

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## AM Worship

This year in worship has been one of taking stock and resharpening the saw, as we settle into the rhythm with our services, the preaching and overall mission at BBC.

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

- Enhancing the dynamic of the music and focusing on our teams.
- Continuing to deliver a balanced approach to morning worship that brings our congregation to a place of worship.
- Being a team that encourages new people into the music ministry.
- And aiming to set a humble spirit in all we aspire to do in worship.

These key areas continue to be implemented by our worship leaders and their teams. We have seen new gifted people come into the teams from all ages, and each worship leader works on putting together music for the services that meet the congregational needs based on demographic and age.

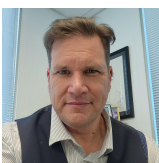
The worship leaders meet twice a year and work on ensuring that we are continuing to lead the congregation in praising our God. It has been wonderful to welcome Matt Swanton who joined as a worship leader this year. The skills and talents that Matt brings to BBC through his music and teaching are a beautiful gift to us all.

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

It's a privilege and joy to gather with God's people and to lead the Night Church Community in worship. A huge thank you to Abi, Emery, Matilda, Matt and Megan and the teams for the way they have served these past twelve months. We continue to look for ways to create space for people to worship authentically and respond to who God is and what he has done. Each week we want to tell the story of the gospel as we move from gathering together, to being sent out into the world.

We are always on the lookout for new and old songs that express the truth of the gospel and connect with our hearts and minds. Together we're able to discern those that we think will serve the congregation and have introduced several new songs that have quickly become favourites. It has been particularly encouraging to see the way they have amplified the themes from the sermons each week.

Some of our favourite these past twelve months have been:

- King Of Love - I Am They
- Your Will Be Done - CityAlight
- King Of Glory - Passion
- Yes And Amen - Housefires
- 1,000 Names - Phil Wickham

We are blessed to have a great team of servant-hearted and capable musicians, singers, readers, pray-ers, and audio-visual volunteers. Also a big thank you to Jess Brewer for coordinating our rosters which helps everything to run smoothly. If you're interested in joining the team or looking for a way to serve, please speak to myself or Jess.

### Rod Thearle



## AV Ministry

AV (Audio-Visual) at Beaconsfield Baptist Church functions as a crucial yet deliberately behind-the-scenes ministry, using technology to support and enhance the worship and ministry experience. Working closely with the Worship and Pastoral teams, our mission is to create an atmosphere conducive to connecting with God and experiencing spiritual growth during church services. It is rewarding to know that we play an essential part in this while utilising our God-given talents and skills.

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the team for their dedication and hard work in serving our church community. One aspect that stands out is the amazing teamwork and the way you always find a way to make it work. May you continue to find fulfillment and joy in your ministry, knowing that you are making a significant impact on the spiritual growth of our church.

The team consists of 15 dedicated volunteers who serve in three specialised roles: Sound, Media, and Broadcast, with each weekend requiring five roster positions to be filled. Additionally, nearly half of the team members contribute to other Sunday rosters, making for some busy schedules.

Currently, we are actively seeking Media operators for both AM and PM services. As a Media operator, you will be responsible for projecting song words, sermon slides and videos during the service. This role requires basic computer skills and a time commitment for rehearsals and serving 1-2 weekends per month. Please reach out if you would like to know more.

While live broadcasts may not be as popular as they were in the last two years, they continue to serve a dedicated segment of our church community. These individuals consistently tune in on Sunday mornings, preferring the convenience and accessibility of online church. We are grateful for their continued engagement.

During our AM live broadcasts, we typically have over 30 devices connected, reflecting the number of households participating in this format. Additionally, our sermon recordings uploaded to YouTube attract an average of 500 views per month, reaching a broader online audience beyond our immediate community.

While the demand for live broadcasts has fluctuated, we recognise the significance of these virtual connections, especially for those who may be unable to attend in person due to various reasons. As we move forward, we aim to strike a balance between in-person gatherings and online engagement, ensuring that all members of our church family feel connected and valued.

### Matt Ratten



## BUV Delegates

Doug Langsford and I have been present at the BUV delegate meetings, and over the year have taken the lead from the leadership team as we represented BBC in voting opportunities.

The BUV continues to support our pastors in their role, providing services to ensure they are well looked after. Additionally there are further areas and ministries that the BUV sees itself potentially benefiting the Baptist family in.

The opportunity for Doug and I to join the group twice a year and meet people from many different locations and backgrounds is beneficial in understanding the motivations, changes and direction of the BUV and its justification in the life of the Baptist Churches across the state.

### Ashton Wynne-Yorke



## Carols By The Creek

After a couple of years of online events, the annual live Carols By The Creek was set to return in 2022, however this was unfortunately cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. The decision to cancel was made with deep consideration for the safety and well-being of our congregation and the wider community. Although the event's cancellation was disheartening, we took the opportunity to celebrate the birth of our Saviour through a special Carols Service with our Church community.

This year, we are eagerly preparing to host a spectacular return of the Carols By The Creek. Our dedicated team of ministry leaders have begun planning a memorable event for the Beaconsfield community. As we approach this year's event, we request your support and prayers. Spread the word about the event, participate in planning meetings, and consider contributing your time and talents to make this celebration an extraordinary experience for everyone.

We sincerely hope that this year's event will be a testament to our resilience and commitment to spreading love and joy through the power of music and worship. Together, let us anticipate a meaningful gathering that will touch the hearts of our community and glorify our Lord.

### Glynn Owen





## Church Library

The church library is a welcoming place on Sundays, with books, DVDs 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 regular reviews in the Beacon. Around three quarters of titles in the library collection have been entered onto a computer program which will make searches easier. New books and DVDs are regularly added to the collection.

We also provide books relating to the current sermon series for both morning and night church.

This year Beaconsfield Baptist was able to host the Australian Church Library Association Meeting, with inspiring Australian author and missionary Naomi Reed being the guest speaker.

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



## Shop and Share

Why is there a supermarket trolley in the church foyer? (Be assured – apparently it was obtained with permission!)

A heart-felt thank you to all who place groceries in that trolley. Every item helps. Those groceries are delivered to a food bank in Pakenham, where they are distributed to people who are struggling to stretch their resources to cover basic weekly needs. It might be your neighbour, your family member or you. Many people are blessed through this ministry.

Great appreciation is expressed every time we deliver groceries to that food bank. The food is received with a cheery greeting and given out with a cheery greeting, along with a listening ear and support in various practical ways.

The need for these donations has not diminished in recent times, so thank you again for your ongoing support of "your neighbour".

### Wendy Lyall



## Children's Hospital Activity Packs

This wonderful ministry has been supplying activity packs for young children in both Casey and St. John of God hospitals in Berwick for over 10 years. We have about 15 volunteer ladies that come and help pack on a regular basis and we always welcome anyone that would like to come and be involved. Presently we are packing approximately 1800 packs a year, which has been funded by donations from people in the church and also outside community grants. Once again we have been blessed with a grant from 'Casey Community Grants' for \$5000 for the next 12 months. Here is a letter that best explains why we have this fantastic and caring ministry.

Dear Beaconsfield Baptist Church,

My daughter Grace just came home from spending a few days in hospital, and during her visit she was given an arts and crafts pack donated by your Church. She was in a lot of pain and incredibly scared, but we were able to occupy and distract her with the different activities from the pack. This was the first time we've ever spent in hospital so bringing in crafts was not something I'd thought about.

So thank you very much for this beautiful kind act, you helped one little girl have a slightly better hospital experience! Now we are home she is happily sharing her pack with her twin sisters, so now you have made 3 little girls very happy (and busy!)

Thank you again,

Francesca, Grace (6yrs), Madeline & Leila (3yrs)

## Cheryl Reid



## Men's Breakfast

As we move into our 16<sup>th</sup> year of meeting for breakfast, we continue to enjoy the company of like-minded men who now mostly have retired and have commenced higher order duties relating to grandchildren and travelling. We continue to share our life experiences as God leads us through trials, challenges, joys and celebrations. Since COVID we've continued to meet at Ducky's in Beaconsfield, and until the recent change of ownership, we were a well-known bunch of men identified by the owner by our breakfast passions. You will find we average around 6 in number depending on the demands of those higher order duties mentioned above.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and share coffee or a hearty breakfast with us from 8am ish onwards (although some early risers may well be there before this). We are not structured, have no agenda, no strict start or finish time, no attendance record or minimum attendance required. If you find yourself needing some company on a Friday morning, then pop in and say hello at Ducky's, in the outside area under the ceiling heaters.

## Peter Joynson



## Community Assistance Fund

The BBC Community Assistance Fund is in its third full year of operation and continues to provide support and relief to those experiencing financial difficulty and hardship. Rising inflation, interest rates and costs of living have made FY-23 a particularly challenging year for many within our local community.

This year the Fund:

- Helped 29 families and individuals.
- Handed out \$9,600 in grocery vouchers in person.

The majority of people assisted were referred by family and friends. Many also came through the BBC website. A number of referrals were made by Orange Door, an organisation that supports those affected by family violence.

Once again, the Fund has been generously supported by the BBC community with over \$9,000 donated. The table below provides a summary of Fund performance during FY-23.

*Table 1 - Key Financial & Performance Indicators (FY-23)*

Funds Raised (\$)	\$9,413
Financial Assistance Provided (\$)	\$9,600
Number of Food Vouchers Given	33
Number of Individual/Families Supported	29

On behalf of the Fund Management Committee, I would like to thank you for supporting the ministry over the last year. 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 as we respond to the call 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).

**Glen Slimmon**



## Prayer Support Group

The prayer support group supports anyone who needs urgent or ongoing prayer whether it be for illness, hospitalisation, the death of a loved one, physical or mental needs or general ongoing prayer.

For the past year there have been many instances of people asking for prayer from within the church and externally. God has been faithful in answering these prayers according to His will. A highlight for the prayer support group has been praying for the VCE year 12 students as they do their exams and assessments.

This year a new email address was set up to send prayer requests to. This address is [requestprayer@beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au](mailto:requestprayer@beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au). People are able to use this email address to send prayer requests directly to the prayer support group. People wanting to request prayer are also able to call Pastor Duncan 0477 758 563, Pastor Rod 0423 498 019, Marian Watson 0439 339 105, or Kerry Ritzrow 0414 278 655.

We would like to say thank you very much to the wider church for your continued prayers over the last year. We will continue to pray faithfully trusting God to answer our prayers. We would also like to say thank you to the prayer support group members who are faithful in seeking to pray for anyone who asks for it.

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*

Romans 12:12

### Kerry Ritzrow



## Prayer for VCE students

This is the fifth year that we have been praying for VCE students, either in our fellowship or linked to members of our fellowship. We have a committed Prayer Support Group who pray regularly for our students. We keep in touch with and encourage our students by email throughout the year and pray specifically for them through their individual examinations.

After they break up for the year, we have an additional blessing for each of them, which has been organised by Rodney Langsford. Rodney suggested that we prepare boxes of "goodies" for the students during their last couple of weeks of study at home. Singlehandedly Rodney purchases all sorts of sweets and drinks, packs them in boxes and delivers them. We also fit in some encouraging words for our students to consider throughout this very tense time. This is a ministry unique to Beaconsfield Baptist, and is very much appreciated by all the students. This year, we have eight Year 12 students and four Year 11 students doing one Year 12 subject, making 12 students in all. Please pray for these students during this last term as the Year 12s reach the end of their Secondary Education, and the Year 11s make a start on their Year 12.

### Geoff Dunn (& Rodney Langsford)



## Monthly Church Prayer Meeting

Praise God for the four and a half years that this Monthly Church Prayer Meeting has been gathering to pray at 1:30-2:30 pm each third Monday from February to November. Thank God for all of the 10 to 12 committed supporters who meet each month to pray, as well as for others who pray at home.

Billy Graham said, "To get Nations back on their feet we must first get down on our knees."

*"If my people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves, and pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and heal their land."*

2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayer, I believe, is the "heartbeat" of any Church.

*"Let us then approach the Throne of Grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

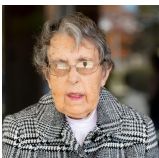
Hebrews 4:16

I would like to thank Kerry Ritzrow for her willingness to take over the Prayer Support Group (Prayer Chain) in February this year. After my time in hospital in November last year, I felt that I was not able to continue leading the PSG.

I thank God and give praise to Him for His answers to our prayers. My prayer is that God will continue to grow this Monthly Church Prayer Meeting, to bless those for whom we pray, and use this time of prayer to praise and glorify Him.

The weekly prayer meeting on Zoom, which was started by Pastor Charles Lazaro in 2020 when the Covid lockdowns were in place, has been discontinued. The majority of those who were involved are now committed to the Monthly Church Prayer Meeting.

### Marian Watson



## Pastoral Care

In my previous report I mentioned that the church (every church) has three avenues by which pastoral care is delivered to the congregation.

- Organic Pastoral Care
- Life Groups
- Formal Care

Organic care just happens. I hear my brother or sister is sick, and I offer to help. I call them. I make them a meal. I run an errand for them. Unfortunately not everyone is aware of how their brothers and sisters are travelling. From time to time needs are left unaddressed. Not because no one cares, but because people are either unaware or else they are distracted by other matters requiring their attention.

That's why Life Groups are so important. In a church our size it is possible for brothers and sisters not to pick up on or see when others are experiencing difficulty. We may not even be aware you're missing when we gather on a Sunday. Not because we don't care, but because life has a habit of getting in the way. Members of a Life Group will, more often than not, be aware of how everyone else in the group is travelling. As such, they will be best positioned to meet the concerns of their brothers and sisters in the Life Group. Such care occurs outside of Life Groups as well, but those who are part of a Life Group have access to consistent and even immediate pastoral support.

Formal care, the care I want to speak briefly about in this report, is provided by a team of people who meet weekly or fortnightly to pray for and (where possible) call on those who are walking a difficult path. Whether physical sickness strikes, or mental health has taken a hit, or some other need hasn't been met, a pastoral care team, when they know about such needs, can step in. In order to pray specifically for you, message you, send you a card, call upon you; we need to know of any concerns you might have. Please do let one of us know and we'll be sure to pray for you, and where possible, provide any practical assistance as might be timely and appropriate.

Presently there are seven of us who constitute the BBC Pastoral Care team: Jean Hall, Ellen Hanna, Jan Ketcher, Dorothy Clayton, Heather Young, Rowen Crouch and myself. We meet fortnightly (Wed 10:00 am) in the church, 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



## Social Lights

With Covid behind us, we have had a very good year at Social Lights. Our numbers gradually increased in the latter part of 2022, culminating in our December Lunch, which was a real highlight. We all brought lunch to share and met at the "Platinum Class Wynne-Yorke Theatre of Dreams". Our projectionist Rick, screened "Singin' In The Rain", which was enjoyed by all in attendance. The complimentary popcorn was also a big hit!! We have a firm booking for lunchtime on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2023, where we will again be thoroughly entertained by our resident Celebrity Projectionist!

Our numbers have grown throughout 2023 and we regularly reach around 20 participants at our usual venue The Cardinia Park Hotel. We meet on the second Thursday of each month, excluding January. It is always a time for a lively discussion and the hotel ensures we never leave feeling hungry. We have welcomed a number of new diners this year, but we always have room for more new faces. If you are young at heart and are free on any second Thursday, feel free to join us for a great time of fellowship and fun. I'll be happy to provide you with a list of our meeting dates. I can be contacted at [anng Geoff11@gmail.com](mailto:anng Geoff11@gmail.com) or 0448 962 673.

### Geoff Dunn



## Caravan and Cabin Club

There are two rallies a year to diverse locations around Victoria.

Spring '22 was planned to be a Roving Rally. This is when a trip is organised to move from one location to another. I had booked Taggerty Big4 Caravan Park for two nights followed by Painters Island Caravan Park in Wangaratta. Both parks are situated on a river and flooding was happening around the state in mid October when the Rallies were booked. We were able to attend Taggerty after much apprehension and park management contact, however the second part of the plan was cancelled due to the Wangaratta park being submerged. This was disappointing, but I was glad that I had organised two parts as we could stay an extra night at Taggerty. We usually go for five nights in total.

Activities at each rally vary, but we always tour around the surrounding area, discovering unique and interesting places. At Taggerty because of the volume of water around we saw local waterfalls in full flow and Eildon Dam levels were so high that the spillway was in action; it was magnificent. We enjoyed the walk from the park to the little General Store at Taggerty; the manager is a real old Aussie character. The park was not busy and we were able to have the large enclosed camp kitchen for a social evening, where club members participated in a fun debate. These events are designed for interaction to get to know each other better and have a good laugh.

The Autumn '23 Rally was at Anglesea, a lovely town on the Great Ocean Road. The large park is alongside the picturesque Anglesea River and Surf Beach. It had kangaroos grazing and sleeping amongst the vans and was walking distance to the shops too. We were able to have our Chapel time together here, the local Baptist pastor Mike Varney came. One of our cabin ladies, Rowen Crouch, knew him and this was how I came to ask him to give us a talk. He was particularly interesting as he used to be a scientist and dealt with body organ transplants. The Chapel/Christian talk themes vary. All are welcome, however the club is designed for people associated with our Church AND their friends, so there are people who attend who aren't Church orientated. I asked a couple of ladies who aren't associated with a Church about the talk and they said they enjoyed it, at least they didn't leave!

We had a social evening with a quiz by Margaret Baker, a poem recital by Alan Denny and a get-to-know-you interview of Graeme and Cheryl Reid by Wendy Lyall. This was all pre-organised.

Once again newcomers were welcomed, Lynn and Doug, long time friends of Julie and Rob Atkins. They plan to return. Numbers are around 40 people, which means that the rallies should continue. I am always grateful for the appreciative remarks and the people who tell me they are thinking of us, show interest and pray for the rallies. Please inform new people to the Church about the club. Some people stay in their van, while others book a cabin. It is best that they phone and talk to me. The club is advertised on the notice board near the entrance at the Church. It continues to be a blessing.

The next two rallies are organised already.

### Ruth Denny





## Make and Mingle

Our Make and Mingle friendship and craft group continues to be very meaningful for those who come along each Wednesday morning. We average around 45 people each week, some from the church and many from the local community and further afield. Many say how they so enjoy coming and have made enduring friendships and enjoy the Christian love and care they find at Make and Mingle.

Each week we have a think spot (devotion) and share Jesus' love, we pray for the group and provide prayer for any with special needs or requests. Thank you to those who prepare and present the think spots. We also have a regular newsletter.

Our annual Craft Fair in November is a wonderful day with hundreds of people from the community coming. This is a way to showcase the group and the church to the community. This year the annual craft fair will be held on Saturday 11th November.

We never intended to raise money in the group, but we have occasional pop-up stalls and the craft fair. This enables us to make donations to many missions and support local groups both financially and in practical ways by making and donating needed items. Our quilts and care bears and knitted items have provided special comfort for many over the past year.

We couldn't keep going without the wonderful team we have supporting the group. Our committee, the set-up team, and the kitchen team. We praise the Lord for you all. We are always in need of extra helpers, especially in the kitchen and setting up and packing up.

Praise the Lord for the blessings of Make and Mingle: TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths."*

Proverbs 3:5-6

### Ann Taylor



## Beacy Youth

Discipling youth is such a key area in the life of the church. As questions arise, as pressures increase, as the influence of the world grows, we need to be training young people to navigate the culture around them. On the back of a challenging few years, these past twelve months have been a difficult but rewarding time. We are blessed to have a group of young adults who love getting alongside our youth, creating a fun and safe environment to build relationships and learn to follow Jesus.

Each Friday we spend time in groups, studying God's Word and applying it to our lives. We're currently working our way through the "heroes of the faith" from Hebrews 11 and last term we looked at all the implications of the resurrection, from 1 Corinthians 15. Alongside that, the leaders share devotions or testimonies, we play games, hangout and share supper. This is a rhythm that has served us well over the last few years but we continue to look for ways to encourage and engage the youth. It has been a couple of years since we were able to run a camp, so that's on the agenda for the next 12 months.

As some of our older and more experienced leaders have moved on, others have stepped in and stepped up but it would be dishonest not to admit that our Friday night ministry is somewhat fragile. We didn't run at all in term one as we sought to strengthen the team and make sure that if we started, we could sustain it. Please be praying for God to raise up more leaders for this important work. Please ask him whether he's calling you to be part of discipling the younger generation. We need mature and wise people of all ages to walk alongside our youth. It's not just a ministry for young people to serve in, we'd love to have leaders in their 30s, 40s, 50s and beyond. Thank you to the current team: Ben, Dahlia, Liam, Tom and Yardley, I am very grateful for the way you continue to serve.

### Rod Thearle



## Junior Activity Group (JAG)

Once again it's been an amazing blessing to be involved with a small group of enthusiastic and friendly children in grade 3-6 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 2 years, and it has been exciting to see between 9-16 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.

Events over the past year have included: Game Show, Fountain Gate, Lysterfield Lake, Beach Party, Olympic Games, Board Games, World Records, Treasure Hunt and Messy Games.

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 adult leaders (Zoe, Dan, Sienna, Ben, Simone, Jess, Lilly) who have shared the workload as a team to make each event happen.

### Ken Agnew



## NextGen

This ministry is children focussed learning for those aged from two years to Grade 6, running concurrently with the 10am Church service. We are thankful to see that God has continued to bless NextGen. The average attendance was eight in late 2021, now it is closer to 40 children each week. It has been a great joy to watch the children unpack and engage the Bible teaching in NextGen. This year we have explored the Life of Jesus, the Psalms and Matthew. Our primary focus is to teach core Biblical truths and we do this by incorporating fun, worship songs and games, as well as class Bible time into the NextGen curriculum. We look forward to seeing these elements continue to grow and flourish.

I would like to sincerely thank our amazingly dedicated and energetic NextGen team:

Grade 5 and 6: Ken Agnew and Daniel Russell

Grade 3 and 4: Zoe Russell and Ruth Hainsworth (Term 1 and 2)

Grade Prep to 2: Sara Hoppitt and Tim Westendorp

Sparklers: Amy Fisher, Elyse Fisher, Dany Pop, Alisha Pop, Vivienne Hopartean and Memphis Wynne-Yorke

We are also very grateful to have our wonderful admin manager Jenni Jackson, and Eileen Hillis for donating craft for the Sparklers. We are delighted to welcome Sonia Sariman, Rebekah Rayment and Dean Milani to NextGen. Thank you again to all our NextGen team for choosing to give your time and talents to this vital ministry.

Ruth has been involved in NextGen for several years and is leaving to go on mission. Thank you Ruth for your kindness, commitment and love for our next generation. We know you will be a blessing to your new team.

Our leaders understand the importance of this ministry, and we are eager to see how God guides and shapes NextGen going forward. Our prayer continues to be to attract more volunteers so that we can achieve our goal to operate NextGen continuously from February to Christmas, and more immediately to fill the gap left by Ruth's departure.

*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



## Playgroup

Playgroup over 2022-2023 has been growing, with many new families coming in and staying, and we are so thankful to God for His hand over playgroup this year. Playgroup is a wonderful opportunity for non-Christians (alongside some Christians too) to come into a church, find a community of other mums and families, and to hear about God and His love for them, as well as being a fun, warm environment for families. We have had various themes over the past year, using the significant events in the Christian calendar like Easter and Christmas to share the hope and truth of Jesus with the families, and have also had other themes like 'who is Jesus,' 'thank you' and 'autumn.'

Playgroup is a multicultural, multigenerational group that even includes dads and grandparents and has on average between 5-9 families attending per week. We have been blessed by Make and Mingle's generous donation (and other people donating their loved toys), so that we can provide new outside play equipment that both kids and parents love! At the end of each session, we read a fun Bible-based story and finish with a poem prayer as a blessing over them for the rest of the week, which also serves to teach them how to pray.

We have been very thankful to the wonderful team of volunteers who faithfully serve God through this ministry, and especially thank Ruth as she heads overseas for mission and pray that God continues to use her for His mission. We are praying for a new volunteer to step up because of this. Eileen also makes a fun craft every week that the kids are thrilled by. We would love to have the room painted if possible; we took everything off the walls as it desperately needs a fresh coat of paint.

We have had so much positive feedback from parents on the lovely atmosphere of Playgroup, for both the children and parents themselves. They appreciate the good clean facilities, good outdoor space and the flexible, safe and friendly environment. Some felt comfortable sharing their problems, appreciating that we will pray for them, and we've heard lovely stories from parents who say that Playgroup has helped their child develop and grow in playing with other kids, communicating with all ages and that they are always so excited to come each week. One parent said their child loves Playgroup so much that while travelling to church in the car, they try to guess what the craft will be that day. We're so thankful to God working through Playgroup, and for the ways that He has brought many families into this community that seeks to be His light in our local area (particularly post-Covid).

### **Ruth, Cheree, Sienna and Eileen**



## Missions Partnership

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

Mark 16:15

Beaconsfield Baptist Church missions committee consists of a lovely group of people who have dedicated time to the missions partnerships we have in this church. Members of the committee are Duncan Becsi, Marian Watson, Liane Davis, Robin Mountain, Kerry Ritzrow and Jeremy Kilker.

Ben Agnew also supports the Missions partnership by providing weekly prayer slides about the missionaries for Sunday services. We would like to say thank you to Ben for his continuing contributions in this way. Thank you to Matt Inman and Hannah Noonan for your generous time and organisation of the Missions concert. There have also been many other people over the past year who have helped with the Missions partnership and we would like to say thank you to each one of you as well.

If you are interested in Missions partnership and Missions we would love for you to join our team. Speak to anyone on the committee for more details. The Missions committee meets every two months to support our partnerships.

### Missions we currently support

We currently support a variety of missions locally and internationally which have been prayerfully considered and decided upon by the Missions committee. We support these missions both prayerfully and financially. As part of this support, we maintain contact with each missionary group through email and phone calls and when the missionaries are in the country we are always welcoming of them visiting our church to update us on how they are going. Each mission group also sends through emails, and at times videos and short clips to update us and the church on their situation. It is wonderful to see and hear from these missions and see the way God is working through them to spread His Word.

Our ongoing financial support of these missionaries consists of a tithe of the money given every week through church, which is distributed to the work of missions to help enable these missions to run. A missions concert was also held this year to fundraise money to support our missionaries.

This year we have supported the following missionaries and mission groups:

- Eric and Kathy – CHIPS (Christians Helping In Primary Schools). We received a delightful visit from Eric one morning at church and he created electricity with help from our kids NextGen group and then went on to discuss the CHIPS ministry.
- Lauren Stebbins – Eleven88 Ministry.
- David and Eliza – Silk Road. Late last year we were also blessed to receive a visit from David and Eliza who also spoke at our morning and evening church about their mission.
- Matt and Femke Swanton – OM. Matt and Femke returned to Australia late last year and have been attending our church as regular members and we have been supporting Matt in his continued missionary efforts with OM.
- Elise Long – Philippines (Currently in Australia)
- Andrew Miller – DMI (Deaf Ministries International)
- Ant and Jac Jenyns – South East Asia and Pacific

For more information about these missions and the people we support please see the amazing notice board in the foyer area of the church. We have also prayerfully supported other missions and missionaries around Australia and the world.

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, BBC through the Missions committee distributed over \$30,000 to our Missions partners. Thank you to the church for your generous giving to this partnership.

\$4,494.50 was also raised on the Missions Concert night held on the 20th May. This was a fabulous night of entertainment and our thanks go to all those involved in organising and making the night a total success. The funds raised go directly to our Missions partners.

The Missions Committee will always welcome suggestions for new partnerships either locally or internationally and if you are interested in Missions please come and chat with us.

**Kerry Ritzrow**



## USEFUL LINKS

### Sermons

[beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/sermons](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/sermons)

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

### Elvanto - rosters, directory, calendar and more

[beaconsfieldbaptist.elvanto.com.au](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.elvanto.com.au)

### Online Services

[beaconsfieldbaptist.online.church](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.online.church)

### Devotions and other resources

[beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/study-guides](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/study-guides)

### Church Giving and the Community Assistance Fund

[beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/giving](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/giving)

[beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/community-assistance-fund/#donations](https://beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au/community-assistance-fund/#donations)

### Social Media

#### Facebook

[/BeaconsfieldBaptist](https://facebook.com/BeaconsfieldBaptist)

[/beacynightchurch](https://facebook.com/beacynightchurch)

[/beacyya](https://facebook.com/beacyya)

[/beacyyouth](https://facebook.com/beacyyouth)

#### Instagram

[@beacynightchurch](https://instagram.com/beacynightchurch)

[@beacyya](https://instagram.com/beacyya)

[@beacyyouth](https://instagram.com/beacyyouth)

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**AUGUST 2023**

