

What's on at St Margaret's

FEBRUARY Diary Dates

SUNDAY	3 rd	9.25am 9.30am Followed by	Quiet time – candle lit Sunday Service Congregational Meeting
MONDAY	4 th	1.30pm	U.C.A.F.
TUESDAY	5 th	7.30pm	Bowls
THURSDAY	7 th	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together
SUNDAY	10 th	9.25am 9.30am	Quiet time – candle lit Sunday Service

MINISTER: Sunday 10th February - Rev. Dr. Robert Stringer.

CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:

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

Web Address: <http://wordpress.stmargaretsuca.org> (maintained by Franklyn)

10th FEBRUARY 2019

<u>Reader</u>	Dorothy Gordon	<u>Ushers:</u>	Karen & Stephen
<u>Tea Station</u>	Betty & Ewan Mc Robert	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Clive Hamilton
<u>Power Point:</u>	Franklyn Parrent	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Marj Hookey

PLEASE NOTE: ROSTERS: The forms to fill in for availability for the Rosters is now on the wall in the foyer. Please advise if you are to be away for an extended time or wish to add or remove your name[s] from the rosters for March – August 2019. We appreciate your help in this area.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Immediately following our service this morning there will be a brief Congregational Meeting to ratify the proposal from Church Council of six names to form the Joint Nominating Committee (JNC). They will be involved in the task of working to choose our next minister.

NOTICES Bev is off on a well-earned holiday and Rex will be preparing the notices and orders of service for the next two weeks. He has asked for them as early as possible during each week. Send to Rex at rexphillips9129@gmail.com Bev have a wonderful cruise to New Zealand and Rex, many thanks for offering to do this task in Bev's absence.

THE LINK will be prepared for publication in just two weeks and there are nowhere near enough articles submitted yet. If you could help that would be great.

Welcome to Rev. Dr. Robert Stringer who begins Supply Ministry with us today. We hope that Robert enjoys his time with us. Please make him feel welcome. If you would like a pastoral visit from Robert please speak to him or to Marj. It is really helpful for you to keep us well informed if anyone is ill or in hospital.

. THRIVING MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Lessons from a duck, an echidna, a caterpillar and a tree!

Andrew McDonough, best known as the author and illustrator of the Lost Sheep books will be coming to Victoria to present a series of workshops. He will highlight his latest book 'Jesus was a Refugee.'

If you would like to attend see Marj.

Appropriate dates and places for us to attend are.

Sunday February 24th , 2.30pm at Surrey hills UC.

Wednesday February 27th, 7pm Mitcham

Thursday February 28th, 10am Murrumbeena

Duration of Workshop 2.5 hours. Cost \$20

UCAF Monday February 4th 1.30 - 3 pm in the chapel. This first meeting for 2019 will include a COMMITMENT SERVICE Every member of the congregation is very welcome to attend. Please wear your name badge and bring a small plate of afternoon tea to share.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Your Church council held its first meeting for 2019 on Wednesday 23rd January.

Major items of business included accepting the final December Financial Report and approving the 2019 Budget for presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The good news is that we ended 2018 in surplus instead of in deficit.

The surplus was largely due to reduced ministry costs due to our current vacancy as well as Arnie's absence while Acting Presbytery Minister early in the year.

Further good news was that Rev Dr Robert Stringer has agreed to provide Supply during February and March as our vacancy continues.

The next step in the process of calling a minister is the formation of the Joint Nominating Committee and Council prepared a recommendation to be presented at a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday 3rd February. 2019 is well underway. Robert O'Shea



The little things

I often think about the greedy side of human nature when I'm on the bus travelling to and from work each day. When it comes to taking public transport an hour to work and home again, day in and day out, people can revert to their animalistic instincts. Because when you do it every day, little inconveniences become big deals. What is totally bearable for a one off – even for a 'now and then' – becomes intolerable with daily repetition.

So, when someone gives up their seat – or squishes up to let you share a too-big-for-one-not-quite-big-enough-for-two seat with them – or politely allows you to get on first even if the bus looks dangerously full – you think to yourself 'what a nice person'. It serves as one little reason to think well of humankind that day.

This is in stark contrast to the people who, despite the fact you've been waiting at the bus stop for a while, when the bus pulls up will just walk right in front of you and get on as if you weren't even there – often taking the last remaining seat. Or, if you're short and you don't get a seat, there are only a few places you can comfortably stand because the handles hanging from the roof are too high. If I get bumped down the aisle and away from the handles at my height level, a long bus trip becomes something to survive. Sometimes when this happens, a taller person will offer to swap places – other times, people just avoid eye contact.

I really appreciate small acts of generosity when I'm on the bus. Those little things altogether make a big difference to how I feel.

Never underestimate the power of small gestures of kindness. A seemingly inconsequential interaction can make or break someone else's day – don't be the 'last straw' for someone; instead, be their excuse to smile.

By a synod member

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 24TH FEBRUARY

Notice is given that the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held following worship on Sunday 24th February to accept the Annual Report, pass the 2019 Budget, elect Elders and members of the Church Council and deal with any other "matters within the responsibility of the Congregation."
Robert O'Shea

MUSIC TOGETHER Thursday mornings during school terms. A music and movement program for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. The program commences on Thursday 7th February. New families welcome. See Yvonne for details. 9726 9347.

ELECTION OF ELDERS AND MEMBERS OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Nomination forms for election as Elder and Church Council are available from today. Nomination close at 9:30a.m on Sunday 17th February.

Jan Down is the only current member who will have completed their term as Elder or Council member **but vacancies exist**. You are asked to prayerfully consider nominating as Elder or for Church Council. Please do not hesitate to ask any member if you would like to know more of what's involved in supporting our congregation in these vital roles
Robert O'Shea.

Training for Leading Worship

[Outer Eastern Cluster of Uniting Churches]

A 'Pilot Session' will be held at Saint Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark, on Wednesday 20 February 2019, commencing at 7.45 pm and concluding by 9.00 pm.

Rev Dr Barry Brown will facilitate this 'Pilot Session' under the general title: ***Liturgy – the Work of the People***. We shall also consider the topic of '***Ordered Liberty***,' which references two documents by this title found in the ***Uniting in Worship Leaders Book*** (I & II).

It is hoped that we may gather together both those who are new to (or are discerning a possible call to) the role of leading worship and those who already have experience in this ministry. In this way there can be a sharing of issues, experience and resources.

It is also hoped that during this 'Pilot Session' we might identify, say, three or four key topics to explore further throughout 2019. Depending on the topics identified, we might then identify persons with particular gifts and experience to lead these sessions.

Please register you interest with Barry as soon as possible –
barryheather1966@gmail.com

FOOD FOR WESLEY & HELPING HAND. Please continue to remember those in our community who, because of personal circumstance, must seek support. The food items we collect for them to give to those in need are greatly appreciated. Please no plastic bags