



pathways to the river 2013

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Action research calendar

date	activity	venue	attendance	Volunteers	costs	feedback	Julie's notes
Dec 8	Youth camp	Brown-Major's Anglesea	20	Susan & Wayne Matthews	subsidized by Church Council	Worship was the biggest success of the camp	Ritual, there is a hunger for it
Dec 9,16,23	Children's Photo Profiling	BUC Gathering space	30+	Eva Rugel	Donated labour Subsidized by CC	Enthusiastic take up Hours of work donated by Eva	Needed to keep boundaries of purpose for SS aged students
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Pageant 7.00pm	church	25 Children performing 150 families & visitors	Glenice Cook Caitlin Mullen Hannah Denison M & D Moorhouse		Key success – Singing by YAs use of space & microphones	postcard promotions for BUC children's and youth events plus contact number for C & Y worker/vols
Dec 24	Christmas Eve drinks 9.30 – 11pm Billed as a social catch up for YAs loosely or closely connected to BUC	Penny Black upstairs	15 YAs 7 Adults	Matthew Cameron Olivia Potter Caitlin Mullen	donations in kind & cash	Mixed reviews but notable that a strong contingent of young people were at the 11.30pm candlelight service following	great support for set up but disappointing numbers in largeish space, late arrivals and a lot of no-shows
Feb 3	All Age SS	BUC church	15 -20 children	Secondary students			Make Samples/demo Written instructions could reduce hubbub
Feb 8 -10	Mount children's photo exhibition			Eva Rugel			
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March 3	All Age SS Card making for church council	BUC church	15 children	3 Sec School 3 Student House 3 YAs	\$30 materials		
March 28	Maundy Thursday	BUC church	23 Youth & YAs Liturgy vols Anika, Olivia	YUCY leaders Rachel Beagley Caitlin Mullen MatthewCameron		"That was really good to be at church with people my own age." "I really liked the start"	Create more room in liturgy for participation. Meeting and practice prior
April 14	SS Teacher training	YUCY Hall	12 teachers				
April 20- 21	Church Camp	Adekate Campsite	Primary Secondary YA 4 children, 6 adults	Youth/children's: Rachel Beagley Caitlin Mullen Sam Hannah MatthewCameron		"I enjoyed that way more than I was expecting to! why aren't there more families here?"	A great opportunity for inter- generational contact.
May 5	All Age SS	BUC church	10 -12 children	Annie Quail + last minute additional adult vols	\$42 materials	Reminder phone calls/texts appreciated	Roster congestion saw all SS and YA vols on music
May 6,	Pádraig Ó Tuama Bible Studies	BUC church	5 Year 7-10 25 adults (2 YAs)		Donations received \$93		Good in-service training to witness teaching/conversation
May 13	Pádraig Ó Tuama Bible Studies		6 Year 7-10 33 adults (6 YAs)		Donations received \$95		
May 20	Pádraig Ó Tuama Bible Studies		5 Year 7 -10 28 adults		Donations received		Good retention across all weeks of 4 Year 7-10 students

CASE STUDY: All Age Sunday School on Holy Communion Sundays

It has been observed that churches often separate children from worship by sending them out for Christian education when subtly the strongest message is that they need to be hustled out of the way of 'adult' activities. One pilot program to trial a more inclusive model has been All Age Sunday School in the Gathering Space during worship from Feb – June 2013.

The intentions were

- 1) to keep children in worship so they could participate in Holy Communion without the disruption of coming and going from SS
- 2) to develop making activities linked to the lectionary reading and/or children's address
- 3) to invite assistance from Secondary School-aged students to assist younger children
- 4) to ease the pressure on the SS Roster by having one week per month organised by a small team

The intervention received a clear affirmation in the on-line survey with a 92% approval rating. Given that this is a new development for BUC this is a strong endorsement. (see Appendix for detailed Case Study notes)

CASE STUDY: All Age Sunday School on Holy Communion Sundays

February 3 Statistics :15 -20 children 8 helpers Sec SS and Studt House

Activity: making poster of hands in greeting for Ian & Beth
Thank you poster for Colin & Jenny

Response: enormous good will, multiple unsolicited comments, limited criticism due to noise – this will remain an issue.

Liturgist & minister unperturbed. David Moorhouse initiated continuing the project with the hands for adults to add theirs during morning tea, this was enthusiastically supported both on Feb 3 & Feb 10 prior to the Induction service.

Pre-schooler "Can we do that more often?"

Julie's notes Great co-operation and assistance. Samples/demo important to reduce explanation. Big energy required materials and set up 4 hours + Multiple phone calls & arrangements

March 3 Statistics: 15 child'n, 9 helpers 3 Secondary, 3 Studt.house, 3 YAs

Activity: Thank you cards for Church Council Commissioning

Response: A number of the older people in the congregation gave very encouraging feedback. Parents of PS and preschoolers appreciative of inclusiveness. At least one reluctant SS attendee is now joining in this group activity

Julie's notes: Liaison needed with liturgist and minister. Clear instructions printed and spoken. Needed to factor in additional plan for poster as card-making activity required a lot of fine motor skills – need a big palette as well. Hectic, suggest set up on Saturday

As much as possible to be done by pre-set. Nice to be able to cover tables with purple cloth – the liturgical colour

April 6 Statistics: 12 children, 4-5 helpers

Activity: making whisper wands

Response: Concerned feedback about this as the service went until 11am. Children's address too long. One idea is enough, could have either been complete at front or at font not both.

Julie's notes: good to have instructions taped to tables. Good to have plasticine with hessian on floor, but heartbroken pre-schooler who did not understand the elaborate pick it up on your way out system. May/June invite the Craft Queens – Meg M, Annie Q Lucy H & Eva R

May 5 Statistics: 10 children, no sec student or YA helpers, Annie Quail assisted And 3 other adults roped in!

Activity: Prayer baskets – rainbow thank you, stone sorry, bowl please

Response: satisfaction, comments re good working together with Ian. People are enjoying the candle lighting ritual of SS candles **Julie's notes:** better timing this month. Set up in West end of hall works well as long as on site assistance to move tables in first thing Sunday morning.

June 2 Statistics: 18 children, adult teachers – Meg Moorhouse, Annie Quail, Lucy Hardman and a couple of parents

Activity: Prayer baskets – repeat, add lament bowl + rainbow in 3D on wire

Response: Positive from parents of young children, though concern from one parent of older children that we might be burdening young ones re lament.

Julie's notes: preparation time reduced significantly by MM & AQ Sat 4-5.30pm. Also streamlined and time cutting methods Ian & I are working on post time-blow out in May. Good method of achieving quiet during Bible Reading is to light the SS candles up the back in gathering space. No take up from Sec or tertiary students without one to one personal invites...

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Volume 1 Belonging to God

Volume 2 Youth Ministry

Volume 3 Youth and Play

Volume 4 Vocation

Volume 5 Narrative Arts

Volume 6 Mission and compassion

Mentoring

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	Mentoring program currently in abeyance	Pilot program for mentoring between young people and adults in the congregation	Ongoing mentoring program. Refresher, feedback and new participants. Young adults also become mentors.
Why		Building relationships that take seriously the need for young people to build connection across age groups with an adult role model beyond their family. Learning faith by watching and walking alongside a person of faith. Fosters listening and respect across generations. Allows individual focus for quieter personalities who do not gain nourishment from large group activities Pilot allows people to test it out and to give feedback on process.	This is the bedrock of relationship across the church community, integrating faith journey with life journey and pastoral care one-on-one. Forum where young people can talk about concerns, be challenged nurtured and supported with a sense of purpose, contribution, privileged listening is also helpful to Mentor
How		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) appoint Mentoring co ordinator and mentee representative to collaborate with Minister 2) give notice of pilot 3) nomination of possible mentors 4) training day for mentors and mentees 5) co ordinating team meet and track responses 	<p>Co coordinator and mentee advisor and Minister meet regularly.</p> <p>Reports spoken or written fed back to church community.</p> <p>Refresher training and expertise shared</p> <p>Mentoring pairs report informally and present in worship.</p>
Who		<p>Mentoring Co ordinator, Mentee representative(s) Minister</p> <p>Suggested age range Mentees 15 -25</p> <p>Young people nominate possible Mentors</p> <p>Final selection and matching of Mentors coordinated by Mentor Program Team</p>	<p>Co ordinating team continue.</p> <p>Emphasise the formal component of this.</p> <p>Unofficial mentoring not encouraged though informal relationships are valued</p>
When	Following further informal opportunities for intergenerational	as soon as can be staffed with co ordinator and Minister	
Where	training at BUC	training at BUC	individual mentoring takes place by arrangement in semi-public space eg cafes, or in a home where others are present

Spaces

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	YUCY HALL and Children's play area outside. Multi use areas with significant storage, furniture configuration and fittings issues	YUCY HALL re-fit project initial refit painting fittings storage possible future renovation of roof space	Fit for purpose space for our young people to use. Appropriate storage for resources. Range of facilities eg AV equipment, games, sport, craft and art gear, equipped kitchen, clean up facilities, toilet, etc
Why	Child and youth friendly spaces needed to forge social and spiritual connectedness to BUC community	Sorely needed improvement to physical space. Great bonding exercise for youth. Also important way for young people to take ownership of the space. Excellent opportunity for congregation to work together on something for our younger people	Overlapping needs for children and youth friendly spaces. More access to sandpit and playground for parents of young children. On site storage of art materials for Sunday school. Social gathering space for youth and YUCY.
How	Assess current bookings and user priorities ascertain church council and booking officer priorities for current users	Offer opportunities for YA leadership in planning and consultation. Assess budget requirements for staged alterations. Enlist hands on help from Youth. Design ideas for refurbishment. Storage for SS and YUCY equipment built in cupboards Repaint - Year 10 boys and adult supervisors Clear out unnecessary furniture. New doors from south wall of YUCY Hall	Space, storage, furniture and fittings can be used in a variety of ways to meet young people's needs. Environment is inviting, accessible, usable, flexible All users feel comfortable in the space and can configure it for their use easily.
Who	Hall currently has these users in addition to YUCY on alternate Friday nights Tue 5-7pm ASWC English Class Wed 2.30-5.30pm Jet Racer playgroup Thu 11-2pm Wishin (Fortnightly) Thu 2-5pm ASWC English Class Thu 6.30-8pm Exercise class Sat 3-5pm ASWC English Class	Year 10 boys Pre school parents YAs and youth of BUC Defined project team + congregational volunteers	Our young people: Prep through to YA A flexible space still available to other users through Bookings Officer
When	See above	Next 12 months Following council in principle approval to fund re-fit	
Where	YUCY Hall	YUCY Hall	YUCY Hall

Babies and Preschoolers

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	<p>Experience of worship for the Parents of Babies and Pre-schoolers:</p> <p>Crowded use of children's area</p> <p>Small tables 3 chairs</p> <p>Puzzles</p> <p>Old picture books</p> <p>Drawing equipment</p> <p>Textas crayons</p>	<p>Create a sense of intentional welcome to parents of young children.</p> <p>Focus on space, furniture, resources, welcome postcard.</p> <p>Continue All Age SS on Holy Communion Sundays</p>	<p>Parents feel welcomed and supported in coming to church.</p> <p>Preschoolers have more activities to occupy them.</p> <p>There is more room for reciprocity and enjoyment of peaceful activity.</p> <p>Parents may feel more connected and instigate own playgroup.</p> <p>There are intergenerational activities that allow parents to meet other people at different ages and stages of life.</p>
Why	<p>wish to include new parents and young children in worship to support them in their early family life and build connectedness to church community</p>	<p>Children are too young for SS program and need something positive to focus on during worship.</p> <p>The absence of this can be very stressful for parents.</p>	<p>The space speaks care and welcome.</p> <p>There is a tangible sense of support and welcome.</p>
How	<p>by default</p>	<p>Provide additional resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attractive picture books - little chairs - books of prayers for children - simple art materials <p>Place signs that welcome and encourage parents.</p> <p>Create Pocket Playground bags to give away for use in worship.</p> <p>Maintain attention to keeping service to one hour length</p> <p>develop a welcome postcard for parents of pre-schoolers.</p> <p>ask for parents assistance with continual monitoring use of space and materials</p>	<p>There are books which offer ways of speaking about faith to preschoolers</p> <p>There are artmaking activities easily accessed and quietly usable</p> <p>There are give away activity bags (eg pocket playground) that show thought and care for this age group and for the needs of parents too</p> <p>Maintenance program in place for continual update/replacement of resources.</p> <p>Budget and roster in place for maintenance program.</p>
Who	<p>Parents of babies and preschoolers</p>	<p>C & Y worker with parents of young children and interested volunteers from congregation</p>	<p>combined team of parents of young children and other volunteers from congregation</p>
When	<p>during worship</p>	<p>the next 6 months</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
Where	<p>Play space at rear of worship space</p>	<p>Maintain play space at rear of worship space - locate additional resources there</p>	<p>Worship Space</p>

Primary School

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	P-2 & 3-6 SUNDAY SCHOOL Weekly classes by teacher and helper	One set of core classes per term. Art Space, no preparation required, supervision only. One cook up class per term combined with older groups. One music making Sunday per term. Candle decorating - in church activity.	SS becomes more of an expression of the gifts and skills of BUC community. Children are included in
Why	Protracted difficulties resourcing Sunday School. 'SS chaos' constant re-negotiation with over-stretched Teachers/helpers/parents unable to commit to roster.	Core classes contain rostering requirements to fewer weeks. Aim to get small teams working across 2/3 wk blocks. Artspace is a simple supervision requiring no expertise. Cook up recruits a different cohort of teachers ie cooks! Morning Tea is one of the most popular features of BUC survey. Children and adults can make a practical and enjoyable contribution. Candle decorating is meditative	Teaching becomes a team activity and is more pleasurable less isolated/lonely. Cook up and Music making provide regular fun which is anticipated and joined in on by a broader range of congregation. Artspace offers good materials without substantial preparation time - suits the needs of people with who want to support the children but are not confident with teaching preparation. Candles ongoing and in sync with other worship activities.
How	Withdrawal from worship. Regular involvement in worship monthly All Age SS with Holy Communion	Classes restricted to a short series of 2-3 week blocks. Alter rostering notification systems. Synchronise with other rosters Provide good art materials for Artspace and good on site storage. Recruit cooks, musicians for once per term events no special training required for this all-in style activity. Candle decorating can be done meditatively during church.	Structured core classes continue for short series Regular one off activities Casual artmaking available Candle decorating ongoing in church gathering space SS Rostering streamlined with other rosters people take responsibility for replacing themselves from large pool of volunteers if changes needed
Who	C & Y committee and consultant. Volunteer/commandeered parents. Additional volunteers from church community including YAs and student house volunteers.	Parent cohort Congregational cooks Congregational musicians New leaders from student houses and YAs	A broader representation of the church community
When	Term time classes during worship approx 9.50 -10.40am	Cook up and Music making regular once per term event ART space can be negotiated as needed or when no one is rostered Candle decorating is periodic over a term or longer	There is no Sunday where children have not been thought about and welcomed to worship with age appropriate options for participation

Where	Olive Way or West End Hall or YUCY Hall - outside play area or grass outside ASWC	Cook up uses church Hall. Other activities in West End of Hall Candle decorating in the gathering space with named candles being stored with candle supplies in cupboards in church.	Gathering space YUCY hall Olive Way West end Hall Hall Kitchen
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Secondary School Part 1

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	7-9 SUNDAY SCHOOL Weekly classes by teacher and helper	Alternative teaching time Practice ways of praying – words, gesture, stillness. Discussion re sacred space at home Teaching physical relaxation techniques and meditation practice.	Repertoire of ways of praying in home life as well as in worship. Physical practices for stilling and relaxation. Practicing reading prayers aloud .
Why	Age appropriate experience. Christian education. Bonding of age groups challenged by irregular attendance.	Lifeskills and Christian Education around prayer and seeking stillness. Intentionality and bonding around the practice of prayer.	Possibly leading to more confidence for participating in public prayer in worship Future engagement in prayer making for worship may emerge.
How	Withdrawal from worship Discussion in small group	Short series about physical relaxation, prayer and meditation. Short series of classes three evenings Less focused on discussion and more time for experiential learning	Age group bonding achieved through teaching gatherings. Allows deeper response and developing practice of private and public prayer Allows for future mentoring of participation in worship. Planning picnics for seasonal involvement in worship
Who	Years 7 – 9 secondary students	Broaden to include 7 -12 students congregational members with an interest in meditation and physical practices of yoga.	Seasonal education gathered and non- gathered practices around prayer and meditation. Opportunities to join multi- age gatherings for meditation. Hosting of social dinners following meditation series and planning picnics for prayer in worship
When	Term time classes during worship approx 9.50 -10.40am	2 X series 3 sessions End term 3 and Term 4 2013	A stronger pattern of individual prayer at home and participation in worship develops
Where	Multi use spaces YUCY Hall	YUCY hall	YUCY Hall becomes a suitable space for prayer and meditation. Picnics may be located at homes

Secondary School Part 2

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	7-9 SUNDAY SCHOOL Weekly classes by teacher and helper	Pilot project monthly Q&A presentations and interviews with invited members of congregation.	Q & A format Bank of known pathways Bank of faith stories
Why	Difficulty in resourcing by teachers, small attendance on Sunday mornings often 1-3 students maximum attendance 2013 = 4	Interest in real life experience drawing on skills and experience of congregation. Promotes intergenerational dialogue and appreciation. Simpler format, more adults can offer something to Secondary Students Mix around age group activities. 7-9 sometimes with younger cohort in this instance with older cohort who take the lead.	Students have access to faith stories and working life stories of congregation members. Students make connections with adults with similar interests and skills. Promotes connectedness and resilience through long term awareness of challenges and disappointments, observing faithfulness.
How		Together with minister, C&Y worker or committee member Secondary Students. develop a list of people they would like to interview about their faith and working life. Congregation members invited to give 15 minute presentation about their work. May include tangible items & photos from their working life and reflect on how their faith has shaped that. Students prepare space, bring morning tea, questions, advertise event, etc	Occasional Q & A interview and presentation invitation and structure understood. Documenting of experience by photos or soundbites. Reporting back to congregation periodically.
Who		Secondary Students Years 7 - 12 any adult over 25	Secondary students into young adulthood
When	Sunday mornings during worship	Trial for 6 sessions over school year during worship	Occasional periodic
Where	YUCY Hall	YUCY hall final evening	Private homes church or YUCY hall

YUCY (Youth Uniting Church Yay)

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	YUCY Program	Further consultation needed with leaders	
Why	Social connectedness of young people at BUC. Considered commitment from local YAs	Critical mass issues addressed by careful programming for maximum engagement	Strong sense of group identity, trusted connections in church community
How	YA's lead program prepared in consultation with Philip Potter	Support following further consultation Modeling of thoughtful well prepared program delivery (eg current planning for June 28)	Possible short term paid co ordination positions on a rotating basis to YUCY leaders to allow for additional preparation time, leadership mentoring, event planning, initial and follow up phone calls
Who	Years 7 – 10 students (attendance varies from 8 -12 young people) YA leaders, Matthew Cameron, Caitlin Mullen and Student House Michael Atkinson and (recently) Anika Jensen Philip Potter	Additional offers of event leadership by congregation members in consultation with current YA leaders	Current YUCY attendees may become future leaders. Succession planning and consolidation of leadership team.
When	Fortnightly Friday night during school terms	Possible additional community connectedness see Mentoring	Gathered and ungathered times of connection
Where	Usually YUCY Hall, by arrangement in BUC hall Occasionally off-site in homes or excursions	See Spaces	YUCY Hall becomes a gathering place for BUC young people with more ownership

Young Adults

	Current	Transformative Action	Future
What	<p>Young Adults local to BUC Occasional Bible Studies, YA lead worship sporting and Social events</p> <p>YUCY – YA leadership of fortnightly Youth Group for Years 7 -10 students</p> <p>Student Houses</p>	<p>Further consultation and conversation Continue opportunities for social and worship opportunities across groups</p> <p>Ongoing planning, training and mentoring</p> <p>Explore further integration between student houses and local YAs in consultation with Student House Committee</p>	<p>YAs meet regularly in gathered and ungathered ways, mixing between local YAs and Student Houses and across the congregation</p> <p>Resourcing and training opportunities for YUCY leadership extended to all YAs</p> <p>Developing interest in leadership roles becomes part of the culture of the houses</p>
Why	<p>Need for gathered and ungathered forms of overlapping community connectedness</p> <p>Shortage of YUCY leaders relies heavily on local YAs to invest significant time in the midst of study schedules.</p> <p>Student House members have more opportunity for meeting local YAs and integrating into the life of BUC congregation</p>	<p>Further consultation needed</p> <p>Acknowledge and reward leadership commitment.</p> <p>Further consultation needed</p>	<p>Regular casual, sporting, social and worship opportunities</p> <p>YUCY leadership has a combination of local YAs and Student House volunteers with succession planning and coordinated program delivery</p> <p>Critical mass develops of community connectedness where a sense of belonging to a community with both YAs and older adults.</p>
How	<p>YAs participate in worship and music rosters and specific YA lead events</p> <p>YUCY Planning Meetings Consult with YUCY leaders and C & Y Committee. Investment in training and mentoring ensures quality of leadership and program delivery</p> <p>Extend regular Student House dinners to include local YAs on a rotational basis</p>	<p>Further consultation needed</p> <p>Further consultation needed. Explore the possibility of short term paid co-ordinator positions shared among YUCY leaders for program planning and preparation alongside voluntary leadership. Attend Youth Leadership training by CTM Youth Ministry team Nov 16 -18 2013</p> <p>Further consultation with Student House committee and Student House members</p>	<p>Rolling calendar of seasonal worship and social events</p> <p>YUCY program robustly and regularly meets needs for social connectedness and engagement with church community of Years 7 -10 students. All YUCY leaders are acknowledged supported and keep growing their skills. Short term paid positions on a rotation basis allow time commitment for YUCY program coordination by YAs.</p>

Who	<p>Local YAs Current YUCY leaders Matthew Cameron Caitlin Mullen Michael Atkinson (SH from 2010) Anika Jensen (SH from 2013) Leader/mentors Philip Potter Meg Moorhouse Julie Perrin Student House (SH) Committee Carlyne Nunn, Ian Ferguson Meredith Dobson, Sheila Calwell</p>	<p>Further consultation required to establish what support and training the leaders need and want and to plan for future leaders</p>
When	<p>YUCY Monthly meetings. Fortnightly program.</p>	<p>Further consultation required</p>
Where	<p>Gathered at BUC and ungathered events elsewhere eg Netball</p> <p>PotterXP offices in Carlton</p> <p>Student Houses, Committee houses, Congregation members homes</p>	<p>Further consultation required</p>
		<p>Possible use of refurbished YUCY Hall if Spaces project allows deeper identification with this as a place for youth and YAs at BUC</p>