

# ANNUAL MINISTRY UPDATE

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2020

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# RECONNECT

## Phil Meulman

Since my induction as Senior Minister at the end of January, a lot has changed. What began as normal quickly turned into a radical change for Australia and Melbourne, courtesy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I knew this year would be a steep learning curve, adapting to a multi-staff church; another steep learning curve has been adding in the complexity of moving to digital technology from which to broadcast worship services into people's homes. But despite the challenge that COVID-19 has thrown GWAC and many organisations into, it has been a privilege to work with such an amazing and dedicated ministry team. I am blessed to be working with an excellent team of staff – Bree Mills, Bre Wilkinson, Roger Nicholson, Julian Barnard, Ashish Roy, Diane Craig, Jamie Yeung, Kerrie Jones, Bob Barclay, Gordon Li, and Sue Collier, and with our dedicated Governance Board; Wardens- Anne-Marie Ternes, Rochelle Ratnayake, Josh Humphreys, as well as fellow Board members- Jay Ratnasingham (Treasurer), Lynn Pryor, Sarah Su, Howard Walker, and Sean Hsien.

This year, we farewelled Ben Johnson and Cathy Eitzen from the ministry team. I also give thanks to God for Hilary Roath's role as Locum prior to my commencement on January 31. We welcomed Diane Craig as our new accountant, Jamie Yeung into our design development, and Gordon Li in a volunteer capacity to establish the envisioned Mandarin Ministry. Each have brought freshness and great support to the ministry team.

Bree Mills will soon finish up at GWAC after ten years of dedicated ministry, most recently as Senior Associate Pastor. I will acknowledge Bree more fully in my verbal comments, but suffice to say here that I thank God for all she has contributed. This church has been much enriched by her ministry.

Although not leaving the staff team as such, Bre Wilkinson is moving from youth ministry leadership into new areas of work. She has served our youth and their families with positivity, energy, and enthusiasm.

With the onset of the livestreaming of services, I am particularly grateful to the tech team, which has worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of worship services. I thank Brian Mills for his leadership, patience, and time commitment in this area. Additional thanks to Jason, Chris Walker, Dave McQueen, Will Thomasz, Richard Dennehy, Campbell Smith, Neridah Peirce, Ian Nyholm, Sean Hsien, and Weiyi Lou. I'm sure I have omitted someone. My apologies if that is you, but my grateful thanks to you as well.

There is much that happens in a parish with willing and competent Christians serving and leading in numerous ways – even when we are in lockdown! The ministry updates that follow in this Annual Report provide just a glimpse of the faithful ministry across the GWAC community.

As the new kid on the block, I am still coming to terms with the complexities of life at GWAC, including getting to know people and their names, but thoroughly enjoying the process. Again, this has been hampered by the restrictions placed upon us with the COVID pandemic. However, I thank you all for your prayers, your support, and your welcome.

I can't think of a more fitting prayer than this in thinking about the people of GWAC:

*<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. <sup>4</sup> I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. <sup>5</sup> I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now (Philippians 1:3-5).*

### **Where does God want us to be in 2025?**

Working with our Vision 2025, I see 2021 being a **Year of Reconnection!**

- **Reconnect** with Community Engagement in our gathered celebrations with our Seniors and the Families ministries, in particular.
- **Reconnect** in terms of multiplication in the development of a gathered Monash church plant; the establishment of an onsite Mandarin speaking gathered celebration, and GWAC supporting and assisting neighbouring churches.
- **Reconnect** through refreshment of the SBMC facilities with a major facilities upgrade.

This reconnection task is a big challenge with all that has happened in the past year, but with Jesus as the Head of the church and indeed the awesome people of GWAC, we can be confident that he will help us along the way.

### **Acknowledgements**

For the past 6 years **Anne-Marie Ternes** has been a part of the Governance Board; she has been churchwarden for 3 years and chair for 2 years. This year she steps out of this role in accordance with the Diocesan guidelines and I want to express my appreciation for her tireless work in these demanding and often thankless roles. You have shown real grace and servant leadership in this work, Anne-Marie, so thank you.

Similarly, I want to say thanks to **Josh Humphreys** for his service as a GB member and churchwarden over the past 2 years. His wisdom and input have served us well.

Finally, I also acknowledge **Sean Hsien** for his input on GB for the past 4 years. Sean took on the role of GB Secretary two years ago, writing up minutes and helping to prepare agendas. His service has been an asset to the board, and we thank him for this.

Thanks again to each of these people for their ministry and service in the Governance and church leadership.

Grace and peace,

**Phil Meulman** | Senior Minister

# GATHERED CELEBRATIONS

## LIVESTREAM SERVICES – BREE MILLS

The livestream services have sought to encourage the community in our identity as God's people, even as we were geographically scattered. We sought to build a space that encouraged people to grow as disciples of Jesus through musical worship, prayer, and opening God's word together. The integration of a "welcome lounge" for online visitors, and the "Zoom room" for fellowship spaces helped to keep the GWAC community connected.

### Highlights 2020

- One of the highlights of our livestream services were the Easter services. It allowed for creative spaces of sharing, reflection, and learning together. Feedback from those who weren't connected with GWAC but started watching online services suggested that these services had a significant impact on them.
- The flexibility of the team, changing regularly in line with changing restrictions, was fantastic. At each point, different team members came up with new and creative ways to continue to worship God, and to use technology in different ways. This allowed our services to mould and change over the (so far) 6 months of live streamed services.
- One of the highlights of our livestream services has been the music, beginning with the original compilation songs with those of all ages, and including the movement of our 8am choir to being a 'virtual choir' recording new songs, weekly. The music has brought life and a beautiful space of worship to our celebrations.

### Plans 2021

- The plan is to continue livestreaming services even as we return to live worship. There are many in our community who cannot attend services for various reasons and this enables them fully to engage with our church community.
- The plan for the following year is to review and form a welcoming space and process for online visitors. Live streamed services have connected with many people who may not otherwise have entered a church building. This is a great way to make and build connections with those seeking to know more about Jesus.

### Comments

The whole team is new, and a mix of our key visual and audio operators, as well as many of our regular technical people. Without them, these services would not have happened, and I am thankful for each one of them!

## SUNDAY 8AM GATHERING – BOB BARCLAY

The year 2019/2020 pre-COVID was very challenging for the parishioners, with so much to be excited about, especially the excellent preaching through the various series that took place. The 8am congregation is a very close family and offers various ministries to one another. Besides ordained

people, we had the privilege of hearing from our lay people as well. Besides the traditional services, there have been times when different styles of services have been used in worshipping God.

### **Highlights 2020**

- The Leadership team meets regularly to plan services, which include music, prayers, sermons, exploring mission and many other components in glorifying God.
- The Prayer Team has developed a wonderful ministry amongst the congregation, and we are most thankful for this small group of faithful people. We have seen how God has worked in the hearts of many who have come forward to place their burdens before the team.
- The support from the Staff has as always been one of encouragement. We are blessed to have with us, Staff who are dedicated to bringing God's word and their gifts to share. "Thank you" to Roger Nicholson for his endless energy in producing and directing the music for the services.
- There are many parishioners who faithfully carry out various duties, week by week. These include the choir, readers, stewards, welcomers, audio and visual operators, Lord's Supper assistants, teams undertaking kitchen duties and flower arrangement, just to mention a few. Unfortunately, due to aging and ill health, the numbers for these various positions have declined. Please pray for these positions to be strengthened with more people.

### **Plans 2021**

- Given the many unknowns that we are currently living through (COVID), it is possible that what we knew as "normal" days, let alone Sundays, will be different for some years to come. I'm particularly referring to services, administration of the Lord's Supper, and other ministries on and off the site.
- The advancement of IT (Information Technology) has opened up many opportunities for our Service Leaders and congregations in terms of how we present our services and the availability of vision when we are unable to attend church services on site. It is an era of change for all of us and we thank God for bringing us together no matter what the challenges are.
- We will continue to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus, so that we can be His disciples.
- We will maintain a balanced approach to the UP, IN and OUT dimensions of being a disciple of Jesus.

### **Closing comments**

We remember those who have been called home to their heavenly Father this year. We give thanks and praise for their lives in honouring God and being witnesses to many people. I acknowledge with thanks the IT support provided by Brian and Bree Mills. In bringing services to us through various media this has ensured that we still were able to honour God in corporate worship.

## SUNDAY 10.30AM GATHERING – BREE MILLS

The 10:30am Gathered Celebration seeks to encourage the community that gathers to grow as disciples of Jesus through musical worship, prayer, and opening God's word together. The community focuses on times of fellowship after the service, and occasional lunches. The service is often visited by new families, especially for baptism and other special event services.

### Highlights 2020

- One of the key highlights again this year was the January sermon series where many of our regular church members shared their stories. The variety of speakers, including many guest speakers, is always a highlight for the 10:30am gathering.
- Another key highlight was the playgroup service which occurred in December 2019. This connected well with playgroup families who felt warmly welcomed into the 10:30am community.
- Another highlight was the increase in numbers of those serving in different aspects of the service. Over the past year, we sought to build a greater variety of people serving in many roles, including upfront roles, and we saw an increase in the number of people regularly volunteering from the 10:30am community.

### Plans 2021

- The biggest plan for the 10:30am community in 2021 is to be able to meet together again in person! I am sure the community will celebrate well when this can happen!
- Another key plan for 2021, which was intended to be completed in 2020, was reviewing our current welcoming processes, and designing appropriate processes for our current cultural climate. It would be great to continue this in 2021.
- The growth in regular lunches after 10:30am has been desired for many years. I would hope this would be a key focus of 2021 and we would see enthusiasm from the community to fully embrace this as a practice together.

## SUNDAY 5PM SERVICE – BRE WILKINSON

The 5pm Celebration Gathering seeks to encourage the community in their 'UP' relationships with God through music, prayer, word, and preaching; in their 'IN' relationships through space to foster fellowship before and after the main gatherings, as well as foster relationships and celebrate the things He is doing in our smaller gatherings; and in their 'OUT' relationships with a focus on evangelistic/outreach services or shared meals before and after the services.

### Highlights 2020

- Seeing life groups and gospel communities take ownership over hospitality after the service. This was a real place of community, connection and welcome.
- We were beginning to see regular commitment of members of the youth ministry (IGNITE) attending the service and choosing to serve within Visuals, Readings and Music Ministry.

- Over the summer break, we planned and incorporated events that fostered deeper fellowship within the 5pm community. We had shared meals after the service, and coffee and dessert nights for newcomers.
- During COVID, we were not able to gather as a 5pm community so we moved our gathering online. In line with our *Joshua* and *Discipleship Journey* sermon series, we started doing an "unplugged" version of church. We would gather for live musical worship, read the Word, and open up discussions around what questions we had around the passage. It was a great place for our 5pm community to reconnect in a more interactive way.

### Plans 2021

- To train and develop those who serve within our 5pm Service- especially in areas of hospitality, welcoming, intercessory prayers, and preaching.
- To continue to grow the prophetic ministry at 5pm and offer further training to those interested.

### Comments

Thank you so much to all the people who serve within this Gathered Celebration, both the seen and unseen. It is such a blessing to have you share your gifts and time with us.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY: 10.30AM & 5PM – ROGER NICHOLSON

UP: we address God directly as we worship Him through song for who He is and what He has done, and also express our response to His grace and His call on our lives

IN: we encourage each other as we sing together, expressing shared faith and values as believers

OUT: those who are not yet believers may be prompted to learn more about Jesus as they hear and see our faith expressed in this way.

### Highlights 2020

- Our reason for existing is to glorify God, it's why He made us, and this is the music ministry's primary objective as we sing and accompany songs of worship and praise. This is our ongoing "story". We cannot measure this, we don't see what happens in people's hearts as they worship Him through song, but God does and we believe in faith that people's hearts are being transformed, in both believers and not-yet-believers. We are inspired by Paul's injunction to "sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5, v.19)
- It's been a year of upheaval for many, of course, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As each new set of restrictions came into force, we have adapted and done what we could to keep supporting our people in their worship through song. Since moving to recorded videos, I've been encouraged to see many people stepping up and giving this a go, even those who might have felt this to be a challenge, initially. Singing into a camera, as opposed to leading a room full of people, has taken many of us a while to adjust to.
- We've all had to learn new skills, e.g. singing into a camera (either onsite or from home), video-editing (in my case), and live-streaming operations. Seeing some of our seniors do this

in recent months has been a highlight for me, working with them on their videos recorded at home, advising, liaising and then compiling and editing the final versions. Also seeing some of our young people, e.g. Eliza Hayes, come out of their 'comfort zones' and take part in our online worship teams.

- On the A/V front we have had some one-on-one consultations from Murray Singleton for our audio operators, plus an in-house audio workshop where we shared skills and lessons learned. Currently, the audio-visual desk area is being re-built so that all 3 workstations can be on the same level for easier communication and also better spacing (which allows adequate physical distancing).
- New original songs, mostly from Sarah Su, e.g. "We abide".
- One opportunity for creativity that has arisen this year has been writing/recording original music for our "loops" that appear before and after our live-streaming Services. For the 8am Service, I asked a few people what hymn they would most like for this purpose, and then recorded a simple version of that hymn in my home studio. For the current version of the loop music for the 10.30am Service, I invited a few other GWAC musos to improvise some parts, to add to an initial 'loop' that I had put together at home. I then added their contributions to the mix (Sarah on vocals, Grant Beard on saxophone, Grant Bickerton on electric guitar and Will Thomasz on drums) and the result is what you hear before and after every 10.30am service.

#### **Plans 2021**

- We plan to continue live-streaming our services, even when we are allowed to gather in large numbers again. This will facilitate accessibility to our gatherings for those who are unable to come onsite, for whatever reason. It also allows for any return to restrictions, should that be necessary.
- Song-writing project (ongoing): the aim of this project is to promote a culture of song-writing from within our existing Music Ministry, so that at least part of our song repertoire can be songs whose themes reflect faith-journeys and testimonies from within GWAC. The Project has 3 parts:
  - Conduct song-writing workshops and 'open-mic sessions', where new songs can be heard and critiqued.
  - Record new original songs. This is with a view to (a) helping GWAC bands to learn the songs (in addition to music charts) and (b) promoting such songs to the GWAC community, probably via the GWAC website and perhaps to the broader community via YouTube.
  - Introduce new original songs to our GWAC repertoire (10.30am and 5pm Services)
- Training via video: using pre-recorded videos for ministry-training purposes, even when restrictions are no longer in force, has a number of advantages including accessibility for those who are unable to be onsite, for whatever reason. Video topics will include song writing and playing in a band.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Sanjay David
- Paul Halliday

### **New Members**

- Dan Johnston

### **Comments**

A number of our musos have not been comfortable to step in front of a camera, either onsite or at home, so we have missed them but know they will return once we are back to "normal" onsite, whatever that looks like. 2020 has been a very challenging year, but it has also prompted much creativity in the way in which we worship through song in terms of new song arrangements and "virtual" bands/ensembles, and has reminded us how much we all benefit from being together.

## **WEDNESDAY 10AM SERVICE – PHIL MEULMAN**

I thank God for all those who assist in the Wednesday service of worship at GWAC. There is a roster of faithful servants of God who minister to us week in and week out and have done so for many years. Thank you to our welcomers, readers, intercessors, lay assistants, music ministry, audio/visual operators, service planners, administration, and morning tea providers. Together, we exercise an important ministry of welcome to our weekly service of worship.

### **Highlights 2020**

- The pandemic of Covid-19 caused the cessation of Wednesday Gathered Celebrations from mid-March. Unfortunately, no services have taken place since then, and people have been encouraged to join the livestreamed services on Sunday mornings or catch up throughout the week.

### **Plans 2021**

- To recommence Wednesday Gathered Celebrations when restrictions allow more than 30 people indoors.
- To train and equip volunteers to take up ministries in this congregation.

# LOCAL & GLOBAL MISSION

## MISSION OF TRUTH CHURCH PARTNERSHIP – JAFAR LIE & YENY LUKITO

In relation to the 'UP' dimension of discipleship, the partnership with Mission of Truth Church (Partnership Ministry) seeks more deeply to experience the grace of God through Jesus Christ in the vision and mission to which God has called the people of GWAC. The Partnership Ministry also seeks to encourage and foster the development of godly relationships between the GWAC congregation and the Mission of Truth Church (MoT) congregation ('IN' dimension). Through the sharing of God's gifts and resources with MoT Church, the Partnership Ministry seeks to build up and equip the body of Christ to be witnesses in reaching out to non-believers ('OUT' dimension).

### Highlights 2020

- At the end of year 2019, an invitation was made to members of GWAC to be part of Surabaya Visit 2020 and six young adults made a commitment be part of the Visit Team. Although the visit had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, it is encouraging to see that further relationships have been developed between younger members of GWAC and MoT Church following the visit from Angel and Richard from MoT, last year.
- MoT Church held a Revival Service for children who live around their church plant in Kalimantan (about 3 hours' drive from where MoT Church is). The event involved nearly 30 churches across different denominations in the area. More than 500 children attended the service and many of them committed their lives to the Lord.
- Members of GWAC continue to faithfully and generously contribute towards the Education Assistance Project (EAP) fund through direct transfer, despite not being able to physically attend the usual Sunday gathered celebrations (due to the pandemic) to deposit the Change4Change coins. The funds collected during the period of July 2019 to June 2020 amount to \$10,158.55. The EAP fund is mainly used to provide scholastic support for members of MoT who are undertaking secondary and tertiary study, as well as providing English training to mentors/tutors of the Compassion program.
- The Partnership Team was able to organise a Zoom meeting to introduce Phil Meulman to MoT Church leaders. The meeting went well and Phil had the opportunity to have a chat with Pastors Sartono & Devi, as well as other MoT pastors and members of MoT Governance Board.
- We gave thanks to the Lord and rejoiced with our brothers and sisters at MoT Church, as they celebrated their 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2020. The thanksgiving service was live-streamed and a number of GWAC members were able to join the celebration via Zoom.

### Plans 2021

- The Partnership Team will continue to be actively involved in the preparation for a further Surabaya visit in the future. At this stage it is still uncertain whether there will be another visit in year 2021. The Partnership Team will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation

(both in Australia and Indonesia) and consult with the leadership of both churches before a decision is made.

### **Acknowledgments**

- Bree Mills

## **MANDARIN MINISTRY – GORDON LI**

GWAC's Mandarin Fellowship has been growing steadily since April. While establishing the core ministry team, the relationship between core members is further enhanced and individual gifts are valued and used. Through the 6-session *Seekers'* class, the Mandarin fellowship reached out to several believers. Through this evangelistic project, a team of 8 coaches were trained and they obtained actual experience.

### **Highlights 2020**

- The new Mandarin Fellowship, beginning in April 2020, has experienced God's guidance and provision. God has long placed the vision of establishing a Mandarin-speaking congregation in the hearts of GWAC's leadership and congregation. The present core ministry team is mainly composed of older members of GWAC, who are very committed to this new ministry. The Mandarin ministry would not have started without the prayer and support of the whole community of GWAC.
- By God's grace and provision, the Mandarin Fellowship was able to use Zoom meetings to reach out to the local Chinese community with love and care. We witnessed God's love and peace remove the trouble of people's hearts and sustain them during this time of isolation and lockdown. We celebrated the traditional Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival on Zoom and connected with more families and friends.
- Since Feb. 2020, a team of 8 coaches spent more than two months preparing the 6-session *Seeker Class*, teaching materials and conducting in-house training. This evangelistic project was implemented in Aug. 2020 with 7-8 students, most of whom took full courses. Our relationships with them were further enhanced. In addition, all coaches have received training and practical experience by using their gifts.
- Three prayer fellowships were set up. A close fellowship among brothers and sisters is being established by praying in truth and love, mutual caring and growing each other. Among them, two women's prayer groups take care of daily needs and prayer requests while the men's fellowship takes place fortnightly. In the men's fellowship, designated persons take turns in leading Biblical refectation, life sharing, and prayer, which helps to develop both bonding with each other and deep relationships with God.

### **Plans 2021**

- To establish a formal Mandarin Congregation and a full range of ministry teams, especially worship, welcome and follow-up teams.
- To equip and train committed members to carry out one-to-one evangelization by using D2B (from Doubt to Believe) material. This will supplement the Gospel Exploration Seekers Class developed in 2020.

- To conduct a weekly morning Bible study group, either face-to face or on Zoom.
- To establish fortnightly small fellowships, to deepen and enhance relationships among brothers and sisters.
- To assist and build the local community through a preschool “language cafe” with Chinese elements, together with the GWAC Children and Families Ministry.

## MISSION PARTNERS – PHIL MEULMAN

### **Highlights 2020**

- Hearing from Mission Partners even throughout lockdown.
- Being able to pray specifically for our mission partners through prayer focus updates and monthly mission focuses in our livestreaming services

### **Plans 2021**

- To reconnect more fully with our mission partners.
- To redevelop a mission task group and review our missions support

### **Acknowledgments**

Those who work behind the scenes serving and supporting our mission partners and keeping the GWAC community informed.

# NURTURE & GROWTH

## PASTORAL CARE – KERRIE JONES

At GWAC, our vision is to be "a caring community making, maturing, and mobilising disciples of Jesus Christ locally and globally".

The Vision 2025 is to be:

- In Step with Christ, prayer is a constant as we ask for the Lord's guidance as we care for others.
- To Step In, with one another as a caring and nurturing community.
- To Step Up, to pray and read God's word as we listen to God's voice.
- To Step Out, be led by the Spirit with courage to care for others in the local community.

### Highlights 2020

- A new initiative of Care Packs began early Term-1, before COVID19.
- Pastoral care meetings in Terms 1 and 2, to link isolated people to a support person or encourage them to join a life group or gospel community. This also included a new initiative in which people not connected to GWAC via technology received a weekly newsletter in the mail.
- A new initiative, whereby hand-knitted shawls are given to women in their time of need for care and comfort.
- Follow-up pastoral care with women and their families, as requested, or prompted by the Lord. This is communicated via email, phone (voice or text) and messenger communications.

### Plans 2021

- To invite the congregation to take part in the rescheduled six-week pastoral care course, *God's Love in Action*. This course is designed for those who want to refresh and develop their skills in caring for others in the church context, although its principles have far wider application.

Course objectives: That you will become a more caring person. That you will be drawn into a closer relationship with the Lord. That your biblical grasp and understanding of Christian caring will grow. That you will develop a closer relationship with members of your church. That you will develop new skills and insights to enable you to be a more effective person.

- Women's Retreat Day: A safe space to come together, hear some teaching and pray in God's presence. Also a time of fellowship over morning tea and lunch. To come away refreshed and energised to continue God's work in the world.

### New Members

- Sue Collier

- Hilary Roath
- Diana Pompilio
- Marcia Hansford
- Bethany Vaughan
- Phil Meulman

### Comments

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another as I have loved you"

## WEDDINGS & SERVICES OF THANKSGIVING

- Marriages entered into our Register: 2
- Funeral Services conducted at St Barnabas Ministry Centre, or off-site, by GWAC Pastors– 2019-20: 4

## TUESDAY PRAYER MINISTRY, PRAYER CHAIN, PRAISE IN SONG – PHYL AUSTIN

### Overview

Prayer Ministry is total surrender to the activity of the Holy Spirit within us. It is praising God, deep listening to the 'still small voice', sharing His love and providing a safe place where people are enabled to share their deepest needs.

### Highlights 2020

- Most stories are too personal to share. I hear words like "I can talk with you about anything", "I feel so much more at peace", "Thank you for your wisdom, care and support", "God hears our prayers" coming from the hearts of those who seek Healing Prayer.
- A highlight was when over 70 people attended our Christmas Praise In Song - led by Richard McNeill. We began with "We Three Kings" and finished with "Let there be peace on earth- and let it begin with me." (A prayer for our day!).

### Plans 2021

- We seek the Spirit's directing. Surprises are very welcome!
- We hope to resume Praise in Song, including sessions for children.
- We're awaiting confirmation re the Tuesday Healing Ministry: to continue as before Covid19, or does God have other plans?

### Comments

Thank you to the Prayer Chain Team members- Rosemary Kreltszheim, Pauline Lynch, Margie Mills, Margaret Martin, Miles and Betty Tiller and Susan Tucker. Thank you to Pauline Lynch, Andrew

Malone (Tuesday Ministry). Thank you to Lynn Pryor, Neridah Peirce, Val Fugill, Gillian Brohier and the MANY people who assisted with Praise in Song. “Thank you” also to Frances Whitehurst and Hilary Roath for being on the 8am Prayer ministry team.

#### Benediction and Blessing-

*In the darkness of this Pandemic, let us feel the energy of your presence.*

*In uncertainty, let us experience the warmth of your love.*

*In the midst of lies and half-truths, let us glimpse your truth.*

*May we enter this new year in peace*

*Trusting in our God of grace-filled love*

*Inspired by the crucified and risen Christ*

*Infused with the Spirit of Truth. Amen.*

## LIFE GROUPS – BREE MILLS

Life Groups provide a place for individuals and families to connect regularly in smaller sized groups (usually 6-12 members). As these groups meet together, they seek to journey alongside each other through the gathered study of scripture, gathered time of prayer, and pastoral support, growing in their relationships with one another, and encouraging each other in missional living.

### **Highlights 2020**

- One of the highlights for the life groups this year was the flexibility of many of these groups to move online and to other more creative ways of meeting together. We have seen many of our groups pick up new technologies and be very intentionally following up with one another and caring for each other in this season.
- Another highlight has been the leaders’ gatherings for life group leaders. These gatherings have been a great place of support and training for leaders. We have seen some ideas shared between groups in this space, which has been fruitful for this ministry.

### **Plans 2021**

- The Life Groups will play a key role in the regathering of our church post Covid. We will need to equip life groups to be the initial place of pastoral connection, discipleship and mission in a more intentional way than ever before.
- The continuing structure of each life group being overseen by a particular staff member would be helpful heading into 2021. While one pastor may be able to oversee integration into new groups and training, the system introduced in 2020 of care and oversight being spread between many staff has meant better follow up with life group leaders.

### **Acknowledgments**

- Jane Richardson

### **New Members**

- Greg Maynard

## GOSPEL COMMUNITIES- BREE MILLS

Gospel communities seek to be communities of God's people who seek to grow as disciples together (UP), do life together as believers (IN), and make disciples in the particular network or neighbourhood that they believe God has called them to (OUT). These communities can look quite different from one another as each seeks to embody the gospel to reach their particular mission focus.

### Highlights 2020

- One of the highlights has been the growth of various of our communities this year. This has caused two to multiply, the OIKOS community and the Vermont community. Multiplications can be difficult, and each has had its challenges, especially with Covid-19 hitting just as new communities were seeking to launch. Despite this, the growth of these communities and their effectiveness in making disciples is to be celebrated.
- It has been encouraging to see the many different ways communities have adapted to continue to reach their communities. From dropping meals to one another, setting up phone-tree systems, and walking together, the missional heart has continued even in lockdown.

### Plans 2021

- 2021 will bring a reset for many communities as they establish new rhythms for the new normal. Community leaders will need to be coached into reset rhythms as lockdown decreases and will play a key role in bringing healing and hope to their broader communities.
- Training Days have always been a key feature for Gospel Communities. These are days where they gather, with their core team, to identify the key areas they need to develop and grow in. In 2021 these termly training days can hopefully restart.

## WAVERLEY VALLEY AGED CARE – NERIDAH PEIRCE

The Waverley Valley Aged Care Team develops members' up relationship with God through prayer seeking guidance in providing this ministry and thanking Him for His answers to these prayers.

The relationship with other believers is a twofold one. Firstly, there is the ongoing team building and trust in each other. Secondly, the reaching out to other believers to be involved from time to time: guest speakers, liaising with other aged care teams, office assistance and asking for prayer support.

Out relations involve residents and staff of Waverley Valley Aged Care.

### Highlights 2020

- Our prayers for guidance and enabling have been answered. Increasing flexibility in the team has been most valuable when we have sometimes experienced the late unavailability of team members. My thanks to Don, Ian, Kerrie and Santhi. The development of new technology skills has permitted us to move from in-person services to Zoom services.

- We have been blessed with the contribution of the Lifestyle Staff in enabling those wishing to attend the service to arrive well in time for its commencement, which gives more time to chat with individuals. New residents have come to the service due to the encouragement of the Lifestyle staff. Their willing and cheerful assistance as we needed to move to a Zoom format in April is appreciated.

### **Plans 2021**

- To continue to hone our spiritual gifts, as team members, to serve the Lord in this ministry.
- To help residents to trust and serve the Lord by presenting a service that is suitable to their needs and interests.
- To pray for staff and that conversations with them may yield fruit and build God's kingdom.

### **Comments**

This year has presented many challenges to continuing with this ministry due to Covid19 Lockdown regulation, but through the Lord's enabling, we have been able to change from a Lord's Supper service to an appropriate alternative as we learned new skills along the way. We gratefully acknowledge the ongoing cheerful assistance of the Lifestyle staff at Waverley Valley Aged Care.

## THE WILLOWS AGED CARE – FRED KRELTSZHEIM

Our main goal is to spend time with this elderly group during our monthly Communion service with them, having fellowship through prayer, and sharing God's word with them.

During our monthly worship service, our main focus is to encourage all attendees to draw closer to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We make time to chat and encourage all those who attend the services.

### **Highlights 2020**

- At the end of 2019, Val Fugill, Russell and Patricia Mills, who along with Rosemary and me had been active participants at the monthly service at the Willows over the last 18 odd years, decided to step down. At our first service for 2020 in February, we had only Don Mahaffy, Rosemary and me in attendance. Fortunately, Judy Eldridge joined the team the next month, followed by Michael Van Dort in April, when we had the pleasure of Rev. Phil Meulman attending as well. Because of the current impositions due to the Covid pandemic we have not been able to conduct any services thereafter.

I have kept in touch with the Willows, but we are not able to visit due to the current restrictions. The team intends purchasing some Calendars, and as suggested by the Church, a few DVDs with Christmas Carols and Christmas music for the benefit and need of the residents.

- We had to struggle through our services with fewer personnel and no organist to accompany our singing. Fortunately, the use of a CD Player has been of some benefit.

### **Plans 2021**

- The main plan would be to build a new and dedicated team to continue serving at the Willows in this most important and needy area of worship.
- To endeavour to obtain some "new blood" to continue conducting this very worthwhile and rewarding monthly service which is welcomed and greatly appreciated by both staff and residents.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Val Fugill
- Russell Mills
- Patricia Mills

### **New Members**

- Judy Eldridge
- Michael Van Dort

## HIGHVALE RETIREMENT VILLAGE – RENUKA JESUDHASON

### **Highlights 2019**

- We gathered together with the residents at Highvale during the months of October 2019 through to February 2020. We worshipped together, prayed together and fellowshiped together.
- The residents particularly enjoyed the Christmas celebration at our service in December.
- For most residents who attend our service, this is the only church service they attend. They very often comment on how much they appreciate the opportunity to share their concerns as well as their joys, and being able to pray together

### **Plans 2021**

- The last time we met together at Highvale was in February, and at this stage we have not set out any plans for the coming year. We hope we will be able to return to ministry at Highvale, in some form or another, in the coming year.

## OAK TREE HILL RETIREMENT VILLAGE – DON MAHAFFY & DOREEN THOMAS

The Village comprises a variety of Independent Lifestyle Residential units, Freedom Care Community (supported care) and Respite Care.

### **Highlights 2020**

- In the first half of the year, devotional services were held in the Village Community Centre, where possible, and members of the clergy were invited. Similarly, services were held in

Freedom Care Community. With the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown, the Village's Community Centre was closed to everyone and consequently the devotional services were cancelled. Brief devotional services were provided for residents in Freedom Care but these services also had to be discontinued.

### **Plans 2021**

- When the COVID 19 virus has been controlled and government regulations enable the village to resume normal functioning, it is planned to resume devotional services across the entire village community, with greater encouragement for residents to attend and participate in services.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Bree Mills
- Margaret Hill
- Doreen Thomas

## **NELLIE MELBA RETIREMENT VILLAGE – HILARY ROATH**

We have all had a very challenging year, but for those who live in an Aged Care facility, this year has been extremely difficult. The isolation, the shutdown of facilities, the extra sense of danger from the COVID virus, separation from family and friends, the loss of precious times of worship in church services, multiple losses and griefs to live with and through. I have nothing but admiration for all the residents and aged care staff, who continue to stay the course as we travel through these difficult times.

Times might have changed, but God doesn't change. He has called us to himself and draws forth from us the worship that belongs to him. This year we have had the opportunity to experience worship in ways that are new and different. We might not be able to meet together as a gathered church family, but through our Zoom services, our Zoom prayer meetings, Zoom fellowship and phone calls, we have stayed connected with our brothers and sisters in Aged Care. We give thanks to God for those who have used their gifts so faithfully to facilitate these new ministries. They have enabled us to encounter God, in new and wonderful ways. Their faithful ministry will continue to enlarge our faith and experience of God and to bless us into the future.

### **Highlights 2020**

- The establishment of a new ministry to the residents at the Nellie Melba retirement village. Beginning on 28th August 2019 a service was held every fourth Wednesday of the month. This ministry has been supported by members of GWAC who are residents at the Nellie Melba retirement village. Our GWAC members actively building the ministry of Christian care and support within the facility include Bob and Veronica Barclay, Lily Yeo, Dorothy Francis, Gerry and Maree Thornevell. My thanks also go to staff members Bree Mills and Kerrie Jones, who have supported this ministry.
- The celebration of an Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes. We were joined at this service by our ecumenical brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Plans 2021

- Seek to reconnect, relaunch, re-establish and rebuild the monthly Holy Communion service at Nellie Melba retirement village
- I would like to be able to tell you when we will resume our services at Nellie Melba retirement village, when we can actually be with one another again, but at this stage of the shutdown I cannot. I very much look forward to gathering again as a community of disciples called by God to pray, worship and look after each other in person. In the meantime, the Zoom ministries are an excellent alternative. In every service and every encounter with Scripture, God will continue to speak into our midst his comfort, strength, and peace, giving us hope and giving us perspective, constantly seeking to remind us of who He is:

"I am He who will sustain you, I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you." Isaiah. 46:4.

# NEXT GEN MINISTRY

## SPARK- JULES BARNARD

12 months ago, I had only just started at GWAC, and what an incredibly different year we have had! We have been using a material called *Grow*, which has helped support the fantastic team of volunteers who help run our children's ministry. As well as using *Grow* we have done a variety of activities and 'Kids' Spots' to run alongside the sermon series.

During April, we decided to change the name of Sunday Club, and have **Spark** become the name for all of our primary-aged ministries. Since then, we have continued to connect with young people and families through a range of methods.

- We have run Zoom calls that have helped us to connect with each other, to connect more with God and to make some delicious food.
- We have done a range of drop-offs to houses. These have included little food surprises and several activity packs to connect with the Kids' talks and the sermons.

It has been a year of learning how to make and edit videos and overcome the unmute button on Zoom as we have talked the challenges of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdowns, but we have continued to connect in a range of ways with the children at GWAC, with each other and with God.

### Highlights 2020

- It has been great having our grade-5 kids help do some teaching in the Kids Spot videos, particularly the Minecraft series during the 1 John sermon series.
- We had a great Christmas Eve family service, with many visitors who came and heard about the meaning and story of Christmas. Following this service, we continued in fellowship with a BBQ, jumping castle, and games. These evenings have been a great way to connect with families in our community or those related to our GWAC community.

### Plans 2021

- Something that will be great to start in the new year will be some more intentional gathering spaces for families from all areas of GWAC, as well as spaces to connect with families in our communities.

### Acknowledgements

This year we want to say a massive thank you to leaders who have volunteered in our Sunday ministry. God's blessings to you as you follow God's leading in your lives.

- Ross Cooper
- Cathy Eitzen

## PLAYGROUP- JULES BARNARD

Playgroups function as a wonderful way for the GWAC community to connect with families who live in our local area, and to provide such families with a non-threatening way to experience Godly

community. This year we have continued to remain connected with many of our Playgroup families through group messaging, Zoom, playground visits and activity packs. The fantastic team of leaders have continued to connect with, and to pray for and with these families throughout the Covid pandemic. It has been a different year, but we have found many new ways to connect with one another that we hope will continue into the new year.

### **Highlights 2020**

- We have packed and delivered several activity packs for our Playgroup families since March. These packs have included games, chalk, craft supplies, and even home-baked goods. These packs have helped us to develop new friendships, and various ways in which we can be supporting these families.
- We quickly jumped onto WhatsApp with those who wanted to be connected in this way. Over the past 6 months, things have developed from leaders starting and guiding conversations to our parents jumping on and inviting one another to play dates at the park. This has helped create a sense of belonging and community within each of our Playgroups.
- We have been running a range of informal Zoom catch-ups. These calls have helped us keep in touch with each other, and are particularly impactful when the kids want to come and show each other different toys/ activities that they have been doing at home. Some weeks we would sing our favourite songs together, or parents would read their child's favourite book to the group. This has been fantastic! In term 4 we are planning to have a little more structure and will use some of our normal activities - such as craft, a storybook and songs.
- Being online has also helped us connect with new families who may not have connected with us in person- something to celebrate in this online season.

### **Plans 2021**

- The leadership team are exploring new ways that we can connect with families within our community by looking at other programs to run alongside our Playgroups for 2021.
- We want to keep using WhatsApp, which has helped us to be more connected as a community this year. We are looking forward to seeing how this can help us to connect and maintain connection with the families moving forward.

### **Acknowledgments**

This year we want to say a massive thank you to leaders who have volunteered in our Sunday ministry. God's blessings to you as you follow God's leading in your lives.

- Clare Bilton-Roos

### **Comments**

A massive thank you to all of the team who have adapted and responded to the ever-changing needs and restrictions of doing life with families in our community. If you would like to find out more about Playgroups, feel free to be in touch.

## **KIDS HOPE- JULES BARNARD, BARRY ROBERTS**

Kids Hope is a program whereby churches bring hope to children in public primary schools by facilitating a relationship between each child and a caring church member. GWAC participated in this

program with Glen Waverley South Primary School for many years up until December 2018 when we withdrew from the program. In late 2019 the GWAC Governance Board decided to recommence the program at Glen Waverley South Primary and the CEO of Kids Hope Aus was invited to speak to all GWAC congregations to reignite interest in church members becoming mentors in the Kids Hope program. This proved to be very successful and many people were encouraged to express interest in supporting the program. Arrangements were made with the school to re-establish the program in Term 1 of 2020 and ten volunteer mentors completed the required training program after obtaining the necessary security clearances. Unfortunately, COVID 19 intervened and it was just not possible to get the program re-established in 2020. We are hoping that Covid-19 won't delay us from being able to start in Term 1 of 2021.

- Relationship with God: The Kids Hope Aus program enjoys the full support of the GWAC community, which provides a prayer support partner for each mentor and is regularly supported by our corporate prayers.
- Relationship with other believers: Kids Hope mentors will meet regularly as a group to support each other in prayer and to share experience.
- Relationship with those who are not yet believers: The Kids Hope Aus program is a marvellous outreach ministry linking church communities with public primary school teachers, families and particularly children in need of extra support. Although a secular program, mentors have the opportunity to display their Christian love, to care and support, to encourage the child and to help build self-esteem.

### **Highlights 2020**

- We want to praise God for our 10 Mentors, and our Kids Hope Coordinator- Barry Roberts, expressing interest last year. Team members have all received their Kids Hope training and fulfilled their Child Safe requirements and are ready to start as soon as we are able to do so.
- Because of the relationship built through Kids Hope, we decided that we would donate the offering from Phil's induction service to Glen Waverley South Primary School's student welfare and support budget.

### **Plans 2021**

- We are very excited to start connecting with Glen Waverley South P S through our fantastic team of mentors.
- We do intend to start next year!
- Please pray for more mentors to connect with the Kids Hope ministry for 2021.

### **Comments**

A massive thank you to all of the mentors who worked so hard to get the tick of approval before the start of term 2 (our former intended starting date) and have waited throughout the year to see if they were going to start. Thank you so much for all your hard work!

If you would like to find out how 1 hour of your week can change a life, Barry or I would love to have a conversation with you about the life-changing ministry of Kids Hope.

# BAPTISMS & DEDICATIONS, CONFIRMATIONS

## Highlights 2019-20

- Baptisms & Dedications: 3
- Confirmations: 5
- Reception: 3

## IGNITE/YOUTH – BRE WILKINSON

Our vision is to create a place for young people to come together and build relationships within their community whilst exploring Christianity and their relationship with God, in order to understand how they can live out God's mission.

## Highlights 2020

- Being able to watch the youth build stronger relationships and bonds within their community groups. During this Covid season the youth have been eager to connect with each other and grow into friendships they may otherwise not have. They have organised their own gatherings outside of the Friday Night time, and have run their own Bible studies and prayer groups. This has been a huge highlight of the year
- Seeing new youth come to be a part of IGNITE, even online!!, and feel welcomed by our current community.
- This year, to manage gathering on ZOOM, we brought our Year 6-9 youth together as a Junior High gathering. Here we have seen incredible growth in fellowship and authentic community. It has been so good to see our young people gather together and share with one another.
- The youth camp is always a huge highlight. This year we had to hold it all on ZOOM, which was a real hit! We had a number of youth share how they have reconnected with God in this time. We had cooking nights, online games, card making and zoom worship nights. Many young people shared testimonies about what God did in their lives through this time.

## Plans 2021

- A renewed focus on schools ministry. In previous years, IGNITE has partnered with Ryan Holt and his work at Caulfield Grammar School. Next year we are hoping to see a stronger connection between our on-campus presence and pathways into IGNITE.
- Worship Nights have always been a place where the youth can respond to the gospel and encounter Jesus. Next year our hope is to see these worship nights being run by a different community - to empower our young people to lead themselves.
- To have "Worship Training" nights throughout the year, where we can apprentice the youth in all the elements involved in running a worship night; from band to AV to preaching and leading.

- To continue to use the apprenticeship model of leadership so that our current IGNITE leaders can coach our senior youth as community group leaders – leading either similar-age peers or a younger community group.

### **Acknowledgements**

- Bre Wilkinson
- Assaad Issa

### **New members**

- Chris Walker
- Ashleigh Batchelor
- Nadine Batchelor

### **Comments**

I just want to say a huge thanks to all those at GWAC who have supported me in my time in Youth Ministry. I am so excited for what God has in store for our youth and youth leaders. To all the parents who have hosted community groups, stayed back to clean up and sent through words of encouragement to the team - I want to personally thank you. These simple things boost our energy and encourage us to give more! We couldn't do it without your partnership.

Blessings,

Bre

# YOUNG ADULTS

## YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY- BRE WILKINSON

This ministry seeks to grow YAs in their relationship with God through involvement in the 5pm Gathered Celebration, Life Groups and Gospel Communities. As a YA community, this ministry seeks to place YAs into discipling relationships where they can journey with each other and seek to share how God has been growing and challenging them. Our YAs are encouraged to be members of a Gospel Community which they can use as a vehicle for doing life with others and reaching out to a specific neighbourhood or network.

### Highlights 2020

- **STUDIO 7:** The Studio 7 YA Community has continued to meet over the COVID season and welcomed all our first-year uni students into their community. We have seen this gathering grow in authentic community as they continue to do all of life together.
- **YA GATHERINGS:** Over the year we have tried to gather the young adults all together, especially since we haven't been able to meet face to face. We have seen these gatherings be a place of welcome and connection particularly with new people.

### Plans 2021

- The hope is that next year, there will be a real focus on training and equipping missional young adult leaders more effectively. There is a new LAUNCH leadership program starting in 2021 which should be a place for those leaders to grow and develop.
- To build a YA team that will take on responsibility for outreach gatherings, our Young Adults Retreat and social nights, and have a voice in what content and teaching we cover in the YA community.
- To launch a few different discipleship groups. These will be places of accountability and discipleship.

# SENIORS

## SENIORS MINISTRY- PHIL MEULMAN

“This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Always on the move with fellowship and activities the seniors' groups definitely enjoy their time together in and out of the church. There is lots of fun, food, fellowship, and an abundance of good humour. The seniors, many in their 80s and 90s, are involved in many different activities and ministries such as: MU & Friends, Creative Craft, TYB (Train Your Brain), EDI (Easy Does It), GWAC Walkers, MatesPlus, Life Groups, Prayer Ministry, Nurture & Growth (visiting), leading services at four Aged Care Facilities, leading and serving in all aspects of our Gathered Celebrations on Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Seniors Ministry is an important part of the life of GWAC and like all ministries has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Sadly, all ministry activities had to cease. Fortunately, there has been some pastoral support and follow up of people and there have been occasional Zoom catchups for some of the participants.

As restrictions ease it is hoped to resume many, if not all of these activities as people feel comfortable returning face to face. It will be a challenge reconnecting and we pray that God will raise up the necessary energy and enthusiasm among the committed core to reach out in Jesus' name and serve in these areas.

I encourage all GWAC members and their friends, 60 and over, to become part of this exciting ministry group. Whether you would like to volunteer or would like to benefit from the group activities, you are welcome. Your skills, abilities and maturity are needed.

## MU & FRIENDS – LYNN PRYOR

The monthly gathering of MU & Friends always provides opportunity for worship, learning from Scripture and fellowship with one another, enabling us to encourage each other in our journey with the Lord. Regular participants are encouraged to invite their friends to share in our meetings. Guest speakers and outings, such as dinner at a restaurant, enable us to reach out to family and friends, to befriend them with a view to sharing the gospel.

### Highlights 2020

- As we have had little opportunity to meet through this past year, there is nothing exceptional to report. Some of our members have been unwell, giving opportunity to pray for healing, and also to share *Joy Boxes* - small boxes containing items to encourage and uplift in difficult times.
- As the pandemic drags on, we have begun to gather on Zoom, with a short time of worship, and chatting.

### **Plans for 2021**

As we have not yet had an annual meeting or formed a Committee, we have not yet begun to plan for the next year.

## **CREATIVE CRAFT GROUP – LESLEY GOULLET**

Our opening sessions always include bringing our joys and sorrows to God as we share our problems etc with each other.

### **Highlights 2020**

- After returning after the Christmas break, we heard that one of our members had contracted cancer. We were permitted to follow the course of her treatment and to hear of her trust in God that is enabling her to carry on with the treatment.
- The husband of one of our members has had a heart problem and we were happy to hear of good results from trust in God and the appropriate treatment.

### **Plans 2021**

- We have kept in touch with all our members by phone. They are all looking forward to returning to craft next year. They will be encouraged to help with the running of the group.

### **Final Comments**

As we have only had 3 sessions this year, a lot of our planning for next year will be left until we are able to meet together, when we see the way things turn out after lockdown has finished.

## **TRAIN YOUR BRAIN (TYB) – NERIDAH PEIRCE & THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The Train Your Brain Team runs a monthly event that welcomes all members of the community. Our up relationship with the Lord through prayer is a vital part of this work. In outreach to believers and non-believers we seek the assistance of 30 volunteers to run the various activities, and the office for forwarding information. The team liaises with other Seniors' Ministries to produce a newsletter of events for distribution both within GWAC and the wider community. In our outreach to the wider community, we seek to build relationships with all who join us each month. We have worked to build a relationship with Monash Council to help us to access the wider community.

### **Highlights 2020**

- In this reporting period we had just four events, in November and December 2019 and in February and March this year, due to the Covid19 lockdown regulations coming into force. All four events were well attended and well received by participants. Unfortunately planning for the remainder of the year has, of necessity, been placed on hold.

### **Plans 2021**

- To increase outreach to the wider community in an endeavour to have conversations with community members that will bear fruit for God's kingdom.

- To further develop our newsletter, WOTSON4Seniors@GWAC, to improve our communication both within GWAC and the wider community e.g. using short accounts and photos of previous events as well as notification of future events.
- To continue to widen the scope of topics relevant to Seniors in the Topic for the Month.
- To increase the number of volunteers willing and able to assist activity leaders.
- To continue developing links with Monash Council to increase outreach possibilities

### **Comments**

The Train Your Brain Team looks forward to resuming the Train Your Brain program in 2021, in conjunction with other Seniors' Ministries, to foster outreach both within GWAC and the wider community.

## **EASY DOES IT (EDI) – WILL JERRAM**

Easy Does It is a weekly exercise session for Seniors. It is divided into groups to cater for a wide diversity of needs and abilities of participants. Easy Does It welcomes participants from the wider community to join the activity

### **Highlights 2020**

- Easy Does It has maintained the attendance numbers. The gentle "chair based" group ranged from 7 to 14 participants with the Hall group averaging 30 plus participants.
- During this reporting period it was only possible to run until March 2020 due to Covid19 lockdown regulations coming into force.

### **Plans 2021**

- To continue to improve our utilisation of GWAC's Elvanto church mgt system for communication and planning.
- To employ a physiotherapist to work with the "Hall group" and professional oversight for the "Chair Based group".

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Sarah Edwards

### **Comments**

- We would like to thank Sarah Edwards for her fantastic contribution to Easy Does It. Her professional guidance has been highly valued by all.
- The EDI Team would like to thank our volunteers who provide our most welcome half time water and a most enjoyable afternoon tea for us all to enjoy with a chat after our exercise time.
- For many years Maurice and Astrid participated in the "Chair Based" group. Sadly, Maurice passed away in May. Our condolences have been conveyed to Astrid.

## GWAC WALKERS – JOHN BUTCHER

The Coronavirus has meant that at the time of the writing of this report we have completed only one walk. The rest have been cancelled after consultation with the Senior Minister. We hope to resume walking in November 2020 and hopefully complete two more walks this year.

### Highlights 2020

- Our one completed walk was the Spotswood to Williamstown Walk. We made great use of the suburban train system and the walk was attended by most of our regular walkers. Because we get advertising on the Monash Council media, we were confident of more newcomers joining us but unfortunately the Coronavirus intervened.

### Plans 2021

- If we are allowed to resume walking in November, we hope to complete two relatively local walks which don't involve carpooling.
- In 2021, we hope to resume a full program of walks while remaining within government guidelines.

### Comments

We pray that the Lord will allow the resumption of a full, enjoyable and COVID regulation-compliant walking program.

## MATES PLUS – DAVID CHAMBERLAIN

One of the objectives of MatesPlus is to provide the fellowship that many men shared with workmates for most of their lives, but which was seriously curtailed upon retirement. During their working lives their employment preoccupied a huge chunk of their waking hours. Mates Plus now tries to fill some of that empty space in their lives.

With Jesus as our focus we band together in a different fellowship to support and nurture one another, but unfortunately our aging bodies are curtailing the extent of suitable activities.

### Highlights 2020

- Coronavirus has affected everyone's activities, but before we were placed in lockdown in Victoria we managed, over the past twelve months, to visit/share in the following:
  - Post Office Gallery in Bendigo to view "Royal Visits to Bendigo".
  - Australian National Aviation Museum at Moorabbin.
  - Tour of Yarra Valley wineries.
  - Early Christmas lunch in November.
  - In March 2020 we enjoyed a tour of the National Sports Museum at the MCG.
  - Our plans to visit the Ambulance Museum in April were put on hold at their request due to the pandemic, and our scheduled outings to the Werribee Open Range Zoo, the Immigration Museum, Koori Heritage Trust, Healesville Sanctuary, Heide Art

Museum at Heidelberg, St Kilda Foreshore visit and a Golf Day have yet to eventuate.

It goes without saying that we miss these opportunities to spend time with friends, and we pray that we will be able to resume our monthly outings in the very near future.

#### **Plans 2021**

- Meal together at GWAC with speaker.
- Tour Nellie Melba retirement Village.
- Visit "Men's Shed".
- Get together to identify how to bring more men in (sandwich luncheon).
- Identify personal attributes that can benefit others.
- Discuss how we can assist those in less fortunate circumstances.
- Visit mates in poor health.
- Canvass mates to continue to develop lists of prospective outings.
- Cater for the needs of mates whose mobility may be compromised, to enhance their prospects of attending outings.

# ADMINISTRY

## ADMINISTRY- ASHISH ROY

Administry gives opportunity for believers to assist the church in general administrative and clerical tasks. Volunteers assist in various roles such as reception, communication, data entry, graphics, promotion, publication, proof reading and IT. This ministry trains ministry leaders in the fields of data management and publication, and also supervises the logistics of events taking place at SBMC such as funerals, weddings, and external events. Some volunteers also assist us by working from home on our web-based church information system and website.

### Highlights 2020

- Brian Mills: We can't thank Brian Mills enough for his leadership, expertise, technical oversight, coordination and implementation in all aspects of GWAC's IT & AV systems, including our livestream facility (setup, training, and implementation), purchase of new AV systems, Office 365 migration, and many other matters. He achieved all this despite his usual job in the IT industry, and we are deeply grateful. God bless you Brian, you're a true Superstar!
- GWAC's Cloud based phone system: This year, the church office acquired a cloud-based phone system; this was very timely indeed, as this enabled the staff to use the phones from their homes or a mobile phone app while working offsite in the coronavirus period.
- Office 365 migration: Since COVID19 forced the staff to work from home, access to the data server on site became a challenge. In response to this our church's data, email, communication, and collaborating system were migrated to the Office 365 (online) system. "Thank you" once again Brian, for implementing this at GWAC. A special "Thanks" also goes out to Sue Collier, for all her work in streamlining GWAC's digital (and hardcopy) filing system throughout this migration period, and ongoing.
- Super Volunteers: The key strength of Administry is our amazing team of volunteers who lead in various roles, onsite and offsite, and serve the Lord with their skills and time. Thank you all for your diligent work team!
  - Office & Reception: Lynn Pryor, Chris Brassington, Sue Lovegrove, Christine Reid, Don Mahaffy, John Butcher.
  - Publication & Proof-reading: Paul Collier, Don Mahaffy.
  - Elvanto (Church Mgt System): Sue Collier, Gillian Brohier.
  - Sermons online (mp3): Gayan Karunaratne.
  - IT & AV Coordinator: Brian Mills.
  - We thank God for all the AV techs, Flower Ministry, and Kitchen Ministry who assist with special events taking place at GWAC, e.g. school programs, conferences, weddings, and funerals.

**Plans 2021** (work has already commenced)

- Elvanto: To prepare resources for training of church group leaders, including Life Group leaders, Gospel Community leaders, and various volunteer team leaders, on how to use Elvanto to manage their groups on a regular basis.
- GWAC App: To continue to make the church App more interactive, using regular notifications and new sections with useful information for spiritual growth. We also plan to recruit and train volunteers to manage the App on a regular basis.

**Acknowledgements**

- Joan Slegers
- Beryl Barter
- Rachel Hooker
- Sharmini Ratnasingham

# PROPERTY, FACILITIES & GARDENS

## PROPERTY, FACILITIES AND GROUNDS- BOB BARCLAY

During the last year, much has been achieved in general maintenance/repairs/replacement/upgrades as well as significant maintenance projects. General maintenance continues to be a challenge. "Thank you" to David Mills, for his great planning and preparation for the Working Bees.

### Highlights 2020

- "Thank you" to the garden keepers who spend many hours in making the springtime come alive, then throughout the year keep a watchful eye in maintaining a lovely appearance.
- Thank you to those who have decided to step down from continuing their support of the maintenance of the gardens. You have all been blessed by God with your gardening skills and have left a display of so many wonderful eye-catching gardens.
- To our lawn mowing roster team, thank you so much for making the site look great and pleasing to visitors and our own family. I'm sure the team would love to hear from anyone who has a few hours per month to contribute in this way.

### Plans 2021

- Thank you to the various sub-contractors who have maintained and kept a safe working environment for the parish.
- Currently a refurbishment program for the building, which includes painting, new carpets, carpentry and a security upgrade, is in progress.

### Comments

I'm so grateful to all the various people who have assisted me in the last 12 months. Thank you to you all, and may you be continually blessed by God in your ministries at GWAC.

## GROUNDS, GARDENS & WORKING BEES – DAVID MILLS, GLENN BATCHELOR, KYLE HAYES

GWAC has the privilege of extensive grounds, lots of trees, proteas and shrubs, gardens and lawns – displaying God's handiwork and prompting us to care well for his land. Our Working Bees carry out practical tasks to help maintain our grounds (and sometimes, aspects of our buildings), and provide a great opportunity for fellowship.

### Highlights 2020

- In the past church year three working bees were held, in October (with a very large attendance), December 2019, and March 2020. Tasks carried out included removal of dead and dying trees and branches, weeding the many garden beds which don't have regular carers, spreading large amounts of mulch on garden beds, some painting, cleaning windows above the fellowship area, trimming the Lomandra (matt-rush) bushes and constructing a

large compost bin. Lockdown has meant that there will be plenty of work ahead when we can return on site.

- Garden beds at the front entrance and the Remembrance Garden have dedicated carers - thank you Patricia and Russell Mills and Margaret Jerram. Will Jerram has kept weeds at bay by spraying when conditions allowed.

### **Plans 2021**

- There is an urgent need for additional garden carers particularly for the gardens in the courtyard next to the chapel and meeting rooms 1-2, and also around the eastern entrance.
- To catch up on the backlog, in particular for gardens and the Lomandra (matt-rush) plantings, GWAC may need to consider creative 'garden parties' or other approaches, involving a wider group than those who regularly help when working bees are held on Saturday mornings. Morning teas at working bees are just one reason to be part of the party! Dusk parties in summer, anyone?

### **Acknowledgements**

- Laurie Nance has stepped down from garden caring and general tidiness of our grounds.

### **Comments**

As coordinators we thank all who have participated during the past year and look forward the joys of working together again.

## **FLOWER MINISTRY – ELISABETH MIGLIC**

*"God delights in our work when it is done for his glory"*

The Flower Ministry seeks to provide a visual aid to worship, and to create a welcoming atmosphere for all. The natural beauty of flowers also reminds us of God and His creation. The constancy of God, and the order and beauty of His creation with its changing but predictable seasons, have been sources of comfort and blessing to us during these disconcerting times of pandemic and social isolation.

There are presently 16 members in this ministry. The ladies work together in pairs to provide arrangements in the church each week. At present this means that the ladies are rostered seven times a year. It would be very much appreciated if others would give thought to becoming part of this ministry.

Friends are welcome to consider joining in pairs if they wish. A love of flowers is really the prerequisite that is required, and it takes about two hours of commitment when rostered. Fresh flowers or silk flowers are acceptable. Training and support are freely given. Wonderful friendships and fellowship exist between the members of this ministry.

### **Highlights 2020**

- It is a privilege to assist at the time of special occasions such as Christmas, the Welcoming of our new minister Phil Meulman and his wife Barbara, earlier this year, Easter, and Pentecost.

- Amongst our number are several ladies who are gifted arrangers and able to work with a bride to arrange wedding flowers. It would be a very great pleasure to be called on again in this capacity.
- Special attention is also given to flowers at the time of a memorial service conducted in our church building.
- The members of the Flower Ministry this year are Veronica Barclay, Gillian Brohier, Helen Brown, Judy Dixon, Val Fugill, Diana Graham, Robin Hickson, Fenella Jayawickreme, Shirley Johns, Meredith Kirkland, Elisabeth Miglic, Pat Moore, Sonia Paulett, Glenys Puls, and Frances Whitehurst.
- Grateful appreciation is extended to Betty Tiller who provides the silk flower arrangements in the fellowship area and chapel. Betty's silk arrangements for the livestreaming services were greatly appreciated. Thank you again Betty for these greatly appreciated beautiful arrangements.

### **Plans 2021**

- This ministry urgently needs more members. It would be much appreciated if members of the 10.30 and 5pm congregations would become available initially, even on a short-term basis, if preferred.

### **Acknowledgments**

- Dot Collins
- Dorothy Francis

### **New members**

- Alyson McNeill

### **Comments**

Sadly, Dot Collins passed away after a short illness early this year; Dot is greatly missed by her many friends after years of faithful and generous service. Dorothy Francis has retired, and her lovely native Australian flower arrangements will be greatly missed. Thank you and our very best wishes, Dorothy. We look forward to resuming this Ministry when we can again gather as a church family. My personal thanks to each one of the ladies and to Alyson- it is a great blessing to have you join this ministry!