

the anglican parish of eltham research and montmorency
worshiping at St. Margaret's, Eltham

the Parish Matters

This is a monthly bulletin to keep you informed, as well as giving you an insight into the last meeting of Vestry.



Prayer

Praise to you, God, for all your work among us.
Yours is the vigor in creation.
Yours is the impulse in our new discoveries.
Make us adventurous, yet reverent and hopeful in all we do.
Amen.
(St James's Church, Piccadilly, 1 July 2007)

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM LIBBY

In the wee small hours as I lay awake in jet lagged sleeplessness, I am still in awe, with a vast sense of gratitude for the whole experience of traveling to England for Study Leave and Annual Leave. I still cannot quite believe that the trip actually occurred, despite the evidence of pages of notes in my note book, (yet to be made coherent in a report to the parish) and trinkets, memorabilia, books and handouts collected along the way! Let alone photos, which I have not had the chance to look at yet.

See back sheet for more.

CHILDREN'S CORNER CARPET COMES!

Thanks to the carpet from the St. Paul's Room at St. Faith's, we now have a long awaited wall to wall section in the Children's Corner at St. Margaret's.

Hooray!

This adds a level of hospitality to our little ones and their carers, a wee bit more warmth and helps the quietness level of boxes, toes and toys. Many thanks to Graham and Coralee Carew for installing it.

Clem Taplin

MONTY SITE UPDATE

The advertising for the Auction will start this week. The agent also advises that they will be scheduling all open house times to be fixed on Fridays between: 1.00-2.00pm and every Saturday between: 3.00-4.00pm. The first open house being on Friday 19th July, 2007 between 1.00-2.00pm and Saturday 21st July, 2007 between 3.00-4.00pm. These open house times will be appearing on the main Photo Board at the front of the Church. The auction is presently scheduled for Saturday 11 August 2007 at either 12 or 1 o'clock. It is understood that several developers have shown interest. There was also some early interest in the site (not the building) from another church. We will await the auction day for the outcome with anticipation.

Graham Carew – Warden

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Folks will notice some changes around the church environs. Of these the most obvious are:

- Earthworks will shift that unsightly lump of dirt, miscellaneous plants and weeds from outside the Vestry window, Other earthworks around the place will also occur.
- A “kiddy- proof” fence will be constructed to safeguard children using the children’s area behind the Hall from escaping to Pitt Street. The Fence will pass approximately from the Vestry corner to the corner of Dendy House.
- A proper path will be constructed to the entrance to the Memorial Garden so that visitors do not have to traipse across mud and grass to visit the Garden.

Graham Carew – Warden

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The Property Development Committee chaired by Paul Wiesmeyer, has met twice. The committee is very pleased that more than a dozen people have responded to the

questionnaire about the future of our property. If you missed out on having your opinions heard, get your forms back to the committee in the next ten days. (Forms on the back of June Parish Matters)

At the moment committee members are investigating how seven churches in similar situations to our own have gone about development around an existing old church. They will report at the next meeting. The committee will also be drawing on Libby’s report on how growing churches she visited on her study tour, have gone about their property development.

When some options become clear there will be a report to the parish.

Harry Watson

THE NEW PHONE SYSTEM & a snake in the box !

We are in the process of upgrading our phone system to a small office Commander System which we have been able to purchase second hand for a good price. This means **we will** be able to have more than one person calling in and using the phones at the same time.

But there have been a few hitches along the way. Some a little humorous. . .’ When the technician arrived to attach the new line, I left him and returned a few minutes later as he was about to drive off. . . Finished so soon ? . . He replied in an agitated state, “I can’t do it! There’s a snake curled up in the box on the pole and I won’t go near that !” The electricians for the wiring have been called at least a dozen times and *everyone is so busy*. We will definitely do it next week !!!!! However one Telstra Dept got on the ball and switched our lines so that it would *find the new line*. . . . what new line. . . Telstra!

So the phones kept ringing out. We are so, so sorry and we can only trust that people eventually were able to make contact. We have got things back to functioning normally at present. But there may be some teething problems still. So please be patient with us and let us know if you are experiencing any problems.

Sandra Brown-Holt

LIBBYS LETTER (CONT.)

Firstly, I feel thankful that Bishop Stephen acted on the suggestion and made it happen, so convinced of the benefit that he was willing to pay for our accommodation in London. We stayed at Lee Abbey in Earls Court, student accommodation for international students. Sure, it was student food, but a central location and a comfortable bed.

Secondly, I am thankful to the Vestry and Wardens and by extension, to the people of the parish for,

- a) having the confidence in me as their leader that I could learn from a tour like this, and*
- b) having the confidence in the future of the parish, that the parish leadership would be willing to listen to what we could learn from other churches and be willing to let that inform and change what we might do ourselves to the extent that*
- c) vestry was willing to pay the airfare for me to go.*

Thirdly, I feel so much gratitude to all the people who allowed us into their lives, who shared the stories of the ups and downs of their parishes and who were real about the issues and told it like it is. We were continually confounded by the generosity, hospitality and openness of the clergy and parishes that we visited.

Fourthly, I appreciated the presence of my colleagues and the teasing around of issues at the meal table, and across the seats in a bus or train.

Fifthly, I am thankful to God for allowing this possibility to eventuate for me. As a child I thought England was so far away that I would never get there. I enjoyed being there, surprised myself by feeling quite at home, and am now trying to persuade Stephen that we could go there on our long service leave (note to self, ring the diocese and find out when I qualify).

Sixthly, I am thankful to Clem and Stephen and the wardens and others, who ensured that parish life continued happily without me.

Seventhly, the timing was perfect. Personally, the last year has been pretty intense with the preparation for the amalgamation, so to have the refreshment of being in an entirely different place was exhilarating and to be in position of being able to simply receive what was being offered was rejuvenating and inspiring. At a parish level, now that we are amalgamated, what is the next step and where will our vision take us? What I learnt will feed into that discussion.

Eighthly, I have been surprised by people's enthusiasm for the snippets I wrote while I was away and their interest to find out all about the trip. That makes me keen to share the stories and glad to be home.

Libby Delbridge