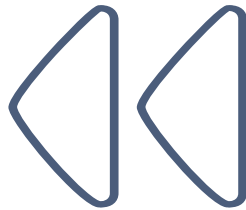


BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

August 2020



HOW DID WE GET **HERE?**

We've been asking that question over the last 12 months, not out of confusion or desperation, but out of a fervent desire to understand our past, have peace in the present, and walk confidently into the future.

At the start of February we began reading through the book of Joshua and I said:

**“We are moving into a new place,
this church is here for this moment;
'for such a time as this' (Esther 4:14).**

**We're here to shape the changes.
To respond to the needs.
To share good news.**

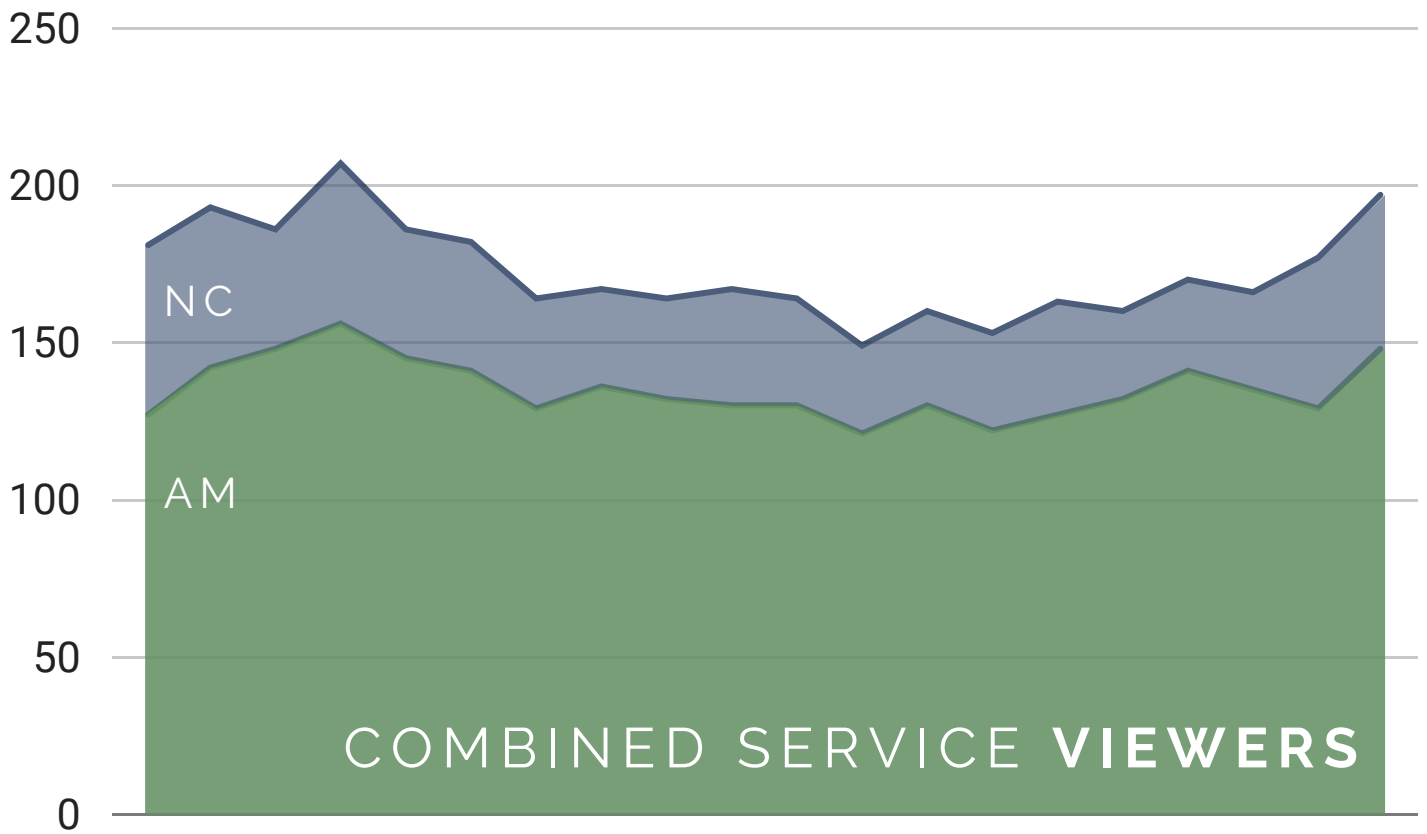
**We've been planted here,
our mission is here but it's a new place.**

**Maybe your plans haven't gone to plan.
Maybe your hopes haven't gone like you hoped.
God's promise endures.
Maybe it hasn't turned out how you planned, but be
ready – you don't want to miss what God is about to do.”**

I didn't know the significance of those words.
Looking back now, this is not the new place I had imagined.

But we have an opportunity to be a light in dark places.
We can be people of peace amongst the storms.
We can give real hope through the One who saves.

So take some time to read these reports and see the way God
has been using his people here in Beaconsfield and beyond.



ONLINE CHURCH

While being the church is much more than a live-streamed service, it's worth noting the significance of the project and the impact it has had on keeping us connected and growing. It's also a great example of the way people have adapted and been intentional in this season.

We were starting from scratch, we moved quickly, and created something sustainable that will be a great ministry tool for years to come.

Thank you for your grace and patience as we've all learned along the way and thank you for the many words of encouragement and support.

Since the end of March we have hosted 40 online services, 3 editions of Songs That Bless Your Heart, 8 weeks of mid-week devotions and worship nights, and a funeral that was viewed by well over 500 people.

4000+
Devices
tuned in

>150
Prayer
requests

300k
Minutes
watched

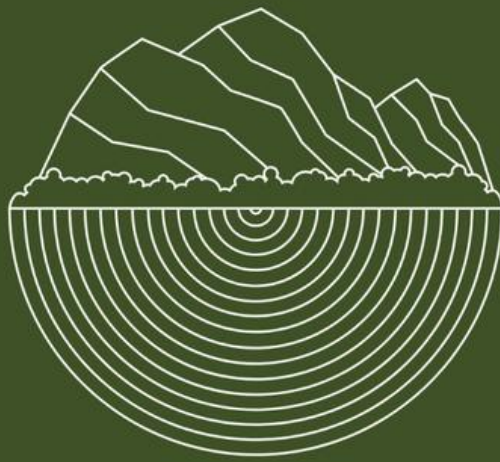


EPHESIANS

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

LOVE 
BEACONSFIELD

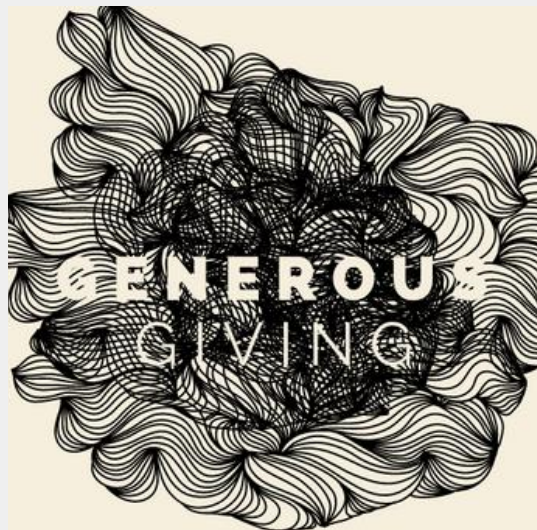
DWELLING
AMONG
US



Joshua

A NEW PLACE

these are written



GENEROUS
GIVING

DEVOTED

Joshua 1:11

ELDERSHIP REPORTS

PASTOR

This past twelve months has been anything but normal. Although there might be an underlying longing for things to “return to normal”, my hope and prayer is that we don’t go back. Instead of returning, we can be renewed and refreshed; not a step back but a step forward. As we’ve been pushed out of our comfort, we have an opportunity to see what we had with new eyes.

There’s more to church than a building;
more to community than an event;
more to worship than a Sunday;
more to mission than a program.

While separated, many have been drawn together.
While restricted, we’ve found new ways to reach out.

God was preparing us for this time and he has great plans for the year to come. As I reflect on the year and my role, I want to focus on my four main areas of service:

1. Leading

It is a privilege to lead the team at BBC and I am incredibly thankful for those that I work alongside, whether in the Leadership Team, staff, ministries or Sunday services. It has been a challenging year, but we have continued to move forward with new initiatives as we follow God’s call.

We are planted in Beaconsfield to be a light here and to the nations. I am indebted to Bruce Anderson for the wonderful image of our church not just on mission in Beaconsfield but as a “field of beacons” sent out into our neighborhoods, workplaces, schools, universities, clubs and more. May God’s Spirit continue to empower us for everyday mission, wherever he has placed us.

This has been a season of newness and development.

Some of the new initiatives include the COVID-19 Assistance Fund, the live-streaming setup and upgrade, midweek opportunities for prayer, teaching and worship, ministry internship, and pastoral care callers.

Some areas we’ve been developing include governance and accountability, prayer ministries, the pastoral care team, and safe church policies and procedures.

There are many ideas to be evaluated, decisions to be made, volunteers to be empowered, concepts to be communicated – leadership is relentless and rewarding.

Thank you for the encouragement and support that I have received and for entrusting me with this role in the interim. Please continue to pray for me and the team, keep us accountable, and seek God with us for all he has in store.

2. Teaching

We are blessed to have a rich history of faithful teaching across our ministries at BBC. While we may highlight the Sunday sermons, it is encouraging to see the way that people are seeking to lead one another to know and follow Jesus. Children’s ministries, life groups, mentoring, youth ministry, personal devotions and preaching all seek to dwell richly in God’s word and do what it says.

It has been amazing to see the way God has prepared us for the season we are in. This time last year we were preaching through the book of Ephesians, exploring the transformation the gospel

brings. From there we spent a month reigniting our heart for local mission and the call to Love Beaconsfield and finished the year with the remarkable words of John 1, "the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

2020 began with the first of two series in Joshua, a new place. Little did we know how significant the words of Joshua 3 would become:

"When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God...
you are to move out from your positions and follow it.
Then you will know which way to go,
since you have never been this way before."

Over Easter we were reminded that the good news is proclaimed so that we might believe and find life in Jesus' name! In May we explored the implications of the gospel on the way we give our time, talent and treasure, before seeing that same call to a life of devotion in the book of Joshua. God is relentless in his pursuit of his people and faithful to his promises. All we need to do is obediently, wholeheartedly, and completely follow him.

In 2019 I read the whole Bible in 30 days. This year I'm going for a slightly slower pace (365 days) but it is amazing to see the connections and new insights, and the persistence and faithfulness of our God. Let's strive together to not just be readers, but doers of the word.

3. Equipping

A church is a body and it functions best when everyone plays their part. While some may focus on areas where we lack volunteers, on the whole we are blessed to have so many ministries, with so many people using their gifts to serve others.

Many people have stepped up into new roles or areas of responsibility and it is my privilege to encourage and cheer them on. I am not here to do the ministry of the church, but to equip the church to do the ministry and in that there is still plenty of room to grow. Amongst our congregation there are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. There are those with gifts of mercy, healing, administration, faith and much more. There are those skilled in the creative arts, business, care, construction, technology and many more ways to build God's kingdom.

I am so thankful for our Audio-Visual volunteers who have carried an extra load over the past 5 months. It has been encouraging to see Emily, Jayden, Kyle, Matt Inman, Matt Ratten, and Steven serve the body using their skills and passions.

As a church we need to be training new leaders, looking for potential, seeing the way God is working and encouraging each other to step up into all that he is calling us to.

4. Caring

We are incredibly blessed to have Charles on the pastoral team for a season such as this. I have learnt much from him in how to love the church. He is also leading a fantastic team of coordinators and callers who are working to keep us connected and meeting one another's needs. Thank you to those who have joined that team or continued to faithfully serve in our pastoral care ministry.

It has been rewarding to invest deeply into the lives of many, especially the leaders across the church. While it has been different and more difficult over these past months, it is always great to chat and pray with people of all ages.

The main need is to bring together a holistic view of pastoral care; bringing together our caring ministries, prayer ministries, welcoming and integration, and life groups. With all these areas functioning together, we will be able to better support those inside and outside our community at BBC. We have begun with our care and prayer departments but there is still much work to be done.

Let's continue to build one another up, carry each other's burdens and demonstrate the love of Jesus.

Rod Thearle

INTERIM PASTOR

"To God be the glory, great things He has done. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord," is the song that jumps into my heart and mind as I look back. From 25th August 2019 Marj and I embarked upon our ministry here with expectancy that God had a purpose in clearly calling us to serve you here at BBC for six months (So we thought!). But, soon discovered that we were being affirmed at the general members meeting in February this year to continue in this role as your Interim Pastor.

Inconceivable

Little did we know that we would be locked out of our building in March. Since then, none of us thought that our next meeting will be a virtual online meeting on the 23rd of August. But this did not prevent us from continuing the work of our Lord in wonderful ways we never dreamed about. I am so impressed and thankful for our Pastor Rod, Stephen Harper, Carl Meginbir, Ashton Wynn-Yorke, Colin Brewer, Sean McMahon, David Muir and I who have prayerfully worked together to prayerfully guide our Church family through these difficult months, with the help of the Holy Spirit. We transitioned to online delivery of most of our ministries and meetings.

Overview

It took me a few months after joining to get to know your names. But, as Marj and I began our Pastoral care visitation and contacts we soon began to get to know you. We set up a routine visitation program and we're working our way through the Church Directory.

Workshops

This inspired me to prepare for and lead a Pastoral Care Refocus Workshop on Saturday 1st February this year. I also conducted a Prayer Ministry training day on Saturday 14th March. This inspired 3 out of the 13 people who attended the workshops to get involved in Pastoral care. I was led to consider developing the Pastoral care team. It was while drafting a working document for the team, that Covid-19 forced the lockdown of all BBC activities, and abruptly halted Marj and my regular weekly visitations.

PC & PN

I was forced to seek the Lord for direction and inspiration to be able to continue my role. The Lord put a thought into my heart to follow His leading. This changed my direction and the Pastoral Care and Prayer Network was established in April. The entire Church congregation is broken-up into 20 groups of 8-10 people each (some are family units). Right now, I lead a team with the help of three Coordinators Allan Conry, Geoff Dunn and Warren White who each have a specific portfolio (please read their reports). Together we began to lead a team of 20 frontline carers/callers. Each frontline carer/caller is given a specific group to call for a month only. Each person in that group is called weekly or fortnightly to care for and pray for them. If there is a need, the carer/caller refers this to the relevant Coordinator. The Coordinators and I meet on zoom at the end of each month. The

entire team meets for a monthly zoom meeting. Any feedback is helping us develop the team to function better. I value and appreciate the 16 people who presently serve in this team. We could do with 6 more people in the team. Let me know if God should lead you.

I invited some people together for a zoom meeting on 24th July to consider the Prayer Ministry opportunities within BBC. This is presently in its embryonic stage. So, stay tuned! You will hear more as this develops.

Pastor Rod, Stephen Harper and I played a part representing you at the National Day of Prayer and Fasting held at BBC on Saturday 22nd February this year.

STBYH

This is a ministry that has been burning within my heart for several years. I was planning to do something in this area for all churches when Covid-19 brought it to the front once again and now, "SONGS THAT BLESS YOUR HEART" was inaugurated on 14th June this year.

About a 45 minute service of Praise and Worship of songs that blesses the hearts of God's people everywhere. This is developing too! Why not tune in at 2.00 PM every 2nd Sunday of the month and be blessed.

Marj and I appreciate each and every one of you and pray for you regularly. We value your prayer support and request you to continue to do so for us.

Let us keep our eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Your friend and Interim Pastor (Part-time)

Charles Lazaro

ELDERSHIP

The eldership at Beaconsfield consists of pastors and elders, which for most of this past twelve months has been Rod, Charles and myself. We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday morning where we pray and discuss matters relating to spiritual leadership and pastoral support.

In many regards it has been a stable year for our church, and yet much has changed with the pandemic restrictions. We praise God for bringing Pastor Charles and Marj to us, as they have both contributed to a Pastoral Care ministry that needed much attention and guidance. And given the limited opportunities for face-to-face fellowship, the care shown by our front-line carers through regular calls has been appreciated by many. I want to thank Pastor Rod for his leadership over the past year and his commitment to us. After almost 5 years of ministry he is our longest serving Pastor since David Morland. We thank God for both Rod and Mez for the amazing way they balance raising Piper and Eden and serving us so selflessly.

Over the coming year we see great opportunity to increase our local community support, to look out for those in need, to pray that the diligent work of the Pastoral Search Committee will bear fruit, to extend the eldership by appointing more elders, and to seek God's working in all of us to know Him better and serve Him better. We acknowledge our Lord is sovereign in all things and despite the struggles and challenges we face we trust he is working all things for the good of those who love him. He is worthy to be praised.

Stephen Harper

DIACONATE REPORTS

SECRETARY

I have been learning much in the past year in my role as secretary. Apart from the more regular tasks of agendas and minutes for Leadership and Deacons meetings, the secretary role has included me in the Pastoral Search Committee and the Eldership Appointment Committee, both being something I have not been part of before. As a team, we have also worked hard on things like position descriptions for both paid and volunteer roles and processes to bring volunteers into roles as well as many other matters.

What stands out to me in everything that I have been involved in is the need to be reliant on God to lead, which leads to seeking Him to do so. I am blessed to be on a team of people who are all keen to follow God's leading in all that we do. During our regular devotional times at our meetings, it is always encouraging, and often challenging, to hear how God has spoken.

While times are not 'normal' and may not be for some time, as followers of Christ we can find encouragement and hope in our God who does not change. As we continue to worship Him together, let's be encouraged that He alone is God over all (Psalm 86:8-10).

As always, as a Leadership Team we continue to covet your prayers, for us, for our church, our community and beyond. Please continue to pray. Let's see what God does in the coming year.

Carl Meginbir

MISSIONS

The Beaconsfield Baptist Missionary Committee has been a significant component of the outward-looking culture of Beaconsfield Baptist Church for decades. It is funded through the "Tithe to Outreach" fund within the management of our church finances whereby 10% of our General Offering is set aside for local, national and international outreach opportunities.

We seek to continue to provide PR, Prayer and Financial support for missionaries we feel led to assist and we work towards maintaining their presence in our church's life through various means. Their pictures, locations and details are on the noticeboards in the foyer but we currently maintain their presence through video "grabs" and Prayer Slides in our Church Online broadcasts.

This year we have distributed around \$32,000 to our 7 missionary initiatives which covers \$200 and \$400 per month for singles and couples respectively. One of our missionary families – the Morrisons – has finished their valuable time with Global Interaction working with the Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. BBC has been pleased to partner with them in their outstanding work. As a committee we are currently reviewing the list of families or causes we support. Please pray for us as we look at many needy causes and those whom work within them.

Unfortunately, this year we were unable to have our traditional Annual Fundraiser Concert. The opportunity to raise funds while enjoying the church's talents was sadly missed.

The Missionary Committee normally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month but this has been compromised significantly by COVID Lockdown restrictions. The faithful work done by Ruth, Zoe, Liane, Heather, Wilma, Marian, Asiri and Windya is very much appreciated.

Sean McMahon

PROPERTY

As is the case over our church's history we continue to be served by many volunteers who freely give their time and abilities to keep our premises clean, safe and comfortable. Thank you, everyone.

Church:

- Carpets and Rugs in the rear half of our buildings were steam cleaned in January. The Auditorium will be done separately when we can co-opt teams to move the pews out.
- MDF board protecting lower walls in Multi Purpose Hall is fitted, painted and completed.
- Vivid Blue "poster" effect on the West wall in the Prayer Room has been repainted green to match our standard colour scheme.
- Grounds Maintenance continues at a high level of presentation
- Quarterly Building Pest Inspections have been completed. All clear.
- Work on rear wall of the Auditorium was completed to install 3 cameras and to modify cable access to the small office which now contains the new Media and Broadcast facilities.
- Ongoing government guidelines are being applied as required to comply with constantly changing COVID-19 requirements and expectations.
- "Working Bees" (where DOES that term come from?) will be organised once we are allowed to arrange volunteer teams etc. again.

PLEASE NOTE:

- A Vacancy for Gardening Oversight still exists. *We thank Des Barker for his tireless, creative work over years of making our grounds such a pleasant and attractive space!*
- We have received Council Notification of a **proposed new Subdivision** for residential development diagonally opposite and to the West of our church. It is on the North side of Old Princes Highway and will continue along Glissman Road. This development, should it proceed, will not impact the operations of Beaconsfield Baptist Church.

Manse:

- The Dunkley family vacated the manse at the beginning of 2020.
- While preparing the property for new tenants we observed significant water damage in the kitchen and family room which resulted in mold. This created major health and safety concerns which resulted in nearly three months duration for removal, cleaning, drying, repairing and replacing the affected sub structure, floors, coverings and cabinets.
 - Fortunately this was a claimable event on our insurance.
 - Fortunately we have the "Loss Of Rent" benefit.
 - Some painting and curtain replacement also was possible during this time subject to trades management and social distancing.
- Pastor Rod, Mez, Piper and Eden *finally* took up residence in the manse in early May. I thank them for their patience and flexibility.
- Minor maintenance and aesthetics will be a "work in progress" once we are allowed to arrange volunteer teams etc. again.

Sean McMahan

SAFE CHURCH

The purpose of Safe Church is to make our church a safe environment for everyone. Our work involves managing polices and ensuring we comply with regulatory requirements/legislative changes. An important responsibility is the safety of children; where able, we seek to minimise the risk of misconduct or abuse.

Yvonne, Jenni, and Peter chose to resign from their roles following the decision on the Working With Children policy. Stephen Carle has also stepped down as Safe Church Concerns Person. We thank them all for their work and appreciate their contributions to the church. Gillian Ward has recently joined, and we are looking to add more members to the team. The remaining members are Bruce Ward and myself.

Much of 2020 has been at a stand-still with the ongoing coronavirus crisis. We had planned to run a Safe Church Awareness Refresher workshop in July, but this had to be cancelled. Online training is available as an alternative and we will be sending out details for this soon.

Some outcomes from the past year:

- Ran a CPR course with all attendees passing
- Developed new Working with Children Policy
- Developed new leadership appointment procedures

A few things we're aiming to do:

- Improve our documentation and Safe Church manual.

We all look forward to being able to meet again in-person and worship together.

David Muir

COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF

It is said that God is in all things and as a Diaconate we have certainly witnessed and experienced his hand in guiding us through the challenging times of COVID19.

I currently have the privilege of serving in the Communications and Staff portfolio within the team and have enjoyed the areas of responsibility that have enabled us as a church to continue to come together and grow and learn as a united community under God.

Staff Portfolio

Over the last year the activity in this role has been the engaging of our wonderful Interim Pastor Charles Lazaro who has led and rebuilt our Pastoral Care network with resounding success. Pastor Charles who is also very active for the Lord has been involved heavily in supporting Pastor Rod and instigating the rebirth of what was known as the PSA to a monthly Hymn singing service called 'Songs that Bless your Heart'. Along with his wife Marg it has been a pleasure interacting with Pastor Charles.

I also recently facilitated a change of personnel of Heather Bakker to Heather Agnew in the role of Office assistant within the church. Whilst it was sad to see Heather B move on it has been refreshing to see how God has worked in the process of highlighting Heather A for the role which began on the 1st of July. We do wish Heather B all the best and welcome Heather A!

Part of this role is ensuring that staff are well and to carry out reviews on an annual basis with each of them. This continues to happen, and I can report that we have a healthy motivated team that are focused on God's work.

Communications Portfolio

The communications portfolio is all about how we communicate together and to the community of Beaconsfield. So, this year we have focused on 2 key areas;

1. The Beacon
2. BBC Website

The Beacon

Back in November 2019, I had the privilege of bringing together a small committee to engage and design a new format for our Beacon Newsletter. The members of the Committee were Philip Rayment, Carl Meginbir, Abi Harris, Peter Joynson, Rod Thearle. The committee's diversity and investment of time was wonderful to behold. This allowed us to bring together a new format of the Beacon that communicates strongly whilst continuing to respect the long serving old format which served us well. A big thanks to all the members of the committee for each of the gifts and experiences they brought to the process.

New BBC Website

The outcomes of the new Beacon and Pastor Rods passion for ensuring that we clearly can define how to help and serve our community for God then led us to looking at our existing website and commissioning a design refresh that themes through all the outreach activities and ministries that our church are engaged in.

This process is currently underway with the expectation that the new website will be launched in the next 2 months.

Apart from these two headline items within the communications portfolio the role also has an element of writing and communicating from the leadership around ministry activities and announcements of which all continues to be actioned as required.

A big thanks to all the members, their feedback and support of these portfolios but also the leadership team. It has really been an honour to serve within this group of people at BBC and see our church grow and focus on God's will.

Ashton Wynne-Yorke

MINISTRY REPORTS

COVID ASSISTANCE FUND

In June 2020, we established the BBC COVID-19 Assistance Fund to provide support and relief to persons experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The Fund is overseen by the BBC Leadership Team and is operated in accordance with key governance documents including a Fund Memorandum, Governance and Operational Structure and Procedures Manual. A separate bank account has been established to receive and disburse designated funds. The Fund is administered through BBC as a tax-exempt organisation and is currently not endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

Why was the Fund established?

The Fund was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in anticipation of economic and social costs across the local community. Measures introduced by government in March 2020 to manage the rising number of COVID-19 cases have led to significant job losses, increased income insecurity and impacts to general health and wellbeing as social distancing rules were imposed and non-essential services closed.

As the Church, we are called to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:11), to share what we have (Hebrews 13:16) and to give to those in need (Luke 12:33-34).

The purpose of the Fund is to fulfil this calling. It does so by providing emergency financial assistance to persons, who as a result of COVID-19, have lost a secure source of income, are experiencing financial hardship and require assistance to pay for food, rent and similar necessities.

Who does the Fund help?

The Fund provides support to individuals and families who currently attend Beaconsfield Baptist Church or are referred by someone who attends BBC, Follow Baptist Church or Pakenham Baptist Church.

Church attendance, either at BBC or another church is not required.

To be eligible to receive support, the person must be at least 18 years old and be the recipient of a COVID-19 related income support payment for individuals from the Australian Government or an international student who is not eligible to receive Australian Government income support and are experiencing financial hardship.

How does the Fund help?

Fund support is provided in the form of a \$100 grocery gift card for individuals and \$200 grocery gift card for couples and families. This type of support provides financial relief by ensuring essential food needs are met and by releasing limited income towards other cost of living expenses.

Assessment of Fund performance

The Fund has been strongly supported by the BBC community. Through the generous giving of our congregation, the Fund raised over \$11,800 in donations over a 4-week period from Fund launch (on 1 June 20) to financial year end (30 June 20). Funds raised exceeded the \$10,000 Phase 1 Fundraising Target by \$1,800.

The number of applications made for Fund assistance at the end of the financial year was nil and enquiry levels in the first 4 weeks of the 2021 financial year have remained subdued. A number of factors may have contributed to this, including:

- Levels of financial hardship have been low within the BBC community. This may be attributed to the socio-demographic profile of our church with older and more financially stable age cohorts representing a high proportion of our church community. It has been widely reported that job losses across the economy have been more prevalent amongst younger and less financially stable age cohorts.
- Members experiencing financial hardship feeling a sense of shame or embarrassment in seeking help from the Fund.
- The launch of the Fund (on 1 June 2020) coinciding with the lifting of restrictions in Victoria (also on 1 June 2020) and the reopening of businesses and return to work of employees across the state.
- Communication not yet reaching those in need and being limited to Sunday church announcements and newsletters (and not yet being communicated through the BBC website or social media pages).
- Fund eligibility criteria being circumscribed in terms of reach (referrals only, not accessible by the broader community) and scope (recipients of COVID-19 related government income support only, exclusion of small business owners suffering hardship; exclusion of cases of general financial hardship and low income).

We are thankful to God that cases of financial hardship to date have been low within the BBC community.

The table below provides a summary of Fund performance as at 30 June 2020.

Table 1 - Key Performance Indicators (as at 30 June 2020)

Funds Raised (\$)	\$11,810.82
Financial Assistance Provided (\$)	Nil
Number of Applications for Assistance	Nil
Number of People Supported	Nil

Concluding Comments

The COVID-19 Assistance Fund is still in its early stages of operation and the recent increase in COVID cases and Stage 4 restrictions announced by the Victorian Government suggest that economic and social challenges associated with managing the pandemic are not over. With the Fund now established and capitalised, BBC is well positioned to support any future financial needs within our community should they arise.

The Leadership Team will continue to oversee and evaluate opportunities to improve the effectiveness of the Fund including who is eligible to receive support, how support is provided and how this support is communicated within the community.

Malachi 3:10 - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

Glen Slimmon

CARAVAN AND CABIN CLUB

We rally twice a year at a different location within Victoria. The club is a social gathering of people associated with our Church and their friends who have a Caravan or Motor Home or who stay in cabins at the designated Caravan Park. I research the parks carefully well in advance and then book sites and cabins 'on hold' for the members who then book directly with the Park. There is on average 40 people. The club has proved to be a wonderful time of getting to know each other, with friendships made but also gives opportunity for those not Christian to join with us. We have a casual time of Bible and prayer on Sunday morning together; at the Mount Beauty Rally Sunday morning time, individuals shared what they are grateful for.

Mount Beauty park is stunning. This was in October 2019 and spring blossoms were beautiful. The facilities were wonderful for the group and we loved sitting around the large outdoor fires by the river. We even went for a day trip to the snow. Some did line dancing with the locals and had coffee with them at a café. This rally was 7 nights.

For the Autumn Rally 2020, we went to Warrnambool Surfside Park. We enjoyed beach walks, local tourism: Fletcher Jones Garden and Mill Market, Lake Pertobe, a volcano crater and more. The evening out at Flagstaff Hill for the sound and light show was brought forward and our group just managed to get in before it was told to shut for the Covid 19 restrictions. There were 4 newcomers at this rally.

The Spring Rally at Echuca is booked up but with the current conditions is looking doubtful. It is the 20th Rally!

You are welcome to join us; you will no doubt visit places you have not seen yet and have a great time with us. I have kept in contact with members during the lockdown and have organised the 2021 rally to look forward to at Beechworth, people have commenced booking this. Because we cannot travel overseas, domestic travel will increase, so I encourage early booking to secure your accommodation/site.

A recent message sent to me by a faithful supporter from day one, sums up comments: "I always pray for you as people have been very blessed by the caravan and cabin travels".

Ruth Denny (Organiser)

SENIOR L.I.F.E.

In a "normal" world Senior L.I.F.E. meets during school terms in one of the church rooms, at 10.30 on Tuesday morning. We are a group of twelve, sharing thoughts on bible passages, excerpts from books written on the bible, or the previous church sermon.

In this "not so normal" world, thanks to the current virus, we have been connecting on Tuesdays via email with a short study on Psalms.

I am grateful for all the experience of Christian living and the encouragement received from this group. God willing we will soon be able to meet again in person to openly discuss His word.

Eileen Hillis

CROSSLINKS

Crosslinks is a mentoring outreach program that is run in Beaconsfield Primary School. Mentors are trained and equipped by Crosslinks. Each mentor is assigned to one child, who they dedicate one hour of time once a week. Each mentor and child relationship is unique and the activities enjoyed are as varied as the children involved. They can include cooking, playing board games, craft, outside activities and helping with schoolwork.

Last year we had five mentors. This year we began with three, including one new mentor. Training was scheduled, but unfortunately the program was postponed due to the Pandemic. We are in a holding pattern as Victorian schools are still closed. We are thankful for a successful program last year and the enthusiasm of our mentors and children. It is such a privilege to be able to spend quality time with these precious children. God is blessing this ministry in many ways. All our mentors are delighted by the excitement they receive from their child when they turn up each week. As relationships build, the conversations deepen, and the children grow with confidence and self-esteem.

Once we are able to return to the school, there is a need for new mentors to come onboard. Rod and I met at the beginning of the year and were so excited about the prospects of growing this ministry. It is a gift that we are welcome in Beaconsfield Primary. Our prayer is that more mentors will be called and take advantage of this incredible opportunity to make a difference in our community. If you would like to know more then please contact me. It is a blessing and privilege to be a part of this ministry – I am ever reminded of the power of giving one child, one hour once a week.

Carol Langsford (Coordinator)

CHURCH LIBRARY

The church library is a welcoming place on Sundays when the church is open with books, DVD's and talking books available for both adults and children. The collection shares the Christian message and is relevant to Beaconsfield Baptist Church. We have displays of new books and occasional reviews in the Beacon. Around three quarters of titles in the library collection have been entered onto a computer programme which will make searches easier. New books and DVDs are regularly added to the collection.

Thank you to our faithful monitors on Sunday mornings, evenings and Wednesday mornings. Thanks to our team of helpers who work in the background covering books and helping with organizing the library collection.

Since the covid-19 regulations came in and the church closed the library has not been open. However, we have been able to do a couple of book drops and have plans to expand more book deliveries once restrictions ease.

May this collection not take away from the Lord's word.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119:105

Ann Taylor

NEXTGEN

2020 has proved to be the year of change and adaptation for the NextGen team. Starting the year with only 3 volunteers, we were buoyed with the addition of a number of new team members who have a heart for the children of Beacy. Our team currently stands as Sharon, Amy and Elyse Fisher, Zoe and Ken Agnew, Emily Burns, Sara Hoppitt, Memphis Wynn-Yorke and Flynn Meginbir. With our newly-formed team, and the support of the pastoral team, particularly Rod, we planned for a busy year of activities, big and small group learning with the goal to hopefully bolster the number of attendees.

At the start of the year, we focused on re-introducing 'big group time' into our schedule, and we found it to be a really engaging time for the children of all ages to learn and worship together. Bean Bag cinema days with popcorn also proved to be popular. In term 1, we dug into the Old Testament, which we hadn't studied for quite some time. This term we are focussing on the life of Jesus and His miracles.

Once COVID-19 hit, and church was no longer a face-to-face service, we had to quickly adapt our approach to continue connecting and teaching the children. In that way, we have been sending weekly emails of lessons to the kids, with activity sheets and a few questions too. We have also encouraged the children to write letters to us, and we write back to them, including a self-addressed and stamped envelope so they can reply. As a result, our fridge is beautified by the artwork and letters of our NextGen kids.

When we were allowed more than 5km away from our homes back in April, we also dropped off some Easter treats to each of the children's homes. Our lovely administration volunteer Jenny Jackson also sends the children a birthday card when it's their birthday.

Truthfully, the majority of the letters and emails we've received in response to ours are often the same few children, as is to be expected. We are continuing trying to find new ways to try and capture the attention of the children as lockdown continues, and are hopeful that, even without replying, there are children who are still learning from the lessons we've put together.

We understand the importance of this mission in teaching the children of BBC, and we look forward to seeing how God guides and shapes NextGen as we keep going for the rest of this year. We are ready to change and adapt again as He calls us to.

Sharon Fisher

MAKE AND MINGLE

Make and Mingle is a friendship and craft group, with around 100 participants from both the church and the community.

Last year we had a wonderful Craft fair in November and despite some challenges for setting up in the week prior with no electricity, we had a very successful morning with many 100s of people from the community coming along.

We also had a blessed Christmas break up day with Charles and Marg joining us in singing Christmas carols and providing a message.

First term we were able to have some good craft mornings and encouraging think spots. We have a number of missions and charities that we support and this continued. At our last meeting before we had to close due to Covid- 19 restrictions Charles and Marg sang the song 'God is on the mountain' "For the God on mountain is still God is in the valley." This was just the encouragement we needed to carry us through and God's timing with the song was perfect.

Everyone has missed meeting together over the past few months, however we have all been phoning each other regularly and our committee has been making sure everyone has regular calls, cards and newsletters.

We have also continued with our newsletters around once a month, distributed by email or post. These have poems, Bible verses and encouragement and news from the group and craft projects stories. We also give them links to the church services and some have joined online on Sundays. Many people have asked us for prayer and we have been so encouraged to see prayer answered and hear their stories.

We wait upon the Lord to know when and how we will meet again at the church. In the meantime we want all our Make and Minglers to know we are there for them, they are still part of the group and that God is with them at this time and will take us through.

Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you: do not anxiously look around you for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my right hand."

Ann Taylor

BEACY YOUTH

At Beacy Youth, the purpose is to glorify God. As a team, the leaders of Beacy Youth, aim to create a safe place and space for young people to grow in their faith and to see and hear the gospel of the good news of Jesus Christ and then to head out into their schools and other such environments telling others about this good news. We (the leaders) aim to be Disciples making Disciples making Disciples, which can only be done in and through our great God (Matthew 28:19-20).

The ministry of Beacy Youth is aimed at high school aged children, of Beaconsfield Baptist Church and surrounds. We have between 25-35 attending each week on Friday nights. These numbers have decreased slightly due to the current climate, but I am still very encouraged that we have the majority of Youth joining us in our altered way of doing Youth.

We are currently going through the Book of 1 Peter in small groups (Year 7-10 Girls, Year 7-10 Boys, and Year 11&12's). It is a wonderful book, with much wisdom and truth found in it (I mean, of course it is, it's the Bible!) But it has created some wonderful topics of discussions with the youth and we are continuously praying that God is at work in the conversations and the hearts of each of the young people as we make our way through the studies.

I am thankful for the way Beacy Youth has been able to continue on during these unprecedented times that we are in. Even though we have been hindered from meeting in person, I find so much joy in seeing how God has shown us (the leaders) and used each person's gifts and talents to enable us to meet with the young people online for small group bible studies, and other fun things such as "FLABBY" (Friday Live At Beacy Baps Youth). Which is a live stream that we do every second week on Youtube, consisting of games that are interactive, and fun guest appearances including past leaders who are now overseas! This has allowed us to create memories (and many memes) and more connections with the youth. I can really see how God has placed each of the Leaders and Youth in this place at this time for a very special reason, namely, growing in faith, connecting with each other, and glorifying God together. It is absolutely awesome to see how God is truly creating a wonderfully tight knit and strong community during a time when we have been so geographically far from each other!

I think that even though there is a great community spirit that has been created during this time, I am very passionate about personal one on one relationships, between Youth Leaders and Youth, and I think there is room to improve on mentoring relationships for our Youth. The young people of today are faced with some really challenging themes and issues in life, whether it be at school, with friends or at home. I would love to have intentional relationships happening, where youth can have safe, God honouring conversations with Leaders who are leaning on God as their strength and wisdom, and pointing the Youth to look to The Lord for those things as well, for as Christians, this is what we are called to do. Therefore, I would like to work on some kind of mentorship program that we can implement at Beacy Youth for youth who would like to be mentored and feel that they would benefit from it. I am continuing to pray that God would lead us in the way that he would have us go in regard to this.

Matilda Sheeran

SOCIAL LIGHTS

During the latter part of 2019, since last year's AGM we had four luncheon meetings, all well attended by most of our regulars. Our breakup for 2019 was a welcome departure from our usual fellowship over lunch at the Cardinia Park Hotel. Our venue was The Wynne-Yorke Theatre in Beaconsfield. We all enjoyed a screening of 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' followed by a 'basket lunch', to which we all contributed. It was a fine way to end our Social Light year.

Unfortunately, we had only one meeting in February this year, before Covid-19 forced the cancellation of the rest of this year's meetings. We don't expect any more meetings in 2020, but are hopeful that we will be able to reconvene sometime in 2021.

Geoff Dunn

PASTORAL CARE – PRAYER

This new ministry is a work in progress. It is intended to organise the various areas of prayer life within the church to ensure that we have the maximum number of church folk involved in praying. We will endeavour to inform folks of any prayer needs and encourage greater participation in prayer by all.

Unless we commit each area of the church in prayer we cannot expect to advance the gospel in our locality, see God work in the lives of people and see Him bless us as a church fellowship. Our aim this year is to see a greater commitment from our fellowship in the area of prayer.

Allan Conry

PASTORAL CARE – SPIRITUAL NEEDS

Under the leadership of our pastors a team of approximately 20 Pastoral Carers are connecting with folk by phone to offer an opportunity for fellowship as the C19 lockdown temporarily disrupts the mass assembly together.

This ministry of the "priesthood of all believers" is assisting to meet the need for spiritual fellowship and an increasing bonding of the BBC community to be closer and stronger for the future. In the event that folk believe there is a need of spiritual care I would encourage you to contact me (0407254013).

Warren White

PASTORAL CARE - PRACTICAL NEEDS

The new Pastoral Care Programme is only in its infancy, so there is little to report, but watch this space in 2021! I have been compiling a list of volunteers who stand ready to produce and deliver meals to those in our fellowship who are in need of support. We have some twenty volunteers on the list at present, and many of them have already contributed to this programme. All meals have been gratefully received. We can always use more volunteers, as the plan is to call on them as rarely as possible, so that it doesn't become a chore. My thanks to those who have contributed thus far.

Geoff Dunn

PRAYER CHAIN / PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

I would like to thank Jan Ketcher for her 5 years of dedicated work providing prayer requests to the folk on the Prayer Chain. This is an important part of caring for people who are in need of support at a difficult time in their life, not only with health problems, but also with other critical needs.

At the monthly meeting of the Pastoral Care Team Coordinators, with Pastor Charles and Elder Stephen Harper, on Friday 24th July, 2020 (on Zoom), it was discussed and agreed that the name "Prayer Chain" be changed to "**Prayer Support Group**", (**PSG**), as the method of passing on prayer requests by phone has been superseded by the sending of emails to each person who is praying. The function of this group will remain the same, only the name has been changed. (Confidentiality is requested.)

We praise God for the answers to prayer, and for His hand upon each one for whom prayer has been offered.

1 Peter 5:7. "Casting your every care upon Him, for He cares for you."

Thank you to those who pray.

Marian Watson (Interim Coordinator)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Previously called 'Weekly Prayer Meeting'

The Monthly Church Prayer Meeting each Monday at 1.30pm in the Church Prayer Room, began on Feb.18th, 2019 at the instigation of 4 ladies from the Seniors L.I.F.E. Bible Study Group. It celebrated its 1st Anniversary on Feb.17th, 2020. We also met again on March 16th, 2020, but this was the last opportunity to meet together in person, because of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. (We were averaging an attendance of 8-10 people at each monthly meeting.)

On Monday 20th April, 2020, I sent out an email list of prayer requests to the 14 people who were involved in the 3rd Monday Monthly Church Prayer Meeting, as we were unable to meet together at the Church because of the restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Pastor Charles rang me that afternoon (Mon. 20th April), to talk about the possibility of (1) having the monthly prayer meeting on "zoom" and (2) making it a weekly prayer meeting instead of a monthly prayer meeting. I already had downloaded "zoom" on my computer as I had been joining in the "Prayer Webinars" on "zoom" for the Canberra Declaration, so I was very happy with this suggestion. I inserted a notice in the weekly "Beacon" advising of this change. So, on Monday 27th April, 2020, we began our weekly prayer meetings at 1.30pm on "zoom" and this has continued since then. The unfortunate part is that not everyone who used to attend the monthly church prayer meeting at the church has "zoom", so the attendance has dropped to 3-4 people. But I still email the prayer requests to the 14 people each Sunday evening. For those who are unable to join on "zoom", they are still able to be informed and to pray at home. (Confidentiality is requested).

We thank our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness in answering these prayer requests.

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

It's been an interesting 12 months in the life of the worship teams. We see our key role in the church of being the facilitator of Worshipping our Lord and Saviour in music and song as per our BBC vision.

Over the last 12 months some of the key items that we have been focused on have been

- Dealing with the realities of COVID 19 and introducing Live Stream
- Delivering a balanced approach to morning worship
- Being a team that encourages new and young people into the music ministry

These key areas have been successfully implemented by our worship leaders and their teams. We have seen new gifted people come into the teams from our youth predominantly and each worship leader works on putting together music for the services that meets both the congregational needs based on demographic and age.

The worship leaders continue to meet and work on ensuring that we are continuing to lead the congregation in praising our God on a quarterly basis. We also have had Lauren Dalton join the Worship Leading team which has been a blessing. Our Pastor continues to anchor the process with us.

The current COVID lock down has limited our ability to have everyone in our teams involved during services and I'd like to thank the wonderful investment to God's work of the teams who are leading worship weekly under some tight restrictions. We are seeing some wonderful outreach and opportunities to see God work in our community through the live stream which enables people who don't regularly access church to come and participate at BBC.

The AGM is a great way for the worship teams and I to thank members for the continued positive feedback on the music and songs that we invest in at BBC that aim to glorify our God. It is a real privilege to be part of a church family that enjoys and participates in the element of song worship within our church.

Psalm 100: Vs 1-4

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.

Ashton Wynne-Yorke (Coordinator)

AUDIO VISUAL

I usually don't feel that a report from the AV ministry would be overly interesting to the greater church community, especially as a job well done means going unnoticed. However, in these exceptional circumstances technology has come to the fore in keeping us all connected. From the first Sunday of "lockdown" towards the end of March, using two phones over Zoom, through to the dedicated system that went live a few weeks ago, we've done our best to bring you online.church.

A big thanks goes to Kyle Hoppitt, Matt Inman, Jayden & Peter Bestenbreur, and Steven & Emily Burns for their tireless effort operating during the Sunday services and installing, upgrading and troubleshooting during the week. Rod's leadership through this time has been invaluable, as he gave wise direction to a diverse group of problem solvers.

About a month into the pandemic it became apparent that "church life" would be different for quite some time, and that proper installation of suitable equipment would be a sound investment in maintaining this new way of connecting and engaging in Sunday services while also accommodating a staged re-opening of the building. The Leadership Team announced and approved the expense, and we got started right away. There's now three cameras discretely mounted on the back wall, a Broadcast studio out the back packed with equipment, and over 500m of cabling neatly tucked away.

Equipment upgrades and process changes, along with an extra role on the roster, mean that the AV team needs to retrain and grow to sustainably spread the load in the future. We are currently looking for volunteers who have a heart to serve, an ear for music or an eye for detail, and aren't afraid to get a little geeky. Please get in touch if this could be you. The plan is to run training sessions on weeknights, abiding by the current restrictions.

I take great comfort in the knowledge that God has this all under control, and that no matter how dire the current situation may look, He is with us. As a church, we will get through this and emerge on the other side ready to embrace a "new normal" where our Sunday services have a (much) wider reach than these four walls, and not being able to attend in-person doesn't mean missing out.

Matt Ratten

SHOP AND SHARE

Thank you to everyone who has donated food to the trolley in the foyer at church. Since the closure last year of 4Cs at Pakenham, these food items are delivered to the Pakenham Salvation Army. The Salvation Army have a well-coordinated program in Pakenham of assisting people in need. John Cooper helps to run this program and he attended Beaconsfield Baptist Church one Sunday in January 2020 to explain the ministry – he was extremely grateful for our donations and support of the program. God is at work through this ministry as it builds links and creates networks of people, through which lives are enriched and blessed.

During this COVID-19 lockdown, with our congregation not attending our church building, no food items are being collected in the trolley, so no deliveries have been made to the Salvation Army. This is unfortunate, but we're aware that people are supporting their community in different ways in this pandemic time, including our own church's Assistance Fund.

Praise God for the lives touched through the generous donation of every food item placed in the trolley! Thank you to Jane Coppins who assists with the deliveries to Pakenham.

Wendy and Peter Lyall

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ACTIVITY PACKS

This wonderful outreach ministry has continued to deliver about 1700 activity packs for the sick children in both Casey and St. John of God Hospitals in Berwick per year. Prior to lockdown in March the fantastic team of helpers actually did a double pack of approximately 300 activity packs not realising that this was going to be the last pack for many months!! Due to elective surgery being either stopped completely or scaled down the need for the packs have dramatically dropped in numbers. I have been in contact with both hospitals by email to ascertain their need for more packs and I have only needed to do one delivery in the last 4 months. As we still have approximately 150 packs at the church for future delivery we can relax knowing the children are not missing out on their packs.

It is really lovely to hear from both the staff and the children how much they enjoy the packs. Here is a letter forwarded to the church from one appreciative parent...

Hello there,

My little boy recently attended St John of God in Berwick for a small operation and during recovery he received a gift pack from your church. The pack was filled with wonderful ideas and it just made his day. It really lifted his spirits and gave him plenty to do. When we got home Cohen's sister both joined in the craft, they loved it too.

I wanted to say a huge thank you and let you know how appreciative I am for your little thought.

Many thanks

Bianca

Thank you to everyone involved in this ministry, either packing, donating, collating or financially supporting our church. We could not do it without your help.

Cheryl Reid (Coordinator)

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly music is a fun music group for care-givers and their pre-school children. Children are introduced to music, creativity and more, plus families are given the opportunity to think about the God part of life. Mainly music is about connection; adults with children, adults with each other, children with music, and connection with the church.

This year started with a bang. With a few families finishing up in 2019 we were prepared to ease into 2020. However new families turned up on week 1 and stayed. Our average attendance in term 1 was 18 families with 28 being on our roll altogether. We enjoyed a 30 minute music session, including a short think spot/devotion, followed by an eat/play/chat time. We had a mix of Christian and non-Christian families attending. Unfortunately term 1 was cut short due to concerns about the virus, although we still had time to deliver Easter gifts to the children before restrictions set in.

During term 2, and continuing on in term 3 for those groups still under restrictions, mainly music head office have produced and supplied online sessions for us to send out to families. This has enabled us to keep in contact. One mum commented that her son loves mainly music and looks forward to doing it each week. We have also offered care and support through a weekly email.

Special thanks to our faithful band of volunteers who helped the session run smoothly each week. We look forward to the day we can all get back together again.

Heather Agnew

PLAYGROUP

Little Beacies Playgroup is such a wonderful family and children's ministry where children come along to playgroup with one or both parents, and sometimes a grandparent or two, and from time to time other siblings come along to join the younger children with activities which is not only fun but educational. Playgroup is an outreach ministry set up to have fun, be exciting, be relaxing and most importantly be a safe place for everyone. It is a place to form friendships that will last well beyond the formalities of playgroup where they can support each other in all aspects of their life. Most importantly each child and adult that comes to the playgroup has the opportunity to hear about Jesus through songs, stories, and conversations, which is not only very important but needed.

COVID-19 Pandemic has disrupted our normal program; however, playgroup has been able to continue in an online format. This created many challenges for the playgroup in working through how to deliver effective Christian outreach where focus was about having face-to-face conversations and interactions, to learning what online was, how to use the systems and then teaching the playgroup community how to access, use and maintain as much normality as possible. Whilst this was challenging and tiring, I (Cheree) have learnt so much and I continued to do so along the way.

While playgroup delivered its usual face-to-face format which everyone was pleased and children and adults were happy. Eileen H prepared an amazing craft each week, which is always a big hit with all the families. At the beginning of 2020 I would run playgroup on a Wednesday and Rod T was finding people to run playgroup on Tuesday.

As the COVID-19 restrictions came into force I transitioned and delivered playgroup online. This at first was very challenging, as I had no idea what to do or how to do it. But God is good and amazing, and somehow, I produced a playgroup session fortnightly. I really enjoyed the sessions and as time went, I got more confident with the systems and delivery online. I and the participants had a great time. Sessions were provided on a fortnightly basis. In addition, a craft pack was sent out to each family which contained four different craft ideas which the families could undertake and the feedback was really positive with everyone loving the packages and online programs. Eileen H made up the crafts and prepared the packaging's and then the packaging's were sent to the families via mail. A HUGE thank you to Eileen H for taking this one and ensuring continuity of our playgroup activities, there was a lot of work that has gone on behind the scenes to enable this to occur.

Unfortunately, playgroup had to be cancelled several times due to me being unwell to attend with no replacement available. Many families were disappointed by the decision to cancel. This issue was raised in the 2019 playgroup report and has not been fully addressed which has a significant risk to Beacies Playgroup, but to the church and its community both reputationally and operationally. The number of people attending playgroup each week was around 15 – 20 per day.

This year has enabled us to purchase some new books, felt board stories, and some arts and crafts from Koorong. The fresh tan bark on the outside area has freshened up the space and present a welcoming space. The 2019 summer holidays saw Sarah N, Eileen H, Mez T and myself do a big clean-up of the room and all the toys and equipment. A HUGE thank you to those ladies for all the hours spent scrubbing and washing everything. It is very much needed in regards to health and hygiene but it allowed 2020 to start off feeling, looking and smelling fresh and clean.

When playgroup meets face-to-face at pre COVID capacity again, it is going to be fantastic and will feel like a class reunion, and be so exciting.

As we continue to grow at playgroup I would like to recommend to the Board that some funding be set aside to enable be to purchase some outside play equipment that encourages gross motor skills development in children. These are important skills for growing children to assist with hand and eye coordination and broader coordination movements. It is very important that this equipment is not plastic, natural products are safer. I would also like to recommend to the Diaconate that the playgroup room be painted as the room is becoming tiered and a fresh coat of paint will brighten up the place.

Playgroup is now reaching a point where we desperately need volunteers for the following:

- cleaning and packing up
- reading a story
- singing a couple of songs
- come and mingle with chatting
- playing with the children
- a co-ordinator to run playgroup

Thank you to those who have helped from time to time this year. Thank you to Jesus for his protection over playgroup, and for the opportunity to share more about Jesus to each adult and child that comes to playgroup.

Cheree Stevens (Hemmings)



BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

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