

The 2018 Olive Harvest

Annual Reports
Brunswick
Uniting Church



Just like these olives each report is unique, contributing its own tantalizing flavour to our 2018 story.

Annual General Meeting - Sunday 24th February, 2019

The Olive Harvest – 2018 Annual Reports of the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation.

The reports in this document give a detailed picture of the ministry, mission and life of the Brunswick Uniting Church congregation for the year 2018.

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will be held after worship
on **Sunday 24th February, 2019.**

The meeting will be chaired by Daniel Broadstock (Chair of the Congregation).

Minutes will be taken by Saide Cameron (Secretary of the Congregation)

Please take the time to read the reports prior to the meeting
where they will be formally received by the congregation.

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Minister of the Word

Introduction

In 2018 I passed the 5 year mark in my placement at BUC. The resulting Ministry Review was an affirming conversation with some helpful feedback. I look forward to more years of ministry with you here! In my own response I said: "I feel privileged to be in this dynamic placement and inspired by my ministry here. I hope to continue here for some time and have a sense that there is more we can do together."

Worship

I continue to enjoy the shared preparation and leadership of worship with our liturgists and the Worship Committee. This is the heart of my ministry. I see my key task in ministry being to help the congregation to theologically reflect on all that we do together as a church and all that we are as people in the world. This is a huge and challenging task that I revel in.

Highlights this year included our festivals – Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. Special mention goes to our Service of Lament for survivors and victims of sexual abuse, the dancing curtain on Good Friday and Pentecost, and the vocal contribution of animals to our Blessing of the Animals service. This year I conducted 4 baptisms and 1 confirmation.

Pastoral Care

A focus of the Pastoral Care ministry this year was the reorienting of our Compassion team towards corporate care. We began visiting groups in the congregation to discuss and facilitate the care that we give each other through our involvement in the group life of the church. Another highlight was the Mental Health First Aid course – useful and immediately applicable.

I conducted 2 funerals and 5 weddings.

My weddings included two ceremonies for same sex couples which it was a joy to perform. The Assembly decision to allow ministers the freedom to conduct weddings for same sex couples, while bitterly fought, has had a direct and significant impact on my personal ministry and the life of our church. While we have farewelled one LGBTIQ family this year, there have been others who have come. This continues to be an important part of our identity as a church.

Discipleship and Education

This is another area of priority for me. Once again I enjoyed working with our very efficient and creative D&E team to organise a number of stimulating events. Special mention to our Month of Death and Lent study focusing on a spiritual approach to John's gospel. As always, I particularly appreciated the faith conversations that emerged in our Deepening Faith group.

Ministry Team

One of the biggest things this year has been the changes in our ministry team. We farewelled Anika and Caitlin and welcomed Janet Watson-Kruse, Valentina and Janet Hogan to work with Peter and me. This has led to full and stimulating meetings. We have developed into a supportive and creative team. With our JNC at work on our second ministry placement, more changes may well be over the horizon. Working in a ministry team continues to be a highlight of my ministry.

Wider Church

This year I participated in 3 Joint Nominating Committees to fill roles in the new eLM Unit (equipping Leadership for Mission) – these were time limited processes with a few meetings over a couple of weeks each.

The more significant responsibility I took on in the wider church was coordinating worship for the National Assembly meeting. This probably counts as the highlight of my year. The Assembly itself was an intense and exhausting week, but I am satisfied with the work done in the area of worship. In particular I was happy that it went smoothly, provided a helpful container for the business of the meeting, and represented the diversity of the church. Special thanks to the BUC musicians who came in to help – I greatly appreciated the "friendly faces" in a challenging time.

Justice

My own personal involvement in the work for justice that our congregation does included participation in a number of Love Makes A Way actions, both as photographer and once as an “inside” participant in a sit in. I am a regular visitor to the Olive Way. And have enjoyed walking with members of the congregation in various rallies during the year. But above all, I have appreciated the opportunity that this congregation gives me to reflect theologically on our life in the world, and to live out our faith in practical ways.

Continuing Education and Self Care

I continued to participate in my weekly dance group. Beth and I had a blissful couple of weeks in Fiji. And I bushwalked. All stuff which feeds me physically and spiritually.

I attended a number of seminars through the year, most notably the first two days of an intensive on Luke’s gospel which will continue in 2019. This had a direct impact on my preaching, particularly during Advent [see <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/mary-slave-girl-of-the-master/>].

I met with my supervisor monthly and a group of local UCA ministers for collegial support.

Thanks

Thank you to all who have helped and supported me in my ministry this year. In particular thanks to the Ministry Team Anika, Peter, Janet WK, Janet H, Valentina and Caitlin, to Shawn for his leadership of the Church Council, to Saide for her work as Congregational Secretary and invaluable administrative support, to Church Councillors, committee conveners and members, property booking and maintenance folk, liturgists, music co-ordinators and musicians, worship roster participants, and pastoral care volunteers.

And thank you to the God who calls us together into a community of justice, love and peace.

Ian Ferguson

Olive Way Outreach Ministry Co-ordinator

Having spent most of 2017 travelling from Mulgrave to Brunswick for work, I was amazed at the difference that the short commute from Coburg made to my time in Olive Way. The amazing way that things lined up to facilitate the move still amazes me, it has been fantastic to see God’s hand in the way things have lined up and continue to line up. We are grateful for the way God has been looking after us as a family and for the wonderful place we share with the Gracetree community, we don’t take it for granted.

Facts and figures

The year started with quiet numbers as is typical in the January period. Our numbers rapidly ballooned, in early Feb we hit a record 68. We hit our peak in September with 72. On average we have been getting between 27 for the first few months of the year and 42 in latter half.

Volunteer recruitment

As the year moved in to February and the numbers increased we soon realised that we were struggling with the numbers of volunteers. I needed to quickly find some more volunteers. Thankfully the extra hours spent in seeking new volunteers in 2017 paid off, as I was able to relatively easily assemble the things I needed to find them. This included reactivating the Job advertisement on Seek Volunteer, reprinting the volunteer resources and having them available for the volunteers when they came in. We had a lot of expressions of interest, and finally found a few keen volunteers who have been with us ever since. Our first recruit was the wonderful Bev, who just a few years off retirement was given the choice of looking for work or volunteering 15 hours a week. To facilitate this we needed to ensure that Brunswick Uniting could be registered with Centrelink as an approved volunteer agency. After a lengthy waiting time this was finally approved by Centrelink meaning that we are now able to accept others in similar circumstances (and, in fact, we had 2 requests from another couple shortly after this). Olive Way ticked a lot of boxes for her and she has been in every day (bar 2) last year. We also met Melody, a trained chef, around this time who has been a steady volunteer and has continued with us into the new year.

Similarly, in April we received a request from the Australian Catholic University to place students for their community engagement placement, a pre-requisite for undergrad students. We received two volunteers through this program. Megan starting in April and Lucy starting in late May. Both of them finished their volunteer hours and decided to continue to volunteer with us even after their placements ended. We are very grateful for their commitment and continuing to make themselves available.

Volunteer training

Earlier in 2018 Olive Way hosted training for the Mental Health First Aid course. This was conducted by Marcel Kopers who had us all engaged. The training was offered for current Olive Way volunteers as well as members of the Pastoral Care Committee and from other parts of BUC's ministry. This has been an invaluable training for Olive Way volunteers, enabling us to spot and respond to instances of mental health crises and respond better to challenging behaviours. While there is always room for improvement in this, it has been an excellent starting point for us.

In the coming few months we will be seeking new training opportunities for our existing volunteers in areas such as First Aid, and Food Handling. I have begun discussions with the Brunswick Neighbourhood House regarding dates and fees.

Renovations

As many of you will be aware, the conversation begun last year regarding the potential for renovations in the Olive Way area has been put on ice, for the time being at least. Olivia Potter's wonderful sketches of the potential for the Olive Way area helped us see the possibilities, but also the limitations of the space. Additional advice was sought from Belinda Seale, who, like Olivia, consulted with staff, volunteers, and was also asked to consult with other users of the space (such as the Indonesian congregation). Belinda prepared a report, concluding that the design objectives could be accomplished with a move to the church hall. While this was a helpful insight, it was suggested that this be done on a trial basis initially. The challenge for this will be the multi-use aspect of the church hall (ie. raising questions of how furniture can be stored, and set up each day), as well as re-creating the welcoming and homely (not to mention bright) atmosphere of the Olive Way space within the church hall. We decided to wait until at least the shed was built, which would give us the ability to create a relatively welcoming and uncluttered approach from the street.

Olive Way Three Year Review

Every three years Olive Way is reviewed to ensure that it still matches the strategic and overall goals of Brunswick Uniting. The report was conducted by Tim Budge who, using a collaborative approach that involved Olive Way guests as the chief interviewers, prepared a report that included 9 key recommendations. These were:

1. Developing Olive Way as a hub.
2. Reviewing the day of the lunch (with a possible shift to a Tuesday)
3. Developing stronger links with other agencies in the local area (eg. Brunswick Salvos)
4. Develop the pastoral support for guests
5. Create more opportunities to link Olive Way with the life of the Brunswick Uniting congregation
6. Better ways of tracking guests
7. Find opportunities to support volunteers (eg. Training)
8. Tackle and monitor disruptive behaviour
9. Strengthen opportunities for guest's ownership and control.

The full report can be made available upon request. We are very grateful for the work Tim has put in, the report is comprehensive and provides many fantastic insights and ideas for us to work with in the coming year. In the coming weeks I will be preparing a series of goals and a timeline for this to happen in consultation with the Steering Committee.

One of the things that came out of the review fairly early on was that it was becoming quite clear that many women in Olive Way were not feeling safe. A number of women (and at least one man) approached me, as they felt safe and secure to do so, complaining of sexual harassment whilst at Olive Way. As the complaints came in, a picture began emerging that there some common denominators behind the complaints that could be dealt with. However, I knew that care needed to be taken in confronting the behaviour and that potential blowback to the complainants needed to be taken into

consideration. Eventually some of the more difficult behaviour was confronted, which in one case included a 'disinvitation' from Olive Way. This was quickly picked up by Brunswick Salvos who had also received similar complaints. The issue highlighted for me that it was important to raise the profile of female volunteers as a safe support for such complaints. Helen Burnham has been brilliant in that role, as she has sat and done the nails with the ladies she has been a wonderful confidant and has helped me respond to issues when the women have not felt comfortable relaying them to another male.

Vision update

When the Steering Committee looked at the vision last year, we realised that it had not updated for some time. Consequently we set about redrafting the vision to something that is relatively memorable, and hopefully achievable. The updated version is as follows:

Vision

To create a place in which community and a sense of belonging can flourish for those who live in or visit Brunswick.

We do this by:

- Promoting the values of inclusion, acceptance and respect.
- Hosting a place of hospitality and a listening ear.
- Working with other groups to create opportunities to engage people's interests, passions, in which participants may discover something about themselves.
- Revealing God's boundless love to all who come.

This will be included on all future documentation, such as volunteer manuals.

End of Year Celebration

It was suggested at the end of the previous year (2017) that I think a little differently about how we do our 2018 celebration. This I was happy to do, these events have become increasingly large and expensive to run. Nor are they unique, many other groups do similar events, and our guests usually attend them all.

So we settled on a barbecue, hoping to keep things relatively small, and perhaps a little less formal. The intention was to highlight what we have done throughout the year, showcasing things like SROC, the Olive Arts and acknowledging the wonderful contribution of our volunteers.

Whilst it was a fun and meaningful day, not everything went to plan. There are plenty of learnings for the coming year and some helpful feedback that I have taken on board. In particular one thing that came out was that I don't need to do it on my own. This year we will form a small organising committee in September so that we can more easily share out responsibilities and bump ideas of each other. This will make it a more manageable load for me on top of all my other responsibilities.

And finally...

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful people who have been involved in Olive Way this past year. Firstly, a big thank you to all our volunteers, you make Olive Way what it is. Secondly, thanks to Peter Murphy for your support for me, taking the reigns when I've been away, and cooking up a storm every Wednesday. Thanks to Brunswick Uniting for continuing to believe in Olive Way and ensuring that this ministry can be sustained (both financially and the contribution from volunteers) through the support from the Steering Committee, JAM, Church Council, and the finance committee. And finally a big thank you to the Steering Committee for your oversight (Ann Soo, Kirsty Bennet, and Richard Arnold), it helps me to know I'm not alone, and keeps me from getting stuck. In particular a huge thanks to Richard Arnold for chairing. Your wisdom, and your gentle and compassionate attitude is an inspiration to me.

Peter Blair

Student House Interim Support Worker

It has been a good seven month journey with the participants of the Student House Program, the members of the Student House Committee as well as the Brunswick Uniting Church. I have been granted to opportunity to build relationships and the program has certainly put my skills to the test. For these I give thanks.

The Student House Program continues to have ten (10) participants. This year the program saw a couple of students transition out of the program at the beginning of Semester II and we welcomed two new residents into the program at that time. As a start to Semester II, I facilitated a talking circle for the student house residents. This was an opportunity for the residents to listen to each other. For many it was a unique experience and as with new experiences some embraced it and some were uncertain about it.

The residents continue to live and engage with each other and as in any community, they encounter the joys and challenges that come with such living. For many it is an opportunity of learning. The students build community as best as they can and also participate in the student house dinners. I have appreciated the opportunity to meet with the students and the student house committee members once a month to share a meal and also to reflect on matters of faith. Some of the residents have been intentional in participating in the music program, the youth, and some with Olive Arts when able as a part of their commitment to be engaged in the life of the faith community.

I am thankful for the members of the Student House Committee who have been encouraging, supportive and willing to offer their wisdom when necessary. I also commend them on being great mentors to the residents. I am also thankful to the members of the Property Committee who have stepped up in providing the necessary help and direction when necessary. It has been good to be part of a strong and supportive ministry team and I have appreciated wisdom and direction from Ian.

As the journey continues the program will evolve and there will be a few changes to the policies as appropriate for 2019. I look forward to inviting new residents to the program and walking alongside them as with those that continue in the program as invited by the Brunswick Uniting faith community.

Valentina Satvedi-Leydon

Children & Families Interim Ministry

(Reflecting the six mission priorities of our current Strategic Plan)

Mission Shaped Church

The way we are with children and the way children are with us is one of the most important things about how we are church together.

It has been a privilege to be part of shaping the space for children and their families since late April 2018.

We hope that all kinds of families and all kinds of young people find a loving and enthusiastic 'yes' when they come to BUC.

Deepening Relationships

It has been a great joy for me to work more deeply with our young people and their families. They are such an awesome bunch! A second privilege of this role has been to support and be supported by the team of Sunday Morning Program (SMP) teachers and leaders. I was able to catch up to 17 of them face to face. Every one of them is hugely busy, but gives of their time love and insight to provide a great program for our kids. I thank them all.

Children Youth and Young Adults (CYYA) and the ministry team have provided perceptive support, and Anita Brown-Major has been a challenging and enthusiastic supervisor.

When re read 'Relationships Unfiltered' by Andrew Root a few years ago under Julie Perrin's leadership, we focused on how important non-manipulative, respectful relationships are as an end in themselves. All of these wonderful people who support our program exemplify just that.

Growth

Growth is much more than numbers. We worry greatly if a child fails to grow, but the same is true for us! We know that *how* we are is as important as *who* we are, and we are constantly learning and reflecting on our practice. We have plans to set up one side of the Youth Hall as a beautiful Godly Play space. One aim for 2019 is to increase intergenerational connections, and we will be calling on BUC makers to create some beautiful items for this special space.

I am often asked 'how many kids do you have?' so here's SMP by numbers for Term 4:

Average weekly number of young people	16
Number of new SMP leaders and assistants	6
Total number of active SMP leaders and assistants	30
Total number of young people on the rolls	47

Our numbers were up towards the end of the year, in part because some fabulous young people joined us and in part because of Caitlin's masterful work with the Pageant in Term 4. However, on any given Sunday we can have between 6 and 24 in our program. Reflect then, dear reader, on the awesomeness of leaders who prepare for such fluctuating groups.

Deepening Faith and Spirituality

In Term 4 I launched into an intensive course at Pilgrim Theological College on the Nurture and Spiritual Guidance of Children. It forms one third of a Postgraduate Certificate in Children and Families Ministry. I wanted to be able to articulate more clearly what it is we are striving to do, to reflect on current best practice and to bring back new learnings. This meant I spent a lot of January writing essays and I will bring some of my thoughts to you as the year unfolds.

I used the opportunity to undertake an immersion in the writing of Jerome Berryman. He is the founder of Godly Play storytelling and a number of us will undertake a three day intensive March 14-16 to deepen our practice. This meditative way of presenting our tradition invites children to enter stories deeply, to think their own thoughts and make their own response. The children are not told what to think but invited to use the stories to make meaning themselves. Watch this space!

The wonderful Julie Perrin will once again run two Nourish sessions with the children during Lent, and we are looking forward to the visit of Padraig O'Tuama who will be in conversation with our older SMP group in May.

Intentionality

The tasks of maintaining a Culture of Safety always run actively in the background, and Helen Rowe, Rachel Uren, Anita Brown-Major, CYYA, Ian and the whole Ministry Team dedicate significant time and care to this important task.

We are always trying to move beyond compliance to deepen our learning in Culture of Safety. I have special training in running workshops for adults and I was keen to apply my experience to our context. In August we ran a stimulating Advanced Culture of Safety workshop using roleplay with Andi Snelling, an actor colleague. We set up and practised challenging conversations and reflected on the communication skills which might be useful. We got great feedback from a very varied group of 17 participants.

During 2018 we once again largely used a curriculum resource called Spill the Beans. It gives many options for presenting stories and activities and crafts for response. Leaders can choose what suits their strengths and the group: Some people are great at games, others draw with the kids, pitch a tent or prepare crafts. Assistants are the kindly pairs of hands in support. There is lots of support and we have wonderful material resources. If this sounds fun to you, I'd love to hear from you!

CYYA spent time in 2018 reflecting on what camps and gatherings might be a good fit for our young people. In 2019 we are working on creating opportunities for our young people to connect with the wider church beyond BUC and have a number of occasions in mind, including Sonder Camp.

Celebration

We celebrate the wonderful ministry among us of Faye Findlay, who started teaching Sunday School at South West Brunswick, and has been an inspirational SMP teacher and Godly Play Storyteller at BUC. We will miss her wisdom and skills enormously, but wish her all the very best for a change of pace.

We also sadly farewelled the Dan-Uren family. In addition to brilliant work with CYYA Rachel was a fantastic mentor to the older group and we will miss Thomas immensely.

Caitlin Mullen-Beagley moved to a full-time social work position at the end of April 2018 and we thank her mightily for her sterling work with Sunday Morning Program. We also give a big shout-out to her creative and committed work with this year's wonderful Pageant. Giant thanks!

Among many beautiful baptisms at BUC it was a privilege to me to be part of the baptisms of Rapha and Jack.

Thank you all for the privilege of this ministry. Yours together,

Janet Watson Kruse

Youth Interim Support Worker

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Janet Hogan and I was called to fill in a temporary gap in leadership regarding the youth of this congregation in late May last year. When I arrived at Brunswick Uniting on Palm Sunday 2018 I had no idea that God would shortly be tapping me on the shoulder to step up and help out on the occasion of the incredible Anika Jensen leaving her position as Youth Co-ordinator.

It has been a privilege so far to hold space for a group like YUCY (Youth of the Uniting Church, Yay!), our youth group for teens in high school years 7-10. With the invaluable help of Brianna Bartley, Elizabeth Stoel and Chris Emmanuel as leaders, we managed to uphold this fortnightly gathering and encourage relationships to begin and grow between the youth of our church.

We have had a lot of fun! Games night, movie night, environment night, as well as dress up parties for Halloween and Christmas have brought a lot of laughter and community for everyone. We also had a very successful excursion to Rock Climbing at the end of term 3 which many attended.

2019 promises to be another great year, kicking off with a pool party and moving quickly on to an overnight camp in Queenscliff, full of beach games and music, great food and creativity. I hope that in time, we might be able to figure out a few things together: Who are we? What does it mean to be a teenager today? How does our faith, our Christian surrounding and upbringing both shape and challenge us?

As Bradon French, the Vic/Tas Synod Intergenerational Ministry Youth Co-ordinator once told me over some of Brunswick's finest coffee, "Youth are always looking for 3 things: Identity, Purpose, and Belonging. It's our job to help them figure it out."

I'd like to say a massive thank you to the BUC Ministry Team and the members of the CYYA committee for their continued and unwavering guidance and support, to the 2018 Leaders of YUCY, Chris, Bri and Liz for their energy and help, and to the Parents of our Youth for their flexibility, enthusiasm and encouragement. We hold this space for your kids, and your trust and support is a privilege.

Janet Hogan

Church Council

Some of the main activities and areas of oversight of Church Council this year include:

Church Leadership

- One of the great things about Brunswick Uniting is how actively we draw on and affirm the talents, gifts and leadership of the members of our congregation. We have been encouraged to see that the membership of the range of committees and action groups in the church have a broad and diverse membership. We have formed a Gifts and Graces task group to continue to help members become more involved, while also supporting people to lay down responsibilities that they have held for a long time.
- Our 2018 Leaders Retreat focused on building a culture of reflection and accountability among our church leadership. Church Council led the committees in developing annual goals to focus our work.
- We have developed and implemented a Strategic Plan for the next three years.

Stewardship of Resources

- We have continued to oversee our properties, and are considering their potential for future use or development, particularly the Merri St properties.
- We remain on a sound financial footing. Our reserves are healthy and growing, as we accrue investment earnings. Offering giving has stabilised at a sustainable level, enabling us to continue to maintain the activities such as the Olive Way that are vital to our mission. We are on track to achieve our goal of medium-term budget balance.
- We have authorised projects such as construction of a new storage facility, renovation to the Hall floors, and the replacement of AV equipment and stackable chairs.

Staffing

- Our staff and ministry team have grown sustainably to meet the needs of the congregation. In the first half of the year, we farewelled Anika from her role as Youth and Student House worker. We welcomed Janet Watson Kruse, Janet Hogan, and Valentina Satvedi, to work with Children and Families, Youth and the Student House respectively, as we continue to work with Synod to identify and call a full-time Children, Youth and Families minister.
- Developing this position and searching for a candidate has been a major focus of Church Council and the CYYA Committee this year.
- We have employed Jacqueline Matthews and Abi Benham-Bannon as bookkeepers, helping to bring some great rationalisation to our administration.
- We engaged in a time of discernment regarding the classification of the Olive Way Coordinator. Given its theological and missional dimensions, we decided to reform the position as a Pastor role, with appropriate remuneration, and reappointed Peter Blair to continue that work, supported by the OW Steering Group

Safe Church

- We have continued to update our safe church policies and procedures, in particular redefining appointed leaders more widely, and ensuring that they hold valid Working with Children cards.

Reviews

- We oversaw a five-year review of Ian's work as Minister of the Word. This was a positive process, led by Presbytery and in consultation with the congregation, and affirmed the value of Ian's work. We voted enthusiastically to extend Ian's contract for another five years.
- We oversaw a review of the partnership of BUC Arts with ArtStop.

Justice

- We supported the decision of National Assembly to permit same-gender marriages and committed to holding such marriages in our church.
- We maintained a BUC presence in public advocacy on issues such as marriage equality, asylum seeker detention, and climate change.

Members

- We farewelled Kate Scull and Steph Gesling from Council and welcomed Kim Fraser, Amelia Ware, and Karlien Kok.

Governance

- We continued to authorise baptisms, and update the membership rolls.

Daniel Broadstock

Worship Committee

During 2018 our worship followed the familiar liturgical calendar as always. We listened to stories that we know so well and heard them in new and different ways through Ian's preaching. The creative energy that underpins all that we offer as a worshipping congregation flowed through our singing, praying, listening and responding. We know ourselves to be blessed by the creative gifts of so many people and blessed in turn by all who open their hearts in response.

Hopes & Dreams

We set four goals to shape our thinking and planning for 2018 and offer here our reflections on these goals.

We committed to **nurturing new liturgists and prayer leaders** and in doing so found that this nurturing supports all liturgists and prayer leaders. We offered a training night, led by Daniel Whelan and Helen Burnham, which provided teaching and guidance for how we use our voices when we speak, pray and read. The way in which plan worship – the preacher (usually Ian of course) meeting with the liturgist to discuss themes – is an ongoing source of support. Other tools to support our preparation include Natalie Sim's 'Singing from the Lectionary' blog and access to Dropbox for sharing liturgies. Musicians and leaders of Prayers of the People are provided with the full or partial liturgy to assist with their preparation.

We committed to **nurturing our young people, children and teenagers**. The engaging and vibrant Children's time nurture our young people as they, like us, experience familiar stories in new ways. The activities during all age worship, created and led by Helen Burnham and Ann Soo, have similarly provided new understandings. We appreciated the Year 7-10 SMP group leading the Advent Candle lighting litany and are delighted that Daniel Whelan has joined the Bible Reading roster.

We committed to **using worship (liturgical) music more intentionally**. This was a fun goal to work on. We now have two familiar 'Holy, holy's to sing during our celebration of Holy Communion and are becoming more familiar with the sung Lord's Prayer. Chants have been used more during prayers and for gathering and sending out. We are repeating songs more often although we did add the 500th song to our database, which started in January 2014 – yes that's correct, we have sung 500 different songs in less than four years. A new Aaronic Blessing was added to our repertoire. We continue to use seasonal music, eg Kyrie during Lent and a song for lighting Advent candles. Our choice of music is shaped by and benefits from Natalie's blog – thank you so much Natalie.

Finally we committed to **making connections between worship and our lives**. This was an interesting goal to reflect on and as we did so we were amazed by the variety of ways in which this happens. Examples of incorporating the visual arts include the collaging workshop leading to the creation of the collage used through the Advent and Christmas seasons and the use of Studio Walk artwork during the season of Lent. Tower room window displays have allowed us to make statements about topical issues and liturgical seasons. We have lamented and prayed with the whole Uniting Church. Prayers and sermons are made available on our website linked to our Facebook group. We have blessed our bikes and our animals. The involvement of members of our congregation in 'Love Makes a Way' actions has been acknowledged many times in worship. The Christmas Bowl stories were shared during Prayers of the People throughout Advent. Good communication with SMP leaders has enabled clear links between the liturgy and SMP sessions.

Our reflections on these goals have shaped our goals for 2019, which are available at the conclusion of this report.

Liturgical Seasons

As always the liturgical calendar shaped our worship. A new element for our sense to enjoy was sounds during Lent. Julia and Elaine Potter used these sounds to create a piece of music to take us into and through Holy Week. Holy Week began with our ecumenical walk (25/3) moving through foot washing and Tenebrae on Maundy Thursday (29/3), the Seven Words from the Cross on Good Friday (30/4), a Dawn service followed by Holy Communion on Easter Sunday (1/4). We returned to Good Friday's dancing curtain and the sounds of Lent to celebrate Pentecost (20/4).

During the long season of Pentecost we welcomed six preachers over three months, responded to the Discipleship & Education series 'Death in October' and concluded the season with a Celebration of Ministry in recognition of Ian's five years of ministry with us (Ian was inducted 10/2/13).

During Advent we listened for the voices of the earth, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth and Zechariah as they waited. Each week we added wool in the colours of the rainbow to a bookmark created by Richard Phelan and Ann Soo's collage 'The Waiting Earth'. The collage was also used to shape our worship for Blue Christmas and on Christmas Eve. Caitlin Mullen wrote and directed our Christmas Eve pageant 'Leading the Way' during which three sheep – Hermione, Harry and Ron – made sure that the birth of Jesus happened just as it should. We joyfully celebrated the birth of Christ on Christmas Day.

Preachers

Ian's preaching continued to inspire us as he explored God's Word with us so often giving us new insights and understandings of familiar stories and asking challenging questions along the way. We appreciate the way in which his preaching encourages us to consider the world beyond our walls and how we might respond to the issues and challenges that shape all our lives. His use of video clips, artwork and photos continues to enhance his message allowing for a deeper connection with the word. With Ian we have reflected on the way in which Jesus breaks expectations, our call to be a community of salvation, encountering God, being Jesus' followers, Holy Communion, God's glory, Jesus the Good Shepherd, life and hope, being sent by God, the Assembly's decision on marriage, signs, eternal life, purity of the heart, mainstream wisdom vs alt wisdom, prayer, baptism and confirmation, transformation, climate change and Mary's response to the angel's message.

We appreciated the preaching of: Fiona Bottcher (14 & 21/1), Matt Julius (8/4), Sunny Chen (29/4 & 15/7), Graeme Garrett (10/6 & 4/11), David Withers (17/6), Monica Melanchthon (8/7), Carlynne Nunn (12/8), Geoff Thompson (19/8).

Children in Worship

Children's Times during worship throughout the year were, again, engaging and creative using drama, story telling, role playing, songs, action, gestural prayers and rituals. A lovely highlight was telling the story of Ruth and Naomi using our very own Ruth Tall and Naomi David. Children's times were offered mostly by Ian with the assistance of liturgists. Liturgists and visiting preachers have also enjoyed sharing this special time with the children. With the children we explored many topics including praising God, who we are as a church community, being children of God, friendship, a visit from the prophet Samuel, the story of David & Goliath, healing, sticking up for what we know is right, reflecting Jesus light into the world, ways of praying and the themes of Advent.

Special Events

On the first Sunday of each month we both celebrate Holy Communion and offer All Age Worship, which sees the children engage in wonderfully creative activities in the Gathering Space.

As always, the year began with commissionings and blessings: Commissioning and Blessing of the Sunday School Program (4/2) followed by residents of the Student House program (19/2). Re-elected Elders (Daniel Broadstock, Kate Scull, Linda Wannan and Shawn Whelan) and newly elected elders (Gwen Arnold, Claire Foley, Helen Rowe, Behzad Farhangi and James Balsille) were commissioned for their role (4/3). Behzad Farhangi was commissioned as a co-opted member of Church Council (18/6).

We worshipped with our ecumenical neighbours on Palm Sunday (25/3) and for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Pentecost Sunday (20/5) at St. Ambrose Catholic Church and Christ Church Anglican respectively.

We appreciated Ian's weaving of readings with a mother focus during worship on Mothers' Day (13/5).

Our Ministry team was officially reformed and commissioned (3/6) with Janet Watson Kruse joining as our Interim Children & Families worker, Janet Hogan as our Interim Student Support worker and Valentina Satvedi-Leydon as our Interim Student House Support worker

We enjoyed Blessing the Animals (14/10) and Blessing the Bikes (28/10). We welcomed Areej Masoud to worship (21/10) as part of the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network speaking tour. Areej presented us with a beautiful communion chalice and plate made of olive wood from Jerusalem in thanks for our sponsorship of her tour.

On Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday in the liturgical year we shared a Celebration of Ian's five years of ministry with us.

Music Ministry

In addition to our reflection of the goal set for our music ministry we enjoyed two sing-alongs during the year, the first (18/2) focused on songs for Lent and the second (12/8) provided us with the opportunity to learn some new songs including a number from the new BUC collection.

Natalie continued her support of the music ministry with her Lectionary Singer blog spot. Elaine Potter supported the musicians throughout the year and organized and conducted the always fabulous Advent and Pageant choir.

Membership

During 2018 we celebrated and grieved with, welcomed and farewelled a number of people.

We welcomed new Student House residents (25/2) Elizabeth Stole, Cecily Xiang, Jason Kang and Quilan Goff. A Welcoming Ceremony (18/3) gave us the opportunity to formally welcome Claire & Michael Foley, Kyie, Michelle & Amy Doust and Naomi David and later (16/9) we welcomed Kat Bowden and her daughters Meadow & Sparrow, Chris Magee, Frances Tapueluelu, Bonita Best, Indra Liepens & Andrew Gemmell with their children Astrid and Leo, Valentia Satvedi-Leydon

We celebrated Janet Reus-Smit's 40 years of ordination (20/4). Ian commented that lots of ministers make it to 40 years but that Janet's milestone is significant because she was one of the first women to be ordained in the Uniting Church.

Anika Jensen concluded her role as Youth & Student House Support worker at the end of April. We acknowledged and celebrated her contributions to this ministry (6/5). Caitlin Mullen concluded her role as our Interim Children & Families Worker also at the end of April and we offered our thanks to her for her commitment to this role.

We rejoiced with Tess Alston & Joel Hallinan at the birth of their daughter Sofia Martina (18/8), little sister to Rafa and Michelle & Fernando Torres at the birth of their first son Thomas (19/11).

We offered a prayer of blessing for twins David and Daniel Hope Emmanuel on their first birthday. Jacquie Magessa supports these boys who live in Tanzania.

We celebrated the infant baptisms of Jacob Peter William Bugar Lourey, son of Ally Carpenter and Adam Lourey (27/5), Rafa Hallinan (22/7), son of Tess Alston & Joel Hallinan. We celebrated the baptism of Jack Bottcher, son of Fiona & Evan Bottcher (18/11). We celebrated the baptism and confirmation of Ali Reza (9/12).

With great joy we celebrated Rachel U'Ren & Kathryn Dan's wedding (15/9). As the date was one week before the Uniting Church's new statement on marriage came into effect Cheryl Lawrie assisted Ian in conducting the wedding in her capacity as a civil celebrant. Members of the congregation travelled to ?? for Courtney Rohde & James Balsillie's wedding (6/10).

We prayed for, and with, congregation members as they grieved the loss of loved ones: the Olive Way community for Fouad Osman, Helen & Mal Rowe for Helen's father Alan (21/5), Peter & Christine Hornby for Peter's mother Helen (23/5), Alison Nixon & David Rees for Alison's father (8/6), Catherine, Stephen, Danica, Joshua & Genevieve Mullen, Caitlin & Rachel Mullen Beagley for Catherine's father Dougal (22/6). Christine & Peter Hornby for Christine's sister Lyn (6/8), Andrea, Laurence and Hannah Alvis for Andrea's father Malcolm (7/8). We acknowledged the deaths of Robin Boyd (15/6), father of former member of congregation, Clare Boyd-Macrae and Gwenda Booth (27/8), a long time member of the former South West congregation).

We farewelled Wesley & Una Trigg (14/1), Samuel Rauert, Stephanie Wilson and Emily Kidd from the Student House Program (11/2), John Venning (22/4) following his move to a Nursing Home near his sister, Tabitha Roberts and Peter Morely from the Student House Program and Rachel U'Ren, Kathryn Dan and Thomas Dan-U'Ren (16/12) moving to Canberra.

Meditation and Prayer

We continue to provide a sand bowl located in the west side alcove for people to light tapers for personal prayer during the last hymn, after worship or during distribution of Holy Communion on 1st Sundays.

Rosters

More than forty people participate in our Sunday morning worship rosters. Throughout any year people join and leave the roster. All these contributions enrich our worship of God and breathe new life into 'who we are' as a community. Everyone's contributions, whether up front or behind the scenes, are all part of the 'work of worship'.

Goals for 2018

Nuturing liturgists and prayer leaders continues to be a crucial goal for us. In 2019 we will provide a workshop on prayer focusing of the content and purpose of the prayers offered in worship whilst drawing on the styles of current liturgists and prayer leaders. This workshop will be open to all who are interested.

Nuturing our young people is also an ongoing goal. We plan to continue liaising with current leaders in this ministry and look forward to working with minister to be called to ministry with our young people.

Building on our use of music and the arts in worship we want to **seek ways to intentionally engage all our senses in worship** in the coming year.

Also building on the connections we have made between worship and our lives we want to specifically explore how **our work, study and daily lives** connect with our faith.

Conclusion

The worship committee (Ian Ferguson, Saide Cameron, Natalie Sims, Kirsty Bennett, Helen Burnham, and Amelia Ware) enjoys meeting together, reflecting on and planning worship, and seeking new ways

to engage the congregation in active participation in worship. We always enjoy welcoming new members to the committee; please let us know if you are interested.

In 2018, as a committee, we have supported the congregation to explore and reflect on what it means to be the people of God in our congregation, the Brunswick community and beyond – *loving our neighbours as ourselves, welcoming all, nurturing one another in faith and upholding one another in prayer.*

Saide Cameron

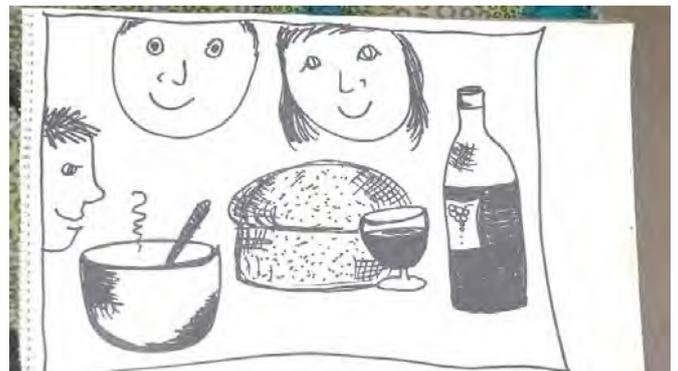
Table Church

The youngest person lights a candle and we say together “*At the end of a long week we welcome you to this table*”. Then each in turn responds, “*Amen, it is good to be here.*”

So begins our meal together. A simple Liturgy surrounds the meal time allowing times for silence and reflection, for sharing our highlights and lowlights since we last met and to light tea candles and pray for each other, for others and the world. At the close, we disperse into the night and a new week with the words:

***God of all people, our God:
take what we have and what we hope for,
to make this a world where all people find good news.
We come Lord, to share in the work of your Kingdom,
until the new earth is created among us. Amen***

In 2018 hosting was shared between four households that could accommodate from 5 to 13 people, sometimes quite cozy. Participants share in providing soup and bread and sometimes delicious cheese and fruit. We welcomed some young people along with their parents and others new to BUC. You would be most welcome! Attendance is very flexible and you are welcome to come when you can. We meet from 6pm to 8pm, on the second and fourth Sunday of each month - just let the hosts know you are coming! Notice of location is usually in the Olive Press prior to each Table Church and people can be added to the email tree by request. For more information, talk to Tim Budge (*after March*, on 0412 051 574) or Helen Rowe (0423 009 813)



Helen Rowe

Pastoral Care Committee

2018 has in many ways, been a rewarding year for those of us privileged to be involved in Pastoral Care at Brunswick Uniting Church (BUC). We have been able to get to know and care for one another in the congregation and grow and learn together in faith and relationship. We have had wonderful opportunities to meet and engage with new people and visitors (Hospitality Ministry), to be able to offer support to those in need (Compassion Ministry) and to be involved in the continued strengthening of our Church Community (Community Ministry). These ministries were overseen by the Pastoral Care Committee whose tasks were made all the easier because of strong teams taking responsibility for and initiative in, their particular areas of Pastoral Care, because of the strong culture of pastoral care amongst all the congregation and also because of the great pastoral care and guidance of our Minister Ian Ferguson.

Hospitality Ministry

Our team of Jane Allardice, Sheila Calwell, Ray Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Steph Gesling, Graham Lawrence and Michael Rigby looked out for newcomers to BUC and helped them feel welcome. During 2018 we welcomed over 90 newcomers (including children) plus numerous visitors. As in previous years some newcomers decided to make BUC their spiritual home and some decided to move on. Regardless, we welcome all.

The newcomers were provided with information about BUC and its activities, were helped to feel comfortable amongst the crowd at morning tea and introduced to others in the congregation. If the person(s) wished, their information was passed on to Saide Cameron so they could be included in the mailing list and to get a name tag. This year we also became more intentional about following up certain newcomers, by email, a phone call or meeting up for a coffee. Additionally we collaborated with the Community Ministry Team regarding invitations to Triple Letter Dinners in the latter part of 2018, to ensure that newcomers to the congregation were especially invited. Again I would like to thank the congregation as a whole for initiating welcoming themselves in all sorts of connecting ways.

During the latter part of 2018, 16 people participated in the Welcoming Ceremony. Is this a record?

On the organisational side, the Hospitality team met bi-monthly where we reviewed the newcomers listed, made decisions about following up certain people, reviewed and tweaked the Newcomers Card (for noting a person's contact details), collaborated with Saide Cameron in reviewing and trialling a new on-line contact form on the BUC website and discussed the idea of developing a "Welcome Pack" to hand out to new people. Along with other committees we developed a set of realistic goals for the Hospitality Ministry and passed it on to Church Council.

At each meeting we continued to set a roster for the next two months where one of the team was responsible for intentionally welcoming newcomers along with Ian, noting any contact details and updating the shared Newcomers List spreadsheet which was re-designed and implemented by Michael Rigby.

In the latter part of 2018, Jane stepped down as Chair due to other commitments and whilst the team seeks a new Chair, Ian has taken over the reins. Jane however will still be part of the team.

The Hospitality team very much looks forward to working together again in 2019, to provide a welcoming face and a follow up for those who are new to the Brunswick Uniting Church.

Hospitality is welcoming others just as we are welcomed by God in Christ.

Jane Allardice

Compassion Ministry

In 2018 the Compassion Ministry Team members were Ian Ferguson, Gwen Arnold, Glenice Cook, Claire Foley and Leanne Salau. The team continued to meet on a monthly basis to discuss needs and actions. During each month email communication was used on a regular basis to inform and act on any crisis which arose.

Our congregation at Brunswick continues to be a welcoming place for many and we have been able to offer assistance and care to this congregation in many instances. This includes visiting people in hospital and at home, distribution of food and food vouchers.

The Prayer Ministry continues to be well supported and used and we give thanks to members who continued to pray on a daily basis for those who have requested it. This ministry offers comfort to quite a number of people.

In March a number of us attended the course offered on Mental Health. This course gave us a lot of information about different forms of mental health and ways that these could be dealt with.

In 2018 the Compassion Team started two new programs as a way of caring for congregational members. They have just commenced and will continue in 2019. The first is the "Circle of Friends" Program with some members of the congregation are encouraged to offer a particular person intentional support through a difficult time. The second program is one where the Compassion Team speaks with groups within the congregation with an aim to give information about both what Compassion Team members do and how the group can be part of the Pastoral Care within our community.

In the last couple of months Claire Foley made the decision that her skills may be better used in the Children and Youth Committee. We were sorry to lose Claire and thanked her for her contributions and commitment to Pastoral Care. Danni Chamberlain has agreed to join the Compassion Ministry Team and we are looking forward to working with her.

2018 has been a busy year and we thank all those who have responded to our requests to support members of our Community in need.

Leanne Salau

Community Ministry

Tess Alston, Saide Cameron, Kristin Dahl, Ian Ferguson and Karlien Kok met throughout the year as the Community Team for our Pastoral Care Ministry. Tess is currently taking a break following the birth of Sofia. We look forward to her return.

Our goals for 2018 were

1. Maintain our overview of the group life of the congregation
2. Engage people in the community activities of the congregation
3. Grow participation in Triple Letter Dinners

We maintained oversight of and celebrated the many and varied ways in which our congregation gathers. Gatherings included weekly, monthly and annual events and other special one-off events. This group life is at the heart of our Pastoral Care model. We want to ensure that way for connecting and building relationships are provided – this is where pastoral care happens.

We have particular oversight for the following:

- **Cafe Style morning teas** were held on 4 Feb, 6 May and 15 Jul. These offer a different and often more relaxed way of enjoying conversations after worship.
- **Congregation Lunches** were held on eight occasions after worship – ‘Bring a plate to share’ following the AGM 25 Feb, an indoor picnic 18 Mar, a BBQ to support the Working Bee 22 Apr, a Sausage Sizzle 22 Jul, lunch at local café Marcella’s 26 Aug, pastries & fruit lunch following the presentation from Areej (PIEN Speaker Tour) 21 Oct, a Spring Picnic at Temple Park following Blessing of the Bikes 28 Oct and pastries & fruit following the Congregational Meeting 25 Nov.
- The **Church Camp** was held at the very familiar Adekate Campsite over the weekend of 27-29 April. The theme ‘Bearing Fruit’ based on John 15:1-12. Over the course of the weekend approximately 70 people came & went or stayed to enjoy the bush setting and the company, laughter, food, conversation, board games, netball, werewolves, archery, music and worship. Save the date 24-26 May 2019.
- **Marvelous Mouthwatering May dinners** were hosted over the weekend 25-27 May with 37 people attending 5 dinners. **Spectacularly Satiating September Dinners** were held over the weekend 14-16 Sep with 34 people attending 4 dinners. Our goal to grow participation in the dinners was not realized this year. When reflecting on this outcome and considering the wide array of possibilities for involvement in the life of the congregation we felt that this was probably okay.

Many of the activities of our congregation are hosted and facilitated or supported by other committees (Worship, Discipleship & Education, Justice & Mission, Children, Youth & Young Adult) and groups.

- Highlights included: Brunswick Studio Walk, Sydney Rd. Street Party, Good Friday Lunch, World Wide Knit in Public Day, Trivia Night, Bush Dance, Death in October series, Move your Arts, Christmas Eve Pageant.
- Olive Pesto has grown to include many people who are not otherwise involved in the life of the congregation.
- BUC Cycle, Sacred Harp, Love Makes a Way, Mulling all provide opportunities for people to participate in activities that are meaningful and enriching.

We have been working through the process of setting up a formal analysis of the group life and opportunities for connectedness of our congregation and have now settled on facilitating an Appreciative Enquiry in February 2019. Multiple ways for people to participate in the enquiry will be provided.

Saide Cameron

The Pastoral Care Committee

An important part of our Pastoral Care ministry is ensuring that people have places to connect, to build relationships, to care and be cared for, to find the God of love in human community. We care for one another as we make community together. Jane Allardice, Tess Alston, Glenice Cooke, Ian Ferguson, Stephanie Gesling and Leanne Salau met bi-monthly to oversee the three Ministries of Pastoral Care with these sentiments in mind.

In February and August of 2018 the Pastoral Care Committee organised get-togethers of all three Ministry teams which include a mixture of elements – educational/learning opportunities, social/getting to

know each other better and keeping abreast of what other Pastoral Care Ministries are doing. At the February meeting we reviewed and reflected on the Pastoral Care Report from 2014 which was the springboard for the way we currently offer Pastoral Care. From this discussion we moved into talking about where we thought we were with our Pastoral Care Ministries, why we had decided to join a particular Pastoral Care team and what support we thought was needed in the Ministry.

The August joint meeting took a different tack. We invited Helen Rowe to talk about the Christian Pastoral Education course (CPE) which she was currently doing. We learnt about the different types of conversations that we can have with each other and Ian offered a theological reflection on one of the examples which took the form of a feeling of powerlessness and how we can hold that and still offer pastoral care to the person. We also learnt about the reflective process relating to an encounter with another person along with listening skills and confidentiality of a pastoral conversation. It was a great learning experience.

On behalf of Pastoral Care Sheila Calwell has written many cards in 2018 to different congregational members for celebrating joyous occasions such as births, marriages, baptisms and for offering sympathy and support on the death of family or friends. Thank you Sheila for your constancy and pastoral care in writing these cards for our congregation members.

Pastoral care touches all aspects of our life together at BUC and we continue to delight in the rich and varied life of our community of all ages and cultures and in our relationships with each other.

Jane Allardice

Children and Youth Committee

2018 has seen many changes to the committee, paid employees and the direction of the CYYA. After 3 years working 20 hours a week on the Student house program and as youth leader, Anika resigned (we tried very hard not to accept it) and is now gainfully employed as a social worker. Anika's strong community building and leadership skills have been missed by all. Her legacy will be felt for a long time within our community and we are extremely grateful for the years of faithful service, discernment and guidance she provided. We also farewelled Caitlin in April as she too gained full time social work employment. Her 10 hours a week had held together the Sunday morning program. Caitlin continues to provide guidance and support to our young people, partially with her amazing work in the Christmas Pageant that involved hours of planning and patient work with a strong and central focus on our children.

For 8 months (starting in 2017) we were unsuccessful in recruiting to two part time positions. After much soul searching from the CYYA and church council it was discerned that we would combine the positions and call a full-time minister. Once this process had been finalised three interim workers graced us, doubling our paid staff and answering many of our pleas to create a focus on children and youth.

Valentina joined the student house committee and leader of the program at 10 hours a week. Although Student house reports via CYYA, their strong committee model means we do not see the day to day workings of such a big program (and they will complete their own report). I am extremely grateful to Valentine's amazing work, grace and levelling hands.

Janet Hogan answered our call from the church announcement that we were needing help and slipped into the 7 hour a week role of being the youth group leader and coordinator. Janet is new to BUC in 2018 and is completing her degree in Osteopathy. We are extremely grateful for her ability to coordinate and encourage the group of year 7-10 gang. This group has combined with Fairfield Uniting church youth and looking ahead has some exciting connections with the wider church, with the Sonder Camp collective, and the Student youth games. Particularly exciting is the synod employing a new intergenerational worker Braddon French who has had contact with both Janet Hogan and Janet Watson-Kruse. Big thanks to the 2018 leaders of the Youth group Brianna and Elizabeth. Brianna has been in the youth group leader program for 5 years and has shown amazing commitment to the program and the youth. BIG THANKS!!!

Janet Watson-Kruse stepped into the position of coordinating and leading the Sunday morning program and Preschool catch ups. Her ability to take on an extra 20 hours a week work was a great gift to the committee and community and allowed the program to be thoughtfully considered and developed. I know that my children are actually excited about attending SMP (BIG thanks to all the volunteer leaders). Janet

has taken the role with excitement, organisation and with a strong theology and educational focus. She has been able to get to know the children and their families, all on a personal level and been able to encourage new volunteers. A shining moment was the development of an advanced safe church training model that had all participants leaving wanting more. The numbers of children attending SMP has risen to an average of 16 a week in fourth term. Janet is providing a strategic overview of the upcoming program with a strong focus on resourcing and valuing SMP volunteer leaders.

THE CYYA 2018 Committee wall of fame:

STAYERS	LEAVING US	NEW (April onwards)
Catherine Drimmiel	Rachel Uren (though stayed till the end.... We will miss you)	Claire Foley (Church council rep)
Ian F (providing background support)	Anika Jensen	Chris Emanuel
David Moorhouse (Minute taker)	Caitlin	Tim Winkler (welcome back)
Anita Brown-Major		Janet Watson Kruse (interim worker)
		Janet Hogan (interim worker).

Knowing that Rachel Uren (and Catherine and Thomas) were leaving at the end of the year was a big blow to the committee. Her amazing “can do” attitude and ability to just get things done has made the CYYA run like clockwork. They all will be truly missed, and I am hoping they come through with the promises to continue to attend yearly church camps!

Thank you to Faye Findlay who has spent countless hours preparing for and leading Godly Play with the kids. Her amazing efforts has encouraged the committee to commit new resources to training up more Godly Play Leaders. Faye has now retired from this ministry and we thank her for many opportunities to wonder that she has offered to our young people

The committee has welcomed back Tim Winkler (Thank God for Tim) and his energy, time and video skills were highly regarded in the year 7-10 SMP group.

We also welcomed Chris Emanuel.... Chris has been a member of BUC for 2 years and also answered our crying pleas for help (yes pleading at the pulpit works). Chris has brought with him great enthusiasm and a love of organising, sorting, social media platforms and doing all things I personally can't stand!! We are truly excited by his skills in understanding where children are at and his ability to provide supportive guidance to the Youth leaders.

Claire Foley has been an amazing and welcomed asset to the CYYA committee. She has provided a much-needed link to church council and volunteered without having to twist her arm to step into the space left by Rachel. I am enjoying every moment working with Claire in the Joint Nominating Committee and I am so pleased she has agreed to continue to work with the CYYA group.

Safe church policy and procedures have held us in good stead this year with numerous background work being completed. I particularly like to thank Ian, Helen, Rachel Uren and Janet WK for their significant work in this area. It is always work that goes on unseen, can be stressful, tricky, but very rewarding to see the strong policy and procedures work to ensure we have an ongoing safe environment for all. On a personal note, being chair of the CYYA committee has been a challenge while also rewarding. I signed on for only 2 years (that was 3 years ago) and I am desperately hoping that I won't have to see my last child graduate from year 12 before I am released from the role (aka the amazing Phil Potter). However, I am truly excited that from the ashes, new possibilities are arising and I am excited by the plans that are already taking shape for 2019.

Anita Major

Culture of Safety

Brunswick Uniting Church is committed to the safety of all members and visitors, children and young people, and adults in our community who may be vulnerable for any reason. In 2018 our processes for Keeping Children Safe were maintained with resources and support from the Synod. Helen Rowe continued as the BUC Culture of Safety Contact Person to receive reports of concerns about the safety of children and vulnerable adults. Church Council has a confidential process to deal with any reported concerns. Rachel U'Ren assisted CYYA committee with maintenance of BUC Culture of Safety procedures in children and youth programs. Rachel developed our confidential volunteer register into an auditable format. Gratitude is extended to Rachel for her input and support. We welcomed Claire Foley to the role after Rachel moved interstate at the end of 2018.

Safe Church Awareness training was offered in August to all leaders and volunteers required to hold a Working With Children Check and to other interested people including from neighbouring congregations. The first session facilitated by an external trainer using Synod standard presentation was attended by 24 people. The second was an innovative approach to training using role plays based on possible scenarios in children and youth activities. A trained actor and trained facilitator were engaged to facilitate the session, with 15 participants. The session received positive feedback and when evaluated the model may potentially be shared more widely.

Elements in the Victorian Child Safe Standards and the National standards relate to child empowerment and participation in decision making and for the safety of children with a disability, and cultural safety of children of Aboriginal or Non-English-speaking background. In 2018 BUC continued to implement actions to raise awareness and address the standards as required. The basic level of implementation is having policies, actions and attitudes that impact on all children and young people. We are committed to listening to children and young people and empowering them by taking their views seriously and addressing any concerns that they raise with us.

YUCY youth group developed their own guidelines for safe, fair and fun participation, presented as posters.



Pre-school and primary aged children are actively involved in forming the shape of Children's Time in worship services where open dialogue around the theme is encouraged. Children are offered opportunities to lead prayers and readings during services and in dramatic presentations. At the Sunday Morning Program (SMP) learning experiences enable participation of all children and children are offered choices within the structured program. Worship services regularly includes songs or readings in languages other than English. At each Sunday worship service adults and children participate in verbal acknowledgement of the Indigenous owners of the land we stand on. At the annual blessing of leaders at the start of the school year leaders are publicly presented to the congregation, the minister reaffirms the Church Council commitment to the Keeping Children Safe policy and the whole congregation commits to safeguarding children and vulnerable people.

Helen Rowe continues to keep Church Council informed of Synod policies and legislative changes. The role works closely with Council and Committees offering support to ensure that all volunteers and appointed leaders have a valid WWCC, have signed off on the Code of Conduct and engaged in recruitment and training processes so that BUC remains compliant with requirements. We remain focused on the reason we are doing this – our children are precious.

Helen Rowe

Student House Committee

The Student House Community kicked off 2018 with the Student House Retreat in Queenscliff, where we welcomed Cicely Xiang, Elizabeth Stoel, Quilan Goff and Jason Kang into the community. Later on in the year we also welcomed Samantha Scicluna into the community and former resident Bethany Davey back to the house.

In April we farewelled Anika Jensen from the Student House Support Worker role – Anika’s commitment, aptitude and generosity during her time in the role was acknowledged and had been greatly appreciated by both the committee and the Student House community. Following this, we welcomed Valentina Satvedi into the Student House Support Workers role – a role that Valentina jumped right into and began working closely with the Student House Committee to ensure the community continued to thrive.

Other changes to the community included some departures from the committee and Student House Community. From the committee we farewelled Colin Hunter, who during his time in the committee lent us his considerable wisdom, hands to the working bees and mentoring to the student community – all of which were greatly appreciated by the committee and the Student House Community. From the Student House Community we farewelled throughout the year Tabitha Robert, Peter Morley, Andrew Crane and Meysam Shz – please keep these wonderful people in your hearts as they continue to embark on their respective new stages of life.

Throughout the year, the committee worked with Valentina to begin developing some new processes, policies and updates to student house documentation to help aid us in decision making and setting expectations with the students on both the committee and the student’s obligations. We continued to maintain:

- Monthly dinners with the extended community with the alternating fortnight being a private dinner time for the students
- Working bee sessions throughout the year
- A representative from each house to represent their house at SH Committee meetings, rotated on a semester basis
- Mentoring relationships with students facilitated by the Committee
- Semesterly house inspections

Going forward it will be important that the committee continues to work closely with the Student House Support Worker in finding a close balance between nurturing the students in a loving community, while also setting them up for success in transition to communities where they may not receive the intentional support from a dedicated support worker, committee and church community.

There were also many new and continuing wonderful connections made between the students living and learning together in the houses, and engagement with Brunswick Uniting more broadly. Students were involved in youth group, Sunday Morning Program, Olive Way, finance support, Sunday morning worship, The Olive Arts Collective and Love Makes a Way. The Student House Committee is excited to explore new and different ways of BUC involvement with the students in the year to come.

Looking ahead to 2019, the Committee is getting ready to welcome new students to fill the newly vacated rooms and continue exploring effective and practical community facilitation and engagement between Brunswick Uniting and the Student House Community.

James Balsillie

Justice & Mission Committee

Members of the Justice & Mission Committee (Gwen Arnold, Richard Arnold, Abi Benham-Bannon, Kirsty Bennett, Meredith Budge, Saide Cameron and Leanne Salau) enjoyed meeting together in each other’s homes over shared meals during the year.

During 2018 we:

- found great satisfaction in supporting our many related programs and committees (Olive Way, FUNdraising, Food Co-op, BUC Arts, Olive Arts, Stewart Lodge, Love Makes a Way, Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre) with respect to representation and reporting
- participated in the Sydney Rd. Street Party

- participated in rallies including Palm Sunday Peace Rally, Climate Action, Love Makes A Way, Manus Island vigils and actions, Carols against Coal
- co-ordinated Tower Room Window displays
- supported applications to Pick my Project for a Meditative Garden & Mural and for a performance at the Sydney Rd. Street Festival – unfortunately neither of these applications were successful
- welcome Areej Masoud as the speaker, during and after worship 21/10, for the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network Tour
- restructured our relationship with residents and staff of Stewart Lodge
- worked with the FUNdraising committee to support awareness and raise money for programs and projects, *see separate annual report*
- enjoyed attending performances offered by SROC (Sydney Rd. Opera Company) throughout the year, our thanks to Damien Coleridge and Gus Argote for their energy and commitment.

The **Olive Way Steering Committee** (Richard Arnold (chair), Kirsty Bennett (JAM representative), Peter Blair (Co-ordinator) and Ann Soo) has supported the Olive Way program through the development of a Manual for OWSG members, by hosting a Mental Health First Aid Training course (2&3/3) providing a framework for exploring strategic directions, and supporting and training staff and volunteers. JAM worked with the OSWG to provide oversight for the Olive Way Kitchen Redevelopment Consultation, Olive Way Review, Review of the Art Stop 21 program, reclassification of the Olive Way Co-ordinator position to Olive Way Pastor and development of the Respect postcard project. The Olive Way Coordinator (Peter Blair) developed role descriptions for three volunteer roles: visitor, kitchen hand and host. The full Olive Way Committee including Peter Murphy (our cook), volunteers and guests also met during the year. *See also separate Olive Way Annual Report.*

The theme for our congregation's contribution to the **Sydney Rd. Street Party** (4/3) was 'LISTEN – love, interact, support, think, engage, nurture', linking in with the theme for Lent. Our congregation provided a range of ways to engage including hosting Devonshire Tea in the Olive Way, the Studio Walk in the hall, an invitation to write a message about something the writer wanted people to listen to on a butterfly to attach to our Rainbow, a welcome to the worship, Love Makes a Way singing on the street and a performance from SROC – 'Roof in over my head'.

The **BUC Arts Committee** had a very busy year with many invitations for the congregation to enjoy their own and others creative gifts including the Studio Walk (24/2), World Wide Knit in Public Day (9/6), Art for the Heart workshops (July-August), Cut & Paste Collage workshops (October-November), Respect Postcard project (October-November) and a Dreaming Day (17/11). The review of the ArtStop 21 program and our relationship with Arts Access provided new insights and information to take us forward.

The **Olive Arts Collective** and **Olive Pesto** group provided support for artists and crafters respectively to create beautiful works using a wide variety of mediums. We are grateful to the leaders who have provided such generous support to ensure that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to explore and share their creativity. Our thanks to the Olive Pesto group which provided many beautiful craft works for sale at the Christmas Bowl Appeal stall.

The **FUNdraising Committee** hosted two big events: Trivia Night (16/6) and Bush Dance (21/7). Stalls after worship, Backyard Band parties and other initiatives provided many opportunities for our congregation and the wider community to contribute to identified projects and programs.

Our relationships with residents and staff of **Stewart Lodge** has undergone significant change with the catalyst being John Venning's move to a Nursing Home in Berwick. We formally farewelled John and celebrated his birthday on 22nd April although he had not been at worship all year. It was a beautiful bittersweet celebration for a man well loved by our congregation. We decided to discontinue the Driving roster as the uptake was inconsistent. Rosemary Brown also moved into a Nursing Home in Northcote. A number of residents are regulars at the Olive Way and the art programs on Wednesday. We organized the Stewart Lodge Carols, held 19/12 and provided residents with \$30 Woolworths gift cards offered in hand written Christmas cards.

The **Tower Room Window displays** continued to offer the wider community insights into who we are and what we care about as a congregation. In 2018 the displays included: LISTEN for the season of Lent, LOVE with children's butterflies from the Easter Garden, Pentecost, celebration of the Assembly decision on marriage equality, Refugee Week, Love Makes a Way actions, Advent and Christmas.

Our goals for the year were to

- Encourage, enable and support the BUC community in engaging in environmental and social justice issues (both within church and wider community)
- Provide support to related committees and programs in their endeavours and ongoing function.
- Actively think about how we are being inclusive and promoting diversity in the BUC community
- Continue to actively think about how we are ensuring equality and equity in the BUC community

We are confident that we have provided substantial support to our related committees and the offering of programs which encourage inclusion for people in varying ways. There is much to celebrate as outlined in the body of this report. FUNdraising activities, public actions, messages offered through the Tower Room window, the welcome offered by the Olive Way program and all the programs that provide engagement alongside the Olive Way, our relationships with Stewart Lodge, Love Makes a Way and the Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre speak of a richness that is difficult to capture in only a few words. Our congregation is greatly blessed, abundantly generous and creative, welcoming and inclusive.

The challenge for all of us is to avoid complacency and continue to seek ways to welcome the stranger, to seek justice and work for peace. The JAM committee is aware of our responsibility in this task and is grateful for the way in which the whole congregation and community participates in and supports this important work.

Doing all of this requires a great deal of time, effort and energy. The JAM committee encourages you to consider joining us or one of our committees in this work. We love what we do and we know you will too.

Saide Cameron

Olive Way Steering Group

The **Olive Way Steering Group (OWSG)** has continued to support the Olive Way and provide overall management in conjunction with the Coordinator, oversee policy and strategic direction, give support and feedback to the Coordinator.

The OWSG meets as a full committee four times a year and consists of Richard Arnold (chair), Kirsty Bennett (JAM representative), Peter Blair (Co-ordinator), Ann Soo, Peter Murphy, and various Olive Way participants and volunteers. In between these meetings the OWSG executive meets on a monthly basis.

The Olive Way has continued to be a significant face of the Brunswick Uniting Church in the community and has been enriched by those who take part. We have continued to provide hospitality, a listening ear, and increasingly more enrichment experiences such as art (Olive Arts Collective), theatre (SROC), music tuition, and conversations about things that really matter to people. We also value the input and contributions from all who participate. In 2019 we look forward to commencing a gardening group

During 2018 some of the key initiatives have included:

- The development of a Manual for OWSG members
- Hosting a 2-day Mental Health First Aid Training course
- Providing a framework for exploring strategic directions and training for staff and volunteers.
- Implementing an Olive Way Kitchen Redevelopment Consultation
- Reclassifying the Olive Way Coordinator position to Olive Way Pastor
- Developing a Respect project in conjunction with Olive Arts to state our position regarding how participants of the Olive Way should relate to other participants.
- The Olive Way Coordinator (Peter Blair) developed role descriptions for three volunteer roles: visitor, kitchen hand and host. This has proved most helpful in making the most of people's gifts and interests – for volunteers from within and outside of the congregation
- Implementing the 2018 Olive Way Review.

This has been our most important project during 2018, with the previous review being done in 2015. The OWSG felt that it was important to update the 2015 work and we were fortunate to have the leadership of Tim Budge who coordinated the process and the input of Olive Way participants who formed the Review Team.

The main outcome of the Review was the naming of **9 Key Recommendations**. These have been developed into current and future strategies and further actions will be taken during 2019 to

implement the recommendations. The 9 Key Recommendations will form the basis of our strategy for the next 3 years. We plan to hold an Olive Way Information Forum on **17 March** to share our vision for the future, and we look forward to a good turn up to this event.

The OWSG would like to thank our staff and volunteers and participants who have all be incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic. We always welcome participation from members of the congregation, as well as other wonderful contributors who are not members, without whom the Olive Way would not exist. We also value your prayer support and financial contributions. We continue to be blessed by some wonderful, anonymous gifts, for which we are very grateful.

**The Olive Way Steering Group:
Richard Arnold, Kirsty Bennett, Mal Rowe, Ann Soo and Peter Blair**

BUC Arts

Convenor: Ann Soo

Members: Leanne Salau, Tim Hoffmann, Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Simone Alesich.

Friends of BUC ARTS and members in 2018: Colin Hunter, Geoff Falk, Meredith Budge and Helen Burnham

As I reflect on the work of 2018 and the spirit in which it has been carried out, I am filled with gratitude. The arts in its many forms have thrived again in 2018 and often in surprising and unexpected ways enriching our lives as a church and as a community.

I wish to thank so many people who have supported this growth over the year and for volunteering and sharing their gifts. Without love, faith, hope and community, none of the following is possible. Please read on and join in on a reflection of the BUC Arts continuing journey at BUC.

Events and Exhibitions

- Participated in the ***Brunswick Studio Walk*** by opening our Olive Arts Collective studio to the public. Over 500 people came through our doors from 12noon -5pm and over \$700 of art was purchased. All monies going directly to artists of the Olive Arts Collective. Poetry recitals, audio-visual and multiple art demonstrations. Wonderful hospitality of snacks, coffee and tea. Many volunteers participating and taking up tasks large and small with flexibility and good will. All mounted on a very small budget. The Olive Arts Collective and their amazing work was showcased and shown to the wider art community in Brunswick. We were able to make contact with other studios such as Studio 23 in Brunswick.
- ***Sydney Road Street Party*** – we offered a smaller but equally stimulating exhibition for this event as it occurred one week after the Studio Walk. More artworks were sold and large numbers flowed through the church hall.
- ***Sacred Edge Festival*** – three members of BUC community displayed art in the exhibition at the festival (Tim Hoffmann, Louise Marson and Ann Soo) Louise Marson was awarded the People's Choice Award for her mosaic of Mother Teresa.
- ***World Wide Knit in Public Day***- our second year participating in this international Day of knitting was an enormous success and judging by the official website, BUC was the hub for knitters in Melbourne. We partnered KNIT ONE GIVE ONE charity so that all knitted items were donated to this amazing grass roots non-profit organisation. With KOGO's support, we had even more knitters in 2018 (approximately 70) and opened the Olive Way and the church hall for a wonderful afternoon of knitting, light lunch, conversation and community.
- ***Art for the Heart Exhibition*** – Five artworks submitted for this exhibition from congregation members. Three works of collage by the emerging collage group (Natalie Papworth and company) and individual works by Simone Alesich, Michael Rigby, Anna Rowlands and Ann Soo. A beautiful poem by Leanne Salau accompanied one of the collages.
- ***UC Assembly*** art exhibition – One art work by Ann Soo exhibited .

Community spirit and connections

- **Olive Pesto** continues to thrive (core leadership of Linda Wannan Edgar, Natalie Papworth and Ann Soo). Numbers have grown enormously and drawn from our local community as well as our church. Every month we have created and collected bags of beautiful handknitted garments and blankets

from dedicated local knitters for KOGO (Knit One Give One) a non-profit organisation that distributes these goods to refugees, hospitals, hostels and remote communities. In December, Olive Pesto contributed to the Christmas Bowl Appeal Stall thanks to the enthusiasm and guidance of Natalie Papworth, Glenice Cook and Leanne Salau. Significant funds were raised. Many thanks to Linda Wannan Edgar for her enthusiastic leadership, unwavering commitment (as treasurer as well) and to Natalie Papworth for sharing her many gifts, graces and generosity to The Olive Pesto.

- **Olive Arts Collective** (core leadership: Leanne Salau, Tim Hoffmann and Ann Soo) continues to grow in numbers and welcomed new professional artists and community artists this year. Numbers are consistently high to our weekly meetings as we deepen our connection with each other and create unique and beautiful art whilst learning from each other. Pop up art exhibition for end of year celebration, Respect postcards project for Olive Way, Christmas card design for Stewart Lodge. Collage for Advent by Richard Phelan and Ann Soo. Special thanks to Leanne Salau and Tim Hoffmann for being the volunteer 'anchors' to this life-giving group and for the gifts they share so freely. To those who have raised funds and made donations this year – an enormous thank you. We have been gifted and raised funds beyond expectation and this expresses to me that The Olive Arts and BUC ARTS has resonance in our community.

Workshops

- **Collage Workshops for Art for the Heart** ran for four weeks and delved into the heart of loss and grief. This quiet space was a reflection on those themes and also a celebration of life in its wholeness. Three 'heartfelt' works were created and exhibited at Art for the Heart exhibition at The Meat Market in North Melbourne.
- **More than Cut and Paste** Workshops with Priscilla Manthey and Ann Soo
These workshops were extremely well attended and appreciated averaging ten people per session. Priscilla generously shared her rich experience of being an artist and art teacher with us. There were over eight sessions covering collage approaches from Mondrian to Matisse when participants could experiment and play with shapes and colour. In addition, the workshops were a safe and accepting creative space for everyone to have access to art. Huge thanks to Priscilla Manthey for her generosity in sharing her expertise, skill and inspiration.
- **Pop up Exhibition of collage work** – We have been invited by Christina Rowntree UC VicTas Artful Faith Coordinator for the collages to be hung and displayed at CTM for the month of February 2019.

Collaborations

- Continuing to support the work of Artstop Arts Access Victoria – offering the space and volunteer support (Leanne Salau) for twenty-four weeks of the year. Communication and dialogue with lead artists and coordinators of AAV continued in order to support the artists who attend both Artstop and The Olive Arts Collective.
- Participated in Arts review regarding relationship between AAV and BUC ARTS involving interviews and feedback.

Consolidating the Arts at BUC

- Mission Statement
- Dreaming Day with Liz Johnson.
- Communication with relevant committees on projects – A special thank you to Saide Cameron for supporting BUC ARTS in so many visible and not visible ways. Without this support and drive, the developments mentioned would not be possible.

Ann Soo, BUC ARTS Convenor,
Olive Arts Collective Core leadership group, Olive Pesto Core leadership group

Love Makes A Way North group

2018 was a big year for our Love Makes A Way 'North' group. We met monthly, organising and participating in various events to advocate for compassionate asylum seeker policies, including:

- **Singing and story-telling at Sydney Rd Street Festival**
- **Flash sings on trains**

- A new and very successful form of action for us
- We did one in solidarity with men on Manus and their peaceful protests (May 29), another as part of the Kids off Nauru/Kids Off All Off campaign (September 13)
- Overall we had very positive responses (good conversations and even some tears)
- Big thanks to Phil Hudson for leading us in song, and to all who made it happen. All held a powerful presence of nonviolence and expression of faith in engaging with others and each other
- **Refugee week ‘sing-out’**
 - We sang on the steps of St Paul’s Cathedral in the early winter morning, reminded again of the power of song by the positive responses of people passing by (and even joining in!)
 - Lovely red beanies made by the Brunswick UC Olive Pesto group (including congregation members and others from the wider community) helped us stand out and unite us – thank you to all who contributed!
- **Kids Off Nauru vigil at St Paul’s** (November 2)
 - We joined with Love Makes A Way groups around the country to call for the kids to be immediately evacuated from Nauru, with strong support from the community of St Paul’s Cathedral
- **Sit-in at Scott Ryan’s office** (November 20)
 - Members of our group joined with others in Love Makes A Way, with five of our team sitting in the Liberal Senator’s office all day calling for all refugees and asylum seekers to be immediately removed from Manus and Nauru
 - Our outside team reflected on many positive responses from people passing by
- **ARAN (Australian Refugee Action Network) national conference** (July 7-8) was attended by LMAW North representatives. It was a positive experience of networking and brainstorming with like-minded groups, providing us with encouragement and a renewed energy.
- **We had a presence at various rallies and vigils** throughout the year, including the Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees



Abigail Benham-Bannon

Brunswick Uniting Food Co-Op

After the previous year of operational challenges 2018 proved to be overwhelmingly positive. The Co-op has been revitalized with new energy and enthusiasm. Abi Bannon commenced as our employed Purchasing Officer in February. Following a six-month pilot with review Church Council approved continuation of the role. An agreed increase in member charges adequately funded the role which will continue in 2019. Media promotion about reduction in plastic packaging led to increased community interest in our Food Co-op.

We welcomed 32 new members in 2018 – the most in any year since the Co-op began in 2000. The vast majority of new members are from the general community and represent a younger demographic. On average, around 30 households attend and purchase each month with members choosing their preferred frequency ranging from monthly to quarterly. We acknowledge our members’ participation on rosters for the monthly product distribution days. OH&S measures to reduce manual handling were implemented, including purchase of wheeled trolleys for our large heavy bins, a hand trolley to move barrels of liquid with minimal lifting and ordering bulk products in maximum of 15 kg bags where possible.

Our Purchasing Officer coordinated overall monthly stock inventory and ordering, as well as single orders purchased and received by volunteers Christine, Helen and Kylie. Kathleen managed the rosters and monthly reminders and our Committee met quarterly to review operations, manage the finances and

support Abi in her role. We continued to support the Indigenous Hospitality House Trivia Night and supplied their monthly food order at cost price. We supported one member's start-up of a sustainability project promoting personal and household products not included in our product list.

We acknowledge the support of the BUC community in providing space to continue the Food Co-op. The Food Co-op is run by its Members and reports to JAM Committee on a regular basis. It has been an exciting year, sharing values relating to care for the earth through a practical approach to reduce packaging. Strengthened connections with the broader community around shared values is encouraging. Our members have a sense of belonging, a feeling of mattering to one another.

Thanks are extended to the 2018 Committee - Meredith Budge, Sheryl Ashley, Kathleen Kemp, Helen Rowe and Sheryll Coulson.

Helen Rowe

FUNdraising

The FUNdraising – putting the FUN back into FUNdraising – committee (Saide Cameron, Glenice Cook and Jessica Kvanskul) oversaw another big year of FUNdraising events that were definitely fun and gave the congregation the opportunity gather in a variety of ways to support The Olive Way and Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre together with Lenten, Share and Act for Peace Christmas Bowl Appeals.

Lenten Appeal

Stalls were offered after worship on 18th and 25th March raising approximately **\$1,077.30** through sale of preserves, Easter treats, Op Shop, scones and plants. Thanks to Saide Cameron, Glenice Cook, Natalie Papworth, Leanne Salau and Linda Fisher for their contributions.

Olive Arts Collective 1

A number of activities during first half of the year raised funds for the Olive Arts collective including

- Sydney Rd. Street Party Devonshire Tea, 4th March - \$400.70
- the continuation of The Op Shop after worship on 1st, 8th, 15th April - \$140.70
- catering for events - \$1,030.70

Total raised - **\$1,572.10**

Olive Arts Collective 2

Three Backyard Band parties with covers band 'Terry Towelling and the Tank Tops were held

- Thank you to Steph Gesling, followed by Meg & David Moorhouse in February raising 794.00 respectively.
- Thank you also to Trish Thompson, Kylie Murphy and Saide Cameron for hosting Move your Arts, 11th November, raising \$938.00

Total raised - **\$1,732.00**

Uniting Winter Appeal

A stall planned to raise money to support this appeal did not go ahead due to lack of support. Donations totally **\$400** were offered by the congregation.

Olive Way

Our first big event for the year was the Trivia Night on 16th June which saw the hall packed to capacity. We raised an amazing **\$8,969.80** during a fabulous evening including 6 rounds of questions, games, competitions and supper. It was wonderful to welcome new and old friends of the Olive Way to this very spectacularly successful evening. Many thanks to Alistair Hunter for hosting the event and Saide Cameron for attending to the myriad organizational details required. The total was made up of Entry (\$2,060), purchase of answers (\$525), Bar (\$1,160), Donations (\$700), Preserves Table (\$239.70), Silent Auction (\$1,715) and Live Auction (\$3,110) with costs of \$540.65.

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre 1

Our second big event was the Bush Dance on 21st July. People of all ages enjoyed dancing to the live music provided by Natalie Sims, Shawn Whelan, Catherine Leslie, Alistair Hunter and Elaine Potter.

Special thanks to Teresa Connelly for calling the dances. We raised **\$4,194.70** made up of Entry (\$829), Donations (\$40), Cloak room (\$11.50), Sausage sizzle (\$381.50), Silent Auctions (\$870), Paintings (\$750), Op Shop (\$1004.20), Preserves (308.80).

Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre 2

On the afternoon of the Bush Dance a Brooch Lovers Big Day Out was held in the hall. Members of the congregation supported the event by setting up and serving morning tea & lunch. In response the organizers of the event (Kate Kirkwood and Sharni McKinnon), daughters of Julie & Peter McKinnon) donated another **\$5,000** to the ASWC.

Stewart Lodge Gift Bags Appeal

Richard Arnold once again organized Stewart Lodge Carols. The Justice and Mission Committee decided to give residents a gift card. The congregation was invited to offer donations to cover the cost of the gift cards after worship on 2nd & 9th December. A total of **\$1,003.00** was raised.

Christmas Bowl

The work of the Christmas Bowl was promoted with the support of the Worship and Communication committees. A variety of opportunities to contribute to this work was offered.

- 1,817.00 Christmas Bake & Craft Stall (2,9,16/12)
- 385.00 Preserves Stall (2,9,16/12)
- 506.00 Ann's Cards (2 & 9/12)
- 153.00 Linda's plants (9/12)
- 832.50 Transfers across all stalls
- 3461.20 Donations (Bowl during worship services)

A total of **\$7154.70** was raised for the Christmas Bowl.

Conclusion

The FUNdraising committees goals were to

1. Raise money to support identified projects and programs
 - We are very satisfied with the money raised for each of the identified targets particularly the Olive Way and Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. In each case we were close to doubling the \$5,000 target
 - Lenten and Christmas Bowl Appeal stalls were well supported
 - The various activities supporting the Olive Arts Collective have provided the program with significant resourcing to take it into 2019.
2. Encourage as many people in the congregation to participate in preparing, contributing and running events
 - The FUNdraising and JAM committees are always delighted with the number of people who support the events by attending, inviting friends and family and making purchases. Without this support the big events in particular would lack the vibrancy so evident on the night.
 - Unfortunately support for planning and organizing big events has been very limited. For this reason and in light of the significant funds raised in 2018 the Justice and Mission committee recommended to Church Council that we take a break from big events in 2019. This recommendation was accepted.
3. Engage the wider community wherever possible
 - As noted above it is always a joy to welcome family and friends from the wider community to our events.
 - We are grateful to the Olive Pesto group for their support of the Christmas Bowl appeal through provision of the vast array of craft items. We particularly want to acknowledge Beverly, an Olive Way volunteer, who donated an amazing number of Gingerbread houses.

Each FUNdraising events draws on the gifts, skills and generosity of individuals and groups within our congregation. We thank everyone who has offered their time to help make our FUNdraising events so very successful.

In 2018 a total of **\$31,103.60** was raised and donated.

Thank you again

Saide Cameron

Discipleship & Education Committee

D&E had a busy year with some returning activities and some new innovations.

The Lenten Study program used web-based material including short video's that people could watch individually, a printed journal in which they could reflect prayerfully and a choice of either a day time or an evening gathering for people to share their experiences. Ian also ran the traditional "Deepening Faith" group later in the year.

In April a group of people went to see the movie *Mary Magdalene*. This had not been intentionally programmed into the years activities, but was done when we saw the opportunity. Picking up community events like that is something we are learning to leave space for in the D&E calendar.

After consulting with Pastoral Care, a session called *Mainstream and Margins* was run attended mainly by pastoral care and other leadership focussed people. It helped people reflect on the various ways people relate to church congregational life. The difference between "belonging" and "fitting in".

The main program for the year was conducted during October. This series was prompted by the legislative changes in Victoria around Voluntary Assisted Dying and assisted by the expertise in the congregation on this subject. The four Thursday evenings in October were devoted to this topic and related discussions around death. We hosted 30 people for Death Over Dinner in Olive Way where discussions around death were facilitated. On another night we conducted an Advanced Care Planning workshop in that space also. More than 50 people collected copies of the Advanced Care Planning booklet and many attended the workshop to discuss the concept of thinking about their end of life care wishes and begin writing them down. A Panel Discussion was held on another night to discuss the VAD legislation, including an excellent presentation from Joel Hallinan about the details of the legislation. He was closely involved in its drafting. He was joined on the panel by an ethicist and a palliative care specialist. The final session in the series was a return to the Grief and Loss Experiential we had run previously. Feed back on this was very positive.

Meg Orton

Mulling

Mulling is a group for early 20s to late 30 year-olds, who meet to explore faith, spirituality and community. This year each member took responsibility for arranging a meet-up each month, including guest speakers, social events, and workshops.

Some of these included:

- Theology in the Pub with Geoff Thompson
- Music Chats
- Contemplative Movement in Worship with Ian Ferguson
- Spirituality through Art with Ann Soo and Mark Taitinen
- Christmas in July
- Exploring Our Identity in Christ
- Exploring prayer
- Disability and Christianity with Andy Calder
- Activism with Angela Merriam
- Mulling Sewing Afternoon
- Social Dinners
- Christmas Shindig

Sounds pretty great, hey! If you are in our age group or meet someone at Church who is, we always keen to meet new people!

Daniel Broadstock

Presbytery

In 2018, Steph Gesling joined me as a Presbytery representative from Brunswick Uniting Church in the Presbytery of Port Phillip West – as a large congregation, we send two reps. Between us, we attended 4 Presbytery-in-Council meetings as well as inductions when possible. When we could both go, I enjoyed our car conversations; also, Steph instigated the wonderfully productive habit of jotting down the highlights from Presbytery-in-council meetings on the drive home, which made our Olive Branch reports much easier to write!

In previous reports, I've mentioned that Presbytery is undergoing a transition to a new staffing model because Synod is now providing less money for Presbytery ministers; the main change in our Presbytery is that we'll call two 'generalist' Presbytery Ministers instead of three 'specialists'. At the moment, the Presbytery is still severely understaffed. Jeanne Beale has filled one placement but the other is still vacant; we have also employed Heather Loader, who is being immensely capable in the role of Secretary, but Rose Broadstock finished up her Mission Strategist role in November. Our Regenerating the Church 2021 missional strategy assumes we will continue employing someone in this capacity, so our understaffing has consequences for how effectively we can go about the work we agreed to in this Strategy. Naturally, we are moving on filling the vacancies, and our upcoming Presbytery Leadership Retreat for the members of Standing Committee and other Presbytery committees will focus on prioritising our goals and efforts in the meantime.

Nonetheless, Presbytery did good work in 2018. The Cultural Audit Implementation Team, headed by Shawn Whelan, completed all the tasks they'd been given, including delivering a comprehensively improved website complete with 'explainer' brochures about what Presbytery is and does in various pertinent languages. They also organised updating of policies and training opportunities to help Presbytery be more transparent and communicate better. During the year I noticed a growing focus in the Presbytery on the importance of transitional ministry – for example, helping congregations to prepare for changes in leadership, and nurturing robust church life and mission which won't collapse in a heap just because a particular leader moves on. This was a major consideration in the Life and Witness Consultation I helped Annette Buckley carry out at Darebin North West, to help discern if the minister should have an extension there beyond 10 years. Perhaps our Presbytery is particularly sensitive to this side of church life at the moment because the Presbytery is in such a state of transition itself.

Having a Presbytery meeting at the Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre was a highlight for me this year – Narana means deep, life-changing listening and learning, which I think is very appropriate for a Presbytery to aspire to! Steph enjoyed learning about the business of the Presbytery and considering it on the drives to and from Hopper's crossing in our conversations. A highlight from the meetings for Steph was hearing the stories of candidates and potential candidates for ministry, such as when Brent Pelton told us his faith story in August. We were both delighted to join Presbytery in accepting two candidates for ordination, including our own Carlyne Nunn.

I have re-joined Standing Committee for 2019-2020 after a two year breather, and I'm looking forward to being more involved in Presbytery again.

Kate Scull

Communications Team

BUC Website

Our new look website has been the wider community's window into the life of our congregation for over eighteen months and we have been pleased to receive many positive comments from newcomers about their experience with the website. Seventy seven members of the congregation have requested access to the Members section. It's easy to do and you might be surprised to find what you can learn if you have access: <https://brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/member-area/>

We added a contact card during the year which was used for valid reasons at least 23 times in six months with spam usages numbering 34. We are also exploring creating a Flickr account for photo storage.

Sunday prayers and sermons are regularly updated. Special and Regular Events are posted on the Events Calendar. Ministry Stories and Our Stories are posted often enough to keep the home page

looking fresh and up to date. The BUC Arts and Olive Way pages were updated and expanded. Naomi David, member of the Finance committee, developed the Finance page in the Members Section which now provides lots of useful information about all things financial.

There has been limited uptake to the invitation for more people to be trained to manage pages and blogs relevant to their committee work but we remain hopeful. Guidelines for various tasks have been prepared in anticipation.

Newsletters

- The Olive Press (weekly newsletter offered in printed form and as an e-newsletter via Mail Chimp and on our website). There are 237 email addresses on the list for the Olive Press. Approximately 40% of subscribers open the email with anywhere from 13%-22% clicks on links within the mailout.
- The Olive Leaf (weekly worship sheet printed and on screen),
- The Olive Branch (monthly newsletter by email and printed).

The Olive Branch has three key sections – Meditations, Sharing our Faith and News. Other sections include Worship Calendar, Special & Regular Events, Congregation, Pastoral Care, Discipleship & Education, Justice & Mission and Children & Youth News, Reports & Notices. Many stories from the Olive Branch are extracted and posted on blogs and pages on the website.

Meditations have been offered by members of the congregation:

- The Beginning of Ministry, Reflections on Community, An Easter Reflection, A personal reflection after attending the vigil for Eurydice Dixon, Breaking down the wall, Faith across cultures, Blessing of the Bikes – a meditation on wheels, A Christmas Reflection, *by Ian Ferguson*
- The Patron Saint of Redeemable Failures, *by Daniel Broadstock*
- Gaza is a word on a coloured card, *by Tim Budge*
- Prayer in worship, *by Saide Cameron*
- Assembly 2018, *by Geoff Thompson*
- A Time of Lament, Welcoming Ceremony 18/3 & 16/9, Farewell John Venning, Church Camp, Uniting in Song, *by Saide Cameron*

Special News stories (*mostly written by Saide Cameron*) have included:

A number of people 'Shared their Faith' in this regular & often inspiring section:

- Leaders Retreat & This is not fake news (re Joan Gilchrist) *by Claire Foley*
- Remembering Eurydice Dixon, *by Giovanni Dimase*

- 2017 Advent and Christmas worship
- Janet Reus Smit's 40 years of Ordination
- Holy Week worship
- Sydney Rd. Street Party
- Pentecost Sunday
- Celebration of Anika Jensen's ministry
- Trivia Night and Bush Dance
- Rachel & Kathryn's wedding
- PIEN Speaker Tour
- Celebration of Ministry Sacred Harp Convention, *by Natalie Sims*

Publications

Annual publications – the Olive Harvest (collection of Annual Reports) and Directory were produced and distributed on 11th February and 11th March respectively.

Other regular publications are the Olive Bite – a monthly welcome leaflet for newcomers & visitors, a Community Map prepared by the Community arm of the Pastoral Care Ministry – a bright and colourful document provides information about the groups and activities of the congregation together with contact information and bi-monthly Rosters which organize the participation of up to 40 families and individuals in leading, organizing & contributing to Sunday morning worship. Guidelines for these roles are produced on behalf of the Worship Committee and made available by email and on the website in pdf files.

Facebook

The BUC Facebook Group provides another space to advertise events and share stories. The sermons and Sunday prayer posts are regularly shared from our website. We now have 172 members, an increase of 31. The BUC Facebook Page is administered by Ian Ferguson and Saide Cameron.

Leadership Photoboard

Ken Morrison takes and provides photos for the photoboard which includes Ministry Team, Elders, Congregation leaders and First Aid Officers. The photos are also published on the Meet the Team page of the website. Both are updated as required throughout theyear.

Membership

Databases (dates of birth and membership details, roster participation, roles & responsibilities) continue to be maintained and details are provided on request for specific purposes. The database has been expanded to include Council & Elders years of service. Church Council and the Pastoral Care Team found this information particularly useful for reviewing levels of engagement and participation in the life of the community. We are still hoping to transfer this database to our website.

Photocopier, Bookmarks, Postcards & more

Our printer was retired as it was five years old and out of contract. It was replaced on 22nd May with an MP C3504exSP Multi Function Device. It was anticipated that we would save \$250 pm on current costs.

Various combinations of postcards, posters and Real Estate Boards have been produced to publicize, invite & engage people in a wide range of aspects of our community life including

- Church Council
- Worship (Covenant for the New Year, Lent, Holy Week, Advent and Christmas)
- FUNdraising (Trivia Night, Bush Dance, Move your Arts)
- Pastoral Care (Welcome card, Community Map, Compassion card,
- Justice & Mission (Sydney Rd. Street Party, Olive Way, Pick my Project, Climate Action, Respect Project
- Community events (Church Camp, Triple Letter dinners)
- BUC Arts (Studio Walk, World Wide Knit in Public Day, Olive Pesto,)
- Discipleship & Education programs (Meeting Jesus Journal, Death in October series
- Children, Youth & Young Adult events & activities (Nourish, Sunday Morning Program & YUCY)

Working Together

The Working Together package includes 5 levels of guidelines describing how we function as a congregation through the organization of relationships between the council, committees and individuals. The documents are reviewed bi-annually and as required. For more information go to

<http://www.brunswick.unitingchurch.org.au/aboutus/cc.php>

Other tasks

Various documents, invitations and Synod e-new were distributed via the church email group system. Links to the Christmas Bowl stories were included with the Olive Press mailing during Advent and Christmas.

The team is also responsible for

- managing the Office 365 subscription used by the Ministry Team, Finance and the church laptop,
- maintaining & buying consumables for the photocopier,
- maintaining & managing copyright licenses,
- providing name tags,
- organizing and managing email groups.

We recommended changes to the Photo permissions policy and also recommended that a comprehensive Privacy Policy be developed (the latter will be attended to in 2019).

The Communications Team (Saide Cameron, Ian Ferguson, Shawn Whelan) enjoys contributing to and participating in the communications ministry of our congregation. We also appreciate input from Christine Hornby (preparing the printed Olive Leaf for worship), Jane Allardice, Meg Orton and Lauren Reader (preparing worship slides), Daniel Broadstock (posting Sunday Prayers on the website).

Saide Cameron undertakes the bulk of the Communications work. We are actively looking to recruit people to take on specific tasks. If you have an interest in doing a task that is not upfront and that you can do in your own time at home please let one of us know. Training and guidelines will be provided.

Saide Cameron

Property Committee

Property Committee Profile

The Property Committee has responsibilities similar to those of a landlord for the Congregation's properties. These include the buildings on the Church site (Church, Hall, Youth Hall, ASWC), 4 Merri St (rental property), Manse and the student houses and unit at Bucknall Court.

The Congregation's properties are to enable us to live out our vision and mission as outlined in the working together set of documents.

The Property Committee undertakes the maintenance of the properties through a program of planned activities (as identified through periodic building reports), as well as unplanned items that arise that require short to medium term attention.

The Committee members are Andrew Moorhouse (convenor), Ray Cameron, Jenny Hunter, James Clough.

2018 was another busy year, with works continuing on addressing maintenance items identified in the formal 2014 inspection reports, along with all the unplanned rectifications and changes that occur with the active use of the church properties.

A planned maintenance program has been prioritised for 2019, with spending up to \$91k or as far as the budget will stretch. Major planned items include hall floor sanding (near completed), exterior and interior painting at Bucknall Court Student Houses, stone masonry work on the church and hall, and the building of the storage sheds.

The property committee is seeking another member to share the workload, or for people to join for a short duration to see through one particular project.

Having Laurie Bonney as the "go to" hands on handyman continues to work well. He is able to carry out repairs and maintenance, or organises quotes/ contractors, and this arrangement has enabled much work to be undertaken over the past year.

Formal condition reports on the church properties were undertaken in 2014-15, so it is time again to renew the condition reports in 2019.

The property committee generally meets monthly. Invoices are forwarded to the Finance group for payments.

Particular thanks to Ray Cameron who has done the minute taking, agenda preparations and monthly reports.

Significant works

Listed below are the more significant jobs completed, (the many minor ones omitted), and at the end, the list of current activities.

Worship Space

Plaster around base of apse repaired. Video screens replaced. Magnetic latches on glass side doors repaired. Artwork mounted. Central gas heater fan motor replaced. Synod insurance company inspected properties. Ceiling plaster in entrance way repaired. Front doors repaired and adjusted. Hatches above doors into Olive Way made functional to allow better airflow. Wire rope across apse replaced.

Hall, Kitchen and Olive Way & Gardens

Purchased 64 stackable chairs and 3 trolleys. Door closer fitted to Olive Way walkway door. BBQ stolen from cage; new BBQ sourced, assembled, and the cage strengthened. Dishwashing chemicals restocked. Stormwater pit washout repaired. Blown downlight globes and spotlight globes replaced. Signage on walls and doors installed. Wall gas heater repaired. Kitchen ovens cleaned, elements replaced, blown globes replaced. Church signboard updated with changed contact details. Watertank drained and silt cleaned out. Gardening, weeding, pruning. Hand dryer in Womens toilets replaced. Sanitary bins purchased and placed in womens toilets. Gutters and downpipes cleaned. Graffiti removed or painted over. Some of the cracking planter pots in walkway removed; Japanese Maple trees re-

homed, with one instead of cumquat tree. Olive Way sliding door serviced and batteries replaced. Large toilet paper dispensers trialled. Kitchen oven controller replaced. Hall floor sanded and polished.

Youth Hall & Ministry office

Gutters and downpipes cleaned. External door to storage cupboard repaired. Lawn mower now in BBQ cage. Storage sheds: quotes obtained, secured church council approval, secured approval from Presbytery, secured approval from Synod, paperwork lodged with Moreland City Council for planning permit. Gas meter identified as obsolete.

ASWC

Unjammed fallen front door bolt. South West door confirmed not a fire exit, lock replaced and door made usable again as an alternate exit. Gutters and downpipes cleaned. Rubbish on east side removed.

4 Merri St Cottage

General maintenance. Roof flashing resecured.

Manse

Drain unblocked. Gutters and downpipes cleaned.

Bucknall Court (student houses and unit).

Inspection undertaken. Quotes for painting obtained.

Rangehood repaired (unit 1). Washing lines restrung. General maintenance and repairs.

Gutters and down pipes cleaned. Info regarding telecommunication services provided. Carpets steam cleaned. 3 wardrobe plans drawn up and flatpacks purchased.

General:

Routine Fire protection equipment checked. Synod Annual Child Safety Check actions completed, including ensuring MSDS on site are up to date. Working bees.

Current activities

- 2019 planned maintenance program. (Separate detailed list available)
- Manage construction of the storage sheds
- Painting at Bucknall court
- Stone masonry work and lintel repair.
- Assembly and installation of 3 wardrobes at Bucknall Court
- Working bees (10th Feb, 3rd Jun, 14th Oct)
- Sell surplus hall bench pews (Kauri pine)
- Repair water tank pump
- Clean up hall spire space and repair bird wire across vents
- General maintenance items at Bucknall Court including blackout boards
- Wall Gas heater repairs

Andrew Moorhouse

Bookings Officer

Our buildings just keep getting busier each year.

I don't think that we have ever had so many community groups using our premises.

This year we have hosted, drama groups, multiple choirs, three different dancing groups, guitar players, knitters, book launches, writing groups, story telling, book groups, music recitals, festivals, brooch days, protestors and the list just goes on.

And then of course, there is ART. Our buildings have been used by many different groups, spreading their creative wings.

The Beethoven Festival continues to flourish each February.

Our church continues to be generous with our premises, it is a great way for us to be involved in the life of the Brunswick community.

The Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre once again operated from the ASWC building and made frequent use of the hall and youth centre. Lentara continued to run a Friday, “women’s only” group this year, creating a safe place for all who come.

On the home front the Brunswick Uniting Church continues to be well used on Sundays and during the week by both the Uniting Church and Indonesian Uniting Church congregations. Our Urdu community continue to meet once a month and heralded in the New Year with a church service. We have all enjoyed, weddings and baptisms within our communities of faith this year.

And finally, our church is full of our own congregation booking our premises to do exciting, faithful things.

2018 saw Alistair Hunter once again, turning up at short notice, to help me out whenever I needed it. I can’t begin to say how grateful I am for his generous donation of time.

Julie McKinnon, Property Booking Officer

Congregation Secretary

Four meetings were held during the year – the Annual General Meeting in February and Congregational Meetings in May, August and November. Chair (Daniel Broadstock) and Secretary (Saide Cameron) of the Congregation attended to various other tasks throughout the year.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM, chaired by Daniel Broadstock was held after worship in the church on 25th February. Forty two people attended with nineteen apologies offered. The agenda items were presentation of the Olive Harvest (collection of Annual Reports), an update from Council, presentation of the 2018 Calendar of events, 2017 Finance report and 2018 Budget, election of Office Bearers for 2018 and offers of thanks.

Annual Reports: Twenty-eight reports were presented with highlights offered by Daniel and opportunity for questions and comments. The Olive Harvest (collection of these reports) was accepted by consensus as were the Finance report and Budget presented by our Treasurer Linda Wannan and Council Chair Shawn Whelan.

Council Update: Shawn Whelan, Council Chair, provided updates on:

- welcome to new Council members, bringing the council’s numbers to a full complement of 10
- the two part Leaders Retreat held over the first weekend in February opened to all church leaders on Saturday and council members on Sunday
- the Strategic plan and intention to hold regular reviews of all programs
- Working with Children Check requirements

Election of Office Bearers: The outcome of the election of office bearers for the congregation (February 2018 – February 2019) was as follows:

- Congregation Chair – Nominees: Daniel Broadstock
- Congregation Secretary – Nominees: Saide Cameron
- Presbytery Representatives (2) – Kate Scull, Steph Gesling

Retiring Council members: Ray Cameron and Ann Soo were thanked for the 5 and 2 years of service noting Ray’s membership on Property committee and Ann’s participation in Children & Youth and the Student House program together with her leadership of BUC Arts.

Congregational Meeting – Children, Youth & Young Adult ministry

The Church Council requested that a meeting to be held to provide the congregation with an update on the CYA ministry. The meeting, chaired by Daniel Broadstock, was held after worship on 20th May. Forty people attended with five apologies offered.

Shawn Whelan, Chair of Council, shared the good news about the filling of interim roles for the ministry: Janet Watson Kruse – Children & Families worker and Valentina Satvedi-Leydon – Student House Support Worker. Janet Hogan accepted the role of Youth Support worker following the meeting.

He then shared the Council's intention to call a minister to who has the gifts and vocation for this ministry. He also encouraged the congregation to consider ways that we might support the CYYA ministry in this interim period and in particular our part time interim workers.

Congregational Meeting – Olive Way Kitchen

The Justice and Mission Committee requested that a meeting be held to present the Olive Way Kitchen project report. The meeting, chaired by Daniel Broadstock, was held after worship on 5th August. Thirty seven people attended with no apologies offered.

Richard Arnold provided background regarding the problems experienced by staff and volunteers relating to the function of the kitchen during the Olive Way program. Belinda Seale, Allen Kong Architects, was engaged to do a consultation with all stake holders who make use of the space. Belinda attended the meeting and provided an outline of the consultation process and outcomes identified in the report. Following discussion at the meeting it was agreed that a Relocation Task Group would be formed with a view to organizing a trial relocation to the main hall. This will occur when the new storage sheds are completed and the West End cleared of clutter.

Shawn Whelan, chair of Council, provided an update on the process for calling a Children & Youth Pastor noting that the Joint Nominating committee has been formed comprising Presbytery representatives John Buckley and Rev. Ron Rosinsky together with Anita Brown-Major (chair of the CYYA committee), Colin Hunter (Student House committee member) and Claire Foley (Council member). Shawn also reminded the meeting of pledges made as part of the 2017 Mission Appeal and encouraged us to check our pledges.

Congregational Meeting – Election of Elders

The annual Congregational Meeting held after worship on 25th November was chaired by Daniel Broadstock. Thirty seven people attended with thirteen apologies offered. The agenda included Election of Elders, presentation of the Ministry Consultation report and finally Recognition and Thanks.

The Agenda was sent out prior to the meeting accompanied by profiles of nominees for Elders.

Election: There were four vacancies on Council with four nominations received. After votes were scrutineered by Natalie Sims and Glenice Cook all four nominees were declared elected: Daniel Broadstock (returning for one year) and Kimberley Fraser, Karlien Kok and Amelia Ware (newly elected for one year)

Ministry Consultation: Shawn Whelan outlined the consultation process for the review which was requested by Ian Ferguson after five years as minister of our congregation. The review was conducted Rev Peter Gaydor-White and included an invitation for committees and individuals to provide written responses together with an informal conversation held after worship on 18th November. Shawn summarised the findings of the report as 'very positive' with respect to the way in which Ian has used his gifts and graces across all age group. The report was made available via our website and with the minutes. Shawn moved that '*that the congregation express its intention that Ian's ministry be extended for a further five years*'. Consensus was the obvious outcome!!

Thank you: Words of appreciation were offered to Concluding Elders: Steph Gesling (2 years) and Kate Scull (3 years).

Other tasks

Secretary – maintaining the official roll of Baptized and Confirmed members and Members-in-Association, maintaining the record (including lengths of terms) of Council members, organizing the election of Council members (including preparation of & receiving nomination forms).

Chairperson – offering words of farewell, thanks and recognition as appropriate in the life of the congregation.

Saide Cameron

Sacred Harp Singing

We continue to meet each month (1st Sundays) in the hall for singing and fellowship over a shared afternoon tea. There is now also a mid-month singing most months, hosted in singers' homes, and there have been spontaneous get-togethers when rural, interstate or international visitors are in town.

The Sacred Harp singings welcome people from across Victoria, coming both from the local area and as far away as Mildura to sing when they are in town. While we have a few singers from our own congregation, most of our singers come from elsewhere. Many are not church-goers, but (like us) find meaning and spiritual gifts in the music and in the community among the gathered singers. In this sense we believe this continues to be a valuable missional outreach of BUC, not an external hall-hiring group.

Our group this year was a little smaller than last year but still solid, with 8-15 singers at each monthly singing, drawn from a pool of more than 50 people who come from time to time as well as regulars who come almost every month.

Highlights of the year:

- Hosting the 3rd Australian Convention (full weekend of singing) in January, with 60 singers. 34 song leaders from 6 Australian states and territories and 4 countries led 127 songs.
- As part of that, Natalie led a "Statues and Laneways" tour of Melbourne on the Friday evening, starting with singing a Charles Wesley song next to John Wesley's statue and continuing in similar fashion to sing Sacred Harp tunes in public next to relevant landmarks
- Our 6th Annual Victorian All-Day Singing in July, which included 24 singers, including singers from Sydney.

Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.

Natalie Sims and Shawn Whelan

Saturday Coffee Group

On the first Saturday of the month at 2.30 p.m. at Flour Mill Café on Sydney Road a group of dedicated, coffee drinking women gather together.

Our numbers each month vary as there are often other activities and events happening in peoples lives that they need to attend.

We are young, more mature and everything in between and have many varied interests such as bush walking, creating art and craft, gardening, travelling, cooking, grand children, pets etc.

We love to welcome whoever is free on the day and up for a coffee and a chat. It is extremely informal and there is no need to commit to attending. If you are interested please chat to me over morning tea or give me a call on 9386.1484.

Leanne Salau

Out & About

The Out and About group is for mature adults with flexibility on weekdays. The group offers friendship and social activities and is open to anyone. Friends and neighbours are always welcome. Activities are suggested by members and participants are free to attend when they wish. We try to vary the days of the week for activities.

In 2018 we offered a monthly social activity on nine occasions. Some participants had other commitments this year with ageing or ill family members, involvement in other community interests or travel. The potential membership has increase as people moved into retirement or part time employment. We visited the NGV and the Grainger Museum, participated in daytime Lenten Studies, joined a broader group to see the film 'Mary Magdalene', enjoyed a walk around Newport Lakes with some bird-watching, and met for an end-of-year breakup at Alasya Turkish restaurant in Sydney Road.

A highlight was our focus on a member's particular interest – this year we visited Colin's home workshop and enjoyed a demonstration of woodcraft, from rough log to finished object. A most enlightening and

creative demonstration. We contributed to the Pastoral Care Committee consultation and participated in the October Discipleship and Education series 'Death in Brunswick'.

2018 has seen many of our group become involved in workshops and other opportunities through BUC Arts - the weekday creative arts group, Sunday collage workshops, or the Olive Pesto craft group. Friendship and support are valued by each participant. The group will continue in 2019.

Helen Rowe, Convenor

BUC Cycle Club

The pattern of occasional bike rides after morning tea on Sundays has continued through 2018. The rides prioritise safety (hence riding mainly on established bike trails), friendship (lunch or coffee en-route), and exercise (25-30 km rides).

As in 2017, a highlight of 2018 was our participation in the MS Melbourne Cycle fundraising event on 15 April. The bulk of the team 'HunterClan' belonged to BUCCC and we raised over \$3000 thanks to the generosity of BUC folk, friends and family. The funds go towards support of research into the understanding and treatment of Multiple Sclerosis.

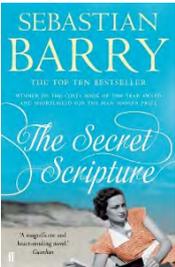
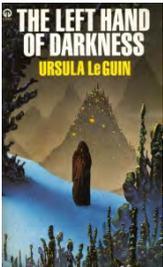
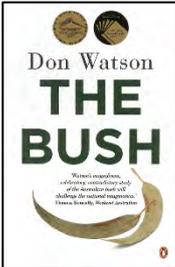
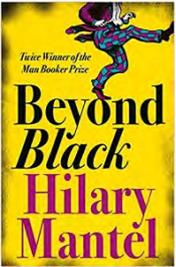
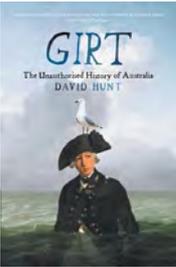
We liaise with Saide to ensure rides are scheduled when there are no competing church activities, around 4-6 weeks apart. New riders are always welcome, please contact me if you wish to participate.

Colin Hunter

Book Group

We are a dedicated group of around 8 people (having welcomed a new member this year, with a few others expressing interest). The book club met monthly from February to November on Wednesday evenings in the Youth Hall. Most months we discussed a book which had been chosen by the group, led by our facilitator Jeanette Acland, but occasionally we took a little diversion.

Here are the books we read in 2018:

<p>February</p>  <p>The secret scripture by Sebastian Barry</p>	<p>March</p>  <p>The left hand of darkness by Ursula LeGuin</p>	<p>April</p>  <p>The bush by Don Watson</p>	<p>May</p>  <p>Raven black by Ann Cleeves</p>
<p>July</p>  <p>The museum of modern love by Heather Rose</p>	<p>August</p>  <p>Beyond black by Hilary Mantel</p>	<p>September</p>  <p>Draw your weapons by Sarah Sentilles</p>	<p>October</p>  <p>Girt: The unauthorised history of Australia by David Hunt</p>

On two occasions this year, we did something different. These diversions add to our growing sense of fellowship within the group which we all appreciate and enjoy.

In June we shared some of our own stories through the photo/s that we brought along. There was a rich diversity—a family photo from the early twentieth century, stunning photos of aged females in 1985, meditative places, proud personal achievements, and family interests in childhood and as adults. We finished with a game of Dixit—a beautifully illustrated game that requires creative guesswork and imagination to make connections and unlock the tale.

In November, our final meeting for the year, we shared a book we had read during the year (not necessarily a book club book) that resonated with us, and a favourite Christmas story. Here is what we came up with:

Book/s that resonated this year:	Favourite Christmas story
<i>The toymaker</i> / Liam Pieper	<i>Christmas miracle of Jonathan Toomey</i> / Susan Wojciechowski, illus. P.J. Lynch
<i>See what I have done</i> / Sarah Schmidt	<i>Applesauce and the Christmas miracle</i> / Glenda Millard; illus. Stephen Michael King
<i>The left hand of darkness</i> / Ursula Le Guin <i>Manhattan Beach</i> / Jennifer Egan	<i>The Nativity</i> / illustrated by Julie Vivas <i>Christmas magic</i> / Margaret Wild; illus. Craig Smith
<i>The forgotten garden</i> / Kate Morton <i>Jar City</i> / Arnaldur Indriðason <i>Busman's honeymoon</i> / Dorothy L. Sayers <i>Hard times</i> / Charles Dickens	An original story set in India, written by the group member
<i>The bush</i> / Don Watson <i>Girt: the unauthorised history of Australia</i> / David Hunt Books by Daniel Silva	<i>An Edwardian Christmas</i> / John S. Goodall
<i>The universe</i> (series) / Aliette de Bodard	<i>The Gift of the Magi</i> / O. Henry
<i>The museum of modern love</i> / Heather Rose <i>Reckoning: a memoir</i> / Magda Szubanski	<i>The story of the other wise man</i> / Henry Van Dyke

We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the wise and passionate leadership of our facilitator Jeanette Acland. We look forward to another enjoyable year of shared wisdom and, sometimes challenging, reading. In 2019 we are going to take advantage of the growing number of book sets available to community book clubs through Moreland libraries.

Christine Hornby and Faye Findlay
on behalf of the BUC Book Club

Treasurer

Activity 2018

The Finance Committee focused on continuous improvement in processing payments (both in and out), clear reporting on the finances of the church, supporting committees and Council.

Our 2018 outcomes include:

- **IOMF.** Mal Rowe assisted Chair Shawn Whelan and others with completion of a successful 5-yearly re-application for **Interest-Only Mission Funds** IOMF held by Presbytery. This comes from property sales several years ago and supports outreach including the Olive Way program.
- **Webpages.** Naomi David set-up Finance info. This now includes "How To"s on Direct Credits, HR admin, forms and info ('Insurance Certificate'), Bequests, Reimbursements, Annual and other financial reports.

- **BUC Food Co-op** was assisted with administrative and accounting advice early in the year. We recorded our “recognition of the development of the Food Co-Op over the last 12 months into a more transparent, cost-effective, efficiently-run and growing activity which also appears to retain its core mission” in Council minutes.
- **UCA Funds.** Monitored by Naomi David. Linda and Chair Shawn Whelan attended annual meetings with UCAF.
- **HR procedures.** We continued to improve these, for committees and staff, to ensure accurate record keeping and communications with UCA VicTas Payroll, and assist BUC to be a good employer.
- **Fixed Asset register.** Further developed by Mal Rowe and Jacqueline Mathews; this register is an important record of exactly what we own and an essential resource in the case of insurance claims. The record is up-to-date, but will be added to as new items are purchased or installed.
- **New pastor position.** Assisted Chair and JNC with costing of proposed new pastor position.
- **“The Merri Project Stage One”.** A financial review of Merri Street properties, based on rents, land tax, municipal rates, maintenance and landlord’s utilities, was done. A proposal was approved by Council December 2018.
- **Increased Professional Development of book-keepers,** within the context of church and NFP sector finances. Tabitha Robert attended MYOB training and Abi Benham-Bannon attended an “Empower Your Mission” seminar.
- **Finance Staff changes.** Tabitha Robert moved to Brisbane mid-year. Jacqueline Mathews was recruited as ‘Payments Book-keeper’. We reclassified the ‘Invoicing Book-keeper’ Position held by Abi Benham-Bannon to ‘Income and Projects Book-keeper’ to reflect the wider responsibilities of the role.
- **Re-committed to web-based MYOB Essentials** as the accounting system. A trial of MYOB Account Right, although having some useful functionality, was not compatible with both PC and Mac computer systems as required for our shared access.
- **Financial and Management Accounting.** Payments, invoicing, assisting Fundraising and committees with accounting, managing cash flows, managing a significant bequest for future donations, adjustments and accruals, Business Activity Forms (for GST refunds on purchases), dealing with Auditor, budgeting and reporting to Council.

Changes anticipated for 2019 include

- **“The Merri Project Stage One”.** Finance staff and Committee will support this project with info and analysis.
- **Improved communications with UCA VicTas accounting,** to encourage their more-timely billing of land tax, work-cover, insurance, and Uniting (Lentara) cleaning.
- **Involvement with new-start Treasurer/Finance Network,** with Finance folk from other congregations.
- **Reduce volunteer time.** Continuing to identify tasks, and allocate to trained staff / committee / members.
- **Continued increase in non-committee people** in supervised tasks such as Sunday collections and banking.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2018

Budget 2018 The congregation approved this at the AGM in February 2018, reflecting:

- The need to continue with a slightly higher and more regular level of Giving, which started in mid-2017.
- Continued number of on-going staff employed, with lower contract staff costs.
- Increases in utility and services costs (gas, water, electricity, cleaning)
- Allowing for increasing levels of spending on property maintenance
- Continuation of drawing on interest from only the UCAFunds General Reserve Fund, and Mission Fund; continuing to transfer only these to the BUC ANZ bank account.

- Continuing to retain capital appreciation on the UCAF General Reserve Fund plus the Mission Funds; retaining both interest and capital on all other UCAF accounts within those funds. These funds, established several years ago, were for long-term items.
- Drawing from Reserves, not expenses, for SH improvements, Play space, Hall chairs, Olive Way facilities.

Actuals against Budget 2018

- The Giving Strategy implemented May/June 2017, the previous year, continued to be successful. “Pledges” made at that time have been honoured and continue to be honoured. Offerings grew 3.6% over the year.
- The continued take-up of direct giving into the BUC ANZ account, with minor reduction in Sunday collections.
- One unbudgeted \$20,000 donation tagged to the Olive Way was received, as per 2017.
- A \$75,000 bequest from the Joan Gilchrist Estate went into a special UCAF fund, interest and principal will be drawn down over approximately 20 years, and recorded as Olive Way Donations. Bequests are not budgeted, but the income from this bequest will be budgeted in the future.
- Further unbudgeted donations of \$6,000 were received for purchasing Food Vouchers through a Uniting facility. With this, our paying \$500 max per month buys \$1000 of Coles Vouchers for distribution by BUC Pastoral Care.
- Unbudgeted and significant donations and Fundraising for BUC and Olive Arts occurred, totalling \$4,600.
- Above Budget Fundraising: for Mission Partner ASWC, \$4,000 above; for BUC activity Olive Way, \$5,000 above.
- Income from Property (hall and church) Hire grew strongly at \$3,000 above budget, due to fee increases and increased bookings. Julie McKinnon deserves our grateful thanks for her efficient management of this part of our church ministry and finances. (Who knew that Hall Hire was a ‘status good’, where if you put the price up, you sell more?!)
- Interest income that was transferred to the BUC ANZ account was less than budget. However a further \$27,000 Interest was retained in the funds.
- Capital depreciation was experienced on funds invested in 2018. This is indicated by UCAF unit prices going from \$5.1793 to \$5.0254 in one year, a 3% decline. This is not inconsistent with the share market 2018. (Note: capital appreciation/depreciation is separate to interest earnings. Capital depreciation was close to the value of interest earned in 2018).

2018 Spending was less than budget on several items, and over on only a few:

- Stipends and salaries were \$10,000 less than budget after departure of some staff.
- Significant under-budget take-up of Prof Development funds by staff and volunteers, \$3,000 less than budget.
- CYYA committee did not spend all their budget, perhaps while staff changed.
- Drawings from reserves were lower than planned. We purchased AV equipment, SH items, display boards, hall chairs. However, Play space, computer and Olive Way items “below the line” in the Budget, did not “happen”.
- Late advice from UCA VicTas of 2017 Land Tax meant that the accrual we had done a year ago under-reported 2017 Land Tax by \$1660. An expense account “Previous Year Expenses” is used for this.

Outcome for 2018

The outcome in 2018 was a healthy surplus, due to spending less than planned, some salary savings and some significant donations not budgeted. Church Council will review possible uses for this funding. The funds have been invested, and will be drawn down as determined by Council.

Outlook for 2019

The church manages large and diverse programs that require significant human and financial resources. It is in a strong position to continue delivering its programs, and, with another 5 years' access to IOMF Interest on Mission Funds, potentially grow them. It has reserves which ensure maintenance of property can be completed as required and it has a growing income from giving to support its programs. Finance Committee will continue to manage the accounts and to report back to Council and Committees about how the church is performing against budget.

Presentation of 2018 Reports

The review of the 2018 accounts is now complete, and the Income and Expenditure Report and the Balance Sheet will be presented at the AGM in February 2019. In addition, these reports will be submitted to the external auditor.

Thanks

Thanks go to each Finance Committee member, **Mal Rowe, Naomi David and Tim Budge** for their commitment, expertise and time.

Book-keepers **Tabitha Robert**, and **Abi Benham-Bannon** plus more recently **Jacqueline Matthews**, not only willingly and flexibly undertake tasks, they have taken on new tasks, some PD, and proved to be valuable employees.

In addition, I acknowledge and thank many others: Property Committee folk **Julie McKinnon** and **Al Hunter** for liaison with Hall Hirers, plus **Mal Rowe, Naomi David, Tim Budge, Ray Hardman, Barry Cook, Valmai Brunlow, Mikul Densson, Graham Lawrence and Peter Middleton** for regularly assisting with the Sunday collection and banking.

Linda Wannan, BUC Treasurer

NB – Financial Statements will be made shortly before or at the AGM.

