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BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

# Annual Report

August 2022



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**For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,  
neither height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation, will be able to  
separate us from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8:38-39

## **Eldership**

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## ELDERSHIP REPORTS

### Senior Pastor

It seems not very long ago that I wrote my last report, and very little has changed in the intervening months. I continue to be optimistic about the spiritual health of the church and the faithfulness of the God who loves us. This does not mean however, that we are immune to the difficulties and uncertainties that plague a fallen world. With the onset of winter and the colder weather we have seen an increase in such illnesses as flu and COVID. This has seen ministries such as Make and Mingle interrupted, as well as a number of folk inclined to stay away due to health concerns. I personally was hit hard one week, (fortunately falling over on a Monday and recovering at week's end) and think that this is probably going to be an issue that we, and every church, has to live with moving forward. COVID has forced the church to think thoughtfully and theologically about what it means to live as the church, and how we respond to the concerns everybody has. It isn't easy but it is achievable. I know it is because God is the one who is sovereign and who is guiding and leading His church. He gives to us strength when we are weak, courage when we are fearful, hope when we have none, and the sure and confident knowledge that no matter what happens, nothing can snatch us out of His hands.

***"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."***

Romans 8:38-39

### Leadership Team

I am most thankful that I have the support of a gifted and big hearted leadership team. The love they have for the Lord Jesus and the seriousness with which they enter into the work they have been assigned is testimony to God's faithfulness. Stephen and Rod are giants of faith, who I have every confidence in and you can too. Together with the Deacons - Carl, Ashton, David Croft and David Muir, all issues relating to the health and well-being of the church are meticulously discussed and decisions made. No decision is made without prayer, and the necessary humility that comes when appointed to such important roles.

### Volunteers

I am thankful to God for providing His church in Beaconsfield with all the necessary gifts needed to function as His body in this corner of His vineyard. We all recognise I'm sure, that gifts are given to people and can only operate when individuals are prepared to offer themselves in the service of others for the work of the Lord. Church is not a place to sit and simply receive. It is the body of believers coming together and washing one another's feet. Here at BBC we have many folk doing just that. From greeting at the door on a Sunday morning, to preparing morning tea, to leading us in worship, to broadcasting messages, to teaching our children, to collecting our offerings, to locking up when everybody has left the building, to helping run mid-week playgroup and so much more. We serve because that is exactly what God has called us to do. Jesus Himself came to serve not to be served. If the King of glory led the way (showed us what it looks like to be God's image bearers) we should respond by doing likewise. If you are yet to find a ministry of service in the body of believers that God has made you a part of, please speak to me and I'll find you a place to do just that.

Areas of service you might consider: (not exhaustive)

- NextGen (Sunday mornings)
- AV [audio visual] (Sunday mornings/Sunday evenings)
- Pastoral Care Team (Wednesday 10am meet and share with the Pastor)
- Mid-week playgroup (Wednesday mornings)
- Stewards [offering and monthly communion] (Sunday mornings)
- Greeters (Sunday mornings)
- Morning tea (Sunday mornings)
- Make and Mingle [setting up tables, preparing morning tea] (Wednesday mornings)
- Grounds and gardens (As you are available)
- Youth Group (Friday nights)
- Worship (Sunday mornings/Sunday evenings)
- Hospital packs [help pack] (as required)

### Life Groups

There are a number of groups that operate in the life of the church in a variety of locations on a variety of days. If you are not a part of a group please consider it. Yes there will be a cost - you will have to give up a couple of hours once a week or once a fortnight to gather in someone's home. The rewards however, are potentially life changing. You'll grow closer to your brothers and sisters as you minister to one another. You'll be able to call upon those in your life group when prayer is needed. You'll study the Bible together and ask questions together and discover answers together. As far as pastoral care goes, Life Groups are the perfect setting.

### Sunday Gatherings

*"let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Hebrews 10:24-25

Whatever you have to do, make gathering with your brothers and sisters a weekly priority. There is good reason for this, both practical as well as theological.

- the Lord commands us to do it (always the best reason to do anything)
- it is in the context of gathering that the church exercises its gifts
- we witness to everyone that assembling with our brothers and sisters matters
- we join with the host of heaven praising the Lord Jesus
- we only have so many Sundays in us to do it, once they're gone, they're gone
- we open up God's Word together
- we celebrate communion with our brothers and sisters
- we join with our brothers and sisters in prayer
- we live counter-culturally

Each of these reasons stand alone and all of them have tremendous value, both now in this present age, and eternally as we see how it is that God was glorified when His people stopped what they were doing in order to meet together, sing His praises, hear from Him, and witness to a watching world.

## Sermon series

All of (most of) the sermons preached during the morning and evening services at BBC are recorded and can be viewed on our YouTube channel. You can catch up on the entire Gospel of John series, or else you might like to catch up on a particular sermon you missed. Either way they are a valuable resource that I hope you will use for your own edification and even by directing someone to them as a way of sharing your faith. Incidentally YouTube can be a great way of spreading the Good News if you desire to see the Word go out into all the world. Every time you press 'like' or 'share' when you watch a video, you potentially expand the reach of that video. A simple way of looking at it is like this - 'likes' and 'shares' begat more views. If you've ever thought to yourself "what's the point of clicking on and liking" That's the point. With the click of your mouse you can help spread the Word.

[youtube.com/c/BeaconsfieldBaptistChurch](https://youtube.com/c/BeaconsfieldBaptistChurch)



## Family Camp (Phillip Island Adventure Resort)

Initial planning for a church family camp in February 2023 has begun. A minimum number of 55 individuals are required in order to secure cabins. The camp will run from Friday night and conclude following lunch on Sunday. This will be the first time since COVID hit our shores that we as a church will have had the opportunity to get away together, spend time enjoying the great outdoors, share around the table, and join in a time of encouraging one another. Sunday morning we will worship together, and we will also have the opportunity to ask the elders any question you like during a once in a year "ask the elders" session on Saturday evening. For the braver souls there will be a number of activities available to get the heart pumping from flying fox to archery. Costs will range from \$183.00 per adult to \$138.00 per child. Families in full attendance only have to pay for adults and two dependent children. All other dependent children are free of charge. Our regular Sunday worship service will convene at BBC for those who for a variety of reasons are unable to come.

I rejoice greatly in what God is doing in the life of His people here at BBC. I look forward with anticipation at all He is going to do through His people as they commit themselves to loving and serving Him in the months and years ahead.

## Duncan Becci





## Pastor

As we look back on another year we have much to give thanks for. To come out of the last few years with any feeling of stability and growth is a powerful testament to God's grace. Not everything has been good. Not everything has been easy. But I'm incredibly thankful for the church that God is building here – the people that God has called to love and serve one another and our local community. If you've joined us in these past twelve months, I trust you feel welcomed and included. We long to see more and more people walking with Jesus.

I want to take time to thank my family. They are my first calling as a pastor; to love, care for, protect and guide. They bring me joy and while it might not look like it because I'm the one up the front all the time, we are in ministry together.

I also want to thank Duncan for the encouragement and support he is for me. He speaks so well of me and that means a lot. I'm glad to be working alongside him as we seek God's will for BBC. He is strong and yet vulnerable, thorough in his dedication to God's word, and he loves this church.

### Teaching

Sharing the Word has been a consistent joy and challenge. I am thankful for the opportunity to share what God is speaking through his word and seeing the ways that he is moulding and shaping us. Sharing the preaching load with Duncan (and others), it has been amazing to see the way the messages have woven together. In particular I loved the depth and applicability and relevance of the series in the Songs of Ascent. It was great to wrestle with the struggles of the day to day life of discipleship. You can watch it all online anytime

[youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSovzIjNebGVQFX\\_5GdgYllhaBZfsT2Uc](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSovzIjNebGVQFX_5GdgYllhaBZfsT2Uc)

### Serving

Again I'm thankful for those I get to serve alongside, in particular the worship leaders, tech team, ministry leaders and youth leaders. They are committed, humble, faithful and capable. Thank you so much for the way you serve and for the effort you have put in these past twelve months. Please be praying in particular for those who lead our youth, it is a crucial and challenging ministry – please read Caleb's report below.

### Sharing Life

It has been a privilege to be involved in the significant moments of people's lives and share in the joys and sorrows as a church family. This past year has seen several baptisms, child dedications and weddings and funerals. These events are reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness and while it's not all about the big events, they are important in the life of a church and the work of a Pastor. It is an honour to walk alongside people as commitments are made and griefs are shared. Please continue to pray for and care for one another as we seek to follow Jesus together.

Thank you all for your love, care and support and for many encouraging words. I look forward with great expectation for the ways that God will continue to grow us.

## Rod Thearle



## Elders

God is good. He continues to be faithful and it has been a blessing to serve as an eldership this past year, a group consisting of our two pastors and myself. We meet regularly together to pray and discuss current issues as well as future plans. These meetings are typically an early Wednesday morning, often weekly, importantly accompanied by coffee! We acknowledge the great responsibility we have as shepherds and as brothers we seek the Lord together, relying on His wisdom and grace.

One of the more challenging times this past year was the second half of 2021 as we wrestled with our plans for re-opening from COVID lockdowns. There were truly many factors to consider and the eldership sought through prayer, the Scriptures, and regular discussion with deacons, a way forward to open up our church for in-person meeting. We were delighted that the New Year brought in a complete removal of limitations and the fellowship that has been allowed to flourish.

We continue to see new faces in our congregation and we've held two Newcomers' Lunches this year to welcome many of these folk over a meal. One of the common reasons mentioned for joining us at Beaconsfield is the gospel preaching from our pastors. We are truly thankful for Duncan and Rod and their commitment to the Word and the manner in which they bring to our lives the blessing, challenge and encouragement God has provided through it. We have also been thankful for the extra Bible study led by Duncan on Wednesday evenings and the questions and answers explored together.

Since our first appointment of an elder in 2018, we have been seeking God's provision of more elders. The Eldership Appointment Committee has been active these past several months and we look forward to where God will lead us as a church and an addition to the eldership would be truly welcomed by the current elders. Please continue to pray for the eldership as we seek to serve God in this local church. We are excited by our future, the possibility of what God might do in us and through us, as we strive to keep our eyes fixed on Christ.

### Stephen Harper



## **DIACONATE REPORTS**

### **Secretary**

Serving on the Diaconate continues to be a privilege as I serve alongside faithful and willing servants in this practical role. As Church Secretary, my tasks include setting meeting agendas, acting as meeting chair as well as taking the minutes. Less regular parts of this role are arranging the church business meetings and AGM. I often find myself energised during our regular monthly meetings because of the passion of those involved.

The Diaconate (deacons and senior pastor) continues to meet once a month and the Leadership Team (deacons, pastors and elders) also meet once a month. We have purposely developed a clear distinction between the two meetings, with the Deacons meetings focus being on ensuring the practical areas of the church are looked after. This is accomplished by each deacon providing a monthly report for each portfolio for which he is responsible. The Leadership Team meetings focus is brought by the Eldership report presented by one of the pastors or elder. This distinction is important as it aligns to the Biblical model of church leadership and helps us to ensure the pastors and elders are free to focus on the spiritual leadership of the church.

I look forward to God continuing to lead us forward as a church, His church. Take time to consider your part in this journey and how your gifts could be used. And please continue to pray that God uses us as a church to make his great love known.

### **Carl Meginbir**



### **Treasurer**

The Financial Report is published separately.

### **David Crofts**





## Staff

This year has been a time of consolidation within our church and so it can be said of our wonderful staff. With Covid behind us the ability for our staff to meet, plan and build stronger relationships has been refreshing to see.

Pastor Duncan continues to lead with passion and fervor, and I know that his excitement for God's work is endless. Pastor Duncan has well and truly made BBC his home and from the diaconate position is fulfilling his role in leading the flock with strength of vision, compassion, and grace.

Pastor Rod continues to be such a blessing to our church. His role did change with Pastor Duncan coming onboard and he has diligently put his heart into pastoring people through many avenues.

Heather Agnew who holds our admin office role three days a week has been a true blessing. Heather continues to support our pastors and operate the church office with a true sense of serving and being part of God's church.

In all and as a church, we can feel blessed that God has been faithful in so many ways in providing us with the blessing of a dedicated and faithful staff at BBC.

## Property

In many ways over Covid our property had little issues arise apart from standard maintenance as we were not worshipping in it. Now that we are back, we have been active in areas around the Manse and the Church gardens, etc.

The key areas of focus where budget has been allocated are as follows;

- Carpark Asphalt repair
- Auditorium Platform revitalization
- Manse Kitchen renovation
- Manse Fencing

Although some of these items were scheduled in the current year, they will push into the 22/23 year as seen in our budget forecast.

Our Church maintenance team is such a blessing, as these folk are always available to fix and correct issues on our properties. A big thank you to the team.

Also, our gardening team that maintains the lawns (led by Ken Agnew) and gardens (led by Des Barker) has grown and again are such a great group of people who use their gardening gifts around the church to provide a lovely place to worship.

On a whole our property is in excellent order and we continue to ensure that we keep in step with OH&S policy and provide our membership and congregation a facility that is for his glory.

## Ashton Wynne-Yorke



## Safe Church

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

Our Safe Church team consists of Susanne Bestenbreur, Bruce and Gillian Ward, and myself.

Some outcomes from the past year:

- A medicine cabinet has been installed in the creche room to house a first-aid kit and emergency epipen.
- Appointed two new Safe Church Concerns Persons: Megan Slimmon and Ken Agnew

A few things we're aiming to do:

- Improve our documentation and Safe Church manual.
- Further training for ministry leaders and volunteers.

### David Muir



## MINISTRY REPORTS

### AM Worship

It's been a time of revitalisation and growth in the life of the worship teams as we move past the challenges of Covid. We see our key role in the church as being the facilitator of worshipping our Lord and Saviour in music and song as per our BBC vision.

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

- Balancing the finish of COVID-19 and rebuilding our teams.
- Delivering a balanced approach to morning worship
- Being a team that encourages new and young people into the music ministry

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

The worship leaders continue to meet, and work on ensuring that we are continuing to lead the congregation in praising our God, on a 6-month basis. Pastor Rod continues to anchor the process with us.

What we are seeing is some wonderful outreach and opportunities to see God work in our community through the live stream, which enables people who don't regularly access church to come and participate at BBC.

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

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

*Worship the LORD with gladness;*

*come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the LORD is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;*

*we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving*

*and his courts with praise;*

*give thanks to him and praise his name.*

Psalm 100:1- 4

### Ashton Wynne-Yorke



## Night Church Worship

As a team we are committed to reveal God's glory and lead people to respond in authentic worship. Our songs, the words we speak, the times of prayer and silence, the Scriptures we read, are all focused on lifting up the name of Jesus.

These past 12 months have seen plenty of change – with shifting restrictions on worship, people stepping up into various roles and others taking a well-earned break. We're so thankful for Chris and Kirsty Lebeouf who have led so passionately and faithfully over such a long period.

In particular we've been looking for ways to create space to reflect on and respond to the sermons we hear and words we sing. Our desire is that we would be changed by what God is saying to us by allowing 'room' for prayer, silence, listening, and personal reflection. We're also seeking out new songs to keep our worship fresh and for new ways to express the unchanging truths of the gospel.

None of what we do would be possible without the support and ability of our AV team. They are committed and capable, making us sound (and look) good each Sunday. A special thanks to Jess Brewer for her taking care of all the rostering. It's amazing to have such a large and talented team serving each week in a congregation our size. Thank you for all that you do!

## Carols By The Creek

Planning any large public event was challenging in 2021. Months out from Carols by the Creek, the team made the tough decision to commit to an online event for 2021. We learnt so much in 2020 that we were able to apply, build on and reshape as we delivered another excellent production. Again the team poured hours into converting the auditorium into a Christmas production studio – with lights, cameras and a stunning set.



Led by our talented singers and musicians, we sang the wonder of the Christmas story and shared the good news of great joy for all people. The dedicated audio-visual team captured the sound and visuals and broadcast it into people's homes. Several hundred devices tuned-in live, with many more watching or rewatching the event in the week's that followed.

A big thank you to Kyle Hoppitt, Matt Ratten and the whole team for bringing together such a high-quality event. As we plan for Carols 2022, we ask for your prayers as we return to an outdoor community event, subject to the weather amongst other challenges. Pray for opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with the people of Beaconsfield.

## Rod Thearle



## Church Library

The church library is a welcoming place on Sundays, with books, DVD's and talking books available for both adults and children. The collection shares the Christian message and is relevant to Beaconsfield Baptist Church. We have displays of new books and occasional reviews in the Beacon. Around three quarters of titles in the library collection have been entered onto a computer programme which will make searches easier. New books and DVDs are regularly added to the collection. Thank you to our faithful monitors on Sunday mornings and our team of helpers who work in the background. May this collection not take away from the Lord's Word.

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"*

Psalm 119:105

### Ann Taylor



## Children's Hospital Activity Packs

Another challenging year coordinating the packing of children's activity packs during repeated lockdowns and church closures. But with the willing group of church volunteers that have come to put together up to 400 packs at a time at short notice, this wonderful ministry has been able to continue. We would love to see more church people volunteer and come and help pack on a regular basis.

Both Casey and St. John of God hospitals have enabled the packs to continue to be delivered at the hospital front doors without the need to enter the hospital during peak times of COVID. So this great ministry continues to provide a fantastic activity/craft pack for sick children in hospital. This goes towards helping relieve their stress in a strange environment and gives them lots of creative things to do.

We have once again been blessed to receive another grant; this time from Cardinia Park Hotel Community Support Fund of \$6000 for this financial year. God is good.

### Cheryl Reid



## Shop and Share

Your grocery donations to the trolley at church are very much appreciated. As they are delivered to the Food Bank at Pakenham Salvation Army, the staff there exclaim with gratitude every time! Praise God for your generosity and ministry to people in this way.

As you will all be aware, this type of relief work has been in increasing demand during the pandemic. Each grocery item donated allows the Food Bank staff to assist another household to put a meal on their table. In the book of Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus teaches us to care for those in need – the Food Bank is one way we can continue to show care and love in a practical way. Although this ministry was affected when we were not meeting as a church and the office was not open, it can continue any time while the office or building are open – you are welcome to leave groceries in the trolley in the foyer at any time.

Thank you to Jane Coppins who assists with this ministry, and has looked after things at times when I have been unavailable. I acknowledge and give thanks for the contribution by my Peter to this ministry until late last year – he accompanied me on the deliveries and encouraged the Food Bank staff until he was no longer able.

Thank you all for continuing to care for people in need. Items that are useful are breakfast cereals, tinned food, pasta, rice or any non-perishable food items that can easily contribute to a meal. Your ongoing support is appreciated.

### Wendy Lyall



## Community Assistance Fund

The BBC Community Assistance Fund, (formerly the BBC COVID-19 Assistance Fund), is in its second full year of operation and saw growth in local reach and impact throughout FY-22. The Fund transitioned from a 'COVID-19' to a general financial assistance fund as COVID restrictions were lifted. Giving to the Fund also increased thanks to the generosity of the BBC Community. Financial hardship within the community hasn't abated as rising costs of living puts pressure on household budgets. God willing, the Fund will continue to meet needs as He provides.

### Changes

In November 2020, the Fund changed its name to the BBC *Community Assistance* Fund and the Fund's purpose and eligibility was expanded to provide support and relief to persons experiencing *general* financial difficulty and hardship in addition to loss of income as a result of COVID-19. This transition coincided with the lifting of lock-down restrictions in Victoria in October 2021 and ensured the ministry remained effective and relevant in a post-COVID lock-down environment.

The Fund is now able to provide support not only to individuals and families but also to small business owners and sole traders experiencing financial difficulty and hardship. Eligibility also expanded to anyone over the age of 18 living in the City of Casey or Cardinia Shire Council, to recipients of any Centrelink Income Support Payment (not just a COVID-19 related payment) and to



people experiencing serious hardship because of family tragedy, financial misfortune, serious illness and business closure.

Support continues to be provided in the form of grocery gift cards ensuring relief is directed towards food needs and essential items. Importantly, the Fund's core purpose remains unchanged – that is to respond to the calling to be generous (2 Corinthians 9:11), to share what we have (Hebrews 13:16) and to give to those in need (Luke 12:33-34).

### Impact

Over the course of FY-22, the Fund has been able to impact the lives of many within our local community in a very practical way:

- We provided assistance to 73 families and individuals.
- We were able to hand over \$30,950 in grocery vouchers in person.

Once again, the Fund has been generously supported by the BBC community with over \$19,000 donated to the Fund in FY-22. Over \$6,000 alone was raised during our Christmas fundraising campaign.

The table below provides a summary of Fund performance during FY-22.

Table 1 - Key Financial & Performance Indicators (FY-22)

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Opening Bank Balance                    | \$13,644 |
| Funds Raised (\$)                       | \$19,408 |
| Financial Assistance Provided (\$)      | \$30,950 |
| Closing Bank Balance                    | \$2,102  |
| Number of Individual/Families Supported | 73       |

### Finally

A big thank you to everyone for supporting the ministry over the last year. I would like to acknowledge the exceptional contribution of Heather Agnew for providing administrative and operational support, the other members of the Fund Committee (Ps Rod and David Crofts) and the ongoing support of the Leadership Team.

Opportunities to serve and connect with our local community through the BBC Community Assistance Fund will continue in the year ahead. We look to God for his provision and blessing.

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

Malachi 3:10

### Glen Slimmon



## Prayer Support Group

This Prayer Group supports those who are in urgent need of prayer because of illness, or hospitalisation, the death of a loved one, or urgent physical or mental needs. These needs are kept confidential to this group.

Contact: Pastor Duncan 0477 758 563, or Pastor Rod 0423 498 019, or Allan Conry 0414 561 561, or Marian Watson 0439 339 105.

We have seen God answer many of these prayers. Sometimes His answers are His way, and sometimes His answers are our way. We know that we can trust Him as He always knows what is best for us. The Intercessory Prayer Group is also part of the Prayer Support Group.

Thank you to all those who are part of these prayer groups. May God continue to bless and use each one.

## Monthly Church Prayer Meeting

What is so important about prayer? Why do we meet together for prayer?

Mark 1:35 tells us that *"early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a deserted place, and there He prayed."* If Jesus, the sinless Son of God needed to pray to His Heavenly Father, then we, as His followers, need to pray to our Heavenly Father too. We can pray alone with God wherever we are, and we can join with other believers and pray together.

God hears and answers prayer when we come to Him. *"Ask and it will be given to you. Search and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened for you.*

*The one who asks will always receive;*

*the one who is searching will always find, and the door is opened to the man who knocks."*

Matthew 7: 7-8 (JB Phillips Translation)

We have been meeting on the **3rd Monday at 1.30pm at the Church** since Feb 2019. There are usually between 8 and 12 people who regularly attend. We pray for the needs of the Church, the Pastors, the Elders and Deacons, the families connected with the Church, the Community, the Nation and the World. Everyone is welcome to join this Prayer Meeting.

There is also a Monthly Prayer Meeting on Zoom on the 1st Monday in each month at 1.30pm. The Link is <https://zoom.us/j/96270254804>. The Pass code is 3807. Everyone who is on Zoom is most welcome to join this Prayer Meeting too. There are 22 people who receive the Prayer List by email each Monday and many of these people pray at home. Contact Marian Watson by email on [grandma.watson3@gmail.com](mailto:grandma.watson3@gmail.com) or call on 9702 5868, or 0439 339 105.

Let us thank God that we are able to meet together and pray to Him, and let us take every opportunity to do this. God bless you all.

## Marian Watson



## Pastoral Care

When a church speaks of Pastoral Care there are at least three avenues we are essentially looking at.

The first is organic pastoral care. Organic pastoral care happens when in no organised or formal way a need is recognised and that need is met. Most often, not always but often, we hear of someone who needs some special care and God lays it upon my heart to minister to that need, and so I meet it. It might be a friend or it might be someone I don't know particularly well at all, but because I've heard about their situation I provide in some small way whatever I can to help alleviate their concern. It might be in the form of a card I write to them. It might be in the form of a meal I deliver to their door. It might be to sit with them and pray with them. It might be that I visit them in hospital. In any event, the care is organic and it just happens. This kind of pastoral care should exist, I think, in every Christian church.

The second is slightly more formal but still has that organic element. This kind of Pastoral Care is provided largely through Life Groups and various associations that exist in the church. When a Life Group comes together they hear firsthand that someone in the group is in need in some way. The group or people within the group then take it upon themselves to minister to whatever need is brought before them. This is one reason why Life Groups are so important. Journeying together through God's Word is important and even foundational to why they meet. But alongside of that is genuine care and support by members in those Life Groups to one another.

The third type of care is much more formal but just as important as the first two. It consists of men and women who come together weekly or fortnightly for the purpose of looking at the needs they are aware of, and together they seek to minister to those needs as they can.

Presently there are five of us who constitute the BBC Pastoral Care team - Jean Hall, Ellen Hanna, Jan Ketcher, Warren White and myself. We meet fortnightly (Wed 10:00am) in my office, to get up to date with pastoral concerns, to pray, and to look at if and how we might be able to assist in ways that say, "you are loved."

Please let me know if you would like to contribute in any way, and especially if you think God might be able to use you as a part of the BBC pastoral care team. A church our size would welcome ten to twelve carers.

### Duncan Becsi



## Pastoral Care - Practical Needs

During this last financial year the meals ministry was responsible for creating and supplying over 30 meals to members of our fellowship who were in need. All were gratefully received by the recipients and we had a number of very delighted messages of thanks.

My thanks must go to the twenty faithful ladies who have made up the team for their dedicated and ready response when called upon. They are the heart and soul of this ministry and they have certainly made my task much easier. This is a vital ministry of our church, and we would be happy to have more volunteers. The more volunteers, the less calls on each one. I have relinquished this ministry and it will now be covered by the Pastoral Care Team. I'm thankful to the Lord for the opportunity to be a part of it.

## Social Lights

This has been somewhat of a topsy turvy year but we are finishing strongly. Our numbers have been up and down, but are stabilising. We meet for lunch at the Cardinia Park Hotel at 12.00 pm on the second Thursday of every month for a great time of fellowship. We have up to 20 regular attendees and we all enjoy both the meal and the company. If you wish to solve the problems of the world, you should join us!! We certainly welcome any newcomers, so if you have some free time on the second Thursday, come and join us.

### Geoff Dunn



## Seniors L.I.F.E.

Seniors Life meets at the church 10.30 each Tuesday during the school term. We are a discussion group following a chosen study guide or, for a change, wander through God's word for an answer to any question put forward. Our group has a wealth of Christian living experience and everyone is welcome to share that experience. We have a couple of members recovering from a medical episode or recovering from an operation and I add a prayer here for their recovery and their return to our group, as always... God is good.

### Eileen Hillis



## Caravan and Cabin Club

The Club is for like-minded people: caravan and motorhome travellers associated with Beaconsfield Baptist, and their friends. Cabin accommodation is also popular. Around 40 people attend. There are two rallies of 5 nights in different holiday parks each year. In Spring 2021, the Cowes Rally dates were changed to later, due to Covid. We had a wonderful entertainment night at the park and explored Phillip Island. In March 2022, we had a lovely time at Swan Hill. We have a time of 'chapel' at each rally.

The future two rally venues are booked: October 2022 is number 24 rally. New friendships have been made and there is lots of opportunity to socialize. Accommodation is booked months ahead. I send emails to those interested who book individually. As a Church, or in your small group, you can pray for these rallies.

### Ruth Denny



## Make and Mingle

Make and Mingle is a friendship and craft group, with participants from both the church and the community. We have been meeting since 1987 and hardly missed a day until March 2020.

This year we were able to return in term 2 and for part of term 3 and now we plan to resume in term 4. We are so grateful to the helpers who have stepped up to help us with the tasks needed to keep the group functioning. Everyone has missed meeting together, but we have all been phoning each other regularly and our committee has been making sure everyone has regular calls, cards and newsletters. The newsletters are distributed by email or post. These have poems, photos, Bible verses and encouragement and news from the group and craft projects. We also provide the links to the church services and some have joined online on Sundays. Many people have asked us for prayer and we have been so encouraged to see prayer answered and hear their stories.

We trust the Lord for our group and we want all our Make and Minglers to know we are there for them, because they are all part of the group and that God is with them at this time and will take us through.

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

Isaiah 41:10

### Ann Taylor



## Beacy Youth

At Beacy Youth this year, our goal has been to help the kids grow in their faith and love for God, and grow in their knowledge of His Word. We also aim to equip them to better share their faith with others in a way that is loving and truthful. It runs on a Friday night from 7-9pm every week, and we have roughly 20-30 kids regularly attending. It is fantastic to see God working in their lives.

We thank God for the provision of His Word which allows us to study and understand Him more, as well as guide us in a way that honours Him. We have looked at books like Matthew, Luke, and James, and we are now studying The Case For Christ, and discovering what we believe, and why we believe it. God has blessed us with phenomenal leaders who are passionate about teaching the kids, as well as genuinely caring for them in everyday life.

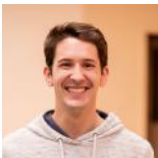
Over the lockdown periods, we continued a livestream that we started, named Friday Live At Beacy Baptist Youth (or "FLABBY" for short!). This included playing interactive online games with the youth, as well as performing fun skits. We also managed to be able to continue having Bible studies over Zoom, which was a blessing.

One thing that can be improved is the activities that we run before studies. We often have "themed" nights or run various active games (e.g. dodgeball, hockey, etc) before the studies, and while they are fun we are lacking in new material. If anyone has active indoor games they think would be great for 20-30 teenagers, we would love to hear it.

Once the youth are equipped with a solid knowledge of God's Word, as well as their own personal convictions, having them share their testimonies to other youth, to the church, and to non-believers is the next step we would love most (if not all) of them to achieve. At the moment in our studies we are learning why we believe what we believe, and tackling hard questions like "How do we know the Bible is reliable?", or "What if Jesus didn't really die? What if he was faking it?" It's these questions that challenge the kids to think deeper, and to find the facts that back up the Bible. Once they have those, and equipped with both their faith and personal testimonies, they can better explain the Gospel to those who need to hear it.

We thank you for your continued support of Beacy Youth, and hope you will partner with us in prayer for these kids.

## Caleb Harper





## Junior Activity Group (JAG)

It's been an amazing blessing to be involved with a small group of enthusiastic and friendly young grade 3-6 years old's from our Church and additional friends they have coaxed into joining the band. JAG has been running once a month on a Friday night for just over a year, and it has been exciting to see between 9-22 children coming along. We gather as a group to build Christian relationships with each other around a number of fun activities and the word of God.

A huge thanks to each of the parents who have done such a great job of raising and bringing the JAG members along each time, without this dedication we wouldn't have the group. Also, thanks to each of our young adult leaders (Zoe, Dan, Sienna, Nathan, Ben, Simone, Jess, Lilly) who have shared the workload as a team to make each event happen.

### Ken Agnew



## Next Gen

We are thankful to see that God has continued to bless Next Gen. This ministry is child focused learning for those aged from 2 years to grade 6, running concurrently with the 10am Church service. The average attendance is around the mid twenties. It has been a great joy to watch the children engage and enjoy the Bible teaching in Next Gen. This year we have explored the Life of Moses, we have had a focus on Mission, we have studied the Miracles of Jesus and currently we are working through 'Jesus the Teacher'. Our primary focus and endeavour is to teach core Biblical truths, and we do this by incorporating fun, worship songs and games into the Next Gen curriculum. We look forward to seeing these elements continue to grow and flourish.

I would like to sincerely thank our amazingly dedicated and energetic Next Gen team: Ken Agnew, Zoe Agnew, Amy Fisher, Elyse Fisher, Ruth Hainsworth, Vivienne Hopartean, Sara Hoppitt, Jenni Jackson, Dany and Alisha Pop, Daniel Russell, Memphis Wynne-Yorke and our craft volunteer Eileen Hillis, for choosing to give of their time to this vital ministry. Our team understands the importance of this mission, and we are eager to see how God guides and shapes Next Gen going forward. We are ready to change and adapt as He calls us to. Our prayer is to attract more volunteers so that we can achieve our goal to operate Next Gen continuously from February to Christmas.

***But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these".***

Luke 18:16

### Sharon Fisher



## Mainly Music

Mainly Music is a fun music group for care-givers and their pre-school children. Children are introduced to music, creativity and more, plus families are given the opportunity to think about the God part of life. Mainly Music is about connection; adults with children, adults with each other, children with music, and connection with the church. The program consists of a 30 minute music session, including a short think spot/devotion, followed by an eat/play/chat time. Unfortunately this group has not recommenced since restrictions have been lifted due to lack of volunteers. We would welcome an enthusiastic leader with a passion to get this program up and running again, as well as extra volunteers to help out.

### Heather Agnew



## Playgroup

Little Beacies Playgroup over the past year has been such a joy – bringing many families from the community into Beaconsfield Baptist Church. It has been hard with the ups and downs that Covid-19 brought, but God has sustained this ministry and it has been such a blessing to be back in person with all the wonderful interactions with the families.

When Covid happened, playgroup started running online each week with a wonderful and committed team who planned songs, activities, and a story for our weekly Zoom meetings. The numbers were quite low, but we still prayed that we could bring some hope into the families' lives in lockdown. We even wrote and introduced a prayer that we started having at the end of each session for the parents and children to finish thinking about God.

However, we were so thankful to God when we could meet at the church again and restart playgroup in person! It was an enormous blessing to be able to meet new families and reconnect with old families. We have seen a huge increase in the number of regular families which has been so exciting, with many new families coming along and coming back each week – praise God. There are always such genuine, kind conversations with the parents, and the children have so much fun playing with each other and doing the activities and crafts. Each week we read a Bible story or book related to Christianity to point the children (and the parents) to Christ and we pray that they remember God's love and salvation in the coming years as they grow.

God has really blessed us with Eileen joining the playgroup team too, and it has just been fantastic to pray, organize and discuss together as a team and with the Pastors' leadership. We are praying for a few more volunteers to join the team and we are really looking forward to continuing seeing growth of the playgroup and the wonderful outreach and light that it is in the community.

### Ruth, Cheree, Sienna and Eileen



## Missions Partnership

BBC Missions Committee is served by a wonderful team of men and women who understand the importance of missions in the life of the church. Presently the committee consists of Ruth Hainsworth, Liane Davis, Marian Watson, Sean McMahon, and just this year we have welcomed three new contributors - Robin Mountain, Kerry Ritzrow and Jeremy Kilker. Ben Agnew continues to support the Committee by providing weekly slides as requested by the Committee for Sunday services. We appreciate and acknowledge his willingness to contribute in this important way.

We would very much like to thank Asiri and Windya Wickramasuriya for their love and service with the Missions Committee. Their contribution to the work of Missions, and their love for the Saints served the Committee well. As they now prepare for the arrival of their second child, we pray God's richest blessings upon them. There are of course many others who have contributed to the work of Missions over the past 12 months and who, when called upon, would be eager to roll up their sleeves and do all that is asked of them. To you we say thanks.

As for me, I provide more of an oversight in order to represent the committee at Leadership Team meetings. They have proven themselves very capable and exhibit a love for the work of missions, and a commitment to supporting those we work alongside of in taking the Gospel to the world.

A special thank you should go to Sean McMahon who has gone above and beyond what has been asked of him. He has continued to chair meetings and contribute much needed wisdom and passion even after he communicated a desire to step down following many years of faithful service. I cannot thank him enough for the work he has done and the devotion he has shown.

### **Missions we currently support**

We are currently financially and prayerfully supporting a number of mission works at a local, national and international capacity. This of course, is no accident. It reflects the model articulated by the Lord Jesus Christ when He said to His disciples that they should take the Gospel to Jerusalem, Judea and to all the world. Our 'Jerusalem' is local. Our 'Judea' is national. And our 'all the world' is international. And so who exactly does BBC support?

- Eric and Cathy Wieckmann - CHIPS (Christians Helping In Primary Schools)
- Lauren Stebbins - Eleven88 ministry
- Andy and Cathie Staunton - (BMA) Cambodia (Financial support ceased in July as their work with BMA comes to an end)
- David and Eliza (surname withheld) - Silk Road
- Matt and Femke Swanton - OM Belgium (Financial support to be reviewed in January 2023, 3 months after their return to Australia)
- Elise Long - Philippines
- Andrew Miller - DMI (Deaf Ministries International)

All of these mission works are being (in the case of Andy and Cathy Staunton, have been) supported financially on a consistent and ongoing basis. A tithe of the money you give every week to BBC is faithfully distributed to the work of missions which in turn helps enable these ministries to function.

From 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 BBC through the Missions Committee distributed to our Missions Partners a sum of \$37, 404.22. This amount was provided by the generosity of the congregation through its weekly giving, donations, and a fundraising concert. The Missions

Committee regularly reviews allocation of funds: (who to support, how much, when to cease, where next) and in all matters seeks to be transparent and to operate with integrity when requests for support and decisions to support financially are made.

Over the previous two months, the task of searching for a new mission partner(s) to financially support, as the Stauntons and Swantons wind up their respective ministries, has been undertaken. Our focus has been to find (if possible) a mission work through BMA.

### **Missions Fundraising Concert**

In May the Missions Committee organised a concert utilising the talents of many wonderful Christian men and women. Thanks again to Sean McMahon for the work you contributed in putting all the pieces together. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents to make the night so much fun, and just as importantly, so rewarding. Many thousands of dollars were raised, all of which went to support the work of missions. Well done to everyone who supported financially. God works through the generosity of His people - please remember that.



The Committee seeks to stay in contact with the varied Missions we support and communicate to them our continued partnership, particularly through prayer. They in turn provide the committee with prayer needs and regular updates with their situation. This then can be relayed to the congregation in a timely manner. The Committee endeavours to provide the church with regular "mission spots" during Sunday services, either through video or, where and whenever possible, live presentation during occasional brief returns to Australian soil.

If you are interested in becoming a contributor to the Missions Committee, you love the Lord and want to see His work expanded, you would be most welcome to join our team.

***"Whatever you do for the least of these my brethren, you did it unto Me."***

May the financial support we (BBC) continue to give to the work of missions be given in just this spirit.

### **Duncan Becsi**





[beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au](http://beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au)

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