michael Down

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

Take ... Donate ... Give

Take as many RYDA Christmas Gift Certificates as you wish. Donate to give them value (a marked envelope in the offering will work). Give them as a stocking filler or special gift. Or, ask for a Christmas Gift Certificate for yourself, then the giver adds the value. Pick up certificates when you see them at church, print them for yourself from: <http://www.blackdouglas.com.au/ryda/chrgift.htm> or ring Doug 0401 177 775.

UCAF

“Preparing for Christmas” is the theme for the December meeting, which is to be on the **second** Monday of the month this time, the 10th December at 1.30. Attendees are asked to bring a Christmassy afternoon tea.

Christmas Market today Trade Winds, TEAR and RYDA are available on our Market Day, today December 2nd.

PLEASE NOTE: The Link is available for collection today

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

A late start at 8:18p.m. for the Church Council meeting last Wednesday as we had met first for a meal together. With much to discuss it was also a late finish at 10:05 p.m. before we were off to our homes. However, some important decisions were made.

Following the Mission Study last Sunday (and many thanks to all who attended for their positive input) Margaret Blair contacted us strongly suggesting we should seek a full-time placement. Treasurer Ann had spent considerable time examining our financial records from 2015 on and drawn up projections of income and expenditure for the next three years. After examining and discussing these figures Council decided ***"that the Profile submitted be for full time ministry for 3 years with review and option of continuance."***

Other good news is that at October 31st our finances were still in surplus instead of in deficit as anticipated in the budget.

Fete proceeds will be set aside to cover the cost of Kids Hope, CRE in schools and to increase the amount collected for Frontier Services to \$1000. The remaining balance will be divided equally between Mission and Service and the Asylum Seekers.

As expected, following up on the Mission Study and preparation of the Profile is a major ongoing task. Council asks for your prayers and support as we continue this vital work. *Robert O'Shea Secretary Church Council*



“Hospitality in homelessness”

There was a tough time in my life where I was effectively homeless. While I never had to sleep on the street, there was certainly no place to call home. I was in a city where I had virtually no family; I didn't own a bed or any furniture. My living situation had become precarious and very quickly I found myself in a situation having to search for somewhere to lay my head at night.

For a brief time, I stayed in a two-bedroom townhouse with five friends, sleeping on a thin mattress next to the couch with my stuff crammed into a pile nearby. After a few weeks, I called a good friend for comfort as things were becoming tense with so many people in such a small place.

Not long after, she called back to invite me to stay at her parents' place in their spare room for however long I needed. When I turned up a few hours later, I was shown instant hospitality – a hot cup of tea, food and a friendly chat (plus a generous amount of attention from the pet dog). I was shown a pantry and fridge full of food I could help myself to, and also a (very comfortable) room and bed where I could make myself at home. I felt immediately welcomed into this warm household – and not just that, but truly cared for by people I barely knew.

I remember those couple of weeks at my friend's house fondly. I've stayed over the odd night since then, each time welcomed just as warmly. In good times and bad I have shared news and moments with these people. I guess it turned out that I have family in this city after all. **Anonymous**

Thank you for your faithful support for Helping Hand. Presently, we are in need particularly of small tubs of fruit, toothpaste, shampoo and feminine products, and would be most appreciative of these items. Many thanks. Merle

TEAR Australia's work:

Across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, TEAR Australia enables people to overcome poverty by equipping them to lead their own development initiatives. We do this in partnership with local Christian development organisations, supporting them as they walk alongside the poorest and most marginalised people in their communities. See tear.org.au for more information.

MISSION STUDY It was really encouraging that so many people gave time last Sunday to participate enthusiastically in our Mission Study. Thank you to the people who assisted with the catering by providing the slices and fruit platters.

Your suggestions and ideas are now being incorporated in the Placement Profile which will form the basis of our search for a new minister. The Profile is a detailed document that includes our Priorities in Ministry. Our current activities (A list detailing eighteen activities) a description of the local community, congregation goals, roles undertaken by members of the congregation in worship, groups and missional activities (again a list of 15 items) current statistics and much more.

November meeting UCAF 2018

The usual items were chaired by the leader. Then there followed the Annual General Meeting chaired by Marj Hookey.

The Minutes of the last meeting were taken as read. Then reports from the Leader Secretary and Treasurer followed.

The members voted in the same team as in 2018 except that it was decided the trading table was to be one of ad hoc sales.

The group decided to give the money collected throughout the year in the following way:-

St Margaret's Church general donation	\$466
Uniting World	\$100
Hamlyn Fistula Etheopia	\$100
Leprosy Mission (Sandals)	\$100
Friends of Vellore Hospital	\$100
Cristian Blind Mission	\$100

Marj was thanked for coming and doing a great job and so also was Dorothy Gordon for being such a helpful leader.

Money was due for Membership \$7 and Network Subscriptions \$15 annual.

It was agreed that there were to be more meetings in 2019 run by different members. *Katharine Davies*