

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Embracing the congregations

of

Hervey Bay, Burrum Heads and Howard

Our Mission: To grow in the love of God, to make disciples and to show His love in all we do.

United in one body of Christ

Take care of a fig tree and you will have figs to eat.
Servants who take care of their master will be honoured.

Proverbs 27:18 **Good News Translation** (GNT)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON'S - 4 -

MAINTENANCE..... - 5 -

TREASURER - FINANCIAL - 6 -

YEAR ENDING 31.12.2018- 8 -

HERVEY BAY REPORTS..... - 8 -

DAN DINNA HOUSE REPORTS - 9 -

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING -- DROUGHT APPEAL 2018.....- 10 -

AGED CARE MINISTRIES..... - 10 -

UNITINGCARE / TARGET CHRISTMAS APPEAL..... - 11 -

FAITH MINISTRY - 13 -

T.E.E.N.S (YOUTH GROUP)..... - 13 -

MEN'S BREAKFAST - 14 -

ADULT FELLOWSHIP - 14 -

CROSSROADS..... - 15 -

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS..... - 17 -

WOW(Women on Wednesday)..... - 17 -

WES'S BIBLE STUDY..... - 18 -

BLOKES FOR CHRIST (BFC)..... - 19 -

KYB (Know your Bible)..... - 19 -

M AND M'S – (Women's Bible Study) - 19 -

LIBRARY - 20 -

BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS/WE CARE 2 VAN - 22 -

BURRUM HEADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH..... - 23 -

HOWARD CONGREGATION - 25 -

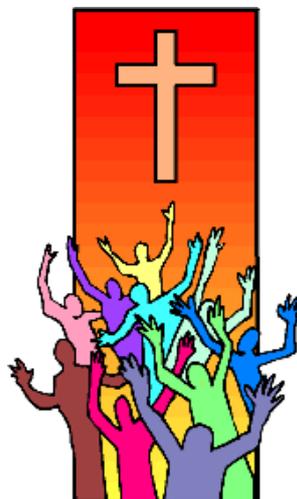
AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FIGURES - 27 -

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP - 27 -

BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS - 28 -

Baptisms: - 28 -

In Memoriam:..... - 28 -



MINISTER

As I reflect on what I need to write in this report, and having read some previous reports, I have to say that I am a little overwhelmed.

It is hard to believe that a year has passed already, and unless we take the time to stop and reflect, we can so easily just move on and not notice some significant moments in our journey together.

First, I just want to say a huge thank you for all the love and support, and patience that you, the Hervey Bay Uniting Church, has extended to me and my family. Truly it has been a blessing for us and affirmation on so many levels that we are in the right place according to God's will.

I would also like to thank the Church Council and Elders of 2018 for all that they have done. It has been a wonderful year and I value the relationships that we have built over that time. I recognise the change and challenge that has come about in the structure of the church leadership where Church Council and Elders have come together as one "Leadership Team." But I look forward to the direction that God is leading in that space.

Birthing from this change in leadership structure, is a new group. The Pastoral Care Team. Pastoral Care is something that the Hervey Bay Uniting Church has done very well. And with Lorelle Dimmick as coordinator of this Pastoral Care Team, and with many people looking to be a part of that team, I am excited to see how we can take our pastoral care responsibilities even further.

Worship has been something that has been a real blessing, but I fear maybe initially challenging for some. But I think that it has been a wonderful coming together in worship of God. I pray that we continue to grow in our worship together. In this I thank all of our lay preachers for their support in services in Hervey Bay, Burrum Heads and Howard.

I am really enjoying the feel within our extended congregations. (Hervey Bay, Burrum Heads and Howard) It is great to see the church growing together. We have a lot to offer and share with each other, helping us all to grow in our relationship with God, with each other and to be an effective witness to the communities in which we live.

It is appropriate now that we recognise the wonderful work that happens in and through the hands and feet of the body of Christ. All those who help in worship, visit in the hospitals, part of the many aged care services, care for each other, are a part of a group (Bible study, Adult Fellowship, Dinners of 8, Men's Breakfast, Women's Afternoon Tea, Youth and Children's Ministry, the We Care 2 Breakfast Van, Chaplaincy, RI and anything else I may have accidentally overlooked) To all of you I say thank You for your heart and service in this congregation.

So overall, we have had a blessed year, we celebrate the journey, and we give thanks to God for every opportunity we have had in worship and witness. It is true that we may face challenges in the year to come, but I pray that in all that we face we choose to face it together, unified in our love of God and love for each other, always seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If we remain in this space we cannot help but to move forward to the glory of our Saviour Jesus Christ. And in this I look forward to that which God will do through His people in this space.

CHAIRPERSON

As I begin the report for 2018 I cannot help but reflect on the many challenges and changes that have been presented to Council this year. Our year commenced with the Election of new Office Bearers. 2017 Council Chair Andrew Garty stepped down from the position and Council thank him for his dedication and Leadership in this role.

The position of Office Secretary changed again in Feb/March after the resignation of Karen Hansen. Louise Crittenden stepped into the role at short notice and with very little time for training settled into the role very quickly and has proven herself to be a capable and competent member of the team and a valuable assistant as the face and voice of the office. I thank Gail Grimsey and her team for the smooth facilitation of the changeover.

Midyear Council embraced the difficult debate and decision on the issue of same gender marriage as per the Statement of the 15th UCA Assembly Conference. Following a lengthy and vigorous debate a vote was taken indicating the majority in favour of not permitting same gender marriages to take place in the HBUC.

A proposal was put to Council for the approval and introduction of a Church Prayer Directory with photographs and this lengthy project should be completed in 2019 with thanks to John Dietsch and his team.

The opening of the Time Capsule was another highlight on the Church calendar and after the gathering of a number of appropriate items the capsule was resealed to be opened again in another ten years.

A huge thank you goes to the members of WOW group for organisation and very successful market day held to raise funds for the aging Dan Dinna House. What a great day it was for all who attended. The dedication and skills of all those involved guaranteed the huge success of the event.

One of the biggest changes to Council has been the incorporation of all Elders into now being members of the Church Council. The transition has presented its challenges but overall the change has gone smoothly, and I thank John Grimsey for his help in explaining this process and answering any concerns raised by Council members.

It has been very satisfying to see the completion of the renovation project at Burrum Heads Community Church and a wonderful opening of the extension. Much thanks goes to all the people involved in this project which has created a valuable asset to the Community.

The Manse is also another project that has been completed this year involving much hard work and consolation and Council gives many thanks to Gail and John Grimsey for the dedication and work they have put into seeing this finished.

It is with regret that the matter of Property Development has once again been put on hold for a number of reasons.

Church Council deals with many and widely varying tasks throughout the year and I thank each and every member for the robust and sometimes vigorous discussion that take place with the items presented to it for decision. We are constantly aware of the ever-present Work Place Health and Safety Regulations and Risk assessment Regulations that accompany many of the decisions made.

The position of Chairperson has been both a privilege and a challenge for me and I have to thank all Councillors for their support with a very special thanks to our exceptional Secretary

Joan Whitmore and our Treasurer Paddy Walker who always seems to be able to 'find' funds for the varied projects. With the Rev. Luke leading us this year Council has been re-invigorated and we are looking forward to 2019 – a year of further changes and challenges. God has blessed us in many ways, and we look forward to the vision and plan God has for our Church as we continue in His service and to the Glory and Honour of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Gillian Ayoub
Council chairperson

MAINTENANCE

The maintenance of the Church and its properties is a huge and unending undertaking and responsibility. It involves a myriad of tasks by a number of people dedicated to the upkeep of the condition of our property and expenditure of both large and small amounts. It is to this end that the Finance and Maintenance Committee come together every two months to combine their efforts in prioritising the tasks presented to them.

2018 has seen the completion of renovations to the Kent Street Manse completion of the renovations to the Hall extensions of the Burrum Heads Church.

Repairs and upgrades at Dan Dinna House are ongoing but the new steps and verandah are some of the items where work has been happening. There has also been the removal of a number of trees from along the fence line that were posing a danger due to the age and disease. The Committee project for 2019 will be the painting of the church roof. There have been many other smaller tasks too numerous to mention that have contributed to the upkeep of our premises.

As Chairperson of the Finance and Maintenance Committee it has been an honour to serve in this way and satisfying to see the completion of the tasks set before us. This is in no small way thanks to the very hard working and dedicated members of the Committee who give time and energy to see that all is kept in good order within the regulations of the Uniting Church and workplace Health and Safety Rules. To all members of those associated with the team I thank you for your work and support. I have no doubt 2019 will present the committee with new challenges as it seeks to do its work in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

Gillian Ayoub
Finance and Maintenance Chairperson

TREASURER - FINANCIAL

In my report for 2017 I stated that; things would be very different for me in 2018 with the transfer of Pastor Graham to Townsville, and in the incoming of our new Minister of The Word; Rev. Luke Smallwood from Charter Towers.

Prior to his transfer Pastor Graham was fully responsible for Dan Dinna House welfare and its monthly and annual reports as well as, reporting the BAS Statements to the Taxation Department.

These two areas BAS Statement and Dan Dinna House have fallen to me which has added additional hours to my work schedule.

BAS Statements

BAS Statements I am slowly requiring a greater understanding of its requirement but is still taking me 3 to 3.5 hours. If you put an "NT" (no tax) in a "GST" (Goods & Taxes) area may not be too serious if you miss it when checking. Your lost; the Tax's Man gain!

However, if you put a "GST" in a no "NT" square; that's a "NO" "NO!" It is still the Tax's Man gain, as they will want their GST returned plus interest for missing it. Therefore, for me personally it will always be a slow process checking and rechecking before posting the finalized schedule.

The other area that was also Pastor Graham domain but is now mine, is;

Dan Dinna House

This year we have made a concerted effort to improve and update Dan Dinna House, with a new all-round veranda. The work started late 2017 to front section and was completed in 2018. This expense as with most major items is a split between Hervey Bay Uniting Church and Sixty and Better.

Unfortunately, due to health and safety requirements which included new front steps and higher guard rails; the costs of the front section blow out from an estimated \$20,00.00 to \$38,000.00. Hervey Bay contribution for the front veranda was a little light on. This will be adjusted with the replacement of the back verandas.

The back veranda is no longer safe will also needs to be completely replaced. This project will be classified as "Capital Expense" as it requires different materials metal, not wood and ramps instead of steps. We are endeavouring to obtain a grant or perhaps money from Presbytery to meet these costs.

We will keep you informed on the process.

The other major expense which on the horizon for 2019 is two new water tanks. In the wet season or even with heavy rains, water accumulates under the Dan Dinna House, and has slowly over time undermined the supports.

Two rain tanks would go most of the way to alleviate the situation. We have been quoted \$20,000.00 which includes concrete slabs, plus redirecting the down pipes and overflow back into the underground pipes which will flow into the Council drainage system

When fully upgraded with new verandas, water tanks stabilization of the building then Dan Dinna House with due care and attention, will serve the community through for many years to come.

For full details of Dan Dinna House Income & Expenses for 2018 is set out below.

Now for Hervey Bay Uniting Church 2018 Report

We anticipated that the Manse upgrade would be approximately **\$49,000.00**. The money to utilize the Manse upgrade would come from the Oleander Street house sale, which is held in a reserve account, and managed by Presbytery and Synod.

The final cost for this project was over budget by \$ 56444.00. Except for a few items it was funded from Olander Street house sale. There have been a few extras added and although I have asked Presbytery for those additions to be paid from Oleander House sale I did not hear

back. I heard that the Presbytery Property Officer was not at the last Presbytery Meeting which could explain why we did not receive an answer to our request. I will try again in 2019.

It is anticipated that there will be increases in most items throughout 2019. Therefore, as a church if are to meet our obligations we need to increase our income through the weekly cash offering and those you have "direct deposit method" please don't forget to increase them at the beginning of each year.

If you are not involved in Direct Deposit giving, please see me and it means you don't have ensure you have cash on Sunday it will be done automatic from your bank account. This method also helps me as your Treasurer to budget better knowing that I can reply a set amount each year when it comes to Budgeting and also monthly Income and Expenses also more stable.

As always this is the only time, I will ask for an increase in your church offerings. For I know from experience that "God providing we are faithful God will continue to supply all our needs; financial, spiritually and physically."

The church will be advised when 2018 Audit Report arrives. Perhaps like last year, will arrive prior to the Congregational Meeting. If not, copies of the Audit will be available in my office.

As always before closing I would again like to thank all the unseen Sunday Counters.

To Gillian a very special thanks. For several years sat in the "high chair" when I was away has officially step down. Also, to Joan who assists with banking.

As always and regardless of the many hours involved including the additional work, I have enjoyed being

- Set out below are the Church, and Dan Dinna House 2018 reports
- The both reports are strictly "income and expenses."
- Hervey Bay Capital expenditure, and Missionary Donations for are shown separately

YEAR ENDING 31.12.2018

HERVEY BAY REPORTS

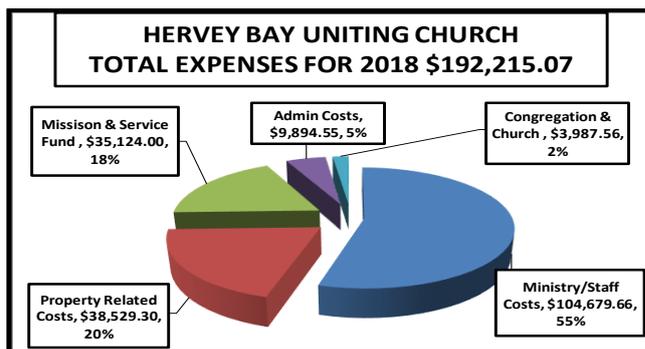
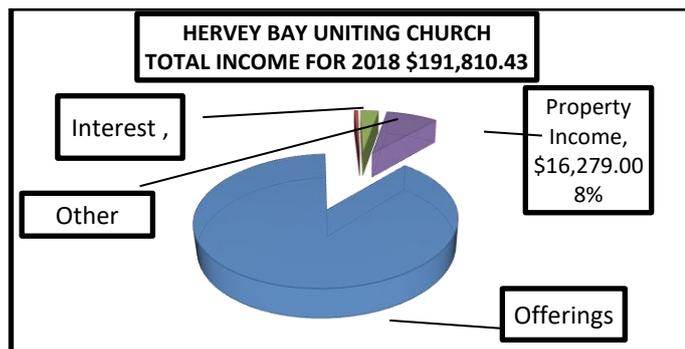
Hervey Bay Uniting Church TOTAL INCOME & EXPENSES FOR 2018 By Departments	
Total Year 201	
Income	
Offerings	\$168,763.16
Interest	\$1,163.26
Other Receipts	\$5,605.01
Property Income	\$16,279.00
Total Income	\$191,810.43
Expenses	
Ministry/Staff Costs	\$104,679.66
Property Related Costs	\$38,529.30
Missison & Service Fund	\$35,124.00
Admin Costs	\$9,894.55
Congregation & Church	\$3,987.56
Total Expenses	\$192,215.07
Operating Surplus	(\$404.64)

Hervey Bay Uniting Church Balance Sheet for year 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018	
Total Year 2018	
Assets	
Current As sets	
ANZ Banking Group Pty Ltd	\$47,083.52
ANZ Credit Card	-\$16.72
Dan Dinna House	\$180.00
88 Oleander Ave - sold	\$149,052.80
12 Gympie Str. Torbanlea Sold	\$32,168.19
8 and 10am Coffee & Tea Float	\$60.00
Maintenance Team Petty Cash	\$100.00
Investment Cash M'ment Account	\$47,287.10
Accounts Receivable	\$3,092.80
Pre-Payments	-\$65,542.51
Fixed Assets	\$149,390.18
Total Assets	\$362,855.36
Liabilities	
Sundry Creditors	\$2,319.71
GST Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$2,319.71
Net Assets	\$360,535.65

<u>MISSIONARY AIMS AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Blessings for Drought Appeal	\$4,502.25
Cancer Council - Music for Pleasure Concert	\$2,154.00
Christmas Bowl	\$100.00
Compassion Fund (Local Mission	\$117.95
Kairos Outside ministries	\$176.15
Lenten Appeal	\$3,780.00
Leprosy Mission	\$412.50
MAF Australia	\$148.70
Overseas Missionary Aims	\$2,346.40
RE Donations & Support	\$645.50
Samaritan's Purse	\$860.00
School Chaplaincy - Support	\$980.10
Total Ministry & Other Incomes	\$16,223.55

For those who like diagrams

And for those like Charts – Pie Charts

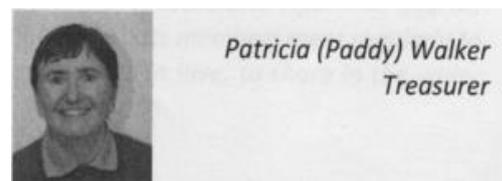


DAN DINNA HOUSE REPORTS

DAN DINNA HOUSE	
INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2018	
Year to Date	
Income	
Lease Payments	\$13,090.92
Hall Rental	\$8,127.50
Sundry Income	\$5,715.50
Total Income	\$26,933.92
Expenses	
Accountancy & Legal Fees	\$300.00
Property Insurance	\$2,507.15
Admin Management Fees	\$1,200.00
Public Liability Insurance	\$121.18
Consumables	\$289.09
Cleaning	\$1,816.00
Repairs	\$15,739.65
General Maintenance	\$1,494.54
Council Rates	\$5,066.14
Electricity	\$409.79
Total Expenses	\$28,943.54
Operating Deficit	-\$2,009.62

DAN DAINNA HOUSE	
BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2018	
Year 2018	
Assets	
Cash Assets	
ANZ Community Hub Account	\$19,291.12
Trade Debtors	\$959.07
Total Cash Assets	\$20,250.19
Fixed Assets	\$1,425.94
Total Assets	\$21,676.13
Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	\$447.00
Total GST Liabilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$447.00
Net Assets	\$21,229.13

As always and regardless of the many hours involved including the additional work, I have enjoyed being the 2018 Hervey Bay Uniting Church Treasurer; hopefully I will be allowed to continue within this position in 2019!



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING -- Drought Appeal 2018

This appeal was the result of a seed that was planted over a cuppa after Worship on Sunday 5th Aug. Conversation was on the plight of our drought-stricken farmers, which led to the question - *how can we help as a Church?*

The idea suggested was that as people felt blessed by God, they could respond in a positive manner, each time, by means of a monetary donation using a Blessing jar. This would enable blessings we received to be paid forward as a love gift to drought-stricken farming families.

The concept - Blessed To Be A Blessing - was born with a vision to be a blessing to others in response to God's blessings to us.

The Blessed To Be A Blessing journey included – M&Ms ladies bible study group providing support and prayer – a weekly information sheet – the use of blessing jars/envelopes etc. - two worship gatherings for praise, thanks, prayer, sharing God's touch on our lives – ladies afternoon tea with focus on farmer's plight – and concluded with celebratory luncheon of food, prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Funds raised were sent to *The Presbytery of the Downs* for distribution to farmers and families in their region including the Leichhardt Patrol.

A total of **\$4,502** was received and passed forward as a blessing to drought-stricken farmers.

An awesome response! Many thanks to all who participated and contributed.

God blesses - we bless - others are blessed - a circle of love.

"And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves, and more than enough for every good cause." **2 Cor 9 v 8**



AGED CARE MINISTRIES

TORBAY CHAPEL SERVICE, & VISITING

We give thanks that we have been able to continue to provide a monthly Praise service at Torbay chapel on the 4th Sat. of each month. The numbers have dwindled as some residents have passed away or have moved to higher care sections. Our average attendance is about 10 to 12. Our thanks go to Rev Luke, Rev Wes (who lead a communion service each month), and lay preachers Joan Whitmore and Pat Walker who assist leading these services. Our thanks also go to our helpers Thora Nolan, Elsie Ross and pianists.

We would also like to thank our volunteers Thora, Joan, Jean, and Carol who visit these residents and others who are not able to get to services. We also provide communion to those who are unable to attend church or chapel if they wish at Torbay as well as Oz care and others in the community.

Lynn Furness

Services are held at each of the Aged Care Facilities on a monthly basis. We have a wonderful band of regular helpers but would like to see more people assist with these services. It would also show the Residents in the facilities that as a Church, we care for and support them. We have a regular band of supporters who assist at the different, but not all facilities, including Eunice Pike who plays at 4 of the different facilities – Terry Pike – Averill Collins – Heather Owen – Marj. Clark – Glenys Keen – Jean Lockhardt – Jill Fowlie.

Tri-Care

Services at Tri-Care are held the first Tuesday of every month. Services have been carried out at this facility for many years, and although the majority of Residents are High Care, and are unable to sing along with the hymns, we can tell they enjoy them by the movement of their hands or feet, or the smile on their faces. Allison, the Social co-ordinator is always co-operative in assuring that as many Residents as possible are able to attend.

OZCare

Services are held on the second Tuesday of each month. We were asked to conduct services at Oz Care when they first opened, and for a long while had a good attendance of Residence. However, since the Older Men Unlimited group have been conducting their activities, the numbers of residents attending have dropped considerably. We are negotiating with the Social Co-ordinator to contemplate changing the day.

Waterford

Waterford Services are held on the 3rd. Tuesday of every month. Luke played at our first Service which was well attended by people from our Church, but unfortunately, we only get two or three helpers there now. The majority of Residents have attended Church for most of their lives, so are very keen to join in and even select the Hymns we sing.

Bay Crest

Bay Crest is visited on the second Tuesday of the month and held in the Chapel. The Service is usually led by Lorelle and occasionally by Meg. May Jacobson has been playing the organ and the helpers are Heather, Jean, Shirley, Jeanette and Liz. We only have 6 or 8 regulars, but they are so enthusiastic! Others would love to come, but as we are not allowed to 'assist' them unfortunately they miss out.

Fair Haven

Fair Haven Services are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month with thanks to Joan & Eunice who usually lead or play the piano. We have about 25 residents who attend here, and the staff are most co-operative. Special thanks to Sharon Berry the Churches of Christ Chaplain who makes sure as many Residents that are able attend the services.

Joan Whitmore

UNITINGCARE / TARGET CHRISTMAS APPEAL



UNITING CHURCH/TARGET CHRISTMAS APPEAL. - 2018

Donations were slow in coming into the Target Stores from the general public, so monies from Head Office to us for this appeal was greatly reduced from last year, however, thanks to the generous donations of gifts and monies from members of our Church, The Business Men's "Lunch Bunch". together with gifts from the staff of St. Stephens hospital and from the Chronicle Christmas appeal, we were able make it a brighter Christmas for in excess of 100 families which would not have been possible without these donations and support. The majority of gifts were distributed to children within the schools, with families recommended by the School Principals and School Chaplains. Families from the Prison Ministry were also catered for as well as families registered with, We Care 2, whom we partner with each year. Gift Vouchers were also given to families and individuals, recommended by our members, who were struggling financially.

Sincere thanks are extended to those within our Church who donated monies to this appeal, with donations amounting to approximately \$600.00.

Approximately 100 gifts were given into the Target Store as well as monies donated through the "Baubles". These monies go straight to Head Office.

The Business Men's "Lunch Bunch" – led by Darren Everard, support us each year, but this year was extraordinary, as they donated approximately 200 gifts as well as giving us \$1425.00 towards the appeal. Balance of these monies will be held in our account until next years appeal. We were advised initially that we would have Christmas cakes etc. to sell to raise extra funds, but unfortunately that didn't eventuate.

My sincere thanks to those ladies who assisted with the purchasing, sorting out, wrapping and putting together the bags of family gifts. On behalf of Uniting Care, our sincere thanks to Jesse, the assistant Manager, and Gary, the manager of Target for their efforts in raising the monies for this appeal through their store, and for the Chronicle for publishing the feature article to help promote this activity.

We thank God for His provisions that we were able to bless others with these gifts. May He continue to bless our Church so that through our example, others will be drawn to Him.

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A Letter from Kylie McCloskey – Teacher - Kawungan State School

Dear all concerned,

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for the valuable work you do, undoubtedly throughout the year, but most importantly in the time approaching Christmas. I appreciate the opportunity to help direct your gift baskets towards those who need it most at this time of year when they can feel the least significant. Over the two years I have nominated names for this program. Although, most have gone unnoticed, I have witnessed

- The selflessness of one family (who were living in a caravan without running water) saying there are many doing worse off them, who gave items from their baskets as gifts to many others they knew.
- Twice, stoic single parents had tears welling up at how generous and meaningful your gift had been. One gentleman saying, "honestly you have no idea just how much this means to us this year" after he shared how his gift basket contained toys for his young sons.
- Just had two more parents get choked up today as well & say you have no idea what difference this will make to our Christmas.

Thank you for making teachers' wishes come true – "a nicer Christmas for our students' families who are doing it tough". I appreciate for the way your process provides an anonymous platform for teachers, while leaving families' dignity upheld. Your generosity is astounding. Your strategy outstanding; tapping into those who know who could use your help. Your purpose is humble and meek. Your work is precious and invaluable.

I hope as we move toward each Christmas, your church continues, to allow teachers like myself, to assist in your good work.

May God shine down on your congregation and all whom you've helped each and every Christmas.

Kylie MCCLOSKEY
Kawungan State School

Faith Ministry

Families are important to him.

On a Saturday morning every two months a small Committee of dedicated people attended the Faith Ministry meeting. Our Mission Statement is "Embracing an inclusive family life in the Joy and Love of the Lord."

2018 has seen some significant developments in our Teen Activities under the guidance of Rev. Luke with able support from Sylvia Wright, Sherrie Nash and Leigh Payne and it is our plan to expand this area further in 2019.

In March First Aid and CPR Training was carried out with 11 attendees gaining their certificate.

Our J-Crew numbers have declined this year for a number of reasons but will still continue under the guidance of Barbara Carrier.

The program of giving a package to the children baptised in our church saw 5 packages distributed this year. Also, the acknowledgement of the First Anniversary of those who have lost a loved one has been appreciated by those who have received a card in memory of this event and this is import outreach will continue.

Julie Noble reported that our Crossroads numbers were also in decline, but this was attributed to the introduction of the NDIS and the options it presented.

We have been excited by the introduction of the Mums and Bubs Morning Tea with Tiffany on Thursday mornings. This program started on a positive note and we are looking forward to its expansion as more Mums become aware of what is on offer.

I would like to thank the dedicated Faith Ministry time for their unwavering support of this family Outreach, and we look forward to the challenges the Lord will present to us in the coming year with The Holy Spirit as our guide.

T.E.E.N.s (Youth Group)



BELONG-BELIEVE-BECOME...

We have had a really positive 2018. There is a great team of leaders, and a wonderful group of young people.

We have got progressively more organised through the year and are working towards the group being a safe place for young people to connect. We have a series of different activities during the term both on site and off. And we are seeing numbers steadily rise, friendships being grown, and friends being invited.

We have also been intentionally looking to communicate and connect with parents, via a weekly group text message, and from the reports I have had this has been a good thing. I am very encouraged in all areas.

This year, in addition to the Youth Group itself, we are going to hold a devotion time, for those young people who are interested. It will be held half an hour before the Youth Group starts. The intent is to provide a means to help grow young people in those healthy faith practices for life. I am looking forward to where we head in 2019 and what God will do in this space. I ask that you continue to pray for this group and its leaders.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



2018 was the fourth year for our monthly Men's Breakfast.

Attendance figures were not kept but averaged in the low 20s.

This year we had speeches from Ray Johnston speaking on his trip to the Antarctic, Richard Watt on optometry and eye health, Ps. Dave Davies speaking on We Care 2, Elaine Dietsch on her experiences in the Congo, Max Sahl from Wycliffe Bible Translators, and our own Pastor Luke Smallwood sharing some songs and melodies with us.

In June we were hosted at New Life Church at their planned event, whilst our August event was cancelled so that we could assist with the Dan Dinna House fundraiser.

We ended the year with our usual Christmas celebration augmented by Senior Constable Melanie Ryan speaking on Neighbourhood Watch as she had to cancel the month prior due to illness.

Due to lowered numbers this year we effectively broke even but were unable to accumulate funds to enable us to make any donations.

Moving into 2019 our breakfast faces challenges due to falling attendance and lack of volunteers. As a result we are envisaging connecting with other denominations and reducing the frequency of breakfasts that we host at the Uniting Church. However, for the events we will host we are hoping to continue to present an interesting range of speakers.

Thanks goes to all those who have assisted through the year.

The Men's Breakfast is run by volunteers with no elected officers. All men in the congregation who wish to be involved are invited to get in contact with Iain Everiss or ask at the office as we're keen to continue to provide a forum for men from all parts of the church to get to know one another.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

It has been a privileged having fellowship with 26 inspiring ladies of our church. Another year has passed with great friendship and memories we have shared together.

It was a very busy year; Rev Luke Smallwood opened our first meeting with a dedication prayer. We welcomed our new members, Judy Foster, Tiffany Smallwood and Lourdes Humphreys. We meet every third Friday of each month with interesting activities and we have devotions and a morning tea before each meeting.

March – Fourteen members of the fellowship attended the World Day of Prayer held at the Lutheran Church, and again some members attended the Mary Burnett Presbytery AF Area Day in Murgon Uniting Church and I handed to Hazel Bachler a good collection of old stamps given by members of our church as a fundraising of the Adult Fellowship.

May – We had our Mother's Day Morning Tea, all monies collected on the day was donated to the UCAF Qld Project for 2018 "Bottled Water for Outback Links".

June – We had our Church Birthday Morning Tea with a 'multicultural theme' organized by our FSO (Fellowship Social Officer) Helen Elsmore who brings sunshine and new ideas to the group.

It was a success with the participation of our very own minister and other members of our church representing their countries of origin.

July – We had a group picture taken for the time capsule of the church which will be opened in ten years' time. Later in the month we had our very popular Soup and Crusty Luncheon which was enjoyed by everyone.

August – Many of our ladies helped in the Garage Sale-fundraising for the Dan Dinna House. Our president, Glenys Keen organised to fill boxes for the Samaritan Purse and amazingly the group had packed more than it has been planned.

The Adult Fellowship have been asked to serve morning/afternoon teas for funeral/memorial services of church members. And we also helped served afternoon tea during the Music for Pleasure Concert last August 26 held at our church. One of our members had commented that the Adult Fellowship are nice people and the best group, and also a good comment from our minister that we are a happy group. We would like to invite you to join us and be inspired or you might inspire us instead.

November – As we had been doing for many years, we had donated to eleven different organizations within and outside our church. We had our annual meeting and again we had the privileged of having our Rev Luke chair the election of new officers with a prayer. After the meeting we had our breakup luncheon at the Golf Club.

The same Holy Spirit completely fills our innermost beings. As members of God's family, we may have different interests and gifts, but we have a common goal, that is to serve our one and only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen.

Francie Cadman

CROSSROADS

Crossroads had another activity-filled year in 2018 and we have had an enjoyable time with some fun evenings throughout the year.

At our AGM in January, those present moved that the 2017 Crossroads Annual Report be received. All positions were then vacated. The following positions were filled:

Chairperson: Julie Noble

Secretary: minutes taken by volunteers on a rotating basis

Treasurer: Meg Boyce

Devotions: Joan Whitmore/Sylvia Wright

Catering: Norma Dale (assisted by other volunteers)

Birthday Cards: Thora Nolan

During the year we have had some very enjoyable evenings:

February – News sharing and balloon fun with Breannah Mitchell from Balloon Mania

March – Easter Mad Hatter Night

Apr – Cooking

May – Nefertiti Multicultural Dance Group

June – Scottish Night with Hervey Bay RSL Pipes Band

July – Inclusion Church service followed by our annual lunch at Kondari

Aug – Drumming Circle with Kellie (joined by Teens)

Sept – Keep Fit Fun with Neroli

Oct – Craft/preparation for Christmas dinner

Nov – Aussie Christmas BBQ break up

Our July lunch and Christmas break-up dinner were again great times of fun and fellowship over food and were well attended by Crossroaders, volunteers, family and carers.

All our evenings have provided enjoyment, fun and laughter for everyone.

Thank you very much to Joan Whitmore and Sylvia Wright who have shared the role of leading us in a time of devotion at the beginning of our evenings.

We have a great group of volunteers, both old and new who give up their time to be part of the Crossroads family and I thank them very much for their involvement, compassion and assistance.

With a little help from some recorded music or Averil Collins playing piano we try to sing our Crossroads song "One More Step Along the World I Go" at the beginning of our evenings, after devotions which everyone is really enjoying, and I think it makes everyone feel included in our Crossroads family.

Some thoughts about the future of Crossroads

Over the past couple of years, the number of Crossroaders attending has continued to diminish and in 2018 the average attendance was only 8.. Many times, there have been more volunteers than Crossroaders at our evening activities. It seems that there are now many choices for social activities for adults with disability in Hervey Bay and with the introduction of NDIS funding, most Crossroaders can choose their leisure activities to a greater degree. This can be seen as a positive step, as we all like to have choices in our lives regarding our activities and I believe it points to a more accepting and inclusive community. Many of the volunteers who assist with running Crossroads feel that it is time for them to step back from their role now, due to health issues, pursuing travel goals, service in other areas or other circumstances. They have devoted many years to this mission of our church, and I am very grateful for their love, loyalty and compassion to the Crossroads group. A discussion and decision will take place at the AGM in January regarding the future of the Crossroads ministry at Hervey Bay Uniting Church.

Julie Noble

BIBLE STUDY BOOKS



WOW(Women on Wednesday)

Wow, it certainly has been an incredible year, time has flown, I reckon somebody has pinched 2 hours out of every day. WOW are an amazing group of ladies that meet every Wednesday at church in the evening. We are a fantastic support structure for each other and share our lives as we all journey on this road called Life, learning more about our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2018 was a difficult year for a number of our group and there were many challenges for each and every one of us, but we know that God is there for all of us at all times and that He never leaves or forsakes us and by holding onto him tightly we can do ALL things in Him who strengthens us.

Some of the studies we did were "Understanding God's Big Picture" – we learnt that Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, Jesus is God's rule and blessing, Jesus is God's people and He is God's place.

We also studied a program titled "Just Faith". It was designed by TEAR Australia for Christians who are interested in exploring the connections between their faith and the big issues of the world today. We studied each topic over two or more weeks, so we spent quite a few months on this, but it was a wonderful study. Topics included Poverty, Money, Environment, War, Speaking Out and On Our Doorstep.

A few weeks focus this year was spent on co-ordinating the very successful Market Day which was held at Dan Dinna House on 4th August, all monies went to Dan Dinna House towards badly needed repairs and maintenance. The WOW group were the organisers and participated in all the different stalls and fundraising activities. The preloved jewellery and trash and treasure stalls were extremely busy, the clothing, food, morning tea, money snake, sausage sizzle, plant stalls etc. were well attended and we all felt extremely relieved that everything had gone according to plan. Praise God for His never-ending mercies and for His amazing love that was shared by many. Thank you to the many helpers on the Friday who ferried stuff over from the church and to the many people who worked tirelessly before the day and on the day, to make it a successful event.

The women of WOW continue to organise a monthly Women's Afternoon Tea (Feb to Nov) on the last Saturday of each month. This is a lovely way for the women of our church and their friends to meet, chat, listen to an interesting speaker and enjoy some wonderful food. All proceeds from our \$5 donations go to the speaker's organisation (or one nominated by them) In 2018 we have had wonderful speakers!

Feb: Leanne Purvis (Mission to Cambodia)

Mar: Kelly Davies (Riding for the Disabled)

Apr: Vicki Buchanan (Kairos Outside for Women)

May: Lyn Einam (Hervey Bay Historical Museum)

June: Linda Shum (COAT – Chinese Orphans Assistance Team)

July, Aug: no Afternoon Tea held – WOW members involved in preparations for Dan Dinna House Market Day

Sept: M&M's group (Drought Experiences – proceeds to drought affected areas via Uniting Church Presbyteries)

Oct: Toni Halley (Hervey Bay Comfort Kitchen)

Nov: Helen Sahl (Wycliffe Bible Translators in PNG)

WOW meet during school term time and begin each term with a Bring and Share Dinner which is a great way of catching up with each other. We celebrate birthdays, and milestone birthdays usually require a special coffee date at one of our great Hervey Bay cafes!

WOW members continue to financially support an overseas project (The Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation in Africa) and a local community organisation (Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence Centre) as our way of showing God's love and making a small difference to the lives of others.



Thora Nolan and Julie Noble

WES'S BIBLE STUDY

This bible study is a weekly activity, beginning at 9am – 10 30am on Wednesday, and is open to all who would like to widen their knowledge and understanding of the scriptures.

2018 was a particularly interesting year as we studied Revelation under the guidance of William Barclay. Those who attended really enjoyed unwrapping this book and seeing that it is not a book to just put aside as being too hard to understand. They found that much of The Book of Revelation is so important to the life of the Church in the 21st century.

In 2019 we are going to study the life of St Paul and his writings. It is always important to understand that the letters of St Paul make up most of the New Testament, therefore it is important to know and to understand how St Paul brings to life the church, and the life expectation of every Christian. We need to allow this work to become for us our very living pattern. St Paul lived every moment of his life in the presence of his Lord and he had a burning desire to help all Christians, then and now, know exactly what it means to do so

Our God is a wonderful God, He has provided for his people this book, we call the bible, a book of divinely inspired information about life. It is His guide book to His creation so that all of His creation should know him personally and enjoy His company, and all that He has created. The bible tells us that God created for His purpose and pleasure and that we have the privilege of sharing this great and wonderful creation with Him. It is so important that we, who call ourselves Christian should take the time to read and to study the bible more readily and more often. God offers Himself completely only to those who are prepared to take Him and His word seriously.

So, I invite everyone who is looking for a greater understanding of their God, and also to those who would like a closer relationship with their God to make this time available and come and share.

Yours in faith,
Rev Wes Furness

BLOKES FOR CHRIST (BFC)



FANTASTIC CHRISTIAN MATESHIP

BFC has met regularly on Wednesday evenings in the Church hall to provide Christian Fellowship to men from our congregations and friends from outside our Church. We spend time in informal discussion and sharing with one and other, as well as time for Bible study and supper.

The Group consists of up to 12 men and though some are unable to attend every week, we normally expect to see 6-10 which gives good opportunity for sharing and fellowship. We have spent some time in 2018 exploring the lectionary readings for the following Sunday.

We have also taken on more specific studies including

1. Revisit in lent with "He chose the nails" by Max Lucado
2. "Jesus, The wounded Healer" by Mick Brooks
3. "The Big Picture" a quick review of the whole bible
4. Revisit of Advent "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado
5. "God is closer than you think" by John Ortberg

We spent some time in prayer for others and each other and enjoy meeting for fellowship together. All men are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights from 6:45pm to 9:00pm
Robin Elsmore.

KYB (Know your Bible)

KYB has been held at our church for many years and is part of the ministry of the Christian Women communicating International. It is an interdenominational fellowship & study group designed to help participants through personal study & group sharing to know God's word and its message for today.

In our parish at present we have 4 groups who use the KYB materials, Monday morning M&M's group, Tuesday afternoon group at 2p.m. in the Church Seminar room, as well as groups in Howard & Burrum Heads.

During the year most of the groups do 4 studies with a break during school holidays.

In 2018 we studied part of Genesis, 2 Corinthians, Nahum/Habakkuk/ Zephaniah, & Galatians. At the Tues afternoon group, we have members not only from our church but also from the Lutheran, Baptist, Bible church & Salvation Army. During the year members get the opportunity to attend some Introductory sessions to the studies with guest speakers, as well as some CWCI functions with special guests sharing God's Word & its relevance in their lives.

The ladies who attend enjoy times of fun, fellowship and sharing their faith as well as prayer support for each other. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us in our spiritual walk with him.

Enquiries for Tues afternoon group Lynn Furness 0427809224. Howard & Burrum Head groups Margaret Barnes 41283069. M & M Monday group Lynn Alexander 41942538.

M AND M'S – (Women's Bible Study)

M and M's (Mary and Martha's) is a KYB (Know Your Bible) study group. Specifically for women, we find our studies absolutely essential to keep us on God's path. Each of us has the opportunity to be hostess, as we do our studies on a roster basis at each other's homes on Monday mornings at 9.30am.

We sponsor a young girl in Thailand through Compassion. We find that the more we study the Bible, the more we need and desire to. We are currently studying some of the minor Prophets, namely Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. An important part of our meetings is our prayer time when we write prayer thanks and requests for each other and pray through the week. We also have lots of fun, food and friendship. For more information contact Lynne Alexander on 4194 2538.



LYNNE ALEXANDER

LIBRARY

This year has seen some big changes in the library in the hope of encouraging the congregation to enjoy some of the great books available. It is simple to borrow from the library, select a book from the shelves and write your name and the name of the book on the Book Loans Register, found on the pulpit in the library. If anyone should wish to borrow DVD's or CD's, the same procedure is followed. There is no time limit on borrowing, just return them when you have finished with them so someone else can enjoy a good read.

Some books which have been sitting on the shelves for years without an airing or reading, have been relocated to charity shops to make room available for new books which have been kindly donated.

The library is now sharing space with the shop and makes for some interesting discoveries both for those wishing to make a purchase and those who just want to browse. A money collecting box is on the benchtop for anyone wishing to purchase goods from the shop. A good book, a quiet space and peace restores the soul.



Meg

DINNERS OF EIGHT:

Dinners of eight is a wonderful activity of couples and singles meeting together to share a meal and Christian fellowship in the homes of a host couple. This activity happens four times each year. Three times as a group of eight, and one time as a full group we meet in the hall for our meal to finalise the year. All the participants are issued with an invitation to attend a meal, this helps to ensure that each person shares with a different group each time. These meals are a bring and share time, the host arranges the home, the time and the meal required. The meal can be either lunch or evening, arranged by host and the group. It can be a cold meal or a hot meal, even a B-B-Q, there is no limit to the possibility!

This activity helps members to become more aware of the feelings and the aspirations of other members and helps in forming an understanding of the family of God in our community. It is a social activity which lasts around two hours, one which I can recommend to any who are contemplating being involved, we would love to welcome you.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who shared with us during 2018, and especially those who offered their homes and themselves as hosts. 2018 was a great year with many wonderful

experiences happening and we look forward to this new year with anticipation. If you would wish to share with us, please contact Wes or Lynn Furness 0427809224 or 04212235815.

Yours in faith, Rev Wes Furness

THE SAM CHOIR



The choir had another good year and have sung with enthusiasm and a love of giving out the message of the Saviour who loves us.

Last year we were invited to Bayside Christian church to sing at a Hymnfest they held for Senior's week. The choir sang a couple of numbers and they were very much appreciated. We were given a very warm welcome and we found the people to be very friendly and warm toward us. Our biggest achievement last year was the Music for Pleasure afternoon we held on the 26th August.

Andrew Finden who is the son of Judith Finden and grandson of Brian and Val Hildred, came to sing for us. Andrew lives with his wife Peta in Germany and Andrew is an opera singer. He was here on holiday and he very happily came to sing for us, and we appreciated both his choice of song and his wonderful singing.

We also had three lovely young people from The Conservatorium of Music. They played Violin, Piano and Cello. It was not just their musical ability, but I think everyone agreed they were very entertaining.

The choir sang several numbers and although there were more than 300 people listening, they were not nervous, and they didn't miss a beat. I was very proud of our choir on that day as they sing really well.

We are hoping to hold another concert this year in August, so watch for the date and bring along your friends.

We already have our first date for the year which is in Maryborough for area day which is to do with Adult Fellowship.

Thank you for the support that you give to our choir as we sing on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

Eunice Pike

BREAKFAST FOR THE HOMELESS/WE CARE 2 VAN



We give thanks to the Lord that for the past 7 or 8 years some members of our congregation have been greatly blessing by being able to aid folk who have special needs in our community by serving breakfast each Wednesday at the seafront (using the We Care 2 breakfast van provided by our friends from the New Life Christian Church)

We thank our 18 volunteers (6 of whom) each week rise early to assist with towing the van, setting up, cooking and serving the breakfast as part of our service to the homeless & needy folk in the community. By being good listeners, being non-judgemental & showing God's love, we try to cheerfully serve others in this way, being God's servants. We thank members who have retired because of age or health reasons for their loyal service.

We ask our congregation members to pray that we will continue to give effective service in His name and to encourage some extra folk to assist with the towing of the van (using We Care 2 vehicle), as well as to assist with the BBQ cooking & serving. If you are interested, please contact Lynn on 0427809224.

Monetary contributions towards purchasing the food in order to supply the breakfast is greatly appreciated (envelopes at the church). Thank you to members who have also supplied food items & toiletries to help the clients (list of suggested items & storage cabinet is in the church foyer).

Lynn Furness (co-ordinator)

BURRUM HEADS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The year 2018 began with a well-attended AGM on February 9th. Executive positions were filled as follows:

Chairperson: Marion Renner
Vice chairperson: Theo Jamieson
Secretary: Janice Martin
Treasurer: Chris Thompson

Reports were presented, dates for bi-monthly meetings and other event dates were agreed upon for the year and set on our calendar. It promised to be a busy year even though the extension had been completed. We will always be grateful for all the help given by so many during its construction.

It was wonderful to start the new year with the extra space and facilities of this completed new extension. We began planning for the Dedication. This wonderful celebration took place in the form of an afternoon tea with invitations extended to all volunteers and spouses, townsfolk, members of our three congregations, present and past clergy, and was officiated by Rev Luke Smallwood the new UC pastor. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to our dedicated building volunteers, a Dedication plaque was placed in the new extension and a large cross and Church name lettering was placed on the new part of the Church at the front.

It was also a special pleasure and privilege to use this beautiful new space for the 80th birthday celebration for Richard Thorne, one of our prominent and dedicated volunteers involved in its construction.

Regular weekly worship continues with blessings from our minister, priests and lay preachers who come faithfully to provide services. Our church attendances fluctuates between 16 and 25, as some of our regulars go traveling while at times others are impacted by ill health. Much credit is owed to the wonderful roster of helpers who ensure the smooth running of these services. KYB continues to bless the ladies who attend these studies. This year we will offer an Advent study to a mixed group and we hope to continue it in 2019.

It was sad to say good-bye to Anita Fogg who has relocated to her family in USA. She has been a dedicated worker, organist, mainly music leader, KYB member and much-loved worker in our congregation for many years. We are glad to have Jim and Moya Jones for a few more months before their impending relocation to Torbanlea. They have been loyal, hardworking members of our congregation for many years and we value their time with us.

Mainly music continues to offer a wonderful program for small children and their parents. A worthwhile promotion within the community netted us a number of new families and the enrolment, as we approach the end of the year, is around 16 families. Five of these children will move into formal schooling for 2019. The attendance has varied through the year and overall has not shown the commitment of other years, but those who attend regularly appreciate our services and are a blessing to the nine regular, trained leaders.

Our outreach this year again included mainly music, catering for Anzac Day, Children's activities at the Village Christmas Party, Carols by Candlelight, KYB, the mixed Bible study and the fifth Sunday Ecumenical services. The offerings from these fifth Sunday services were donated to local organisations, and other charities.

During 2018 we helped Acts for kids (at risk) in Hervey Bay, the local SES, The Bishop's Drought Appeal and CANNIS (Burrum Heads) Christmas Hamper Appeal 2018.

The three congregations worked together for our fund-raising activities during the year. These were the Election Day Cake Stall, the Tombola and the Car Boot Sale, all of which were well supported by the locals.

As a result of our fundraising we were able to clear our debt for the extension with HBUC; upgrade the sound system in readiness for the Annual Carols by Candlelight held in the church grounds each year; upgrade the Audio visual systems used for our weekly church services and for mainly music; to purchase four new ceiling fans for the church and to generously donate to the Bishops Drought Appeal.

During the year we have welcomed some new Sunday worshipers along with seasonal visitors and extended families. It is our prayer that we may reach out to our community to show God's love but also to be mindful of our own "flock" and their changing needs, never forgetting it is God that we serve.

Janice Martin
Minutes Secretary
On behalf of
Marion Renner
Chair Person

HOWARD CONGREGATION



With thanks and praise to God for his loving care he shows us. May our lives shine Christ's light into the darkness of the secular world so that we fulfil our mission of spreading the Good News to the world!

Blessing found in the new Minister

Rev. Luke Smallwood has shown us his love for our Lord in his messages and his actions. He brings to us a fresh approach to worship that stands on the word of God.

A growing community

We have had the joy and privilege to welcome several new people to our Sunday worship service as well as being joined by visitors and old friends. We pray and seek more people will join with us to hear God's word.

Anglican Services

The Anglican services each 4th Sunday of the month continues. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond the control of the Anglican Dioceses they have not always been able to fulfil their preaching commitment. So, we are grateful for those who have blessed us with a message sometimes at the last minute. God has truly blessed us with people that are led by the spirit. Whether the Anglican Services on a Sunday continue will remain to be seen.

Coalfest – Burrum District

The Howard Uniting was again involved with helping to organise The Coalfest Community Church Service held in July. It is a joy for the Church community of Burrum District to gather together as one family of God, to worship God and to celebrate his love for us. Offering at The Coalfest Service is dedicated to Chaplaincy at The Howard/Torbanlea State Schools.

God's Message

We are greatly blessed by God for all those that have ministered to us. We are greatly appreciative of their willingness to do so.

Music Ministry

What a wonderful blessing we have in Jeanette Stocks, although Jeanette has lived in Hervey Bay for some time, she has continued to serve us with her music when possible. We are grateful to Lynn Furness for the time that she has shared her musical talent. We thank God for all that he provides for we always seem to have some form of music.

Property

During 2018 we have had the church and hall painted and extra fans installed. We received some good news, we had the suspected asbestos that was in the church and hall tested and it has turned out not to be asbestos.

Alpha Program

We ran the Alpha program and though it was not greatly attended those who participated gained something from it.

Maintenance

Again, we thank those who help with the day to day gardening and maintenance of the property. Noel Kuskie, Noel Gamble, Barry Whitby and Greg Walker these fine gentlemen do a wonderful job.



Property Hire

A.A. and U3A continue to hire the hall which brings in some income. It is good to see that the hall is being use.

Prayers for all people

We pray that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of all people so that they may see the wonders and Majesty of God.

Closing

In presenting this report we thank the Hervey Bay Church for their unwavering support in their help to further our faith in God's work in the community of Howard and Torbanlea.

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Hervey Bay

2016 - 2018

Year	10am children	10am adults	Total 10am	8am	Total Attendance	Combined Services
2016	8	66	74	86	160	134
2017	11	58	69	89	158	148
2018	7	61	68	86	154	142

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



198 Confirmed Members
16 Baptised Members
93 Adherents
12 Members in Association
400 on Pastoral Roll

BAPTISMS AND FUNERALS

Baptisms:



William Charles Woodard

Isabella Grace Harris

Bryce Alexander Harris

Addison Louise Laurie



In Memoriam:

Doug Richard

Joan Marjorie

John Raymond Pilgrim

Katherine Beryl Frost

Ailsa Rehder

Sybil Campbell Ross

Barry Ivor Jackson

Lorraine Irene Hird

David William Gordon Hogg

Monica Rose Guth

Theodore Jeffery Ray 'Mark' Humphreys

Allan Wilson

Alexander Dudley 'Dick' Wright

Gordan Robert Whitaker

Ailsa Rae Keen

Give all your cares to the Lord and He will give you strength. He will never let those who are right with Him be shaken.

Psalms 55:22 [New Life Version \(NLV\)](#)



“Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)