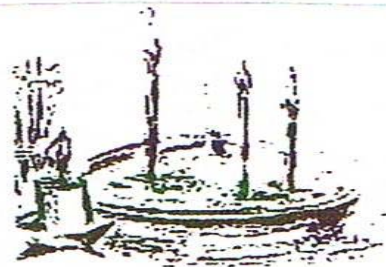


TAPER

TRAVELLING ON



A usually monthly bulletin to keep you informed as we **Travel On**.

What is **TAPER**? We are **TAPER**. It is an acronym for **The Anglican Parish of Eltham and Research**.

A taper is also a slim, beeswax candle that we use in the sand tray in church as an outward sign of our prayers. Light a taper for TAPER.

PRAYER OF AMALGAMATION

Gracious God

*We give you thanks for being with us all at St Faith's and St Margaret's
as we await a new future which you are preparing for us together.*

Heal the hearts of all who are grieving

Open the hearts of all who are yet to face change

Make bold the hearts of all who are able to offer loving care.

Give wisdom and courage to our priests, other leaders of each church, and the working group

Enable each one of us to see the vision you have for your Anglican church in this area,

to be comforted, encouraged and challenged by your presence. Amen

Accommodating Our Growth

It's exciting "St Margaret's is about to expand". We're looking to expand congregation and our buildings. The building expansion is to tie in with our 5 Year Plan. We have just started the planning phase and so it will be some time before the first clod gets turned. This importantly will accommodate our growing needs. Vestry has appointed a small keen group who will initially:

1. Establish some alternatives for our site,
2. Develop a budget, and
3. Put together a professional team.

In 2006 a small group got talking and developing ideas that would support and compliment our 5 Year Plan to improve our premises, and now we're in the position to do so. In the coming months ahead the group would welcome comments on the needs of the congregation, so that they might be considered in future plans. Please pray for our small team as they examine and make the crucial decisions for our vibrant and growing church.

Paul Wiesmeyer

The Easter Journey – The process of making new Christians and of faith renewal in the parish setting historically named the Catechumenate.

We have run this process in the parish for three years, with a break over the last two years. There is a training day coming up on **Saturday April 28, 2007** that will give people a taste of the process, so Libby is hoping that others will attend along with Chris Winkett and herself. Brochures are available in the church.

Rev Ron Browning is arranging the day and he writes "*Participants in the workshop on 28/4 will be introduced to the stages of the process - Inquiry, Formation, Intense Formation and Reflection (after the Easter sacrament). Experiencing how the stages function will be emphasised. In addition, Preparing a Team and Gathering will be a focus of the day.*

A parish will benefit most from the day if the priest and two or three parishioners attend. They can then report back to the parish and look for ways to move forward. Networks of support across parishes are presently emerging in the diocese."

The Easter Journey, as a process proceeds in stages. People inquiring into the Christian faith embark on a group journey. The process emphasises an interactive approach. It becomes a dialogue between people's stories and 'the God Story' that includes a particular response form of reading scripture together. It is a process of coming to conversion and of personal healing on levels of participants' lives.

The process is a baptismal/Easter journey. Participants are involved in both the movement towards commitment at the font and the dying to 'the old' to rise to 'the new' as they find their life in Christ. Baptism and/or Confirmation or Re-affirmation of faith take place on Easter Day or during the Easter Season.

The congregation is a part of the process, as members of the group being sponsors/companions and in terms of welcome by all of the congregation as the group participants attend the Sunday service.

The process is not a form of instruction but is one of discovery as questions are encouraged and the group responds to them. The aim of the process is for seekers to come to personal faith and commitment as members of the Church in a particular place where they begin to discover their own ministries. It is therefore a way of entering Christian community, becoming oriented to prayer, ministry, outreach and justice.

As a parish undertakes this form of local evangelism and nurture, the congregation becomes challenged by the presence of seekers and those on 'the journey'. Changes usually begin to occur in the parish culture.

Libby Delbridge

Welcoming Children to our Community

God is answering our prayer. More families with children are coming to our 10 am Sunday service. This means our Children's Ministry has had to expand. Our three new ventures are all going well, the Under 3's Play Group in Church, Godly Play for the school children and Clem Taplin who provides leadership and support for our children's ministry.

Some Sundays we have so many children at St Margaret's they don't all fit at the back of the church! Vestry has decided to make the area at the back of the church a focus for the under 3's and encourage the older children to either sit with their families in the pews or down at the front. This will allow them to see better and feel more involved in the liturgy.

At the 10am Service, children leave for Sunday Children's Time from the Sanctuary door. They will now also return through that same door at the end of prayers during the greeting of Peace. To let the Children's Time Leader know when to bring the children back please could:-

1. The **Sides People** to go to the Hall and let the Children's Time Leaders know that Intercession have commenced.
2. When Greeting of the Peace begins the **Liturgical Assistant** opens the sanctuary door so the Children's Time Leaders can bring the children in to join in the Greeting of the Peace.
3. Older children can sit at the front or with their parents in the pews while the under 3's go down to the back to the children's area.

Nurturing and caring for our Children

Welcoming Children into our Church also means reassuring their parents and our community they are being nurtured and well cared for. In line with diocesan policy, Vestry has asked those with any responsibility or leadership with the children of St Margaret's to complete the following forms.

1. **The new Working with Children's Check.** Please return it to the Post Office.
2. **Police checks.** These are still required by the diocese (this check is more extensive). Those with current police checks are asked to bring them to the office for photocopying and filing. If you don't have a current Police Check, forms can be obtained from Clem Taplin or the Police Station. Complete the form, leaving the organisations address for the diocese to complete and return it the office for Clem.
3. **Parish Leader Application** forms. This is available from Clem and can be returned to the office.

Helping Develop our Children's Faith.

With the increase in children and the success of dividing the age groups it looks like it will be necessary to split into 2 age groups each

Sunday so the activities can be more age appropriate. This means at least 2 leaders with helpers for each group. Please pray, as part of your Lenten reflections, that God will call new leaders into this ministry at St Margaret's. If you would like more information contact Clem Taplin at the office Tuesday to Thursday or Jayne Holmes on 9439 1877.

Helene Bell

Amalgamation

Do you all have in your diaries the celebratory Memorial Service at St Faiths May 27 and the Deconsecration Service at St Faiths, and walk to St Margaret's for a Service of Welcome on June 3? The exact details of the services will soon be announced.

As we have discovered in the last two weeks our combined communities make space at a premium. The time is coming when we have to say good-bye to some familiar objects around us as we make room for some treasures from St Faith's. There are teams working on this at both churches. There will also be the arrival of the memorial garden from St Faith's to be added to our Memorial Garden. Thanks to all of those planning these moves.

Also there will be integration of service rosters. A meeting of Eltham Service Roster people is planned for May 6 with the Roster Secretary from Montmorency. It is proposed that this will be late afternoon and will generate new rosters for post amalgamation, starting from June 10. More detail will follow after Easter.

Name of our Church and Parish

At both Parish's March Vestry Meetings the following motions were carried unanimously:

1. **The church at 79-81 Pitt St. continue to be called St Margaret's**

2. That when used on letter head,
answering the 'phone etc we use -
St Margaret's Eltham

3. That in letter head and similar
publications we use

**The Anglican Parish of Eltham Research
and Montmorency**

4. Thus a sample layout might be:

St Margaret's Eltham,

The Anglican Parish of Eltham, Research and
Montmorency

Some brief explanations:

There was close to unanimous support for the
name of the church from both sites.

The Parish name is inclusive of the previous
parish communities that we currently
represent.

It also indicates approximately the location of
the church and parish.

No acronyms. An acronym tends to create a
'club' which can exclude those not 'in the
know'.

From the respondents there was very little
interest in the more lateral suggestions in
Libby's naming paper.

Thanks to the eight respondents from Monty
and 21 from Eltham for comments and
suggestions generated from the naming
paper.

Harry Watson

