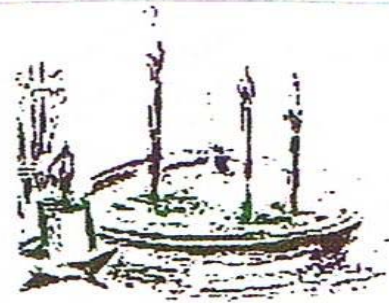


TAPER

TRAVELLING ON



A 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:

Loving God,
Give your church constant growth
By adding new members to your family.
Help us put into action in our lives
The baptism we have received with faith.
Loving Father,
How do I live the baptismal promises
I made again over the weekend?
I want to live my life in service of you.
Help me carry the gift of faith
I received from you.
Help me welcome those joining the church
Guide me and give me the courage
To live my faith, to accept your love.
Amen.

AMALGMATION EVENTS

St. Faiths Memorial Garden.

Stage 1. Transfer of earth from St. Faiths to St. Margaret's

Monday April 30th

First Joint Vestry Meeting will be held at St. Faiths -

Wednesday May 16th

St. Faiths Thanksgiving Service

10am Sunday May 27th

Service of Deconsecration 8am Sunday June 3rd

Walk to Eltham
&
Service of Welcome 10am

Celebratory Morning Tea.

Bring a plate to share

Combination of the Memorial Gardens

So far the wooden cross, made by Jo Norman's father has been re-located to Jo Norman's brother's property at Port Arlington. Last week individually marked sites from St. Faiths were removed ready for transfer and on Monday 30th the contractor will move the rocks from St. Faith's garden for the borders at St. Margaret's. The soil at St. Faith's containing ashes, will be lifted up to a depth of 18 inches and placed at St. Margaret's site where they will be covered for a couple of days while the non garden bed area is prepared. Next the Soil and Ashes will be spread and the marked sites re-placed. The rock borders will be re-enforced and extended and lilydale toppings will be laid in the previously grassed area. Lastly the cross from St. Faith's will be placed in the new garden. It is hoped that further landscaping and planting will be completed prior to amalgamation

What will it look like ?

The entry will be through two large "*sentinel rocks*" with the chain fencing replaced by extended rock borders. Lilydale topping will replace the current grassed area. Present beds will be partially extended, without disturbing current ashes, and topped with the St. Faith's Memorial Garden material. The sculptured steel cross from outside St. Faith's is to be mounted on a Redwood support by Peg Lloyd's son-in-law and then centrally placed in the new garden. A well publicised service of blessing for the renewed garden will be arranged at its completion.

David Pryor has recently taken over this project, as John Winkett needed to withdraw from the role. This has been a very complex process, and we are very grateful to them both for their careful leadership. Throughout the process we have followed Diocesan Guidelines.

(A copy of this process in chart form is available)

Clem Taplin

Where will we all fit after amalgamation?

It was wonderful to join with St Faiths for two weekends in Lent, giving us a glimpse of our future together. The experience was warm and welcoming by both parishes and it was delightful to hear peoples stories. When St Faiths came to the 10am Service at St Margaret's reactions included joy and excitement at the prospect of welcoming new friends and sharing our gifts. But some also pondered; shall we all fit comfortably and still have room for more?

If one of the goals for our Five Year plan is for the parish to expand, can we all fit at 10am with plenty of room to spare? We love our church, but it is too small? People prefer to keep to their service times, we learnt this from Research's closure, so we can't just ask people to move to 8am or 6pm services.

Not wanting anyone to turn away because they felt crowded. St Margaret's has made a bold decision at its last Vestry meeting. We are going to explore moving

the 10am service into the hall until we can expand our church. We know that a full church can feel good but will never be a growing church. We want the 10am service to grow and flourish.

We also know that worship in the hall feels good and works well when there is a bit of a crowd.

This move is not going to happen immediately. We want to set up a working group so people can be consulted and the processes worked out well.

Vestry did not make this decision lightly, we are well aware of the difficulties. There will be the weekly work of setting up and clearing away. The change will impact on the Children's and Youth Ministries, the musicians, we will need new sacristans and most of all we will miss worship in our lovely little church, but so will the people from St Faiths. We trust that God's grace is upon us, that our people will be generous, accepting and loving, and that our community will continue to expand as we find new ways to share God's love to the neighbourhoods of Research, Eltham and Montmorency.

Vestry wants to thank Stephen Delbridge who has agreed to lead the working group to address these issues. If you can give your support or you want to ensure this is done well, contact Stephen on 9439 9238 or email him at stephen.delbridge@mh.org.au

and offer to join this group on an either temporary or ongoing basis.

As always, change means adjustments. So why should we do it? "Research shows when a church is 80% full people stop coming. If there is no side isles 2/3rds full is experienced as full and again people stop coming so at St. Margaret's we are further compromised by our pews needing to be up against the side walls.. Vestry is already moving with the planning for the development of our site, this temporary move will give both impetus and urgency to prayerfully move forward trusting that God will provide what is needed for our future and growth.

Helene Bell.



Children's Ministry

Easter Activities for Children ... to involve our children in the Holy Week journey ... a trial run this year. There was prop - making and rehearsing for the Easter Day tableau at the 10 am service, alongside creating Easter Gardens. A hugely effective cross -on -pulley became a focal point in the centre of the hall, while the story of Jesu' life was summarised through a song 'Amen ' sung by choir members and friends. Fun and a great result happened.

The Children's Easter Garden

An Easter Garden helps children create in miniature, the events of Good Friday to Easter Day. From various sized pebbles, large sticks square lashed, that handy bucket relic, wooden clothes pegs and dressing materials, emerged path ways, the three crosses, a cave-like tomb and groups of 'peg- people.' Jesus' disciples and family, soldiers, angels and other bystanders were also placed along the paths. Red Tea-lights and lanterns lit it for Holy Thursday evening and Good Friday, while yellow replacements, together with some flowers, gave it an Easter feeling. A large stone for the tomb became one family's hunt at home, while some children made a Table Garden in a foil baking tray, to take home and add desired candles and flowers.

We tucked in to plenty of afternoon tea with thanks to Barbara Speed of St. Faith's. Over the two days about twelve children took part. Many thanks to all the adult enablers: Diana Warrell, Glenys Collis, Elizabeth Cerda, willing singers and many a roving parent!!

Clem Taplin

Maundy Thursday: Feedback Please

On review of Easter Services it appears that all went smoothly although in some services numbers were down a bit this year. We understand however, and appreciate that a number of people supported St. Faiths by attending their last Easter Services. Vestry has already had some feed back re Maundy Thursday, with the agape meal, foot washing and Some were very moved, one parishioner who had not attended before told us how inspiring it was, others feel it's not as appealing or supporting. We are aware that we are a diverse group with diverse needs. So we need your feedback on this one. Vestry was wondering if to accommodate more parishioners we would alternate the agape meal in the hall etc. with a service in the church with the foot washing included in the service. We need to think about this now while it's still in our minds so it's over to you. Can you let Libby, Clem or a warden know what you think. Speak it, write it, or e-mail the parish office. Thanks.

Sandra B-H

Property update

Safety Checks Carried Out

The archdiocese has been undertaking occupational health and safety checks of all the parishes and recently it was St Margarets' turn. These checks were in relation to any asbestos locations in our buildings and the "testing and tagging" of all electric appliances and extension leads.

So far as asbestos in our buildings, this was confined to switchboxes. With a little bit of sealant and a coat of paint, we will be OK.

The "testing and tagging" process with electric appliances was quite time consuming and you will probably have noticed the appearance of compliance tags on everything with a power cord. With over 70 things to be tested, and some of these on the old side, we were a bit apprehensive. After it all, there were only two items that failed. One was an extension lead which has been replaced. The other was the electric stove in Denny House that came from Research. It was beyond redemption and, after it was labeled with a "DANGEROUS" tag, it was then euthanized (its cord was cut).

Graham Carew

Telephones & Broadband:

New staff and more people using the office is wonderful, however our old technology just can't keep up. So we are now in the process of adding one more line and a mini telephone system. We also needed to move into 2007 with our computer technology, a wonderful new computer but still using dial up ! So watch for a slightly new address and for those in the office great speed on the internet. Installation is in process, but Telstra can take it's time.

Sandra Brown-Holt

