

WINTER 2017



The Grapevine

Quarterly News of the Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza

VICAR
Rev'd Jennie Savage
ASSISTANT CURATE
Rev'd Paul Carr
FAMILY MINISTER
Mrs Sam White
PASTORAL LAY
MINISTER
Mrs Libby Paterson

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FROM THE VICAR

Luke 14:25-33 **Counting the Cost**



There are a number of times in the synoptic gospels where Jesus uses the phrase of taking up your cross. In this passage, he adds the phrase of counting the cost along with a couple of illustrations. But is it possible to count the cost before taking up my cross? For truly, I do not know what will be asked of me.

Taking up the cross is about taking up life. There is a cost to living. We understand it more easily in fiscal terms, be it by committing oneself to a mortgage, or paying off a car. We have to make sure our income will cover the bills, so we count the cost of our purchases, and monitor our use of utilities.

Counting the cost of a marriage, or having a child, is not so easy. For better, for worse we say, not having any foresight as to what better or worse is going to look like.

Deciding to have a child is based on an ideal, and who would think about the unforeseen costs of disability, of not just being a parent, but a carer; or of fraught relationships, of being severely tested in your patience and self-control?

FROM THE VICAR (CONTINUED)

There might be the promise of a career, or vocation, of following your passion. But who can know exactly what the cost of its reality will be?

As the Church, we are also called to take up our cross as one body, to have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and to strive side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27). In taking up our cross, and turning our mind to be like Christ, we acknowledge that the path we take is one of sacrifice and willingly pay the cost. A strange decision to make by our society, but we believe Jesus' words that are attached to the corresponding passage in Matthew 16:24-28 where he adds: For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

In all these aspects of life, we will have those times of thinking 'I never expected this would happen to me,' (in the negative sense) or, 'I don't know if I can deal with this.' This is where we feel the cost, because we have to let something go, or make an adjustment, because the life God gives us is not all under our own control.

We are all part of a bigger picture. Each of us is part of a family, part of a community, part of Christ's body – the church, part of God's world, the whole world for whom Christ died.

The shocking verse at the start of the Lukan passage – Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes and even life itself, cannot be my disciple – is hyperbole, a style of teaching using overstatements that Jesus used to drive a point home. But Jesus' point is a strong one summed up at the end of the passage: So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

What is it we find hard to let go of, as life changes and morphs in our family, community, church and the world? Is it ideals, conveniences, comforts, maybe simply the familiar? And who wants to be confronted, embrace loss and discomfort? It is not our natural inclination.

In hindsight, we often see how we have grown and become stronger through difficult times. In that we give thanks to God, yet do not feel too keen to go through it again! But when we are feeling challenged, let us pray and ask our Lord to see what the opportunity is in what we are faced with, for there is an opportunity, often something that will stretch us and its benefits may well go beyond us as God uses our life to give life.

Change, which is often a challenge, comes to us in all forms of life. Particularly for the church both global and local, change requires the opposite of battenning down the hatches, instead we have to stand and brave the storms and navigate our way forward relying on God's Spirit

FROM THE VICAR (CONTINUED)

to guide us.

I have quoted from Philippians and Colossians which are known as the 'prison letters' of St Paul. Philippians is called the letter of joy despite Paul's imprisonment because of his marvellous testimony: I want you to know beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel ... and most of the brothers and sisters having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. (Philippians 1:12-14)

Let us be bold and without fear as we take on the cost of being disciples of Christ, that by losing our life for his sake, we may find it.

May the grace of the Lord be with you,
Jennie



**YOUTH
ALPHA**
Starts Friday
21 July
5.30-7.00pm

STEWARDSHIP

Our 2017/18 Stewardship Program will be launched on Sunday 13 August 2017. Stewardship Packs will be available for members of all congregations, including Wednesday, as well as for supporters of the parish who may not be able to regularly attend services. Those not collected will be mailed.

Over the next few weeks please consider with prayer, the extent to which you or your family will be able to making a financial commitment, as well a commitment of your time and talents, in support of the ongoing ministry in our parish and the many necessary tasks need to be carried out. In view of the recent activity in setting up service rosters to which many have committed, the 2017/18 Time and Talents "return" will focus on those other important aspects not already covered.

A Christian life is marked by its commitment to service and giving. *"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a*

STEWARDSHIP (CONT'D)

ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Therefore we are all called to service within the Church, whether it is in its ministries, such as assisting in aspects of Sunday and Wednesday services, pastoral care, helping with fund-raising and other events, such as working bees to maintain grounds and buildings, or if you are unable to undertake physical activities, spending time in prayer each day. These are all part of our stewardship as Christians and an integral part of Christian life.

An important aspect of Christian life is how you use your financial resources and more particularly how you use them to support God's work and his Church. As we all know, every organisation needs money to keep going and the Church is no exception.

All of the stewardship money, that is money given to support the life of the Church, both in the Sunday collection or through a regular commitment or pledge, goes directly into our accounts. This money is then used to pay the living expenses of clergy and staff, and day-to-day operating costs. In our case this is supplemented by property rental (105A Koetong Parade) and hall hire. Even with this additional income we continue to rely on major fundraising events, such as the annual parish fete and the bi-annual '5 Gardeners Gardens', to balance our books. Although 2017/18 will be no different, we do need to move away from this reliance by increasing offertory giving as a proportion of our total income.

"How much should I give?" Giving is totally dependent upon you and your ability to give. In the scriptures the amount often required was a 'tithe' or one tenth of one's income. But this is not a rule, some are able and willing to give more, others are not able to give that much.

"Why make a personal financial commitment or pledge?" An important aspect of stewardship is planning your giving so as to make it a real part of your whole life. The first thing is to include your stewardship in your weekly, fortnightly or monthly budget. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to make a financial commitment to the life and ministry of the Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza by making a pledge for their intended giving in the coming year.

Pledging helps by keeping you accountable to your own budget and intentions.

Pledging helps by allowing Parish Council to more accurately budget and forecast.

No amount is too small or too large to be pledged.

Details of your pledge remain completely confidential, the only person who has details of your giving is the Parish Recorder. (Fred Rowney, ph. 03 5977 6630)

STEWARDSHIP (CONT'D)

You can change your pledge (up or down) at any time, if your circumstances change, simply by contacting the Parish Recorder.

There are two ways in which you can give by pledging:

1. Direct debit through the Anglican Development Fund (ADF)

- By electronic transfer from your bank or credit card
- You decide how much and how often, e.g. weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
- This method is simplest for you and the church – once set up there is no need to keep track of whether you are up to date with pledged giving.
- Those who give in this manner can request a pack of slips, which can be placed in the collection plate week by week as a token of your pledge.
- This is the preferred means of giving from the Church's standpoint as it allows Parish Council to manage cash flow. It also means that when you are away your giving will still continue as parish expenses continue throughout the year.
- ADF Giving forms will be in your Stewardship Pack available on 13 August 2017

2. Envelopes

Should you decide to use this form of giving,

- Envelopes will be provided to you by the Parish Recorder.
- Each set (of envelopes) has a designated code number which is recorded on the front of the envelopes. Only the Parish Recorder knows which number corresponds to which individual or family.
- Envelopes are placed in the collection bowl at whichever service you attend.
- Giving may be by cash or cheque.

If you decide to join the committed giving program, either in the form of direct debit or envelopes, please complete the form in your Stewardship Pack and return them to the Parish Recorder on at any service leading up to Thanksgiving Sunday, on **3 September 2017**, where all giving commitments will be received and blessed.

Rev'd Jennie Savage, Vicar

Wardens: Sarnia Birch, John Paterson & Kel Taylor

OUR LINK MISSIONARIES

An Evening With The Giffords

**Join us for dinner on Saturday 19th August
from 5.30pm—8.30pm**

St James the Less, 105 Koetong Parade, Mt Eliza

**The evening will include a presentation by
The Giffords on mission in Spain,
a buffet style meal, interactive discussion,
dessert, tea and coffee.**

BYO alcohol

Booking by Wednesday 16th August

**Cost: \$20 per adult or \$50 per family
(up to 2 adults + children)**

**Contact the office for bookings: 9775 3301
anglicanmounteliza@gmail.com
www.mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au**

CMS
AUSTRALIA



Parish Working Bee

We plan to hold a working bee on

Saturday 22 July commencing around **9.00AM**.

The tasks include: tidying up our beautiful Garden of Remembrance and particularly tidying up the rear car park area and removing a large amount of rubbish. If you are able to attend could you please ring Kel Taylor 8319 5676 or John Paterson 9787 2739. **We need your help.**



CARITAS

Caritas means "Christian Love for Others" and is part of the World Wide Mothers' Union, an international Christian organisation that seeks to support families worldwide. Our group usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month – February to November – in the Meeting Room in the Pioneer Hall. We meet at 10.00am for a short meeting, and then enjoy fellowship over morning tea, followed by a guest speaker or an activity. Ladies are assured of a warm welcome if you would like to attend any month.

Upcoming events: 28th August— Sarnia Birch will be telling us about her recent trip to the Holy Land with a group escorted by the Rev Roger Featherston; 25th September— Rev Brendan Wilson – a Muslim who has converted to Christianity and is a priest in the Free Church of England. All parishioners will be welcome to come along to hear these speakers.

If you would like to know more about our group please contact Joan Mitchell (Pres) 5914 0079 , or Joan Stock (Sec) 5976 8719.

5 GARDENERS' GARDENS



5 Gardeners' Gardens 28 & 29 October 2017

Since 2009, every two years, the parish has organised for the opening of five gardens in Mt Eliza and nearby.

This year the gardens vary from a regular quarter acre block (an amazing organic garden full of surprises) to two acres with resident waterfowl on the dam.

The entry charge is always reasonable and the event is not to be missed.

This is a major fund raising event for the parish. As well as the gardens there are stalls selling plants, produce, gifts and second hand gardening books. Teas and light lunches are also available.

The gardens are at:

7 Amesbury Road, Mt Eliza

10 Watts Parade, Mt Eliza

1 Sunnyside Road, Mt Eliza

65 Boes Road, Tyabb

1269 Nepean Highway, Mt Eliza

Gardens are open both Saturday and Sunday 10am – 4pm.

LAMPPOST GALLERY

In conversation about art and prayer at Lamppost Gallery

This winter, we had the pleasure of hosting artist Karly Michelle's exhibition, *Trying to Pray (when there are no words)* at Lamppost Gallery. The works ranged from paper, wire and plaster installations to stitched textiles and artist books, and in each case invited viewers into a conversation with the artist about what it is to pray, especially during times of difficulty, pain and loss.

On Sunday 2 July, the conversation continued when Karly Michelle joined us for the afternoon to further discuss her practice and the thoughts, meditations and experiences that inspired the work. Over 20 people attended and made it a rich conversation and celebration of Karly's beautiful exhibition.

Special thanks to Karly for sharing her work and self with us, and the Lamppost Gallery Group who curated, attended and shared hospitality in the space throughout the exhibition. We are very grateful.



Rebekah Pryor in conversation with Karly Michelle,

LAMPPOST GALLERY



Preparations are now underway for our September exhibition.

Time : Place is a new exhibition of work by Jill Miglietti, an award-winning artist in fibre and textiles. Using a variety of techniques, Miglietti creates surfaces like topographies that map her personal connection to place. She writes, 'I see my art making as an extension of my experiences, particularly those relating to the physical environment. I "know" a place by its colours, its textures, its patterns, shapes and lines. This knowledge is distilled and simplified, evoking the essence of place rather than recording reality. With fibre as medium, I build these evocations with physical and metaphorical layers, blurring the boundary between two and three dimensions.'

Jill Miglietti is a long-time member of the parish and we look forward to hosting this special exhibition of her art. The show begins with an Opening Celebration on Friday 1 September, 6-8pm and continues until 24 September. Check the Lamppost page on the website for more details.

PARISHIONERS ON TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND



A number of our parishioners were fortunate to be able to join Rev'd Roger Featherston in May on a trip to Jordan and Israel, with some venturing on to Egypt as well. It was a real blessing, and at times overwhelming, to be in the land where Jesus was born, lived, was crucified and rose again, visiting many significant places.

As part of the visit to Jerusalem, attending a service at the Anglican St George's Cathedral was always planned but a bonus was that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, happened to be visiting Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the same time so we were able to attend the service where he was preaching. It was a moving experience to hear parts of the service in Arabic, to have other parts translated (even the sermon!) into Arabic, and to have hymns sung simultaneously in English and Arabic.

Sarnia Birch will be speaking about this visit to the Holy Land at the Caritas meeting on 28th August.



FAREWELLS

GREG LEONE—CHURCH ORGANIST & CHOIR MASTER

On 9th July, after the 8.30 service, we very sadly said farewell to Greg Leone after nearly thirty years at St, James the Less. Greg takes up a new post with the RC Church in Sorrento but will still be with us for Evensong services on the 4th Sunday of the month at 5pm in the Historic Church.

Greg always upheld the finest traditions of church music. Whenever he played for a service the psalm was chanted, a four part anthem sung and a motet during communion.

For years the choir sang Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Good Friday, and presented Advent and Christmas carol services.

Greg's postludes on the beautiful organ were amazing and will be missed. Thank you, Greg, for your great contribution to our worship.

Rosemary Bird.

REV'D PAUL CARR & FAMILY

It has been a pleasure working with Rev Paul Carr since my arrival last September. Paul is a great team member and along with Sam, Libby and myself, we have had some very spirited discussions in our staff meetings as we reflect on and seek direction in ministry matters together. As it so often happens for an Assistant Curate, Paul has been thrown in the deep end since being priested last November. He has handled all challenges with a calmness and with great warmth towards all people, engendering trust and confidence in his ministry. I would love to have him with us longer, but he is needed in the wider Diocese, and I wish him well as he takes up his position as Priest in Charge of St Stephen's Gardenvale from October 12. We will also miss Paul's wife Elsa, and children: Zola, Pacha and Zed and thank them for their contribution to parish life. We pray you will all settle into your new home, schools and work and find a loving community about you.

We will be farewelling the Carrs on **Sunday 27th August** with a combined morning tea between the two services.



FAREWELL & THANK YOU FROM THE CARR FAMILY!

Several weeks ago, I announced that after almost five years of worshipping and serving in the parish, we will all be leaving Mount Eliza and heading to the parish of Gardenvale, where I will be installed as the Vicar of St. Stephens Anglican Church on **Thursday 12th October 2017**. Please come, you are all welcome and it would be wonderful to have you there at the installation.

The move for us comes with some sadness but also excitement and hope as we continue to step out in faith and leave the worldly security of our employment, our home, and schools for the children. We also leave behind many fond memories and friends who have become like family for us over these years, but we also take all of this with us too.

I have been delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve as Assistant Priest here in Mount Eliza. In the past 18 months I have worked with Shane, Mike, Roger, Claudia, John, Eddie, Sue, and Jennie and I thank each one most sincerely as I have learned so much from each of them.

Working with the wardens and all members of the Parish Council has helped me see how the church operates and working with Sam and Libby each week, including Wendy and John has been inspirational. I've been struck just how engaging and pastoral they are, how important they are in the lives of so many people, and what a tremendously rich asset they are to the Parish – Thank You for teaching me.

I also am grateful to have been accepted by many of you in the parish. It has been an honour and a privilege to share in the lives of so many of you. Thank You and may the Lord bless you.

I'm blessed to have an encouraging and supportive wife and children. Elsa, to whom I owe so much has supported me and continued to pray for the parish throughout our time here whilst taking on evenings, weekends, and night shifts to support us, which has enabled me to be in the parish.

As we look to the future, we believe that this is the right time for us to move on. We believe that it is from God and we rest our hope in our Lord for everything that is to come.

Please pray for us and for Gardenvale as we continue to hold all of you and the parish of Mount Eliza in our prayers.

With love in the Lord,
Paul, Elsa, Zola, Pacha, Zedekiah

NEWS ON OUR NEW SERVICES

On the Sunday after Easter, we launched our new Sunday morning services: an 8.30am Traditional Service, and 10.30am Contemporary Service. In the last Grapevine under 'Looking Forward' the styles of these two services were described.

I have appreciated many people's good will in attendance and participation throughout this time of transition. Inasmuch as we can prepare for change, it still has its bumps along the way, and time is needed in making the adjustment until it all becomes the new normal.

So where are we now? Our new structure of services has been operating for 12 weeks. Quite a few parishioners have tried both services, weighing up the times and the content, for others the time or the style determines their attendance. Some find the services are very similar, others see them as very different – of course this is to do with what each holds dear. Both services hold a new mix of people and together we are being reformed and reshaped.

The period of settling still goes on, and other movements continue to affect this such as our organist Greg Leone's move, and in another 6-7 weeks, we will be farewelling Rev Paul Carr and his family. This obviously affects our staff base, and our music base. We will not be getting another clergy person on staff for at least the next year if not two. So, it is important to build a lay ministry leadership team, which is slowly being worked on at this time in readiness.

While we have used the term restructure, the word 'change' with all its drama is the one more bandied about. It may be more helpful for us to replace the word 'change', with words like 'reform' and 'renew' because they indicate the growth we need to commit ourselves to. This is both personal growth, and growth as a church community.

For our restructure to work, we need both personal/individual and community growth to bear fruit for Christ. Jesus used the image of the vine when he spoke of his Father 'removing every branch that bears no fruit, and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes to make it bear more fruit' (John 15:2). So we should not fear this necessary pruning, but trust God is in all this transition, working our transformation.

The worship services are only part of our restructure. They and other aspects of the parish need to be worked to be sustainable and fruitful. Please pray regularly for our parish, like this one from our Anglican prayer book (p.217):

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and assist us with your continual help; that in all works, begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jennie, Vicar

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mount Eliza Churches Community Support (MECCS) is seeking more Volunteers

For many years MECCS has offered a volunteer based outreach service to the local community on behalf of the Inter Church Council. MECCS provides a transport option for those in our community who live independently within the postcode areas of Mt Eliza, Mornington and Frankston, where no other means of transport is available. The service offered is typically transport to/from a hospital or doctor's appointment, and more occasionally a short shopping expedition.

Volunteers are drawn from St Thomas More, the Uniting and our church, and we are always seeking new members. The duties are occasional and not onerous. Membership costs \$10 per year which mainly goes to cover insurance for our drivers. Most members volunteer to drive, but we also welcome those who cannot drive, but wish to support the service.

We are now also seeking additional members to serve on the committee, which meets briefly every three months. At the next AGM, (to be held in May next) MECCS will be seeking to appoint both a new President (the current president has served as such for five years) and also a new Secretary/Coordinator (the current incumbent having served ten years). Both now wish to retire from those positions.

The latter role in particular, involves receiving requests (normally by telephone) for transport direct from clients; then communicating with all members via email to identify a volunteer who is able to service the request.

Many members of our parish already perform much service in the wider community – but we encourage anyone who would be interested in either a general role with MECCS, or looking for a slightly more challenging but interesting role on the committee as President or Secretary/Co-ordinator, to join us.

For more information please talk to: John Horscroft (9787 3851), Sally Hudson (5975 5051), Joan Mitchell (0409 258 727), or Ross Hunt.

Our gardens need some TLC!

Are you able to take on co-ordination of regular weeding and care of our gardens? Is this a talent / gift that you have that you could use in God's service?

The Wardens would love to hear from anyone able to give a couple of hours on a regular basis, alone or with friends, to keep our gardens looking attractive.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the monthly pew bulletin and updates on the web site for more details closer to when events are to happen.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
16 July	Parish Meetings after each service	- Main Church	
19 July	Parish Council	Meeting Room, Parish Hall	7.30pm
21 July	Youth Alpha starts	Meeting Room	5.30-7.00pm
23 July	Morning Services + Evensong	5pm	
24 July	Playgroup resumes	Stephen Bird Hall	9.30am
24 July	Caritas Meeting	Meeting Room	10.00am
26-28 July	Diocesan Clergy Conference (staff will be away for some or all days)		
19 August	Diocesan Professional Standards Seminar	Main Church	10.00am-3.00pm
19 August	Giffords Event—CMS Link Missionaries	Stephen Bird Hall	5.30pm-8.30pm
23 August	Lecture by Bp Paul Barker: From Eden to the New Jerusalem: The Bible & Mission	Main Church	7.30pm
27 August	Morning Services + Evensong	5pm	
1 September	Lamppost Gallery Exhibition opens: Time: Place—Jill Miglietti		
1 October	Combined Service: Blessing of the Pets	Main Church	10.00am
28-29 October	Five Gardeners' Gardens		10.00am—4pm each day
12 November	Combined Service Remembrance Sunday—Legacy Church Parade		10.00am



REGISTRAR NOTES

IN MEMORIAM: *Harry Macdonald*
David Constantine
David Weir
Annie Mary Cole
Geoffrey Wood

Please continue to pray for the families of these people.

The Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza



To know Christ and to make Christ known

105 Koetong Parade
Mount Eliza VIC 3930

Phone: 9775 3301

E-mail: anglicanmounteliza@gmail.com

Web: mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au

We are a community of Christians who strive to know Christ and to make Christ known, in our church, in our families, in our communities and in the world. We worship in the wide variety of styles offered by the Anglican tradition, from choral Eucharist to Sunday school, from traditional service to contemporary praise, for seniors and children, for youth and adults. There is something for everyone ~ whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome to join us as we meet God here.

SERVICES AT MT ELIZA

Sundays in the Main Church

8.30 am Holy Communion

10.30 am Contemporary Family Service

5.00pm Choral Evensong ~ 4th Sunday

St James the Less Historic Church

Every Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion

St James the Less Historic Church

**BLESSING OF THE
PETS
SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER
COMBINED SERVICE
10.00AM**

**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY
12 NOVEMBER
COMBINED SERVICE 10.00AM
LEGACY CHURCH PARADE**