

**BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH**

# Annual Report

August 2021



# 2020/2021 Highlights

*There is so much to give thanks for but here are just a few of the reasons to celebrate:*

**10**

**PEOPLE BAPTISED**

In April & May we celebrated as they shared their stories and committed their lives to following Jesus.



**1600+**

**VIEWS OF CAROLS BY THE CREEK**

Carols went online and the team put together a fantastic program that declared the good news of Christmas.



**30+**

**YOUTH AT MILL VALLEY CAMP**

In February our young people were able to get away for a weekend of teaching, community and fun.





**Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.**

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Psalm 100:4-5

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# Eldership Reports

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## SENIOR PASTOR

### **Leadership Theme for 2021/22 "Do you love me? Feed my sheep"**

Since being welcomed into the life of Beaconsfield Baptist Church on 16 May 21 much has happened. Can I begin by expressing just how thankful to God I am for the opportunity He has given to me to minister in this place. He has opened up doors for me that were closed. He has shut doors behind me. He has been exceedingly gracious to me. Not because of who I am but because of who He is.

I am also thankful to the many Christian brothers and sisters at BBC who have gone out of their way to make me and my family feel immediately valued and loved. For all your generosity I am grateful.

I am also very aware that not everyone who calls BBC home is in a position to physically worship with God's people during the ongoing uncertainty that exists. How long that lasts I don't know. If you, or you know of someone who is unable to attend or feels unsure, please let me know so that either myself or an Elder can visit them and pray with them and care for them.

As for me and the ministry God has called me to, it hasn't all been smooth sailing. I experienced what ministry in lockdown looks and feels like. Not once but twice. And on both occasions God has remained faithful. His Word has continued to go out to His people and beyond the walls of the church through BBC's on-line broadcast. When it comes to our ability to broadcast our services on-line we are presented with a blessing, an opportunity, and a warning.

1. The blessing: If we are prevented from gathering as God's people physically, we can still gather virtually. We have a wonderful opportunity, unique in the history of the world up to this point in time, to log on and join with our brothers and sisters in singing God's praise and sitting together to listen to God's Word as it is opened up. That's the blessing.
2. An opportunity: Being blessed with the resources to broadcast our services gives to us tremendous opportunities to take God's Word to places far beyond the four walls of our church building. We can invite friends to join us for a pancake breakfast and introduce them to our church on-line - particularly those friends who think stepping foot inside a church building is not for them. Or else we can use our on-line presence the way we once used our letterboxes. Did you know that every time you like a blog or share it, you place it at the virtual doorstep of all your Facebook friends. If we have enough likes the algorithm within Facebook sends it even further. The devil has been using this as a means of distributing his rubbish for years. Why don't we do the same thing with God's Word? Our YouTube messages work exactly the same way. Can I encourage you to not just view our Sunday messages, but to consider liking them and if you're brave enough go one step further and share them on your Facebook page.
3. A warning: It is easy to become lazy isn't it. I say that because I myself am prone to be lazy. If something is easy, rather than work hard I tend to sit back and even enjoy the ride. That has been my great weakness for as long as I can remember. If preaching is easy I want to sit back and relax. If following Jesus is easy I want to sit back and relax. But what

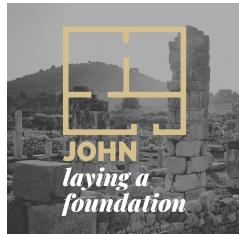
I read in Scripture invites me to not do that. Philippians 2:12 says this, "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling..." There's no sit back and relax clause when you're a follower of Jesus. When it comes to the blessing of having an on-line presence the message, I think, is a clear one. Don't sit back and hope it does all the work. Use it, work with it, look for ways to promote the Gospel through it.

### **The journey so far:**

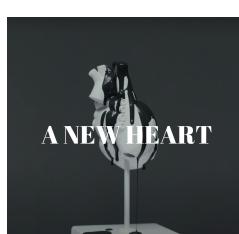
I have begun my work of leadership alongside Stephen and Rod. Both men bring a great deal of wisdom and Christian love and experience with them. I have enjoyed walking alongside them immensely. There is a great deal for us to do, and over the next several months, as the Eldership and the leadership team seek to discern God's heart, I hope to be able to share with everyone who calls BBC home where our collective effort should be focused.

I have begun my sermon (teaching) series with a view to focusing solely on the glory and the primacy of Jesus. Our journey together is not so much about us as it is about Him. And so beginning in John's Gospel seemed to me to be a good place to start. So far we have journeyed through the first two chapters and are currently half way through chapter 3.

### **AM services to date:**

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- May 16: Sound Teaching (2Timothy 1:13-2:1) Duncan
  - May 23: In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1-5) Duncan
  - May 30: Jesus - Light of the world (John 1:6-13) Duncan
  - June 6: A God Initiated Lockdown (Genesis 8) Duncan
  - June 13: Have you seen God's glory? (John 1:14-18) Duncan
  - June 20: John's Testimony (John 1:19-28) Rod
  - June 27: Look, the Lamb of God (John 1:29-34 Duncan)
  - July 4: We Have Found the Messiah (John 1:35-42) Duncan
  - July 11: A New Beginning (Ephesians 4:17-5:2) Duncan
  - July 18: Can Anything Good Come Out Of Nazareth? (John 1:43-51) Duncan
  - July 18: Here We Go Again - Again (Luke 13:1-9) Duncan
  - July 25: A Wedding With New Wine (John 2:1-12) Duncan
  - August 1: Jesus' Authority (John 2:13-25) Duncan
  - August 8: Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-15) Rod
  - August 15: God Loves The World (John 3:16-21) Duncan
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### **PM services to date:**

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- May 16: Sound Teaching (2 Timothy 1:13-2:1) Duncan
  - May 23: A Chariot Of Fire (Ezekiel 1:1-28) Rod
  - May 30: The Hard Call (Ezekiel 2:1-3:15) Rod
  - June 6: A God Initiated Lockdown (Genesis 8) Duncan
  - June 13: Word In Action (Ezekiel 4:1-17) Rod
  - June 20: God's Bad News (Ezekiel 7:1-27) Duncan
  - June 27: God Has Left the Building (Ezekiel 8:1-18; 10:18-29) Duncan
  - July 4: Flesh for Stone (Ezekiel 11:14-25) Stephen
  - July 11: A New Beginning (Ephesians 4:17-5:2) Duncan
  - July 18: Listening to Lies (Ezekiel 13:1-23) Duncan

- July 25: The One Who Sins ((Ezekiel 18:1-32) Ashton)
- August 1: Two Sisters (Ezekiel 23:1-49) Rod
- August 8: All The Nations (Ezekiel 25:1-17) Duncan
- August 15: God Will Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:1-31) Rod

Please take time to review the above series and if you've missed anything think about using the on-line facility to catch up. What God has to say to His church in John and Ezekiel is very relevant for today and something that His people would do well to hear.

#### **Key Pillars of BBC:**

1. Gospel centred Preaching and Teaching
2. Vibrant and healthy corporate worship
3. Intentional discipleship
4. Effective Pastoral Care
5. Resourced children's ministry
6. Committed evangelism

#### **My focus (and that of the Leadership Team) for the remainder of 2021:**

1. Build strong, trusting, flourishing relationships within the leadership team.
2. Seek God's leading to identify and appoint those God has gifted to be Elders in the congregation.
3. Deliver relevant messages that are faithful to God's Word that edify His people and exalt the Lord Jesus.
4. Identify ongoing needs of the church and where possible provide necessary resources.
5. Focus on strengthening and growing life groups.
6. Identify and equip future leaders of the church.

#### **What you can do:**

1. Pray
2. Ask yourself, "What can I do? What ministry in the church can I support? How can I be more involved?"
3. Witness
4. Practice hospitality
5. Give generously
6. Ask God to show you someone to get beside (disciple)

#### **Duncan Becsi**

## PASTOR

It has been five and half years since we followed God's call to leave the church we grew up in to be part of what God was doing here in Beaconsfield. This church has a great history and a great opportunity. In some ways this feels like one very long season of transition, the "in between" time. But in reality this is the ongoing shaping, moulding and transforming from the Spirit, conforming us to the image of Christ. The new beginning we have with a new Senior Pastor doesn't mean we have now arrived. We don't stop growing, we don't stop proclaiming, we don't stop being led by God. It has been a privilege to help guide and nurture this church this past year and I look forward with great anticipation of what God will continue to do.

Are we open?

Are we listening?

Are we ready?

As my role and responsibilities shift again, this is a summary of my main areas of service this past year:

### **Leading**

Leadership is no easy task and I know that I have been stretched, encouraged, refined and empowered to play my part. Thank you for trusting and supporting me. We should be very grateful for the steady influence and wisdom that Stephen Harper brings in his role as Elder. He has been a great example of why we need Elders and the part they play in the church body. Please be praying that God would lead us to identify other Elders in our congregation. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Charles and then Duncan in seeking to lead God's church here at BBC. I am thankful that God's provision and timing has been exactly what we needed. Duncan has a vision for this church and a passion for the gospel - I am keen to see how God uses us.

Thank you to the Leadership Team for your humble service and commitment to this church. It has been an enjoyable challenge to continue to adapt to all the changes around us. We have consolidated many of the changes we made the previous year and it has been a pleasure to be part of a unified team. Through all this it has been a season of great growth.

### **Teaching**

As a church we have continued to let the word dwell in us richly and I'm thankful for all those involved in teaching ministries, whether life groups, children's and youth ministries, mentoring and discipleship, and preaching and communion on Sundays.

The bulk of our formal teaching comes from our Sunday sermons and I have thoroughly enjoyed putting the series together, thinking through the themes and wrestling with what God is wanting to say through his word. We spent 23 weeks in the book of Revelation, with a special series for Christmas and Easter, and a 3-week "Timely" series before Duncan's arrival. Thank you for engaging with God's word and listening to what he has to say to us.

It's also worth noting two short series that we did especially for Night Church in the second half of last year ("Phoney" and "Acceptable Idols"). While this increased the preaching load, it was rewarding to be able to speak into specific issues and start conversations around these important issues.

In these past few months it has been so interesting to see the way John's Gospel and Ezekiel's prophecy weave together. There is a real richness in exploring God's word deeply. I'm looking forward to how Duncan, Stephen and I can continue to build on this.

### **Equipping**

What an exciting privilege it was for Charles and I to walk alongside those people who were interested in being baptised. With more than a dozen getting involved in the course and 10 who were baptised earlier this year. This is just one step in a lifetime of following Jesus!

It has been a challenging 12 months for many of our ministries, ministry leaders and volunteers with the stop-starts of lockdown. In particular we have continued to look for creative ideas and tech solutions in order to continue to disciple people of all ages. I have loved walking alongside many different leaders and supporting the great work that they are doing. We should be very thankful for those who have taken on the responsibility of leading and coordinating the various ministries across the church and local community.

A big thank you to our audio visual team who have carried an extra load for 18 months now in delivering a great worship experience for those attending in-person and online. It has been great to see new people join and I have enjoyed working with the team. In particular I want to thank the Carols By The Creek team for taking on an ambitious project and delivering a fantastic result.

As a church we have a great opportunity to use the gifts God has given us. We would love to see more people stepping up to build up the body of Christ. We all have a part to play!

### **Caring**

This past year we have been able to bring many of the pastoral care ministries together and build on their strengths. Thank you to Allan, Geoff, Marian and Warren in particular for the way they have overseen various aspects of pastoral care. We were also blessed to have Charles' pastoral heart and love for the church guiding and leading this team.

I have loved meeting up with people, sharing life, praying, and walking alongside through good times and bad. This past year it has been great to get to know people better across the age groups and also welcome a number of new people into our church family.

There is still work to be done to strengthen the role of life groups in our church and growing in the way we love one another. The way we love one another is what we will be known for. Let us look to Jesus as the source and our example as we care for each other.

In the past couple of months it has been a joy to provide practical support to four local families through our Community Assistance Fund. It is a great witness to our community and a chance to meet people and care for their needs. Please pray for more opportunities to share with these families.

Finally, I am excited to begin my reshaped role and to focus my gifts and passions for teaching, worship, caring and equipping. Please continue to pray for me and my family as we serve this church and seek God's leading in all we do.

### **Rod Thearle**

## ELDERS

As we reflect on the past year at Beaconsfield Baptist we continue to see God's love and faithfulness. The eldership continues to be a small group of 3, made up of our two Pastors and myself. It's been a delight to have experienced such a fruitful time with Charles Lazaro as interim and again in recent months as Duncan Becsi joined us as our Senior Pastor. Together with Rod Thearle we continue to seek God's guidance and depend on Him in spiritual leadership of the church, and look to Him to grow the eldership.

The Pastors and Elder typically meet fortnightly and also once a month with the deacons. We believe strongly in the biblical model of eldership and continue to ask God to bring more elders from amongst our congregation. Our constitution allows for up to 3 elders and we ask all to pray earnestly that God would help us identify and appoint the right people to further strengthen our leadership under the headship of Christ.

Highlights of the year include the reopening of in-person services in the lead up to Christmas, the work of the Pastoral Search Committee in bringing the name of Duncan Becsi as Senior Pastor to a members meeting in February, two Baptism services, the opportunity to thank Charles and Marj in April for their wonderful ministry amongst us, and the commencement in May and induction of Duncan on July 11th. It has been a delight to have Sharon and family now regularly with us.

At our March members' meeting we were able to officially thank Rod for his leadership of us these past couple of years. We continue to be blessed by Rod's ministry, his love for the Word, commitment to our community and wisdom in seeing us through multiple lockdowns and re-openings. We are truly blessed having Rod, Mez and the girls being in our midst.

One of the recent changes in the area of preaching and teaching has been separate sermon series for the morning and night services. This step-up in providing much spiritual food has been thanks to Duncan and Rod's commitment to the Word and their ability to bring the message of the Gospel so clearly. We're thankful for their hard work in this area amongst other areas of focus.

As we look into the year ahead we are keen to return to regular, un-capped, meeting together in person. To gather together for worship and listen to God's Word, and then nurture our Christian walk and care for one another through life groups is something we are keen to see flourish. We await God's timing in these matters and look to Him to establish our church community in that way. He is Sovereign, He cares for us and through the ministry of the Spirit of Jesus Christ to each of us may the joy of the Lord be our strength.

**Stephen Harper**

## Diaconate Reports

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### SECRETARY

Over the past year I have continued to enjoy my role as Church Secretary, with the regular tasks of setting meeting agendas, chairing said meetings and taking meeting minutes, plus arranging church business meetings and AGM, being balanced by the energy and passion that is brought to the meetings by the members of our Leadership Team. It has been, and will continue to be, a privilege to serve alongside each one of these faithful servants and I am thankful to God for unity among diversity on the team.

The Diaconate (Deacons and a Pastor) continues to meet once a month and the Leadership Team (Dacons, 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 am excited to see that BBC has embarked on the next stage of our journey, with a godly and passionate Leadership Team. Become part of the journey with us, become involved in the way God leads you to become involved. And pray. Pray that God uses our church and its people to point others to the hope that is found in Christ alone.

**Carl Meginbir**

### TREASURER

The Financial Report is published separately.

**Colin Brewer**

## SAFE CHURCH

The purpose of Safe Church is 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.

Susanne Bestenbreur came on board early this year, joining Bruce and Gillian Ward, and myself on the Safe Church team. Like 2020, much of 2021 has been at a stand-still with the ongoing pandemic. While we've been able to conduct some meetings online, it's been a difficult time to get things done with limited face to face opportunities.

Some outcomes from the past year:

- A short video training series was provided to our ministry leaders and those working with children
- A small first aid kit has been purchased for the creche room
- Emergency epipens have been purchased (1x adult & 1x child dose)
- Began research on reformatting our Safe Church manual for clarity and ease of use.

A few things we're aiming to do:

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

**David Muir**

## MISSIONS

### **Who we are:**

The Beaconsfield Baptist Missionary Committee continues to be a significant component of the outward-looking culture of Beaconsfield Baptist Church and seeks to prolong that heritage. It is funded through the “Tithe to Outreach” fund within the management of our church finances whereby 10% of BBC’s general offering is set aside for local, national and international outreach opportunities. The support, interest and accommodation from Pastor Rod Thearle, especially over the past couple of years, is greatly appreciated.

### **What do we do?**

We seek to continue to provide PR, prayer and financial support for missionaries we feel led to assist, and we work towards maintaining their presence in our church’s life through various means. Their pictures, locations and details are on the noticeboards in the foyer, but we also maintain their presence through video “grabs” and prayer slides in our church worship services and online broadcasts. Personal visits from them are always special for both parties.

### **The Dollars:**

This year after receiving \$31,500 via the Outreach Fund, we have distributed \$29,100 to our 7 missionary initiatives which covers allocations of \$200 or \$400 per month on an ongoing basis. There were some extra payments during the year including a \$1000 “Baby Bonus” to Matt and Femke and a \$500 gift to assist Rachel Bakker in PNG. We currently hold a credit balance of \$4,680.00.

As a committee we reviewed the list of causes we support, which led us to now contributing to ELEVEN88 Dance Ministries and Christians Helping In Primary Schools. (CHIPS). We concluded our regular support for Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA). Please pray for us as we look at different causes and those who work within them.

### **The Concert:**

This year, yet again, we were unable to have our traditional Annual Fundraiser Concert. The opportunity to raise funds while enjoying the church’s many and varied talents was sadly missed for the second year in a row due to the pending and eventual Covid lockdowns in February and May. Normally this initiative generates an extra \$2000 - \$3000 for distribution as extra gifts to those serving in our supported initiatives. This equates to about 1 month’s extra support!

### **Keeping In Touch:**

The Missionary Committee schedules its meetings for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every second month but this has continued to be compromised significantly by Covid lockdown restrictions. Zoom calls have filled some of the void but it is not ideal. The faithful work done by Ruth, Zoe, Liane, Benjamin, Heather, Wilma, Marian, Asiri and Windya is very much appreciated.

There will be opportunities for others to join or assist this valuable committee in this coming year.

**Sean McMahon**

## COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF

It is said that God is in all things and as a Diaconate we have certainly witnessed and experienced his hand in guiding us through the ongoing challenging times of Covid-19. I currently have the privilege of serving in the Communications and Staff portfolio, and coordinate the AM Worship within the team. I have enjoyed the areas of responsibility that have enabled us as a church to continue to come together and grow and learn as a united community under God.

### **Staff**

This year has indeed been a busy one for this portfolio. It has been an honour to be part of the Pastoral Search Committee over the last two years, working with a great and diverse group of members, who in prayer and being open to God's leading, brought forward Pastor Duncan Becsi to the membership for consideration. He was then voted in by the members and began his ministry in late May. We said goodbye to our fabulous Interim Pastor Charles Lazaro and his wonderful wife Marj who worked tirelessly supporting Pastor Rod in his role and re-imagining our pastoral care team and outreach.

Also, this year we have seen Heather Agnew take up the reigns in our Office Admin role replacing Heather Bakker who we thank very much for her tenure and commitment to BBC. Heather Agnew's passion and dedication to the role has also been experienced by the leadership team and congregation alike. In our treasury department I also facilitated a search for a contract position for a bookkeeper and engaged the services of Susanne Bestenbreur, who graciously interviewed and subsequently filled the position to support our Treasurers portfolio. We again thank Heather Bakker for all her excellent work and Susanne for stepping in to fill a void.

Personally, I would like to acknowledge Pastor Rod who has guided the church through the interim period. In all he does he shows wisdom, humility and faithfulness and it's been a pleasure to see him grow over the journey so far and always give God the glory. 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.

### **Communications**

The communications portfolio is all about how we communicate together and to the community of Beaconsfield. After completing the new look 'Beacon' with a proactive and creative committee last year, this year all effort turned to the BBC website. Working alongside Pastor Rod we re-imagined the approach of the website and how it interacts at two levels:

1. Our congregation and members
2. The broader community

The new website was launched in November and has had excellent feedback from a good cross section of users who are interacting with it. The approach was to enable the ability to highlight our key beliefs and ministries effectively whilst housing content that encourages and invites people to engage with BBC. Again, thanks to Pastor Rod and his vision and hard work related to enabling this process to be successfully realised.

### **Ashton Wynne-Yorke**

## PROPERTY

We are blessed and privileged to have and use our buildings and facilities at BBC. There are always things to be repaired, renewed, updated and repurposed. Maintaining and improving elements of our premises this year has continued to be performed within the restrictions of Covid-19 Guidelines, but we have kept the place safe and functional. Our regular volunteers are invaluable and really appreciated.



### Church:

- The auditorium carpets and the rugs in the rear half of our buildings were steam cleaned in January. Lots of pews, seats, and equipment needed to be moved, but volunteers made it a simple task.
- Grounds maintenance continues at a high level of presentation
- Quarterly building pest inspections have been completed. There were occasional rodent issues which were treated over time. All clear.
- A sun shade has been installed above our playground at the rear. Cost was \$7,500
- Large limb was removed from the large gum tree at the south-east corner of the hall.
- Platform handrail has been installed and signed off by Safe Church.

- Ongoing government guidelines are being applied as required to comply with constantly changing Covid-19 requirements and expectations.
- A productive "Working Bee" was held in early May and attended by 8 volunteers.
- Unsupervised ball games in the rear hall have caused damage to light fittings and storage roller doors. More parental supervision would assist in reducing this.
- We still receive hiring requests from community groups, families, individuals etc. Planetshakers Church is a regular and excellent tenant.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

A vacancy for gardening oversight still exists.

**Manse:**

- The house is still tenanted to the Thearle family at market rates.
- Repairs required this financial year were:-
  1. Replace carpet in the front bedroom
  2. Various slides, guides, seals, hooks, handles and fly screens
  3. New hot water service
  4. New garage door
- More cosmetic and functional items will be required through the next 12 months. Hopefully some of that can be handled by some skilled volunteers.

**Sean McMahon**

## MINISTRY REPORTS

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### PASTORAL CARE – PRACTICAL NEEDS

This year our ministry revolved around the preparation and delivery of meals to those of our fellowship who were in need. This ministry could not exist, were it not for the dedicated group of 21 people who, between them have prepared and delivered some 60 beautiful meals, all of which have been gratefully received. We have also been requested to cater for Nina White's Memorial Service. I must give a big thank you to those 21 people who respond willingly when called upon, making my task much easier. We would certainly welcome to our ranks anyone who enjoys being involved in the ministry of hospitality.

**Geoff Dunn**

### PASTORAL CARE – PRAYER

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*

The purpose of the Pastoral Prayer ministry is to coordinate the various areas of prayer within the church.

Currently there are 5 main areas of prayer within the church:

1. Prayer support group. (Prayer chain). Thanks for the tireless work of Marian Watson who faithfully and confidently shares urgent prayer requests to the team of prayers on most days. Thanks to those in the group who pray for these needs.
2. Intercessory Prayer Group. Each Monday afternoon the church prayer meeting is held for all. One week at the church and the remaining weeks on Zoom. We would encourage more folk to join this time whenever possible. We are in a spiritual battle, and we would love to see as many folks as possible to join in prayer.
3. Pastoral prayer during services. This is a time where the church family can join together in communication with our God.
4. Prayer ministry at end of service. This has been on hold since Covid has affected regular services. It is an important ministry to many and will recommence when possible. Meanwhile any prayer requests could be directed to the church leadership.
5. Life Group Prayer Ministry. A vital part of the church prayer ministry. All Life groups are encouraged to pray for the church.

Despite the Covid lockdown it has been exciting to see God's hand over our church and in no small part due to the faithful prayers within the church. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness in answering our prayers. You are encouraged to be part of this vital ministry.

**Alan Conry**

## PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

(Formerly Prayer Chain)

It is just over a year since I took on the Ministry of the Prayer Chain from Jan Ketcher in July 2020, and I thank God for the opportunity and privilege of serving Him in this ministry.

Pastor Charles Lazaro pointed out the fact that because the 'Prayer Chain' was now sent by email, it was technically no longer a 'Prayer Chain' where people rang the next person on the 'Chain'. He suggested it be called 'Prayer Support Group', as the people we were praying for needed spiritual support during times of illness, bereavement or difficulty of some kind.

One never knows what a day will bring in regards to who will be needing and requesting prayer, but generally there are around 10 or 12 requests each week for those who have been either sent to hospital unexpectedly, or who are having an operation, or there has been a death in a family, or a pregnant mother is going through a problem with either herself or her baby. Whatever the need may be, the Prayer Support Group are here to pray for you, and to lift you up to God's Throne of Grace, and support you. These requests are confidential.

Our amazingly gracious and loving God has answered our many prayers. Some prayers have been answered in the way we wanted, and other prayers have been answered in the way He wanted. God's way and will are best.

I pray that the Lord God will give each one of us on the Prayer Support Group Team the health and strength to continue to serve Him in this very important ministry.

*Colossians 4:2 "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."*

**Marian Watson**

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Having a weekly Prayer Meeting on Zoom each Monday at 1.30pm (except each 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday when we meet at the church) was suggested by Pastor Charles Lazaro, the Interim Pastor who was here at BBC from August 2019 to April 2021. He felt that due to the lockdown and the restrictions whereby we were unable to meet at the church for prayer, or for worship each Sunday during 2020, it would be beneficial to meet together weekly to pray on Zoom.

Zoom meetings have continued each Monday, and there are usually between 3 to 6 folk who join together to pray for BBC, the Pastors, Elder, Deacons, Church Activities and those who are suffering ill health, and our Nation. Those who are unable to join on Zoom have the prayer list emailed to them so that they can pray at home. There are 24 emails sent each Monday to those who will either be praying at home, or joining in prayer on Zoom. Please contact me if you would like to join this prayer group. May God's Hand continue to use us as we intercede for others.

*1 Samuel 12:23 "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you."*

**Marian Watson**

## MONTHLY CHURCH PRAYER MEETING.

This prayer meeting is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in each month at the church at 1.30pm to pray for the Church, the Pastors, Elder, Deacons and church activities, as well as the needs of those in the congregation who are suffering from ill health.

From April 2020, this prayer meeting was suspended due to the pandemic and the lockdown and restrictions regarding not being able to meet. We did continue meeting for prayer using Zoom for those who were able to join together by that technology. For those who were unable to join on Zoom, a prayer list was emailed to them to keep them informed, and they prayed at home.

In February 2021, a survey was taken to ask if there were any people who felt they were able to resume this 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Monthly Prayer Meeting at the church. Most of those who had attended in 2019 and the beginning of 2020 were willing to continue meeting together, so it has continued this year. There have been between 6 and 10 folk meeting at the church for prayer at 1.30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month.

There was also an extra prayer meeting held at 1.30pm at the church on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 2021 to pray especially for the Members Meeting that night at 7.30pm to consider and vote for the calling of a new Pastor, Duncan Becsi. There were 10 who attended that time of prayer.

I thank God for the support and encouragement of Pastor Charles Lazaro during his Interim Ministry at BBC, and also Pastor Rod Thearle, and thank God for Pastor Duncan Becsi who has faithfully supported this prayer ministry since coming here on 16<sup>th</sup> May this year. I thank God too for those who are faithful praying supporters.

We praise and thank God for this time spent praying together, and praise and thank Him for the many answers He has given. May God bless, lead and guide this prayer ministry as we look to Him for the future.

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8.*

**Marian Watson**

## AM WORSHIP

It has continued to be an interesting 12 months in the life of the worship teams. We see our key mission in the church of being the facilitator of worshiping our Lord and Saviour in music and song as per our BBC vision.

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

The worship leaders continue to meet and work on ensuring that we are continuing to lead the congregation in praising our God on a quarterly basis.

Recently we have gone through a thorough process to purchase a new portable keyboard that will provide a flexible and multi-purpose instrument in bringing through new keyboard players, help with night church and be utilised in other locations within the church where possible and required.

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

*Psalm 100:1-4*

<sup>1</sup> *Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.*

<sup>2</sup> *Worship the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*

<sup>3</sup> *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.*

<sup>4</sup> *Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

**Ashton Wynne-Yorke**

## NIGHT CHURCH WORSHIP

The purpose of the Night Church (NC) Worship Ministry is to provide opportunity for musicians/vocalists to help lead in congregational worship to bring praise and glory to God. This ministry benefits individuals as well as the congregation through providing community connection and unity, a space at NC for healing, spiritual renewal, reconciliation, and revelation through praising our God together. There are currently four bands, seven worship leaders, and twenty-five volunteer musicians/vocalists involved in this ministry.

Due to ongoing lockdowns and restrictions, it has been challenging to actively build and develop this ministry. However, God has shown great mercy and kindness in providing worship leaders and musicians who are resilient, faithful, and dedicated to serving Him wholeheartedly and ensuring the hope and truth found in Christ is passionately proclaimed every single week.

NC Worship is an ever-growing, evolving ministry which needs continued team development to both foster a sense of unity and connection for existing team members, as well as always encouraging new members to get involved. The NC Worship Leaders hope to develop a set of selection criteria to analyse and prayerfully choose new songs to introduce at NC.

The NC Worship Leaders have shown incredible resilience, dedication, and faithfulness in continuing to lead throughout every lockdown without a band. They have been bold; proclaiming hope and joy amidst difficult circumstances and continue to share the gospel message with passion and authenticity despite the extreme challenges faced when leading via online streaming without an active congregation.

**Kirsty Leboeuf**

## NEXTGEN

God has continued to grow this ministry despite the many snap lockdowns and density restrictions we have endured during 2020 and now again in 2021. Our average attendance in early 2020 was sitting around the low teens (approximately 13) and it is now in the mid twenties. As the attendance numbers increased in NextGen, we have also been blessed with a significant increase in volunteers. I would like to sincerely thank: Ken Agnew, Zoe Agnew, Amy Fisher, Elyse Fisher, Sonya Harper, Sara Hoppitt, Jenni Jackson, Flynn Meginbir, Hudson Sheeran, Jenni Watson, Dana Pop, Memphis Wynne-York and our craft volunteer Eileen Hillis for choosing to give of their time to this vital ministry.

*Luke 18:16*

*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".*

It has also been a great joy to watch the children engage and enjoy the bible teaching in NextGen over the last year. This year we started with the Parables of Jesus. Currently, we are tying in with "Big Church" and completing the "I am" series in John. So far we have looked at Jesus' statements of "I am the Bread of Life, I am the Light of the World, I am the Door, I am the Good Shepherd" and sought to break down very abstract concepts for the children to build their understanding of Jesus. We have reinforced this message through our visual displays linked to our lessons. We incorporate fun, games, worship songs and teaching as core aspects of the NextGen curriculum and look forward to seeing these elements continue to grow and flourish. Later in term 3 and into term 4 we will aim to include a focus on mission. We hope to connect our NextGeners to the missionaries' children we support at BBC as well as packing shoe boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

We understand the importance of this mission in teaching the children of Beaconsfield Baptist, and we look forward to seeing how God guides and shapes NextGen. We are ready to change and adapt again as He calls us to, and with this in mind, new volunteers are always welcome.

**Sharon Fisher**

## PLAYGROUP

Little Beacies Playgroup is a family and children's ministry where children come along to with one or two parents, a grandparent or two, or a caregiver such as an aunty. From time to time siblings come along and join in with the activities that are fun and educational. Playgroup is an outreach ministry set up to have fun, be exciting, be relaxing, learn about Jesus, and most importantly be a safe place for everyone. It is a place where friendships are formed that can last beyond the formalities of playgroup and where support can be offered in wider aspects of their lives. Cheree has met playgroup families while out and about in the local area and had them say: "When I went to this school for orientation day I saw so and so there, also; it is so nice to see a familiar face". Most importantly, each child and adult that comes to playgroup has the opportunity to hear about Jesus through songs, stories, and conversations, which is not only very important but needed.

The Covid-19 pandemic has interrupted the normal running of playgroup from time to time, however we quickly switched to running playgroup on Zoom online, which has been fun.

While playgroup has been operating face-to-face the average number is about 15-20 people. Sometimes there have been 40–43 people turn up for one session, and as such we have had to open up the hall area because more space was needed.

The families that have joined the playgroup community have come from diverse cultural backgrounds, mainly from the Pakenham / Officer area, diverse socio-economic backgrounds, and from various faith-based backgrounds or no faith at all.

It has been exciting to have Sienna W-Y and Ruth H join the playgroup team. These ladies have been doing very well and are vital members to the team, and I thank God for their willingness to help on a weekly basis. However, the playgroup is in serious need for more volunteers to join the team and we would love for a roster system to be set up. So if anyone is keen or has skills with cleaning, setting up, interacting with children through song, craft, or story, or interacting with adults and forming friendships, or if you think that God is leading you to be involved, please make yourself known to any of us or one of the Pastors. Eileen H has again designed and created amazing craft packs each week for the Tuesday and Wednesday playgroup sessions. We are so grateful and thankful to her for volunteering her time to do this.

This year in the outdoor space an awesome all year round shade cloth has been put up, and it makes such a difference when the weather is hot. The large slide does not burn anymore in the summer, and being able to be sun smart is easier – the playgroup community is so pleased for this. New fresh sand has been brought, craft supplies have been replenished, and because of a call out for large outdoor/ gross motor equipment to be donated, there is now more of a variety of such equipment. Cleaning products and hand sanitizer and washing products have also been replenished.

Overall, give praise to the Lord for the families that come along each week. And give thanks to God that the team members have the opportunity to share the good news about Jesus and be shining examples for Jesus.

On a final note, please join in prayer with the playgroup team in praying for the playgroup, the playgroup community, and more opportunities to share with them about Jesus.

**Cheree Stevens, Ruth Hainsworth and Sienna Wynne-Yorke**

## 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.

It was with great delight we were able to start in person mainly music again in February after not being able to return in 2020. Imagine everyone's surprise when Windya turned up with baby Yahren after not knowing she had been pregnant. He is a valuable member of our team as we demonstrate how even a young baby and caregiver can interact in a mainly music setting. Of course our year has been impacted by several lockdowns but we continue to persevere and hold sessions when we are able to. We have a core group, along with some new families, but as circumstances change people come and go, often opting to find another provider on a different day. Our average attendance this year has been 13 families.

We enjoy a 30 minute music session, including a short think spot/devotion, followed by an eat/play/chat time. We have a mix of Christian and non-Christian families attending. We have had more of an emphasis on faith think spots this year and pray that seeds are being sown. We had the opportunity to share the Easter story and send a gift book home with the children. We made sure mothers were celebrated on Mother's Day and new births celebrated with a gift and meal.

Special thanks to Windya, Jo and Ngaire who faithfully come each week to help run the session, and Bethany who lends a helping hand occasionally. Please pray that we would be bold in sharing our faith as we have opportunity. We praise God that He provides what we need when we need it. We welcome anyone who is interested in becoming involved to make contact.

**Heather Agnew**

## CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ACTIVITY PACKS

This wonderful ministry provides approximately 1800 activity packs for children in Casey and St. John of God Hospitals throughout the year. These packs that are placed on the child's bed on admission provide a great distraction in an otherwise scary and stressful situation for the child.

The staff and parents really appreciate these packs as they occupy the child throughout their stay in hospital. We have had many beautiful letters, photos and drawings from the parent's and their child thanking us for the packs.

Funding for these packs has been through generous donations from the church, Make and Mingle, special events and applying for grants through Council and Community Grants.

It has certainly been a challenge this past year to be able to meet and fill the activity packs due to repeated lockdowns. But when we have been able to meet it has been a wonderful time of catching up whilst doing double and triple numbers of packs so that we have a ready supply of packs for when the next lockdown occurs.

UPDATE- exciting news, we have been successful in applying for the Casey Community Grant of \$5000 for this financial year. Praise God this is such a blessing for this wonderful ministry.

**Cheryl Reid**

## CHRISTIANS HELPING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Unfortunately after much discussion earlier in the year with all involved in the CHIPS ministry, it was decided by the school to pause the program for 2021. It has been agreed to revisit this decision next year, with the expectation that all the hurdles from the pandemic have been overcome.

**Carol Langford**

## CAROLS BY THE CREEK

Well, 2020 wasn't the year any of us expected! Whilst Carols by the Creek is always a large undertaking in any given year, the impact and uncertainty of Covid-19 made planning for Carols in 2020 significantly more complicated than usual. However, in the midst of uncertainty, our team ultimately made the decision to run a broadcast, online only Carols event. The shift to online was stepping into a world of many unknowns, but the experience our AV team had garnered during many months of online services provided a very substantial starting platform.

For those who had the opportunity to enter the church building during December, a significant transformation of our church was impossible not to notice. Thanks to many, many hours of work and some very talented people, our church became a Christmas production studio with an outstanding set, dozens of lights and more cameras than an ABC studio.

For the big night, our usual concert band was replaced by an impressive big band of our own church musicians, pre-recorded videos of the highest quality were woven into the program, and a sprawling team of generous and dedicated audio-visual operators ensured the whole program looked and sounded amazing as we broadcast our little Christmas night to the world... well a few hundred people in the world anyway.

The result of all this hard work was a production and musical standard far beyond what any of us dreamed, and most importantly, an opportunity seized to share the hope of Christmas with our community. The privilege we have each year to share the powerful message of Christmas with our community is an opportunity we do not take for granted. Whilst the workload for this recurring event is very high, we are powerfully motivated by the gospel and the hope that more in our community would come to know Jesus.

As we begin to plan for Carols 2021, we would ask for your prayers as we again navigate uncertain restrictions and compliance hurdles. Please pray that our team would have wisdom in decision making, and that the Christmas message would again be heard in Beaconsfield.

**Kyle Hoppitt**

## SOCIAL LIGHTS

As in 2020, Covid lockdowns have affected our regular monthly luncheons. We have had four luncheons of a possible six, so it has certainly been better than 2020. Our numbers have been slightly down, but those attending have still had a great time of fellowship. We meet at the Cardinia Park Hotel at 12 pm. on the second Thursday of every month except January, lockdowns permitting! If you haven't been with us until now, why not join our next lunch. I guarantee you'll enjoy the time together.

### **Geoff Dunn**

## SENIORS L.I.F.E.

Seniors L.I.F.E. consists of a group of 12 members who meet at the church 10.30 am on Tuesdays during the school term.

We meet to read God's Word and discuss its meaning and application in our lives. There is a vast knowledge of living a life for God in our group and such is often shared.

Covid-19 has meant there have been times when we couldn't meet in person, but thanks to emails, we managed to share readings through a study on the first 50 Psalms.

As with every challenge in life, we believe God is in control and pray for those who are struggling with illness or the isolation brought about through this virus.

### **Eileen Hillis**

## CARAVAN CLUB

The Club continues on happily despite the Covid challenge.

2020 Spring Rally was held late in November instead of the original October dates. I was able to negotiate different dates with the Caravan Park for the group booking, which turned out to be exactly when restrictions eased. This Rally was at Echuca. We enjoyed the pool, group entertainment, meals out, and a relaxing Paddle Steamer ride.

The Autumn Rally was at the historic town of Beechworth; we had plenty of interesting tourism such as the old Gaol, Ned Kelly history, drives and a private guided tour of the town. The Lake Sambell Caravan Park provided stunning sunsets. We had small interest groups organised for evenings together, for example one night the men had a Men's Shed where they could tell of their talents.

The Rallies are designed as a social time for BBC like-minded travellers and those associated with BBC, friends outside the Church come too. Numbers coming have increased, up to 50. There is a time of 'Chapel'. At Beechworth we all sat outside on our camp chairs as Sean gave a talk.

This completes 21 Rallies since the beginning in 2011.

## Ruth Denny

## MAKE AND MINGLE

Make and Mingle is a friendship and craft group, with around 100 participants from both the church and the community. We have been meeting since 1987 and hardly missed a day until March last year.

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

We have also continued with our newsletters around every two months, distributed by email or post. These have poems, photos, Bible verses and encouragement and news from the group and craft projects. We also give them 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 wait upon the Lord to know when and how we will meet again at the church. In the meantime we want all our Make and Minglers to know we are there for them, because they are all part of the group and that God is with them at this time and will take us through.

*Isaiah 41:10*

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

## Ann Taylor

## LADIES MORNING COFFEE

For over 10 years the ladies from Beaconsfield Baptist and their friends have met fortnightly in the Homestead Café, at 'The Old Cheese Factory' in Berwick. The format has been kept casual with the aim of providing a regular venue and timeframe for those ladies who enjoyed having coffee and fellowship together. The Homestead Café was an ideal venue which provided a separate room for our ladies. This enabled an opportunity for personal and private sharing.

Unfortunately since the Covid lockdowns commenced last year, the Café closed its doors and the current Administration of Casey Council have decided to permanently close the Café.

Hopefully another suitable venue may come to light and if anyone has any suggestions for a suitable, quiet café please be in touch.

## **Lucy Harris**

## MENS BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast group have been meeting religiously at Maccas in Clyde Road, Berwick since 2007. Until recently, due to lockdowns and where local road works made traffic impossible, we decided to meet at Ducky in the Field Café – Beaconsfield. At this point we discovered that the local cuisine was somewhat better than the local Maccas and so we have continued to meet there.

In addition, as the group has increased in age over the years and many have retired, it was unanimously decided at its *Annual General Breakfast* to meet at 8am instead of 7am. During the big hard lockdown, Men's Breakfast was held over Zoom where you had to BYO coffee, eggs and bacon.

Men's Breakfast is a time for catching up, solving the world's problems, dreaming of escaping lockdown, caravanning or holidaying and generally talking rubbish. It meets **8am every Friday** with the following exceptions; Christmas Day, Good Friday and whenever we are locked down. Currently there are 5 or 6 of us meeting regularly but there is plenty of room for more. Feel free to join us at 8am (ish) at **Ducky in the Field Café – Beaconsfield**. Come and go as you please, there is no strict start / finish time or agenda, or just stick your head in and say hi.

## **Peter Joynson**

## CHURCH LIBRARY

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

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

Since the Covid-19 regulations came in and the church closed the library has not been open. However, we have been able to do a couple of book drops and have plans to expand more book deliveries once restrictions ease. We hope to be able to open the library later in the year depending on the restrictions.

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**



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