



TOOWONG
UNITING CHURCH



2019 Annual Report

The Uniting Church in Australia
Toowong Congregation

Loving God • Loving One Another • Loving Toowong



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Minister's Letter

Matthew Smith

Lead Minister



Baptism Sunday, 31 March, 2019. Joyce, Kanika, Bryony, Riley and Emelia were baptised, and Zac was confirmed - a wonderful celebration!

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm delighted you have this snapshot of our life together in Christ at TUC over 2019. Through diverse forms of invitational community, we have humbly lived with the imagination that we are, by our very nature, God's missionary people. We're continually seeking to give authentic expression to the life-changing reality of Jesus in us. This commitment from all the people at TUC has seen us live in genuine community, being available to share life together, see out our best and worst times, and sing a new song of praise for God. Invariably over these last 12 months, we find God is meeting us where we are, in our time, in our bend of the river, in wondrous ways.

All these pages reveal how we have invested our lives together and what that's produced to date. Through our ministries of care, we have seen people from all over Toowong and beyond receive welcome support and encouragement. There's personal growth and interior work happening in Pastorates. Transformational worship inviting people into the presence of God every Sunday is breaking new ground. Hearing the kids interacting each Sunday, and running around us, is the best soundtrack we could want.

Reading on, we trust you will also catch a sense of our shared vision for the future at TUC. Submitting to God's direction, it's our prayer that together we will be able to share the good news of Jesus in very natural and engaging forms that have ripple effects on our surrounding suburbs. Every person who comes into a saving relationship with Jesus is a life that joins in with God's big agenda for the planet.

Along with Clare, we hasten to thank the numerous people who pour their energy, time, their highly specialised skills and capabilities, their love for others and above all, their passion for God - into the life of TUC. I wish I could mention you individually, but where ever you serve and minister, please know it is accompanied by our very real thanks and appreciation of who you are and of the way you generously "sow" into the Kingdom.

Best of all, Christ has promised to accompany us every step of the way into 2020. We're absolutely blessed to be sharing the journey with you.

Grace of our Lord be with you,



Clockwise from top: Hamish, Amelia, Sue and Alice lead the congregation in worship after the baptisms on Sunday 31 March, 2019. It was a privilege to celebrate Neil's 90th birthday with him in August. Photo by Geoff Rankin. Gwen, Will, Val and June enjoy the Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas Christmas Celebration, Wednesday 20 November, 2019.

Church Council Report

Alicia McLachlan

Secretary, TUC Church Council



Baptism Sunday, 31 March, 2019. Photo by Geoff Rankin.

Toowong Uniting Church has experienced an exciting and fruitful 2019. Now, at the end of this year, the Council looks back with grateful hearts on how God's Holy Spirit has guided TUC through an exciting and eventful year with Matthew Smith as Lead Minister.

The Council thanks the congregation who have continued to give their many and varied talents in service of our Lord, each other, and the community. In particular, the prayers of the congregation were appreciated and valued in enabling the church to maintain its mission within and beyond the congregation.

Over the last year the Church Council spent time prayerfully reflecting on the church's values, vision and mission in anticipation of where we believe God is leading us. As the year came to a close, and at the church planning day, further clarification and consensus was reached as to what this might look like.

The generosity of the church was continually expressed throughout the year with generous offerings and donations received. It is great to see how God blesses others through the support of the congregation.

Several baptisms by immersion were the highlight of the year, with many young people acknowledging their commitment to their Christian faith.

A great deal of assistance was provided by congregation members throughout the year. Everyone helped in some way by providing music, presenting sermons, helping in the office, providing transport, welcoming at the foyer door, counting the offering and assisting with morning tea and serving coffee. Many continued to lead in formal and informal ways and some took up new leadership tasks. In addition, many people spontaneously cared for others through various means of contact and in prayer.

Playgroups and English Conversation provided specific services to the community, and the pantry was continually stocked throughout the year and distributed on the basis of individual requests and needs.



Celebrating outside on Christmas Eve, 2019.



Baptism Sunday, 31 March, 2019.

The Council extends their thoughts and prayers to members of the church family who experienced poor health and also their sympathy to those who lost loved ones during 2019. May all experience a time of healing in 2020.

The following is the Council's overview of the activities of the Toowong Uniting Church during 2019. More detail about church activities may be found in the other reports in this Annual Report booklet.

Council Membership

The 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting elected the following elders to serve until the 2020 Annual Congregational meeting: Dianne Hubbard, Garry Jennings, Wayne Middleton, Lauren Murray, Susan O'Brien, Will Stewart, Alicia McLachlan and David Vicig.

Matthew Smith and Clare Hankamer were ex-officio members of the Council.

Congregation Office Bearers

Jane Trewern remained as Congregational Chair and Susan O'Brien as Secretary of the Congregation.

Ministry Team

In his second year of full-time ministry, Matthew consolidated his time at TUC, faithfully preaching the Word of God, and building relationships with Clare, the office team and the Council. He has provided spiritual and practical support during decision making in relation to visioning, as well as to the leaders of various groups. In addition, his friendly and considerate communication with everyone in the congregation is very much appreciated.

Clare Hankamer, Families Pastor, continued to be employed for three days per week i.e. 0.6 FTE. Clare is responsible to the Church Council for ministry to families, youth work and children's work. She worked faithfully and tirelessly throughout the year to engage everyone in the life of the church and to encourage them in their faith.



It was wonderful to have so many people join us at the Vision & Planning Day on Saturday 1 February, 2020.

TUC University Chaplaincy

During 2019, Joyce Shi served as TUC University Chaplain. She provided a link between international students at the University of Queensland and the TUC congregation. Joyce facilitated TUC being a partner church for Beyond Brisbane, conducted Bible Studies during the week at university and in the church house, and met with international students prior to Sunday services to explain the Bible passages and the sermon. Joyce also encouraged international students in leadership, to be involved in TUC's Sunday worship and to share their testimonies where appropriate.

As Joyce moves into other phases of her life, she is thanked for her professional and prayerful input into this outreach to the international student community. In addition, her passion and unending energy in bringing overseas students to a faith in Christ is an example to everyone of Christ-like ministry.

While Joyce may be moving on she has offered to continue to act as a mentor for the incoming University Chaplain, Zac Li.

Office Team

The church office has been open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Garry Jennings continued in the role of Office Administrator for 16 hours per week and in 2020 is a studying as a candidate for ministry.

Lauren Murray continued in her role as Relationship Manager for 24 hours per week and in 2020 is completing a Period of Discernment.

Representative to Presbytery

Will Stewart is thanked once again for his proactive and loyal participation as TUC's representative in Presbytery meetings. He kept the Council informed of Presbytery business and outcomes and any relevant aspects of Presbytery operations.

Vision & Planning Day

A Vision & Planning Day was held on Saturday 1 February, 2020 when the Council and some 30 people from the congregation engaged in discussions relating to TUC's vision for the future.

Baptisms

2019 was a big year for baptisms, and we give thanks to God for the many young people who sought to affirm their relationship with Christ through baptism.

Kanika Browne, Riley Guyatt, Emelia Lord, Joyce Shi and Bryony Smith were baptised on Sunday 31 March, 2019. Zac Li also had his baptism confirmed on this date.

Melinda Tu was baptised on Sunday 28 July, 2019, before returning home to China.

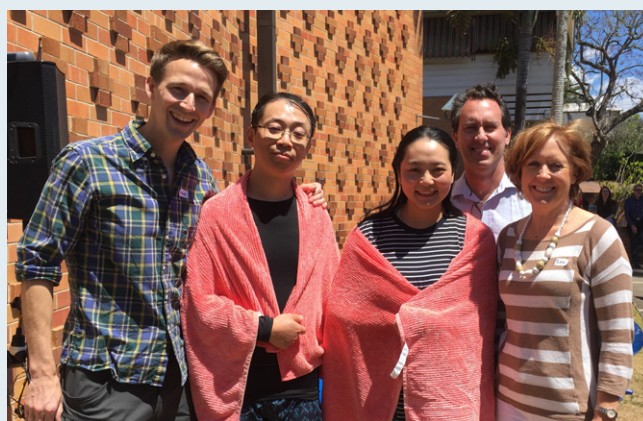
Felix Chen and Rui Xia, who only moved to Australia from China in 2019 and came to know Christ with the help of Joyce's Uni Ministry, were baptised on Sunday 13 October, 2019.

We also celebrated the infant baptisms of James Robert Burnham on Sunday 20 October, 2019, and Isabella Anne Driver on Sunday 10 November, 2019.

Please keep all these young people and their families in your prayers.



Melinda shares her testimony before being baptised, supported by her mentor, Grace Longbottom, and Matt.



Felix and Rui after their baptism, with Matt and their mentors, Stephen Longbottom and Gem Mackenroth.



Matt prays a final blessing over the baptism and confirmation group on Sunday 31 March, 2019.

Worship Team

Central to the worship team is creating worship which is a response to who God is, and what He has done. The worship team leaders, Garry Jennings and Lauren Murray, co-ordinate and oversee all worship at TUC. This includes detailed organisation as well as music and other creative and productive aspects of worship. The leaders also encouraged the congregation, including our musically talented youth to use their gifts, skills, technical abilities and artistic expression by contributing to the Worship team.

Care & Connect

Pastoral Care at TUC

At the heart of the pastoral care team is conscious Christian care. Its source is God our Father, and its goal is that people might experience not only human care but God's love and come to know Him or deepen their relationship with Him. This intentional pastoral care supplemented and supported the spontaneous, organic caring and sharing that continued to occur within the congregation.

Three teams under the banner of Care & Connect continued with Dianne Hubbard as overall leader. The Prayer and Care Team (PACT), met to address immediate and ongoing needs, the CONNECT Community team particularly focused on welcoming, and the CONNECT Clusters helped to ensure everyone in the congregation is prayed for and cared for. There are 16 Clusters at TUC and more will continue to be added as new people join our congregation. Kim Jennings is thanked for taking on the leadership of the CONNECT Community team.

Finances

In 2019 David Vicig took over the role of Treasurer and Robert Johnson continued to assist him with the handover process. The year ended with a Net Profit of \$1,113.29. One of the reasons for this was that even though our operating expenses continue to be a challenge, property expenditure was less than budgeted.

One of our most exciting financial spends over the last year has been utilising the Mission Development Fund as we explore the highest and best use of the TUC land. This is an ongoing process, and there are still many decisions to be made.

Worship Service

Attendance at the Sunday morning services was steady throughout the year. There was an average attendance of approximately 105 including children, with the congregation enjoying a notable multi-generational and inter-cultural ambience.

Prayer ministry was offered at the conclusion of every service. After each service, lively, interactive morning

teas, served enthusiastically by volunteers in the kitchen were enjoyed by everyone, giving people a chance to socialise and to get to know each other.

Aveo Service

Services were conducted on a monthly basis at the Aveo Aged Care Facility at Taringa by Matthew Smith who was joined, on some occasions, by volunteers from TUC.

Families Ministry

Clare Hankamer is thanked for her continuing dedication to family ministry. Clare's time and commitment to prayer for this work and her relationship-building skills with all age groups continue to be greatly appreciated by parents and children. She has built and trained a keen team of volunteers to assist in this ministry, enabling it to grow and to provide Christian education to TUC children as well as a strong outreach to the community, particularly through the playgroups.

Safe Ministry with Children

The Toowong Uniting Church believes that every person is precious to God and in following Jesus' example, we are committed to following the principles and policies of UCA Qld Safe Ministry with Children. Clare once again diligently ensured that systems, training and processes were in place to ensure the safety of our children in all programs and events. Lauren, supported by Clare, was responsible for maintaining records for Blue Card and Safe Ministry with Children and this was carried out in an efficient and thorough manner.

Training

Child Safe Training was undertaken by congregation members at various venues in the Presbytery.

Lynde Davy, the new Synod Safe Church, Assurance and Support Officer confirmed that face-to-face and online training will be available in 2020.

Children and Youth

The Council greatly valued the dedicated assistance from volunteers who gave their time so generously during the year to ensure our young people grow in faith and knowledge of the Bible. It is exciting to see the children deepening their faith as they grow in age and in their friendships together. More people resources are required in 2020 as this ministry grows.

Kids at Toowong on Sunday (KATS)

Once again, the Tigers group (pre-schoolers), joined the Leopards group (Prep to Year Two) in the hall during 2019. This group had three leaders who were ably assisted by parents. The Lions group (Years Three to Five), with two leaders, continued to flourish during the year with children encouraged in their faith. The Scripture Union Light curriculum is used for KATS.



The kids are enthralled by Clare's story-time at Playgroup! Photo by Agi Davis.

Junior Youth

Led by Clare, Junior Youth met on Sunday mornings. Each session encouraged the attendees to get to know God as they read the Bible, and learned to pray and share with each other.

Evening activities during the year for Junior Youth included a Pancake Party, a Moon Walk to Mt Coot-tha, Leadership training, cross-cultural evening, a sleepover and a morning kayaking at Enoggera Dam.

Senior Youth

Senior Youth met every two weeks on Saturday evenings for various activities including Bible study, games, ice skating and prayer. In 2019, Hamish Gomersall and Lachlan Pennell joined Clare in leadership of Senior Youth. They were gratefully assisted by parents for various events, particularly during Term Four. This year we farewelled our Grade 12s at Senior Youth. This is the first full group through the youth program since it began in 2012.

Senior Camp was held at CCC Cedar Creek, Samford and was once again made possible with the assistance of volunteers including Lauren Murray and Wendy Browne as camp cooks. Members of Senior Youth are encouraged to take part in Sunday services, and to assist with data and music during the service.

Kittens Playgroup

The last year saw the two Playgroups become more established with approximately 20-25 families attending each session. This was made possible by a wonderful team of volunteers, some drawn from TUC as well as mothers who attended playgroup in the past and who wanted to give back by volunteering their time. Claudia Diaz was appointed Friday Playgroup Coordinator in 2019. Claudia is now finishing in that position and the church is in the process of recruiting a new Friday Playgroup Coordinator.

The team of helpers are thanked for ensuring a pastoral care setting for the families attending, providing a great deal of fun for the children, and doing the hard work of setting and packing up. Bible stories and Christian songs were a regular part of the group sessions during the mornings. We praise God that some Playgroup families attended Sunday morning worship, especially when there was a special celebration, a testament to this important outreach into the community.

One of the biggest challenges for this ministry is to obtain volunteers for the Playgroups and continued prayer is needed to inspire new volunteers to offer to assist.



The combined TUC-Korean service on Sunday 15 September, 2019.

Child Care Centres

During 2020, Clare sustained her relationship with the Toowong Childcare Centre and Jahjumben, conducting activities three times last year for Easter, Christmas and a Creation Celebration in winter. Clare is always invited back for the following year as her visits are well-received by the children and the staff at the childcare centres and she has worked tirelessly to build a relationship between the centres and TUC.

There are two new directors at Toowong Childcare Centre, details of which can be found in Clare's report.

Korean Congregation

Once again, the church facilities were used by the Korean congregation. This congregation is a Faith Community under the direction and responsibility of the Bremer-Brisbane Presbytery. This congregation has continued to face challenges during 2019.

A combined service was held during the year on Sunday 15 September. The service was well-attended by both congregations and a sense of camaraderie was generated with an Aussie-style barbecue being held after the service.



One of our Connect Brunches, on Sunday 28 April, 2019.

Property Committee

The committee is thanked for their work during the year. In 2019, the Property committee consisted of Paul Briggs (Chair), Garry Jennings, Rob Lord, Ray Mackenroth, Ben Reid, Matt Smith, and Barry Whebell (for 10 months).

The Committee continued to ensure property maintenance was kept up-to-date and that good risk management practices and processes were sustained. Consideration of removing the Bell Tower and possible replacement of the disabled toilet continue to be on the agenda. Garry Jennings is thanked for efficiently administering the properties and tenants throughout 2019.

Prayer Group

A faithful group met for prayer in the church house between 8.30 and 9.30 am on Monday mornings during the year. Prayer points for both groups included members of the Toowong congregation, the local community, and Australian and overseas concerns.

Mondays@Midday

Mondays@Midday met over a simple lunch at Monday lunchtimes during Term Two and Term Three. Attended by some members of the English Conversation group and others from the congregation and the community, Jane Trewern and Matthew Smith led the group in a

study of the book of Mark, providing a simple and informal way of learning from the Bible, and sharing faith and the Gospel.

Connect Brunch

Held after Sunday services at various times throughout the year, Connect Brunch enabled new people to meet members of the congregation in an informal setting and to learn more about Toowong Uniting over lunch and a chat.

Pastorates

Once again, the Tuesday Pastorate met fortnightly throughout the year. This year an additional Pastorate was formed in mid-2019, led by Wendy Browne, and meeting at the TUC Church House at 7.30 pm Thursday during the school terms.

At the Pastorates, members took part in worship, prayer and interactive activities and a meal was shared at the Tuesday pastorate. The Pastorates encouraged and assisted the development of leadership, while providing an environment where people were able to get to know one another in an informal setting. The Council thanks the Pastorate leaders for providing a safe environment in which to explore and share faith, and which is welcoming to faith seekers.

TUCK into Breakfast

A men's breakfast was commenced in mid-2019 for the purpose of encouraging fellowship among the men of TUC. The breakfast was conducted once a month, usually on the first Saturday morning of the month at 7.30 am. Warwick Browne, Matt Smith, and Will Stewart provided a cooked breakfast for up to 15 men of all ages.

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas (MTUU) met monthly at the church, led by Wendy Geldenhuys who was assisted by a team of volunteers. Contributions from various speakers, time to intermingle in a family-like ambience, as well as delicious morning teas were enjoyed. Attendance of people from English Conversation was welcomed and it is hoped that more people from the community will attend in the future.

Stitching & Friendship Group

Led by Shirley Holden, this group met in the church hall for friendship and craft. Craft items included a wide variety of items, and contributions were generously made to several charities. Highlights were the Mothers' Day Stall, and Christmas in July, Melbourne Cup, Christmas stall and breakup.

English Conversation

English Conversation was held on Mondays during term time from 9.30 to 11.30 am in the church hall. The Conversation group was led by Will Stewart, assisted by Jane Trewern and six or more enthusiastic volunteers from TUC and the community. The classes were very much appreciated by people for whom English is not their first language as the classes were an opportunity to enhance and practise their speaking skills in a Christian and social environment. The volunteers are thanked for their dedicated contribution to this ministry.



It was also an honour to celebrate Dot's 88th birthday at the Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas Christmas Celebration, Wednesday 20 November, 2019.



Christmas Eve, 2019.

Looking ahead in 2020

The Council looks forward to the growing faith and discipleship of all people at Toowong Uniting Church, to the engagement of people not involved in the church, and to the equipping of our current and new leaders.

We ask you to continue to pray for Matthew as he leads and cares for our church and we pray that the congregation continues to be a warm, friendly community which maintains its intergenerational and inter-cultural character, with Christ as its centre.

Let us approach 2020, excited about what the future holds for our congregation, and with thankful hearts and minds, praising God and giving “thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love endures forever.”

Psalm 106:1

Families Pastor Report

Clare Hankamer

Families Pastor



The KATS Nativity Play, Sunday 8 December, 2019.

Thank you for your continued prayer for our young families, their children and our young people and their families. It is deeply appreciated. It's good to pause and see God's work:

- We began the year with a wonderful baptismal service for some of our young people. It was moving to hear their testimonies and to bear witness to their faith with a great crowd of people gathered on the front lawn at church.
 - Some highlights of the last year with the under 5s have been dancing in worship each week with the Playgroup children and parents and at the Childcare Centres. We sang 'This Little Light of Mine' in Term 4. The second verse is 'Jesus is the light, I'm gonna let Him shine'. Our Heavenly Father has opened these little people's hearts to his love as they sing and dance. Please pray that the seed of faith sown by Him will grow strong over the rest of their lives.
 - We thank God for Senior Youth camp in July. For the wonderful teaching and time for our young people to commit themselves anew to their Lord and Saviour. It is a privilege to work with Hamish Gomersall and Lachlan Pennell from Riverlife Baptist Church who have stepped out in faith to give their time in ministry to Senior Youth again this year. Please pray for them.
 - We also farewelled our Grade 12s at Senior Youth. This is the first full group through the youth program since it began in 2012. Let's thank God for bringing us through this wonderful journey of faith with our young people and their amazing parents. Let's continue to support them in love and prayer.
 - We had some great discussions and fun with our Junior Youth group at the Sleepover looking at Moses and experiencing what it's like to be a refugee. This is an amazing group of young people and I am so excited to see them form friendships and grow in their faith.
 - It was lovely to team up with some of our young families to host the Light Party and make Solar powered lights for children living in places where they don't have access to electricity.
 - Our hugely gifted KATS ministry team put together a wonderful Christmas Celebration and service for our children. It is so vital to see great leadership among us.
- I have briefly summarised each ministry area for your information. Please come and chat to me about it.



Clare leads story-time at Playgroup. Photo by Agi Davis.

Playgroup

We are planning to celebrate 10 years of Kittens Playgroup in 2020 which I'm very excited about. I am hoping this can be planned for the middle of the year so we can advertise it well.

The last year saw the two Playgroups become more established with approximately 20-25 families attending each session and a wonderful team of volunteers drawn from mothers who attended playgroup in the past and wanted to give back by volunteering their time. For some of the team this is an important step to get back into the job market.

We had families attend from many countries including Sweden, England, India, Thailand, China, Japan, Fiji, Argentina, Chile, Spain, France, New Zealand, Russia and Mongolia. We still have a waiting list for both Playgroups. The waiting time to get into Friday Playgroup is just under 6 months.

Volunteers: Sandra Hemming (both playgroups), Arini Stamenkovic, Kavitha Narasimha, Poonam Mavinkere, Prakashni Sharpe, Leevani Penman, Maria Jose Hernandez

Claudia Diaz was appointed Friday Playgroup



Families at Playgroup. Photo by Agi Davis.

Coordinator in 2019. It was a huge pleasure to work with Claudia who has many gifts apart from being an amazingly humble leader, with great pastoral and administrative gifts. I will miss working with Claudia very much but am thrilled that she is working back in her profession of architecture.

We are in the process of recruiting a new Friday Playgroup Coordinator. I am deeply appreciative of the generosity of the congregation in providing this position which is a huge support to me; freeing me up to continue with the other aspects of my role.



Joyful Palm Sunday celebrations with the KATS and Youth.

Kids at Toowong on Sunday

Volunteers: Bev Homel, Dianne Hubbard, Catherine Wuttke, Brendan Tan, Mikayla Hiscock

A huge thank you to this team for running the Children's ministry Programme in my absence over Christmas and the summer holidays and for the wonderful Christmas Celebration and KATS service.

The KATS ministry team continue to offer a high-quality teaching programme drawn from the Scripture Union Syllabus. This gives our children strong foundations in the Gospel narrative throughout the Bible, in the authority of the Bible and prayer. This is a huge achievement and one done with prayerful planning. Please thank the team and support them in prayer.

We are always looking for more teachers. You don't need to be a teacher - just bring yourself! The material is ready prepared and we offer lots of support.

We had some lovely celebrations with the children including the Pancake Party and the Light Party.



Rob Lord leads the Kid's Talk on Palm Sunday.

Forty people attended the Light Party in October. We had families attend from Playgroup, church and the Childcare Centre. It was crazy and fun! Thank you to Hamish who sang a beautiful worship song for us. A huge thanks to Dave Vicig and Wendy Browne for cooking the food, Mikayla Hiscock for face painting and to Claudia, Anthony, Jill Carter and Sian O'Sullivan for helping with set up and pack up.



Top: Our Junior Youth Group enjoying their hike up Mt Coot-tha as part of the Chaplaincy Walk, 26 May, 2019. **Above left:** Clare gives directions to Junior Youth before the Chaplaincy Walk. **Above right:** Having fun at the Junior Youth Sleepover, 17 August, 2019.

Junior Youth

Volunteers: Ryan Olsen, Narelle Waverley-Smith

It has been great to work with Narelle and Ryan over the last year to give the Junior Youth group a full teaching programme on Sundays during the service.

This is a hugely important time for this group as they form friendships that will be so foundational through their senior years at school. It was great to spend time with them on their leadership programme learning about serving in a cross-cultural evening, gifting on the Chaplaincy Walk and God's leading at the sleepover. We also had a fun morning kayaking at Enoggera Dam.

Many thanks to the parents for their support and especially to Wayne Middleton and Mikayla Hiscock co-leading another great Sleepover.

We will miss hugely talented Mikayla very much as she leaves Toowong to worship near the coast and are deeply grateful for her ministry to the children and young people at Toowong.



Top left: Team-building games at Senior Youth Camp, Saturday 20 July, 2019. **Top Right:** Mikayla leads art & craft at the Senior Youth Camp. **Bottom:** The whole Senior Youth Group on Camp.

Senior Youth

Bryony, Kanika, Emelia and Riley attended a baptism course run by Matt in March followed by their baptism on 31 March.

Volunteers: Lachlan Pennell, Hamish Gomersall

Senior Youth offered a full programme on alternate

Saturday nights with supper, games, Bible teaching, discussion and worship. This included a Q&A session, and a visit from Garth Calder, the Chaplain at QASMT. Senior Camp was held at CCC Cedar Creek, Samford and was a really special time of teaching and worship. A huge thank you to Lauren and Wendy Browne for catering for us all!



Above: Celebrating a birthday at Playgroup. Photo by Agi Davis.
Below: Members of Senior Youth hanging out on Sundays.



Childcare Centres

We have two new directors at Toowong Childcare Centre: Taylor Charles and Kym Macfarlane. While Kate Redward, the director at Jahjumbleen, is on Maternity leave, Monica Padua is acting Director. Please pray for them all in this important work.

Many of the Playgroup families (present and past) have children attending the two centres. I was able to visit three times last year for Easter, Christmas and a Creation Celebration in winter. It is lovely to get to know the teachers and children and to tell Bible stories and sing worship songs. The favourite this year was 'Our God is a Great Big God'.

Pastoral Care

We have been supporting a number of families experiencing hardship this year. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Welfare budget and pantry.

Safe Ministry with Children

Thank you for your support of the Safe Ministry Policy and being part of the culture of shared guardianship of the children and young people attending our church.

Changes to SMC Training:

Lynde Davy, the new Synod Safe Church, Assurance and Support Officer has confirmed that online training will be available this year. More information should follow from Presbytery.

Property Committee Report

Paul Briggs

Chair, Property Committee



Like previous years, the property committee met every second month and worked hard at maintaining the Church buildings and grounds to keep them safe, tidy and orderly.

Some of the major projects undertaken in 2019 were the installation of the donated coffee machine which is now used each Sunday, repair of the Church House stairs, and organising and running the working bee. The unrelenting issue of resolving the water ingress problem continued, with the modification of the Church roof downpipes and injecting the Church kitchen ceiling with a waterproofing compound. Other ongoing maintenance items included termite inspections, and updating the asbestos register. Consideration of removing the Bell Tower and possible replacement of the disabled toilet were also on the agenda.

This year, the Property committee consisted of Ray Mackenroth, Ben Reid, Matt Smith, Garry Jennings, Rob Lord, Barry Whebell and myself, Paul Briggs, as Chair. I would like to thank each member of the committee for working with me to provide this important ongoing service and also to Warwick Browne for assisting with the repair of the Church stairs. A huge thank you must also go to Rob Hubbard, who resigned from the Property Committee last year but tirelessly continues to put in large amounts of time and effort supporting both me and this team's work.



The garden, which has steadily been growing throughout 2019, adds wonderful ambience to our courtyard, and has helped make all our gatherings just that bit more welcoming. A big thank you must go to Catherine Zanetti for her efforts in cultivating and tending the garden, along with her team of helpers: Adrian Zanetti, Shelagh Griffin and Sue O'Brien.



The coffee machine has also helped give our courtyard a café-feel. A very big thank you to our anonymous donors of the coffee machine, and to Vanessa Sheen, a trained barista, for supplying us with Merlo coffee beans, and for training the team of volunteers.

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas

Wendy Geldenhuys

Coordinator



A typical scene at Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas: people chatting and enjoying delicious food! Photo by Agi Davis

Morning Tea Under the Umbrellas took on a new direction after the hostesses of 13 years, Gwen and June, hung up their aprons! While sincerely grateful for all their efforts over many years, a new small team decided to change the look of the morning tea in the hope of welcoming more people from outside the congregation while still offering opportunity for friendship and mutual support to TUC folk.

Café-style checked table cloths, seating around smaller tables, 3-tier cake stands, and a coffee machine with baristas (Matt Smith and Sachin Christian) helped to create the Devonshire café 'feel' for our first Café Ministry on 20 February 2019. Morning teas continued on the third Wednesday of the month, led by Wendy G and assisted by helpers including Solina de Lombardi from English Conversation, an important part of our set-up and clean up team, and a small team of bakers (Karen Abbey, Jane Trewern, Leevani Penman, Laurel Asimus, Wendy G). We were able to present delicious homemade eats each month, with numbers averaging 26.

As the year progressed, our team evolved and this was such a blessing. We also received a very special gift from Peter Hamilton, a cupboard where we could store all the items we used for morning tea. Thank you Peter!

Each month we had a program of interesting speakers, but always leaving sufficient time to chat and eat! Games and quizzes added to the fun. Frequently, Garry set the tone with gentle piano music. Those attending sometimes included guests from English Conversation, as well as from the surrounding community.

Warwick Browne spoke on St Patrick; Bev Homel spoke about the indigenous people on the West Coast of Vancouver Island; Natty Branjerdporn gave an amazing



Tiers of beautiful home-baked goods. Photo by Agi Davis

presentation about her time living in India as part of her PhD studies.

Katie Gould from Mercy Ships gave a spellbinding presentation of how the volunteers on the ships provide life-changing surgery to people who can't afford it. Katie was given a donation on the day and a further \$500 at the end of the year. Our own 'Big Morning Tea' for Cancer in June, sparked by Barry Whebell's request, enabled us to give the Cancer Council a \$700.00 donation.

Finally, our Christmas morning tea was so special. Narelle Smith made Christmas table cloths while Ann Smith sent decorations, crackers and hats. We also celebrated Dot Beavis' 88th birthday with a cake.

A special thank you to Matt for his vital input, and to all who worked so hard to make our morning teas such a success.



Our volunteer team at our Cancer Council morning tea.

English Conversation

Peter Hamilton

On behalf of Coordinators, Will Stewart and Jane Trewern



The English Conversation group met on 35 Monday mornings during school terms during 2019, providing an informal environment in which non-English speakers could gain confidence in speaking English and hopefully feel welcomed and included in Australian society. Over 3 semesters, a total of 95 students from 25 different countries were assisted by a pool of 10 volunteers with a wide variety of occupational experience. We (volunteers) were mostly retirees, and primarily from Toowong Uniting Church. Average class size was 15-16 participants plus 4-6 volunteer tutors on any given day (Barry Whebell when able, Ray, Sherry, Shelagh, Berilyn, Peter).

Typically, a class session started with mutual introductions and 'warm-up' speaking activities in pairs. One of the volunteer tutors would introduce a topic for the day as a stimulus for students to talk among themselves and with tutors, in small groups. Students would be encouraged to identify key points from small group discussions and report back, to further boost confidence.

Our students came in all shapes and sizes: exchange students, holiday makers, visitors on working holidays, grandparents visiting their children and of course Aussie citizens, sometimes with children at local schools. We volunteers gained satisfaction from watching students speaking more confidently, expanding their vocabulary and fitting more comfortably into the Australian way of life.



The above photos show a typical Monday at English Conversation: people of all backgrounds learning and chatting together. All photos by Agi Davis.

Morning tea provided a break in which they and we could chat about all sorts of matters in a friendly way. In the latter part of the year, we were able to run two groups at once, offering language experience at different levels. Less confident students were given one-on-one coaching with a volunteer, where practicable.

It is a tribute to Barry Whebell, long-term supporter of this outreach activity, that several current and past students attended his funeral during the year. We were also pleased to notice that some showed interest in learning about 'the Jesus story' through "Mondays at Midday", while others have chosen to become members of the Toowong congregation.

Tuesday Pastorate

Luke Reynoldson

Tuesday Pastorate Leadership Team



Just some of the members of the TUC Terrific Tuesday Pastorate.

There have been a couple of changes in leadership, with big thanks to Lauren Murray and Jo Reynoldson for joining the leadership team in 2019. We also thank Geoff and Renata Rankin who have joined the leadership team for 2020! Numbers tend to be around 15 – 18 each fortnight and often reached over 20 mid-year.

In 2019 we looked at prayer and the words of Jesus after the resurrection. We also looked at how Christ comes to us through Communion and his coming again.

The evening starts at 7:00 pm with dinner and dessert followed by singing and sharing. The study follows with plenty of time for discussion and reflection. We close around 9:00 pm after a time of prayer for ourselves, others and our communities.

A big thank you goes to Matt for his support with leadership and regular participation in the group.

We continue to support and pray for those who are looking for work, who have various health challenges, are moving house, have loved ones in crisis and students who are studying and face the regular stress of assignments and exams. We have also celebrated engagements, new jobs, good results, travels near and far and had lots of fun together. Anyone of any age is most welcome to drop in anytime!

Thursday Pastorate

Warwick Browne

Thursday Pastorate Leadership Team



A few of the Thursday Pastorate members.

The Thursday Pastorate, formed mid-2019, meets in the church house at 7.30 pm during the school term and breaks over the school holidays. This is a small support-group designed to build closer fellowship and strengthen faith. It was led by Wendy Browne and consisted of 8 adults; Warwick & Wendy Browne, Brad Martin & Jenny Murray, Neil Dutney, Ben Reid, Genevieve Michell, Betsy Stoltz.

The group focused on sharing, prayer and bible study. The 2019 studies were an overview of the Gospel of Matthew and the story of Joseph. Studies were interspersed with some Thursday evenings dedicated to contemplation – often led by Betsy. Everyone affirmed that the 2019 pastorate experience was very positive with particular comment on how people felt loved and how close they had grown as a group. It was encouraging that some felt more settled in the larger fellowship

because of belonging to a small support group. All were enthusiastic to keep going for 2020. Unfortunately the group lost Betsy who had to move to Melbourne for family reasons.

The Thursday Pastorate will continue in 2020 with Wendy Browne taking a break and Warwick Browne leading. Several extra people from the TUC congregation are likely to join early in 2020. The study for Term 1 is the story of Elijah.

University Ministry

Joyce Shi

University Chaplain, 2019



Joyce, Ray, Zac and some of the students connected with Power to Change at our service of thanksgiving for our connection with Power to Change, 14 July 2019

As TUC's Uni Chaplain for 2019, my responsibilities included building close relationships with university students (especially international students), having fellowship with students in order to share the gospel message, and discipling new Christians. In the past six months, thanks to God's help and the way He has generously worked through me, we have four new Christians. They are Rui & Felix, Jason, and Susie, and all of them worship at TUC regularly. We held several events throughout the year:

House of Peace

There were three House of Peace events in semester 2 2019, all of which attracted approximately 30 students. These events comprised of sharing the gospel message through meals, fellowship, Bible discussions, testimonies, and prayer, and also showed the hospitality of Christian families from church. Ray and Gem, Ross and Bev gave great support and were actively involved in the events.

Sunday Mornings

Each Sunday morning prior to the 9:30 service, we held an Easy English Bible Study for international students that covered the minister's sermon passage for that day. Approximately 15-20 different students attended this

Bible Study over the course of the year, while Ray has joined as an active member to encourage discussion as well as Zac. Some students gave positive feedback about the Bible Study and shared different testimonies during the study.

Discipleship Groups

In this past university semester, Rui and Felix come to my place to have dinner and Bible study together with Zoe and Godfrey every two weeks. We also had Bible study with Grace and Steve on Monday evening every fortnight. Through the discipleship group, we are not only learning more about God and the Bible, we also teach and encourage others to share their faith with students. Zac has a Bible study with Jason every Thursday afternoon to help Jason grow a strong faith.



Houses of Peace held during the Beyond Brisbane mission project, February 2019
Above left: At Ross & Bev Homel's home. **Above right:** at Gary and Sue O'Brien's home



Houses of Peace held throughout 2019
Above left: At Ray & Gem Mackenroth's home, 10 July 2019. **Above right:** at Ross & Bev Homel's home, 4 October 2019

Christian Events

During the past six months, I've also invited 10-15 students to join a variety of Christian events outside our church. Two were events hosted by Salisbury Baptist Church about how Jesus is the saviour and hope. One student received Christ at the event. Another event students were invited to is Life Group hosted by Hope Church at the university. I shared my faith journey and testimony with 10-15 different students there.

Power To Change Events

I was involved in a range of Power to Change International Student Ministry events such as a Thursday night gathering called Catalyst, and various fellowship events (e.g., dinners, outings, leadership training). These opportunities were invaluable in sharing the gospel through friendship ministry to a range of 50-100 students.

Friendship Events

I have hosted two big friendship events, one is at my home with 9 students to share food and faith. Another one was at Scope (a student dormitory at Southbank) with nearly 20 students. These events provided great opportunities for having a deep conversation with non-Christian students and building a close friendship with them to invite them to future Bible Study and Church Service.

We would like to thank Joyce for all her work and care as TUC's Uni Chaplain for 2019; she has been a tremendous blessing to the church! We look forward to welcoming Zac Li to the role in 2020.

TUck into Breakfast

Warwick Browne

Coordinator



Our very first TUck into Breakfast, Saturday 6 July, 2019.

A men's breakfast was started mid-2019 for the purpose of encouraging fellowship among the men of TUC. It meets once a month, usually the first Saturday morning of the month at 7.30 am. Warwick Browne, Matt Smith and Will Stewart provide a cooked breakfast for up to 15 men of all ages.

The purpose of the group is to provide sharing, prayer and support to men of TUC. The format is a meal together and chatting, followed by a reflection, discussion and prayer. The focus of 2019 was the Lord's Prayer as a framework of understanding how to pray and help draw people into a closer communion with God. We also acted as an accountability group, encouraging each other to see how God was working in and around our lives.

A consistent turn-up of a dozen men or so encourages the leadership to keep moving forward in the hope that the men grow in faith, confidence, and closer fellowship. TUck into Breakfast will continue once-a-month throughout 2020 with an eye on how to encourage one another and remain faithful followers of Jesus in our challenging world.

Stitching & Friendship Group

Shirley Holden

Coordinator



Some members of the Stitching & Friendship Group enjoying a cuppa before they get to work on their various craft projects.

Once again, our ladies enjoyed a busy and productive year in 2019. Our group comprises seventeen ladies and we meet on the first, third and fifth Tuesday of every month excluding school holidays. All ladies are welcome to join us.

In Terms 1 and 2 the ladies learned to make a folding shopping bag, macramé bracelets and fancy stitches for washers and hand towels. The Mothers' Day stall was again very successful.

In Term 3 Christmas in July was celebrated with a special morning tea – everyone brought a plate to share. Our craft for this was, appropriately, a Christmas tree. In conjunction with this we again supported community groups working with those less fortunate than ourselves. 20 pairs of men's and 44 pairs of ladies' undies, and 43 pairs of men's socks were delivered to the Third Space. In addition, knitted baby items were donated to the Mater and further items were donated to the Ipswich Women's Shelter.

In the fourth term the ladies made a greeting card using thread and Go Cutter including Christmas

designs, animals, flowers, etc. Melbourne Cup day was a fun morning and the ladies were very stylish in their fascinators! Our Christmas stall had interesting pieces once again, and how they came up with such varied items was amazing. Our group participated in the "It's in the Bag" charity, and also in the Wesley Mission "Red Bag" Christmas appeal. We also donated to the Toowong Uniting Church Food Pantry at every craft morning.

On behalf of our Group, I sincerely thank the Toowong Uniting Church for their ongoing support and for the continued use of the facilities.

This year, we are pleased to donate \$300.00 to the Toowong Uniting Church. We look forward to another year of fun, friendship and craft in 2020.

Worship Team

Garry Jennings & Lauren Murray

Worship Team Leaders



The whole church worshipping during Easter 2019.

God has continued to bless us richly in the area of worship. As a community gathered on Sunday mornings we are blessed with an abundance of musicians, technicians, preachers, readers and leaders. But most significantly, we are blessed to be part of a congregation in which God inspires heart-felt and authentic worship week after week. Highlights of the worship year included a reflective and joyous season of Good Friday and Easter, multiple baptisms of young adults, services led entirely by youth and of course a wonderful community celebration of Christmas.

Over the past twelve months we have continued to build on the blessings given to us in previous years, training and growing new members of the worship team. A number of young people especially have joined the band, some for the first time, and their energy and enthusiasm has been a blessing to all of us. We've continued to challenge ourselves with new songs, new ideas, new styles of music and new combinations of songs, old and new.

Our small but faithful team of sound and data operators have also blessed us with their service, sometimes in the face of significant challenges from the equipment itself. Here, sincere thanks must be expressed to Brad and Luke as our Tech Leaders. Along with Rob Hubbard they led a swift and professional response to the demise of the projector late last year. On the morning the globe blew, there was a backup plan in place before many of the congregation even knew there was a problem, and within a few weeks a new projector had been sourced,



We are blessed to have so many people of all ages willing to share their gifts with us as part of the Worship Team. The above photos show just a few of the musicians.

ordered and installed with a minimum of fuss, along with an upgraded screen. We're extremely grateful for their efforts.

Liturgically we've been blessed with great teaching, not just from Matt but from an ever growing team of people willing to stand up to the challenge of presenting and unpacking God's word. Having half the faculty of Trinity College in the congregation doesn't hurt, of course, but there have been valuable contributions from lay members throughout the year as well.

Then there are those who contribute in less visible ways, praying, greeting people, serving in the kitchen, counting

and collecting offerings or just taking time to greet one another with God's peace. On any given Sunday there will be between twenty and thirty people offering their time and talents to God and to God's Church as we meet and worship together. What a blessing it is to be part of community with such a buzz around meeting together to serve one another and the Lord.

We're confident that as TUC considers its future and the direction God is calling us in, our sincere and joyful worship of God will continue to be a lynch-pin of the community God is building.

Financial Reports

David Vicig

Treasurer

Notes on Financial Statements

The Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December, 2019, with comparative figures for the Year Ended 31 December, 2018, comprise:

1. Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December, 2019
2. Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December, 2019.

The statements are based on the cash basis of accounting. Capital expenditure is written off in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

A detailed Comprehensive Income Statement is available on request.

Comprehensive Income Statement

Net Profit for the year was 1,113.29 (2018 - \$52,448.06 Loss).

Church Council budgeted for a profit of \$27,030.00. Despite property expenditure being less than budgeted, the main reasons for budget variation were expenditures as follows:

	Total	Budget
Capital Purchases	172,310.84	200,000.00
Administration	30,143.94	40,000.00
Parish Expenses	42,444.81	65,894.00

Capital Purchases \$7,801.59:

\$3,970.00 Fuji Xerox Apeo Port V11 Photocopier (8.7.2019)

\$ 3,605.23 Sony Laser Projector (10.9.2019)

\$ 226.36 Trolley Bench (16.6.2019)

Offerings were \$197,406.50, higher than the \$185,000.00 budgeted.

Statement of Financial Position

Cash at bank, \$11,795.93 and on deposit at UCIS, \$427,580.38 (2018, \$20,714.79 and \$418,721.25).

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 December, 2019

	Dec 31, 2019	Dec 31, 2018
Assets		
Current Assets		
Current/Savings		
General Parish Fund	11,007.70	20,462.86
St George Visa Debit Ac		
St George Bank Debit Visa Ac	788.23	251.93
Total St George Visa Debit Ac	788.23	251.93
Total Current/Savings	11,795.93	20,714.79
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	1,677.86	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	1,677.86	0.00
Other Current Assets		
11 - Term Deposit	427,580.38	418,721.25
Payments in Advance	620.00	0.00
Petty Cash Float	200.00	100.00
Total Other Current Assets	428,400.38	418,821.25
Total Current Assets	441,874.17	439,536.04
Total Assets	441,874.17	439,536.04
Liabilities & Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Tax Payable		
GST		
Tax Collected	4,647.07	903.31
Tax Paid	-3,899.92	-1,204.92
Total GST	747.15	-301.61
Total Tax Payable	747.15	-301.61
Total Other Current Liabilities	747.15	-301.61
Total Current Liabilities	747.15	-301.61
Long Term Liabilities		
Suspense	176.08	0
Total Long Term Liabilities	176.08	0
Total Liabilities	923.23	-301.61
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	439,837.65	492,285.71
Net Income	1,113.29	-52,448.06
Total Equity	440,950.94	439,837.65
Total Liabilities & Equity	441,874.17	439,536.04

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the Year Ended 31 December, 2019 (Abridged)

	Jan - Dec '19	Jan - Dec '18
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Appeals - Collections	0.00	1,070.15
Contributions/Other Income	92,544.65	69,322.82
Donations - Received	2,851.62	2,358.95
Fund Raising - Income	3,634.70	0.00
Offerings	197,406.50	172,310.84
Rental Income	35,723.66	30,143.94
Total Income	332,161.13	275,206.70
Expense		
Administration	70,739.86	74,801.81
Capital Purchases	7,801.59	4,409.10
Christian Education	7,679.26	7,552.15
Donations - Given	10,705.32	4,760.59
Fund Raising - Expenses	20.00	0.00
Ministry - Local	97,752.00	96,098.00
Ministry - Other	41,859.01	35,319.54
Ministry - Plant	-2,503.50	15,327.70
Ministry - Wider Work	33,486.66	51,113.08
Parish Expenses	8,510.65	5,557.69
Property Expenses	44,289.61	42,444.81
Total Expense	320,340.46	337,384.47
Net Ordinary Income	11,820.67	-62,177.77
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Bequest	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	8,860.37	9,729.71
Total Other Income	8,860.37	9,729.71
Other Expense		
Other Expenses	19,567.75	0.00
Total Other Expense	19,567.75	0.00
Net Other Income	-10,707.38	9,729.71
Net Income	1,113.29	-52,448.06

