



## Hervey Bay Congregations

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# Hervey Bay Uniting Church Annual Report 2020




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### **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GNT)**

And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.

## Minister's

To say that the past year was a challenging one is a huge understatement. It has been tough on a whole number of levels. From the closing of all things, to the trying to live in the unfamiliar, and working as best that we can in these new settings while not getting complacent. Nothing is as it was.

Having said that I wish to challenge all of us to look at the blessings that are right before us.

Even though it has been very different, and in some ways a lot of work, we are able to meet. That was probably one of the most difficult things for me to navigate in the past year. I have a richer understanding of the importance of the fellowship within the church. I don't know how I would cope with another lockdown so let us enjoy the blessed fellowship that we now experience but

also do what we can in being sensible and thoughtful in our gathering.

We have been subject to different settings and the re-imagining of what it means to be the church is this space. Again this challenges what we might have always done, and that is hard, but we have been pushed out of necessity to explore new things, like setting up a YouTube channel as one example. Even though it might not be our idea of ideal, we have been challenged to grow. And that is a good thing!

Truth is since coming back we are still on that journey of working out what God is calling us to be, and that is going to continue to fill us with some apprehension, because change is often hard, but there is also opportunity to know great joy as we gain glimpses of

## Minister's continued

the leading of our Lord. So I urge you in this time to press in and trust him. The future can seem, and will be, uncertain, and come what may be assured He is in it all.

I just want to mention...

It is great to be in the space of getting back to a more familiar roster system and to see some of those ministry opportunities coming back online. And you will be able to read those reports. But I will comment on Youth Group specifically here as both Tiffany and I are a part of that and it has been progressing well in the midst of everything with new attenders and great relationships being built with families.

I am also still involved in police chaplaincy and it has been a privilege to be able to work in this space. This role may be changing due to

various circumstances, but I ask you continue to pray for our police.

And finally on a personal level, it is no surprise, that 2020 has been a trying time for my family and myself as I dealt with and continue to deal with burnout. It is a long road to recovery, and I am not sure what the future is, but I thank all those who are praying for and supporting us at this time. Your continued prayer support will be much appreciated as we continue to navigate the rocky road ahead. I especially thank Tiffany, James, Matthew and Heather for standing by me through it all.

I suppose that through the challenges that have been 2020, I have been reminded it is necessary that we remember who we are and what we receive in our Lord

## Minister's continued

Jesus Christ, and the hope that we have in him and our promise future infinitely outweighs the challenges that we all face. But also the truth that he journeys with us in it all. Thank you Jesus.

For this reason I leave you with the words from **Philippians 4:4-7**

*<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Luke*



## Chairperson's

The year 2020 has been a year like no other. The impact of covid-19 on our community and church has brought its many challenges. Our whole world was put on hold from March for an unknown length of time while governments and authorities fought to contain the virus. Church services and gatherings were prohibited. Social distancing and isolation from each other became normal. As the year progressed some restrictions were lifted on gatherings and in June our meeting discussed the re-opening of worship services under covid-19 rules and regulations. Leadership held a special meeting to adopt the covid-19 safety management plan prior to the commencement of worship services on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020. As a result, a separate committee was formed to oversee the seating arrangements in our church to meet the then current restrictions

on the number of persons permitted to gather. It was decided that there would need to be a total of three [3] separate services to accommodate our congregation. The Rev. Luke returned from leave to face three services each Sunday at 9am/11am/2pm. It was with relief that we were able to dispense with the 2pm service in October when restrictions were eased. Worship services and daily devotions were placed on YouTube and eventually on live streaming for those of our congregation who were not able to attend services at church or were deemed to be vulnerable persons.

The focus for leadership continued to focus on the growth of our

## Chairperson's (continued)

church and in September we welcomed Chris Crause to the meeting to give us some insight into the ways to connect to our community and to review our church profile.

It was with regret that leadership accepted the resignation of our pastoral care coordinator Lorelle Dimmick due to ill health. Lorelle's commitment to the pastoral care program during her tenure has been both inspirational and a blessing to all those under her care. We wish her a speedy recovery.

As per the treasurer's report renovations to Dan Dinna House continues.

A new printer has been installed in the church office after the lease for the old one expired.

The Christmas gift appeal 2020 saw a total of 25 backpacks with school supplies provided to the Torbanlea / Howard primary schools and a large number of gifts to those in need in our community.

A special thanks goes to all those in our congregation who put up their hand as a volunteer during this particularly challenging year. Without all of you we would not have been able to continue with worship services. Your assistance has been invaluable and much appreciated.

I also want to thank our congregation who have accepted all the restrictions and changes so readily and for their co-operation during this time. Unfortunately, these conditions are to continue for an unknown period.



## Chairperson's (continued)

In 2021 leadership proposes to continue the focus on the growth of our church and our satellite churches at Howard and Burrum Heads. With the development of a new estate at Howard commencing shortly and an increase in the population we are looking at the upgrade of the church there to make it a more welcoming space to worship and community use friendly.

As we move into the New Year, we give thanks to God that we have been able to overcome the challenges faced in 2020 and we pray that He will lead us in the way he wants us to go in 2021.

I wish to thank all members of the leadership team for their valuable input and for the support they have given to me as chair and to each other during this very difficult year. I especially thank the

covid-19 subcommittee and all of our volunteers and to Luke who continues to challenge us to think outside the box.

**Psalms 118:6** The Lord is on my side, will not fear, what can man do to me.

Gillian Ayoub  
Chairperson





## Treasurer's

### Hervey Bay Uniting Church Financial Report 2020

In taking on the Treasurer's role, I had a number of actions that I deemed needed to be taken in networking our office systems, including MYOB, Microsoft Outlook and File Manager.

- MYOB – historically, Office Secretary and Treasurer worked on MYOB remotely, i.e., each had their own version which meant invoices raised by Office Secretary had to be re-entered by Treasurer and payments recorded by Treasurer could not be viewed by Office Secretary. Considered to be an inefficient way to operate, latest version of MYOB has been installed on our server. This allows either position to access one version of MYOB and it's full, current data.
- Microsoft Outlook – Treasurer and Office Secretary now have access to each others emails to facilitate ongoing administration when either is not available.
- OneDrive – Treasurer and Office Secretary now have access to Treasurer and Zdrive files which facilitates administrative/financial operations in viewing, updating, edit or saving document.

With a banking officer already in place, their taking on another task of updating MYOB records with direct deposit data each month has assisted end of month reconciliation.

The Church Office is now operating more efficiently in it's administrative and financial management.

To say 2020 has been challenging is understating what the year has presented in managing the budget for our Hervey Bay Uniting Church and Dan Dinna House account. Relationships with key people at our UCA Qld Synod have been developed for assistance in submitting our annual report, EOY documentation, updating insurance/property details and ensuring the Australia Commission of Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) were current. But now to our financial position for 2020.

## Treasurer's (Continued)

### 2020 Financial Report for Hervey Bay Uniting Church (Hervey Bay, Howard, Burrum Heads)

At the end of the 2020 calendar year, the budget position for Hervey Bay Uniting Church is a surplus of \$8,814. The position is primarily due to Job-Keeper Payments being received for both Minister and Office Secretary which will be explained later in this report.

	Budget	Actuals	Variance	Comments
<b>Income</b>	\$207,180.00	\$203,281.65	-\$ 3,898.35	<- Under in receipt of monies received
<b>Expenses</b>	\$207,180.00	\$194,467.65	-\$ 12,712.35	<- Under in expenditure of monies
<b>Variances</b>	\$ 0.00	-\$ 8,814.00	-\$ 8,814.00	<- Variance is result of less monies received against less monies expended.

### INCOME

- At end of the 2020 financial year, Income was \$3,898.35 less than budget.
- Offerings Income was only down by about \$4,000 which was due to the uptake of direct deposit option by many of our congregation.
  - Property Related Income from external hall hirers as result of 'lockdown' resulted in \$3,862.60 deficit.
  - Recycling Income is not budgeted for but resulted in receipt of \$4,036.00 for the year.

## Treasurer's (Continued)

### **EXPENSES**

Despite shutdown, Church operations continued with administration and property related costs continuing.

Minister, Office Secretary and Volunteers - labour costs for Minister and Office Secretary were offset through receipt of the JobKeeper Payments. Total of \$43,200 was received for Office Secretary May-Sept 2020 and Minister May-Dec 2020.

- While purchase of Christmas gifts was funded from 2019 donations, a minimal amount of \$721.76 was spent on a new initiative of school packs to needy at Howard/Torbanlea.
- With upgrade to our MYOB financial system, networking of Office Secretary desktop and Treasurer's computer and remote IT support arrangement, the budget for Computer related items was exceeded by \$1,848.25. But the administration and financial operations of our Hervey Bay Uniting Church is more efficient with the new practices.
- Worship Expenses exceeded budget by \$3,928. 07. This was mainly due to purchase of new recording equipment for weekly Minister's messages on You-Tube and pending Live Streaming of services, \$2,365. Due to restrictions, pre-filled communion cups were purchased that are used at our Hervey Bay services, Howard and Burrum Heads and as needed during pastoral care visits.
- Repairs and Maintenance to our building were incurred through plumbing and electrical repairs resulting in overspend of \$2,769.13. Need to increase security lighting near recycle container and Kev's Shed cost \$1,831 added to general plumbing/electrical work carried out on the premises.
- Grounds Maintenance was \$479.90 underspend (purchase of new mower was budgeted for).
- Cleaning budget of \$3,000 had significant overspend of \$9,373.11 which was mainly the result of COVID19 and subsequent requirements of premises cleaning. Monthly budget of \$250 for cleaning (previously Bayside Transformations) become \$220 each week due to the level of cleaning now required. Requirement for Deep Clean before resuming access to church building and weekly services cost \$2,200. Enquiries with Burrum Heads and Howard resulted in Howard Deep Clean being charged to Hervey Bay Account as insufficient funds in their own budget.

## Treasurer's (Continued)

- Other Property Related costs were overspent by \$2,984.26 due to new awning over sliding doors rear of church \$1,780 and additional signage for carpark at \$488.40 plus other minor items.
- Youth Ministry budget resulted in underspend of \$5,351.53 due to suspension of Youth Group Activities due to COVID19.

### **CAPITAL WORKS:**

Capital Works at our church for 2020 was air-conditioning of the worship centre and church hall. Cost was \$24,200 of which \$22,200 was paid for from Capital Reserves, i.e., our MDF.

While not capital works, but in line with Presbytery proposal for other items as needed during this COVID19 year, the funding of Live-Streaming equipment and Licensing is also being covered. Items were purchased with reimbursement of the \$2,150 from MDF expected January 2021.

### **Summary:**

Despite closure of the facility for several months, the receipt of JobKeeper Payments for our Minister and Office Secretary to amount of \$43,200 ensured that we were actually able to end the year on surplus. While Synod office nominated Ministerial JobKeeper Payments, with assistance of our Office Secretary and liaison with our Synod People and Culture officers, I was able to access JobKeeper Payments for our Office Secretary. Without JobKeeper for our Office Secretary, our budget position would have been approximately \$9,186 overspent.

While amounts can be budgeted for against Income and Expenses, it is the 'unknown' that can make a big impact on end of year budget position and this year, with COVID19 lockdown, this is what we have experienced. But, again, without the JobKeeper Payments, we would have resulted in deficit for the 2020 financial year rather than the \$8,814 surplus that is being reported.

Bank account at end of December 2020 was \$88,383.82.

## Treasurer's (Continued)

### 2020 Financial Report for Dan Dinna House

At the end of the 2020 calendar year, the budget position for Dan Dinna House is a deficit of \$15,962.08. The position is the result of closure of the facility to external hirers due to COVID19 shutdown and considerable repairs and maintenance costs.

	Budget	Actuals	Variance
Income	\$22,269.72	\$17,728.99	-\$4,540.73
Expenses	\$14,293.00	\$25,714.34	\$11,421.34
Variances	-\$ 7,976.72	\$ 7,985.36	\$15,962.08

### INCOME

Despite the facility shutdown from March to September due to COVID19 restrictions, Hervey Bay Sixty's & Better continued to pay their monthly lease payment of \$1,200. Hall Rental also ceased. With a planned income for hall hire of \$9,078, only \$3,329 was received leaving a deficit of \$5749.

Total income budget for 2020 for Dan Dinna House was \$22,269, however, only \$17,728 received resulting in deficit of \$4,540.

### EXPENSES

The 2020 budget for expenses was \$14,293 but actuals total was \$25,714 resulting in \$11,421 overspend. This was primarily due to extensive electrical and plumbing repairs and maintenance needed throughout the year.

In June 2020, it was identified that current power source was not enough to efficiently operate air-conditioning and other equipment in the facility. Following an assessment, it was determined that a 3-phase power system was needed. Work completed by Ergon and McCaskers Electrical incurred cost of \$16,000. Of these costs, only \$6,922 was posted to Dan Dinna House account with donations/ concessions of \$1,700 from Ergon, \$5,068 from Sixty's and Better and \$2,310 from McCaskers Electrical.

Additional electrical work to \$2,398 was required in December 2020 after burn-out of light fittings identified. If not replaced, electrician advised re-

## Treasurer's (Continued)

sult may have been fire in the facility.

Plumbing repairs also cost \$1,962. These related to fixing leaks in roof and throughout the facility also replacing guttering at rear of the building.

To complete this new verandah project, surfaces were painted/sealed at cost of \$4,884 to the Dan Dinna Bank Account.

Underspend was also in Cleaning and Consumables accounts. Monthly cost is approximately \$200 but with closure, Sixty's and Better have not been recharging cleaning to HBUC. Advice from the Manager has also suggested that they will not be recharging cleaning until external hirers increase.

### **CAPITAL WORKS:**

During 2020, one of the back verandahs was totally rebuilt with a cost of \$49,807.69. While original intention was for the HBUC bank account to pay \$8000 towards this expense, it was totally covered by Hervey Bay Uniting Church Mission Development Funds (MDF). Final withdrawal from the Oleander Account M574 was \$17,319.86. Final withdrawal from the Torbanlea Account 3980 was \$32,487.83 with intention that this would clear the Torbanlea account.

### **Summary:**

Despite closure of the facility for several months, Sixty's and Better continued to pay their full lease payment each month which was a great contributor to the budget position not being in greater deficit.

While it was anticipated that some funds from the Dan Dinna House Bank Account may have been transferred to the Hervey Bay UC Bank Account as planned repayment of costs of new verandah, with the unexpected repairs and maintenance costs, this will not be occurring from 2020 budget.

Bank account at end of December 2020 was \$4,462.

Submitted for your information

*Gail Grimsey*

Church Treasurer  
Hervey Bay Uniting Church

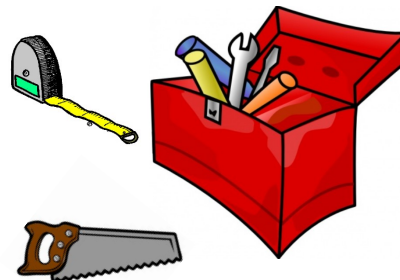
# Property

## (Hervey Bay Church)

While the Church experienced lockdown for a considerable time, we took the opportunity to complete several upgrades to the property. Most notable was the installation of the Air Conditioning to the Church and hall and repairs and upgrade to the toilets.

Six split system Air – Con units were fitted by Central Coast Air Conditioning (four in the church and two in the hall) and these have proven to be very effective as summer arrived. They were paid from the Mission Development Fund.

With the kind help from three members of the congregation (John Dietsch, Lance Fields, and Wes Furness), walls in the toilets were re-sheeted and two additional wash basins fitted with donated funds. Great effort and thanks to the three of you.



Before services re-commenced a deep Covid clean of the building at Hervey Bay and Howard was undertaken to ensure compliance with new standards. Haydens Cleaning service now undertake weekly cleaning of the Hervey Bay building to once again comply with required Covid cleaning.

A new Rider Mower was purchased to replace the aged Cox mower and this helps to keep the grounds very tidy.

The Children's Playground was weeded and new child-safe mulch deposited to ensure continued safety of children.

The usual maintenance on window locks has been performed and additional security lighting installed around the building.

## (Dan Dinna House)

The year will go down as the year of major building upgrades, much of it as urgent safety requirements. Our electrician, Shane McCasker, reported after an inspection that the switchboard was in danger of catching fire and required immediate replacement with a commercial one. Not only that, three phase power from the street was



## Property (Continued)

needed along with cable re-wiring. Through the generosity of Sixty and Better and Shane, our expenses for this work was greatly reduced and we thank them for their gifts. Further electrical work was needed when one of the light batons nearly caught fire. All of the light hardware was then replaced throughout the building.

It is a great relief to see a new veranda and ramp installed at the rear of the building. This was a major upgrade and the work was performed by Wide Bay Renovations. It allows wheelchair access to the rear of the building as well as access by two steps to the toilets at the lower end. The costs of the work was paid from the Mission Development Fund.

We continue to enjoy close connections with Sixty and Better who show a willingness to work closely with the Church in providing services to older members of the community. We can be proud of our partnering in this important activity. ....*John Grimsey.*

## Christmas Trail

### **Christmas Discovery Trail** ***"..... In Search of Christmas"***

Following cancellation of Hervey Bay Carols by Candlelight, the Ministers' Association looked for ways to connect with our Community this Christmas in a COVID-Safe manner. This result was the **Combined Church Christmas Story Trail** held Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd December from 7pm-9pm each night.

After consideration by our Leadership Team, Hervey Bay Uniting Church accepted the offer to be part of this important Christmas event as our own Christmas Carols event had been cancelled.

Members of WOW made a number of doily angels which were offered as hand-outs for our display. This led to us being allocated the initial stage of the Christmas Story when the Angel Gabriel visits Mary.

A church banner was made for visitors to view as a representation of Angel Gabriel bringing the message that Mary will have a Son.

A QR Code was available for visitors to scan and hear the story as they travelled along the Trail.

## Christmas Trail (Continued)



It was wonderful to see younger families cluster together so that they could see the vision and hear the narration.

Observing COVID-19 restrictions, many wandered into our church and took the time to write a name or a prayer on a tag then hang that bauble on our Prayer Tree. With so many people still unable to share this Christmas with loved ones or many saying they had lost family or friends during the year and been unable to see them before they passed, visitors were very keen to hang a bauble on our tree, especially, knowing that all those persons whose names were on the tree would be prayed for. Over 170 baubles were hung on our Prayer Tree this Christmas.



With Christmas lights in our windows including the Nativity scene, we welcomed an estimated 250 visitors to our church and shared the true reason for this season.

Thanks to Thora, Coral, Jean, Lynn, Luke and Tiffany Smallwood and John Grimsey who helped in representing our church during this event and to the dozen or so of our congregation who visited the display. It is not known if this event will occur for Christmas 2021 but it is a valuable way to share the message and to let people know who we are and where we are as the Hervey Bay Uniting Church.

## Christmas Appeal/Uniting Care

This year, through the generous donations by our congregation, 23 large shopping bags of various food items were delivered to the Hervey Bay Uniting Care Community Care Centre. The reason for this food hamper drive each year is to help those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas time. Non-perishable food items are donated and then delivered to the Uniting Care group in Pialba to contribute to the Christmas hampers they deliver to the people they assist through various programs of support or consultation.

We received a letter from Uniting Care on 22 December 2020 to say thanks for the donations enabling them to put together 15 very generous hampers. These were received with much appreciation from the recipients.

They asked me to pass on their thanks to our congregation who have made this possible. And they wanted to share some of the recipients stories with our congregation so that we can have a better understanding of the help that we provided.

A father who had been homeless and living in his car, previously with drug and alcohol issues, now has his own unit but little money. The hamper provided him with food

that he was able to share with his daughter who he is trying to re-establish a relationship with.

A woman, who has had to battle two life threatening and ongoing illnesses, job loss, financial stresses and suicide of a close family member, is looking forward to a more positive 2021 and the hamper just showed her that there are caring people in the community.

A single father of two, struggling to make ends meet after losing his highly paid position and a very acrimonious custody dispute, is trying his hardest to make a safe and happy home for his children and the hamper just eased the burden of providing some little luxuries.

An elderly single male with multiple health issues, has just escaped from a domestic violence situation (not all victims are female), he is trying to re-establish his life in his own unit with assistance from Uniting Care with his financial issues and making sure he is connected with other support agencies as he has very little living skills and very limited literacy. He is planning on sharing the hamper with his elderly neighbour who is also alone this Christmas.

A single mother of 5 children

## Christmas Appeal/Uniting Care (Continued)

(ages 1 – 16) that has escaped a domestic violence situation who has recently moved to Hervey Bay and living in emergency accommodation with no family support in the area. Due to the previous crisis, she has not been able to provide her children with any Christmas presents or special treats. She really appreciated that with the extra items in the hampers she would be able to give her children some special things on Christmas day.

So, you can see these are real people with real stories and, through Uniting Care, they thank you for your support through donation of these food items.

It is wonderful at Christmas time to reinforce our connection with other Uniting Church organisations such as Uniting Care. And through the food hampers, we are connecting, in a remote way, with the needy people in our Hervey Bay community.....

*Gail Grimsey*

## Christmas Appeal

Although we did not have the numbers for children to cater for with gifts that we have had in previous years, once again our Church was able to help families within our Community that could not afford to give their children gifts for Christmas, which also included gifts for Children from the Angel Ministry (Children who had a parent in the prison system).

All five of the state schools in Hervey Bay, and Torbanlea – Howard State Schools supplied lists of families who needed assistance with gifts for their children. Louise & Gillian put together School packs for the children in Howard & Torbanlea Schools, while the girls from WOW assisted by putting together gifts for the children from our local state schools, lists which were supplied by the School Chaplains.

Parents from our local community had also asked for assistance with gifts.

The number of gifts distributed this year including Schools – Angel Tree Ministry and Private family requests totaled 150.

Contributions towards these gifts came from Gift vouchers supplied by Head office – monies from purchasing, wrapping and distribution of these gifts.

## Christmas Appeal

Continued

Church funds and Men's Lunch Bunch group who have been supporting our project for many years, with monies and gifts.

Sincere thanks to Darren Everard and members of the Men's Lunch Bunch group for their continued support of this project – to our Treasurer, Gail for making monies available towards the School supplies and gifts, and the girls from WOW who assisted with the purchasing, wrapping and distribution of these gifts.

We thank God that we have the resources to be able to assist those less fortunate within our Community and thank all who assisted in making this Christmas a little brighter for the them, praying that we can continue with this Ministry in the years to come.

God bless,  
*Joan Whitmore* (Co-Ordinator)

## Adult Fellowship

The HBUC Adult Fellowship are a dedicated group of ladies who are part of a much larger network of UC Adult Fellowships around Australia. There are 20 present members from our congregation and meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month at 930 am at the church.

February - Rev Luke Smallwood opened our first meeting with a dedication prayer. We had our shared lunch after the meeting as a birthday celebration for all members which we all enjoyed.

In March 6 - Some of our members attended the World Day of Prayer held at the Catholic Church. In March 9, we attended the Mary Burnett Presbytery Adult Fellowship Area Day Meeting held at Gympie Uniting Church.

March to June - We did not have any meetings due to Covid.

July – Praise the Lord we were allowed to hold our monthly meeting but without our usual morning tea. We followed and practiced social distancing,

## Adult Fellowship (Continued)

used hand sanitiser and cleaned the room after each meeting.

August – We did not have our annual Mother's Morning Tea and the Soup and Crusty Luncheon which were our main source of funds for our donations.

September – We decided to hold a Cakeless Cake Stall for the month of September and were very blessed to have the support of our congregation and raised \$790.10 for the Frontier Services.

October and November – We had our Market Mornings (mini garage sale) after the meeting, with the help and support of our friends in the church, we raised \$648.45. The hard work and commitment of all members enabled us to donate to eleven (11) different organizations within Australia totaling \$2,250.20.

December – We had our last meeting followed by a break-up luncheon at the Waterfront Restaurant with friends joining us. It was a good year of friendship, fellowship and most of all the sharing of gifts the Lord has given us all. Thank you to all members

for your love and cooperation.

We always welcome new members to join us. To God be the Glory!

Francie Cadman





## Burrum Heads Christian Community Church



A year like no other. No services due to the rules about COVID-19. I would like to acknowledge the members of the Management Committee. I, as did Marion, spent a large part of the year not participating due to ill health. You did all the work that was necessary to maintain our presence in the community.

### **Services**

Services were conducted at the beginning of the year and in the second half of the year. The services were conducted by Ministers of the Word and lay preachers from Hervey Bay. Due to COVID-19 numbers restrictions, this necessitated conducting additional services in Hervey Bay which in turn resulted in a lack of supply from Hervey Bay. These worship services have been conducted by local members of our congregations. I am sure you join with me in thanking all those who willingly served our church community in

this way. I particularly want to acknowledge Norma Doyle for her contribution.

Many members partake each week to prepare for and participate in our services. Again, thanks for your willingness to serve.

Since COVID-19 restrictions started our Catholic sisters and brothers have not been worshipping in our church due to lack of the normal supply from Hervey Bay, we miss you.

Our ecumenical services have continued with donations to local groups.

In an endeavour to obtain consistence ALL services commence at 7am. This decision will be reviewed prior to Easter. We recognise that this early time has disadvantaged some members of our congregations.

### **Farewell's**

When Dawn and Bob Fletcher moved to Caloundra, we discovered that there were lots of tasks that needed to be filled. We thank them for their many years of service. A generous gift



## **Burrum Heads (Continued)**

from Dawn and Bob, as they left, has financed tablecloths and seasonal banners for our church.

### **Activities**

Normal annual activities were cancelled. The exception was the community carols in the grounds. A great success as many other carol services in the district had been cancelled. About 110 people attended and responded warmly. A raffle was held on the night and it also was a great success.

A QR code was created along with COVID-19 plans and requirements implemented.

Tombola planning and preparation was all but complete. The Tombola was cancelled, but all that work has carried over into 2021.

### **Finance**

Cash for Cans has continued for the year.

The cancellation of normal activities has resulted in a loss in 'normal' income. Fortunately,

our general expenses have also reduced. We hold adequate reserves in our bank account to ensure continued stability at our church.

### **Groups**

We have three groups utilising this hall.

- Reading and Writing (RAW) Buddies meet once a month.
- The Art Group meet weekly.
- Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre conduct a children's activity twice a month.

### **Buildings, Grounds and Maintenance**

There are a number of outstanding items which require attention. A number have been outstanding for quite some time, but maybe it is COVID time the new normal.

- A backup of the hymns and songs on the organ
- Vestry storage. Not all

## Burrum Heads (Continued)

bad news, the floor was prepared and sanded and sealed.

- Annual Property Checklist to be completed.
- Resealing of the ramp.

Now the roadworks are complete and kerbing and guttering is in place our storm water is to be connected to the street. The plumber will also check and replace toilet guttering and connections.

Our thanks to Ken Greer for maintaining the gardens and to the mower man.

Our building is receiving regular cleaning by an external contractor.

A TV was repositioned to the rear of the church during the year.

### **Plans for 2021.**

Much of course depends on the COVID rules.

- Solar Panels
- Carry over of the Tombola

- Discussion and decision regarding a Memorial Wall/Garden
- Messy Church
- Fundraising
- Carols

*Chris Thompson*

**Chairperson  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.**



# Howard Congregation



We have truly been blessed by God. It has been a difficult year for everyone, but we thank God for all that we have.

Being told you cannot go to church and that the doors had to close, had never been heard of in Australia. But as everyone is aware that is what happened.

It has been challenging, but what creative ways there have been to reach God's people.

We are blessed that we live in a time where we have other ways to reach people, online streaming, television shows, recordings on DVD's, church websites. All these ways as wonderful as they are don't reach everyone. Many people are Technologically challenged.

Not being able to come together in fellowship to praise and worship God had left many feeling isolat-

ed from the community and in some case from God. Making the effort to maintain contact has been so important for us all.

Praise God that we have been able to come back to worship. It may not be the same as beforehand but are able to worship our creator together once again.

Church is about worship and praise and how wonderful it is to come together to do this.

Coming back has been a challenging time. Due to the pressures of providing worship leaders we have often had to organise the services from within the congregation. A special thanks to Noel Gamble who has led many services. The congregation has worked together to ensure that we give God the glory that is due. We come together for God and when we give him all we receive great comfort and joy.

Church is the same but different. It is the same as we are together to worship God but different having to do contact tracing paperwork, not always being able to sit in the usual place, for a while not singing, then singing while sitting no passing the peace with a hand-

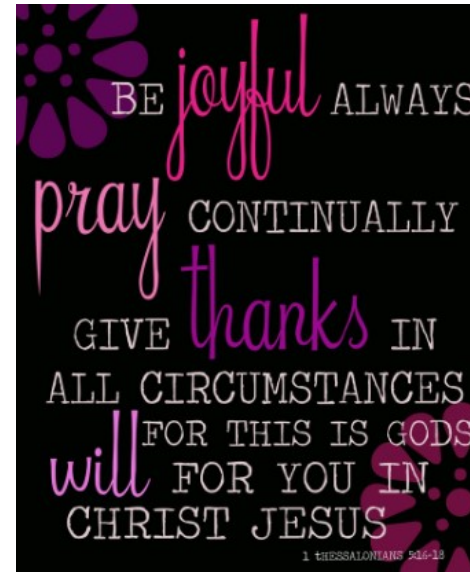
## Howard (continued)

shake, no greeting with a hug. While the nature of the service is changed the spirit is the same. We change but God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

As we open our doors on Sundays our numbers have swelled. Prior to the lock down we were having 15-17 regularly attended but we now we have 25 plus people coming to worship on a regular basis.

We continue to hire the Church hall to AA and to U3A. Like church services these groups ceased to run while the church was in lock down. The groups have resumed with Covid Plans in place.

As we continue into 2021 we look to God for guidance, strength and support. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to grow in the hearts of the community bringing salvation to all.



## Baptisms

Hayley Jane Bell  
Emily Sue Bell  
Zensin Jeffery Geal  
Octavia Maree Descovich  
Bane Myers  
Riley Ann Myers



## In Memorial

*Glenn Andrew Crittenden*  
*Graham Edward Baillie*  
*Aloise Beryl 'Joy' Whittingham*  
*Barbara Linton Acutt*  
*Donald Gill*  
*Lola Diane Byron*  
*Michelle Diane Howden*  
*John Cant*



## Attendances

Average Sunday Attendance Figures  
Hervey Bay 2018 - 2020

Year	10am Adults	10am Children	8am	Total Average for 2 services
2018	61	7	86	154
2019	65	6	80	151

Year	5th Sunday Combined
2018	142
2019	132

### New Permanent 9am service

Year	9am Adults	9 am Children	Total
2019	136	6	142
2020	129	4	133

### Starting December 2019

### Post Covid 19 Services from 9th August

	9 am	11 am	2 pm	Total
9/8 - 4/10/20	52	44	28	124
11/10 - 27/12/20	75	55		130

### 2020

### Church Membership

184 Confirmed Members  
14 Baptised Members  
60 Adherent  
12 Members in Association  
348 on Pastoral Care Roll



## Mission Statement



The members of the Hervey Bay  
Uniting Church

Congregations mission is:

*To Grow in the love of God, to  
make disciples and to show His  
love in all that we do.*

Our Vision:

*To grow Spiritually and numerical-  
ly. Through prayer and forming ac-  
tive and accountable disciples of  
Jesus. We seek to grow our Con-  
gregation into effective missional  
church that will engage with the  
community.*