



# Hervey Bay Uniting Church

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

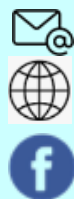
## Our Vision:

To grow Spiritually and numerically. Through prayer and forming active and accountable disciples of Jesus. We seek to grow our Congregation into effective missional church that will engage with the community and beyond.



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## Table of reports

Ministers six month's .....	1
Farewell Rev. Luke Smallwood .....	6
Chairpersons .....	7
Giving and Finance .....	10
Property .....	12
Volunteering, Safe Ministries with Children and Workplace Health and Safety .....	13
Christian Meditation .....	14
Adult Fellowship.....	15
KYB—Tuesday Hervey Bay .....	16
Photo page .....	17
Women of Worship <b>WOW</b> .....	18
Wes' Wednesday Bible Study .....	20
Men's Breakfast .....	21
Wednesday Breakfast Van.....	22
Monday Prayer Group .....	23
Christmas Hamper Giving.....	24
School Chaplaincy Christmas Appeal.....	26
Howard Uniting Church .....	27
Burrum Heads Community Church.....	28
Baptisms .....	31
In Memorial.....	31
Attendance figures Hervey Bay .....	31
Membership .....	31
Mission Statement and Vision .....	32

**May all the work we do be to the Glory of God**

**Sunday's message is available on the YouTube Channel.**

**[Click here to go to our YouTube channel.](#)**

**please subscribe to our YouTube channel.**



## **SIX MONTHS' REPORT**

### **FROM YOUR MINISTERS**

After we were unexpectedly brought back into supply ministry, this report causes us to summarise what we have experienced, appreciated, done and also what the future may hold.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** By implementing changes to the structure of the leadership team, we have sought to widen and strengthen this leadership base. Having people work in their gift and interest areas brings more energy to the group and streamlines process. This new process is now operating, while we recognise it may take a few months for the benefits to be felt by all.

**LAY PARTICIPATION.** Many members across all three congregations are involved in ministry both within and outside the gathered congregations. This happens in both professional and volunteer capacities, and covers a plethora of work areas and organisations. We are aware that gifts of mercy, leadership, evangelism, shepherding, teaching, administration, encouragement, creativity, giving, craftsmanship, intercession and hospitality have been endowed by God's Spirit and that you are diligently exercising them in service of others as disciples of Christ Jesus.

**UNITING CHURCH FOOTPRINT IN HERVEY BAY AREA.** The three Churches are only part of what the Uniting Church does. Other agencies of the Church e.g. Uniting Care, Blue Care, Lifeline, Uniting Health (St Stephen's hospital) are only part of the picture. Fraser Shores is part of Uniting Church Retirement Living. Opportunity shops provide funds to support some of these agencies, as well as helping member of the communities to buy more affordable clothing and household goods. In most cases, there is not a strong connection between agencies and the local church. Strengthening these connections is seen as desirable and an imperative.

**PASTORAL CARE.** There is a strong history of Pastoral Care which continues to evolve to ensure all congregants are covered. New areas to be strengthened are those of visitors, newcomers to the area, seasonal visitors (those who may be on the Fraser Coast for the entire winter, etc). Pastoral care may begin with a phone call or when a person arrives at Church for the first time. One of the casualties of the Covid era has been morning teas at Hervey Bay, while Howard and Burrum Heads have maintained the practice. We encourage Hervey Bay to find ways of restoring morning tea, as it helps people feel connected and is a part of pastoral care. Many people in general are feeling disconnected because of Covid-19, leading to a decline in mental health and sometimes disengagement from Church. The various

groups that operate are critical to delivery of excellent pastoral care. I trust that some home fellowship groups may emerge soon, to embrace others who are not yet included in any small group.

**WORSHIP.** Throughout the last 6 months, worship and preaching have been highlights for us, as we have journeyed through the seasons of the church's life. Peace Day, Week of Prayer and Solidarity with our Uniting World Partners, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, were all wonderful celebrations of faith. Many people including wonderful musicians, singers, readers, actors, coordinators, tech team (on sound, video, data preparation), roster coordination, and intercessors have enabled competent dynamic worship services to be conducted. The unifying of two pre-Covid congregations at Hervey Bay has been effected. The demands of Covid check-in have been competently fulfilled, the buildings have been regularly cleaned and purposefully maintained. And we did not become a place of Covid infection, though it demanded vigilance, compliance and cooperation.

Following on from a Belonging Seminar, it was precious to hear the testimonies of those who were welcomed on transfer, remembering their baptism or celebrating new beginnings in faith, and discovering their spiritual gifts. This was in fact a period of very significant and fruitful pastoral care. Another Belonging Seminar will be offered in March, as others join our community.

**TEACHING.** Ian looks forward to providing a course *Journey Through the New Testament*, in the remaining weeks of our call. Two groups have enrolled, and will meet on Monday nights, and Thursday afternoon. This will supplement the teaching ministries of Rev Wes Furness and John Howden, and of Rick Warren through WOW Group.

**THE DIGITAL AGE.** All three congregations are now able to use data in worship services, while Hervey Bay has the facility to support on-line streaming. This has been made possible by the generosity, expertise and time of a dedicated group of people.

**THE FUTURE.** The Fraser Coast continues to grow both numerically and by infrastructure. New opportunities for ministry eg. the new rail workshops at Torbanlea, will continue. No one minister will ever be able to service all these areas. The Church must find ways of growing even more lay participation in ministry, and increasing giving so part time staff may be appointed. Generally, there are two generations of people missing from our congregations. This trend will result in an even older group who can no longer sustain ministry.

## THANKS.

There are many people to thank – all of you in fact!

We also recognize the faithful, generous and competent ministry of other agents (including retired minister, retired pastor) and the partnership of current agents of the Uniting Church (Uniting Health Chaplain, Uniting Care Chaplain, Prison Chaplain, Blue Care Coordinator, Office Administrator). It is also a point of joy for us to see several people emerging into ministry (preaching, chaplaincy, ecumenical partnerships).

We are sincerely grateful for the accommodation provided (Wheelies Rest and Kent Street manse, and lent furniture) and your intentional care.

We are so, so grateful that Ian's mother, Winnifred, has been included, loved and cared for while she has been among you. What you did for her on the occasion of her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday is very much treasured by her.

Throughout our months in supply ministry, we have been encouraged and grateful for your love, unity, generosity, partnerships and faithfulness. And we give God the glory, for to both of us, it was absolutely certain and clear that God called us into this season of ministry at Hervey Bay.

*May the peace and grace of Christ abound among you, and may each of our three congregations and agencies be evidence of the God's love on the Fraser Coast.*

Rev Margaret Stehbens MA, BTh

Rev Ian Stehbens MSc, BTh, BA



Rev Margaret Stehbens

*Minister of the Word*



Rev Ian Stehbens

*Minister of the Word  
Chair of Church Council*

# Goodbye Luke and Tiffany



We said goodbye to Luke, Tiffany,  
James, Matthew & Heather  
We wish Luke all the best in his future  
ministries,

## **Chairperson**

I present to you the annual report of the Leadership Team for 2021

The team has continued to meet on a monthly basis to address the business and vision of the church

The on going covid 19 virus pandemic has continued to dominate our lives. Restrictions remain in place at this point in time and look set to continue or some time to come. Our congregation has adapted well to these restrictions and we have been able to continue worship services and some activities without a lot of inconvenience.

We returned to one service at 9am on April 25<sup>th</sup> with allocated seating. There were some minor issues associated with this but overall this has worked well with the congregation. Until distancing restrictions are lifted allocated seating will remain in place. My thanks goes to the Rev. Wes Furness for his work in planning this and making it possible to accommodate all our worshippers.

Checking into Church services and other venues via QR code on your smart phone became a reality from July 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 when the government vetoed the use of paper sign in for contact tracing of the virus. This has been readily accepted and taken up by the majority of our congregation.

The renovation program continues with the work on Dan Dinna House in the final stages on completion this building will be in excellent condition and a venue able to be utilised for many years into the future. The Howard church has also received some much needed attention and now looks refreshed. Thanks must go to the maintenance team for their vigilance in maintaining our properties in good order.

The mission development fund has been the subject of a lot of attention by leadership. This year and the treasurer has completed the final submission to presbytery/synod.

The Rev. Luke Smallwood commenced four (4) months leave in June and this raised the issue of a Supply minister during his absence with thanks to outgoing presbytery Minister Chris Crause we were blessed to have supply in the persons of the Rev. Bruce Johnson in June followed by the Rev's Margaret and Ian Stehbens in July and August.

Uniting world ambassadors Sylvia and Don Wright organised the 7 Days of solidarity of pray which successfully took place in the prayer room during July. The week culminated in the BBQ street style and an engaging talk by the Rev. Ian on his time in Timor Leste.

The Pastoral care program has been an area of concern for leadership as it

has suffered and experienced a number of challenges during 2020/2021 mostly due to the restriction associated with covid 19 and the lack of replacement coordinator following the resignation of the previous coordinator for health reasons. The Rev's Ian and Margaret Stehbens have chosen to be active in the area of pastoral care and with leadership the program is currently under review.

In August the leadership team were advised by the moderator Rev Andrew Gunton and Presbytery Minister Rev. Ray Nutley that Rev. Luke Smallwood had been called to the inland patrol ministry based in Nanango and so it was with sadness that we said farewell to

Continued from page 2

Luke and his family of Tiffany, James, Heather and Matthew on September 26<sup>th</sup> as he concluded his ministry with us and commenced his new position on October 1<sup>st</sup> we give thanks that we were blessed to share in his ministry for three and a half years and wish him and his family God's blessing in their new environment.

Presbytery shortly prior to Luke's departure informed leadership of the news that the Rev's Ian and Margaret Stehbens would be returning as our supply ministers from October to the end of December 2021. Just prior to Christmas we have been advised that Ian and Margaret will continue in supply until the end of April 2022.

The church sound system has experienced a number of issues for some considerable time but thanks to the work and determination plus some new equipment Hugo Nolan has now resolved this lengthy problem.

We have been blessed to receive some anonymous donations and this has allowed air conditioning to be placed in the parent room and the purchase of a defibrillator which is now in the church foyer.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Mrs Joan Whitmore for her 20 years of service to the life of this church. Joan has held the position of church council secretary for many years as well as that of Chairperson, presbytery representative and coordinator of the Christmas appeal. Joan has decided to retire from these positions and we thank you for all the work you have done Joan.

I also want to thank those on leadership who have chosen not to re-nominate for office in 2022. Their work on the team has been Highly valued and much appreciated Thank you for all you have done.

Where would our church be without all of our volunteers? A very big thank you to all of you who have made a contribution no matter how large or how small you all make a big difference to the smooth running and the light of the church.

Thanks to the Re. Wes Furness and his committee it has been wonderful to see the return of the Men's Breakfast recently.

As this will be my last Report as chairperson, I wish to acknowledge the considerable contribution made by every member or your church leadership team. I have greatly appreciated the support and encouragement given to me during my tenure and I thank you one and all. It has been my honour to serve in this way. I especially want to thank the office secretary Louise Crittenden for the invaluable assistance given to me in many matters and to Joan Whitmore for her patience in transcribing the minutes after every meeting and to Treasurer Gail Grimsey for her invaluable work with our finances.

We face uncertain times as followers of Christ and our need to trust in him completely and allow him to direct our path is now more urgent than ever I wish the incoming leadership team God's blessing in 2022 and pray they will continue the vision to reach out further into our community and become better and more active disciples of Christ.

Thank you.  
Gillian Ayoub  
Chairperson



Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

PS. The Current Church Council would like to thank Gillian Ayoub for her dedication to the Hervey Bay Uniting Church as well as the wisdom and insight that she provided role has Chairperson, Thanks Gillian



## Giving and Finance

Another challenging year for our congregation not the least in our end of year financial position. This report will address both the Hervey Bay Uniting Church and the Dan Dinna House accounts we operate under.

### HERVEY BAY UNITING CHURCH

With planned **Income** of \$220,927 but actuals of only \$212,333, total Income resulted in \$8,594 deficit. Our Income was impacted by a couple of significant factors:

- Our direct deposit of offerings remained on budget, but there was \$23,270 less weekly 'Offerings' than planned.
- Non-receipt of planned Trust Account endowment, \$12,000, we have been blessed to have received in the last several years which is recorded with 'Property Related Income'.
- Other receipts included the recycling program, so well supported by our congregation, and monies received from the various appeals conducted in 2021. It should be noted that monies from appeals are appropriately dispersed through Expenses.

With planned **Expenses** of \$220,927 but actuals of \$244,596, total expenses also resulted in deficit of \$23,668. The overspend was mostly due to refurbishment of Howard UC, property rental, removalists and Information Technology (IT) support.

- Refurbishment of Howard UC was approximately \$15,000 and approved by congregation at end of 2020 as sufficient funds in our Hervey Bay bank account.
- Unplanned payment of rental property for our Supply Minister was \$5,600.
- After a very generous donation of a household full of furniture, cost of removalists moving from storage to our Manse and our contribution to removalists of furniture from and back to the Howard UC related to the refurbishment was \$1,200.
- To further enhance the computer, networking and telephone operations of our church, an overspend of \$4,071 resulted in our Computer and Office Equipment account. This amount included monthly lease payment for our new copier with the lease arrangement being a more cost-effective option.
- Installation of Solar at the Manse and Howard UC at a cost of \$15,000

also contributed but that was offset by our reimbursement of that amount to an income account from our Mission Development Funds (MDF).

- Other Expenses accounts had some savings which offset the over-spends.

At 31 December 2021, with actual income of \$212,333.25 against actual expenses of \$244,596.14, our end of year financial position was a deficit of \$32,262.89. Without sufficient income received and being deposited into our bank account, this deficit reduced our bank balance to \$42,447.

## **DAN DINNA HOUSE**

**Income** received and deposited into our Dan Dinna House bank account comes from the monthly Lease payments from 60s & Better and external hall hire outside agreed lease hours and was close to budget.

**Expenses** were, mostly, for fixed costs such as insurance, cleaning, rates and electricity (60s & Better are invoiced for 85% of electricity charges in line with the lease agreement). What reduced the end of year planned surplus of \$8,370 was unexpected total refinish of timber floors in the hall. \$1,000 is budgeted each year as ½ share of floor refresh but with total refinish required in 2021, another \$5,000 was paid.

At 31 December 2021, with actual income of \$23,007 against actual expenses of \$18,225, our end of year financial position for the Dan Dinna House account was a surplus of only \$3,588. Despite the reduction in expected surplus, the Dan Dinna House bank account had a balance of \$13,479.

In closing this annual report, I thank our Congregations for their on-going generosity in giving and pray that may continue and increase in 2022 so that we may remain as the Hervey Bay Uniting Church, open to our people and to welcome others in our worship of our Lord.

With potential \$13,000 in the draft 2022 budget for our Church and ongoing decline of Sunday Offerings at this time, our financial commitment is critical as any deficit means money from our bank account which I remind you was only \$42,447 at end of the 2021 year.

With God's Blessings

Gail Grimsey  
Church Treasurer  
Hervey Bay Uniting Church



## Annual Property 2021

All properties of the Hervey Bay Uniting Church continue to be in a good state of repair. Solar Panels have been installed in the Manse, Howard and Burrum Heads. This is a green initiative and assists in reducing power costs. These were all funded through MDF funds. Dan Dinna House is in the final stages of refurbishment with the completion of the remaining verandah through grants obtained by Sixty and Better. Rental monies received from the Dan Dinna complex can now help in funding the mission of the Church.

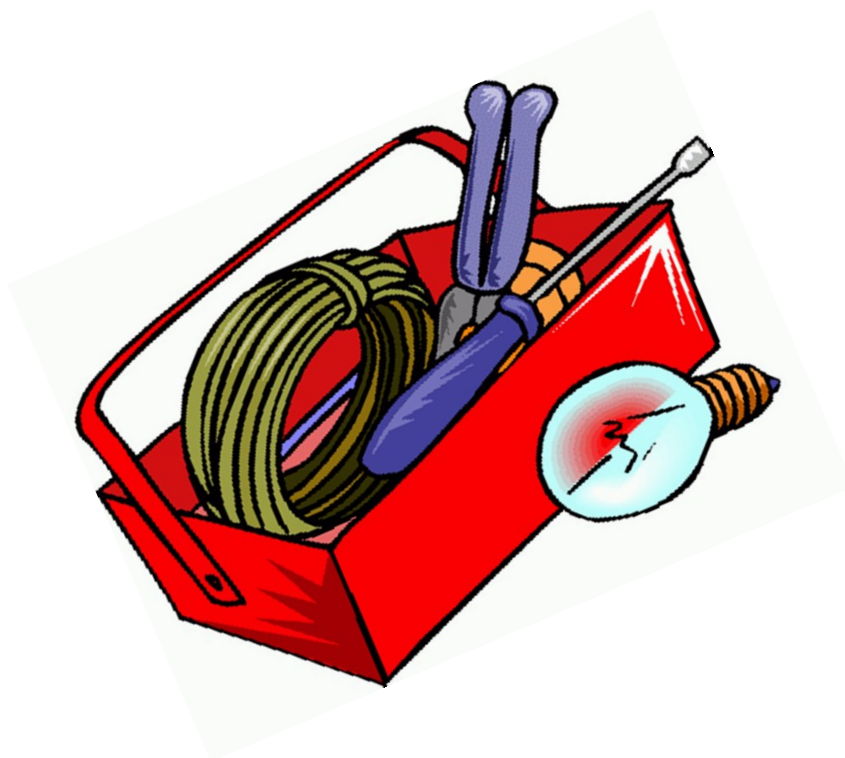
With the help of the Regional Council, access through vacant land at the rear of the Exeter Street Church building has been sealed preventing vehicles from travelling through our property and creating safety issues. Our thanks go to the Council for depositing large rocks along the perimeter of Tavistock and Exeter Streets.

Projects remaining for completion are the repairs to the concrete driveway and window locks.

Church Council approved updating Howard Church by painting the inside of the Church and repairing and coating the floor. The result is outstanding.

Thanks go to all those who so willingly contribute to the Churches and grounds maintenance of our properties and make them smart and attractive.

JOHN GRIMSEY (property officer)



## **Volunteering, Safe Ministries with Children and Workplace Health and Safety**

It has amazed me what it takes to hold a church service, run mission activities and programs. We need volunteers, training, building and equipment checks, bills need to be paid and paperwork galore.

Thank you to all the people that have put themselves forward to go on the roster. If anyone else feel that they are being called to help, please contact Shiree Royall or the office at Hervey Bay, Chris and Jillian Thompson at Burrum Heads and Karen Davison or Louise Crittenden at Howard. Because of volunteers the church services come together so that we can praise and worship our God.

Training is something that must be done. This year we got through a lot of training that all volunteers must complete every 2 years but due to having to get someone from presbytery to facilitate and limited number because of covid restrictions, the times for having the training has limited so not all people who need to training have been able to complete it. We are hoping that we will have someone onsite this year who will be able to present that training so there will be more flexibility in the training times. Fire training and fire drills must be done to ensure our safety. This training is done on-site and is a must for Church Council and is important that other members in the congregation attend. So when fire training comes up please attend.

Constantly we check the building and play equipment and grounds. We are responsible to ensure that who ever comes onto church grounds are safe. Fire equipment is checked twice a year, fridges and freezers temperatures must be checked, first aid equipment replenished and kept in good order. So when something doesn't seem right let one of the maintenance team, church council member or the office know.

Covid has been not only an inconvenience it has also caused additional cost to the church. We are using more gloves than we used to, wipes, disinfectant, hand sanitiser, face masks for those who forget to bring them. We have had to purchase tablets to cater for those who don't have phones capable of using QR codes. Extra printing of posters and QR code signs and the list of extra costs goes on. Not to mention the extra time that it has caused with setting up seating and paperwork, cleaning. Putting the negatives

aside we are grateful for these things, as it has enabled us to be able to continue with face-to-face services, to come together to praise and worship Our Lord.

We have risk assessments for any activity that we do. This is to ensure that we are aware of the things that can go wrong and prevent them and have strategies to deal with the unlikely event. We need to work at safety for everyone.

Everything we do, is to keep people safe and informed.

Because we love, we care for the safety of all. We love because he loved us first.



### **Christian Meditation**

The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) meets Tuesdays, 8.20 -9.20 am, for silent prayer at St John's Anglican Church, Doolong Road. WCCM is ecumenical.

Uniting Church meditators join with others from the Anglican, Catholic, Church of Christ, Presbyterian churches and other Christians for silent prayer.

The Hervey Bay community has maintained steady numbers despite closures and restrictions due to Covid. During 2021 up to 8 attend from HBUC.

Bi-monthly online coordinator meetings keep the group up to date with Queensland, national and worldwide information about Christian Meditation: retreats and seminars ( currently online), newsletters, meditation during Advent and Lent and resources available.

#### **Maranatha**

Sylvia Wright

**Christian Meditation Coordinator Hervey Bay**



## **HBUC Adult Fellowship**

This has been a challenging year for everyone. We thank the Lord for HIS guidance and protection every time we meet together on the third Fridays of each month at 930 am at the church.

The present situation prevented us holding morning teas which was our main source of fundraising. So, The Adult Fellowship decided to hold three separate mini garage sales to raise funds so we can continue giving to the organizations we have been supporting for many years. This could have not been possible without the support of the church and that we are truly grateful. The Adult Fellowship packed 248 boxes for the Samaritans' Purse and also sent to Frontier Services the old stamps we collected from the congregation as a way of fundraising.

The Adult Fellowship is grateful for your donations and support as it went to the different charitable organizations locally and around Australia:

Bible Society	\$100
Act for Peace	100
Drug Arm	100
We Care 2	200
Samaritan's Purse and postage	570
SU Qld Schools Ministry Fund	200
YWAM Medical Ships	200
HBUC Shut-In	100
Christian Blind Mission	200
Frontier Services	300
Frontier Services- WA Rural Music Program	695
Hervey Bay Uniting Church	300
Fellowship of the Least Coin	200
We Care 2 – gifts for Wednesday breakfast clients	100



These funds we accumulated came from our offerings we collected during our meetings, donations of money and kind from our members, from members of our church and from the three (3) mini garage sales we had this year.

We praise God that we were able and allowed to hold this garage sales with the permission of the church as we followed the necessary protocols and with social distancing. We pray that we can continue to give and help these organizations that reach to people in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and Saviour. We give all the praises and glory to our only GOD.

Francie Cadman

## **KYB (Know Your bible) TUESDAY AFTERNOON**



**KYB**  
*Know Your Bible*  
Small Groups

An average of 10 to 12 ladies have been meeting on a Tuesday afternoon at 2p.m. at the church Seminar Room to do KYB studies during the year. Our group consists mostly of ladies from our church but we are fortunate to have 3 Lutheran ladies, 1 Baptist lady and a Salvation arm lady join us for most of the year. We have followed the covid practices of QR scanning, keeping an attendance roll, using hand sanitizer, sitting apart & cleaning our chairs when finished.

KYB study material is internationally recognized as a relevant, dynamic, & practical method of engaging with the bible (through Christian Women Communicating International). We usually do 4 studies during (school terms) each year, using a question & answer learning method reinforced by group discussion and review notes.

Study Books for terms 1, 2 & 3 have nine units and Term 4 has five units. Each unit is broken down into daily devotional pattern so that each person can be nurtured by God's word, & complete the unit during the week before the meeting. During 2021 we studied Acts(13 to 28), Colossians, & Philemon, Book of Daniel & Genesis 37 -(on Joseph).

As all ladies are at different stages of their walk with the Lord we all learn and share with each other, & get opportunities to share "God Happenings or difficult or Exciting times" in our lives and pray & uplift each other. We look forward to the fellowship each week and most terms we share a coffee or a meal out to celebrate birthdays & special events.

Once or twice a year we get the opportunity to meet with other KYB groups to listen to an introductory Speaker for a study & share with other KYB ladies. With covid regulations some of us joined in zoom introductions. I would like to thank by assistant discussion leaders Meg Boyce & Louise Crittenden for their support in my absence during the year & all our ladies for their sharing caring and support. Sadly a few of our members have had to pull out because of health issues or family responsibilities .We will keep in touch and uplift them with our prayers.

New members are welcome to join us at any time if you are interested please contact Lynn Furness on 0427809224.



Rev. Luke Smallwood had the privilege to baptise Norman on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2021 and Aileen on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 GNT**



**Burrum Heads Carols**



**Prayer Tree where people write the names of absent friends and or family to be lifted in prayer.**

## WOW - Women of Worship

We have been so blessed living here in Hervey Bay being able to worship and meet freely while the rest of the world has been suffering with the effects of Covid. Praise God for our wonderful city.

We have had an interesting year yet again, meeting and fellowshiping together with an amazing, dedicated group of women who meet on a Tuesday morning at 9.30. Our group has remained stable in numbers with 17 members, our regular turnout varies between 6 – 13.

We also meet every Saturday morning at 9.30 on the esplanade for a social cuppa and chat and have been doing this for about a year and a half, since Covid began when we couldn't meet at church for bible study. Some of us take our doggies along and it is very relaxing sitting under the trees amongst nature together. How blessed are we!

We have been studying a lot of Rick Warren's studies this year, a dvd and notes to fill in and then a discussion afterwards.

Some of the studies we found helpful, have been Strategies for Stressful times, including how to keep our tanks filled instead of running on empty, when Jesus tells us in Mathew 11:28, *Come to me and I will give you rest and He gives power to those who are tired and worn out, he offers strength to the weak in Isaiah 40:29.*

A Faith that Knows the End of the Story – in James 5: 7-8 *Be patient until the Lord's coming and do not give up hope.*

We have learnt different strategies to cope, a particular study in May was Withstanding the Winds of Life – how to handle things that are uncontrollable in our lives. Worship is the secret of understanding the winds of life.

**When battered by the wind, don't tell God how great the storm is, tell the storm how great my God is.**

What an amazing teacher Rick is and as a group we have been blessed to be able to learn and understand things that Our Precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has been teaching us. Praise God for modern communication and teaching methods.

Every week we contribute a few dollars and at the end of the year we are able to support the Hamlin Fistula Foundation in Ethiopia as well as Myriam Cottage.

We have celebrated milestone birthdays and enjoyed fellowshiping together over the year.

We supported the Adult Fellowship recently in their mini market day.

Vika has been an **angel** using her glue gun and expertise in creating over 200 paper angels for use in Christmas services again this year.

Our group has taken on the enormous job Joan Whitmore has done over the past many years in providing gifts for the chaplains in schools across the region. A big **thank you and well done** to you Joan for the awesome work and time and effort you have given to this project. In the past 3 weeks we have been sourcing gifts, asking for funds and have wrapped and packed presents for the needy children at the schools. Praise God for our generous congregation who have given so freely to enable these children to receive something at Christmas. We also acknowledge the generous donation of the businessmen's Lunch Bunch.

We are eagerly anticipating the return to our Ladies Saturday Afternoon Teas where we invite a guest speaker and are able to bless the organisation she represents with a donation from the participants entrance donation.

As we march forward with Jesus on our journey, may we continually seek to find Him and to do His will as He directs and teaches us to be more like Him and to trust Him in all that we do.

Julie Noble and Thora Nolan



## **The Wednesday Bible Study**

The Wednesday Bible Study had another good year of applying themselves to the scriptures, and enjoying the companionship and fellowship of each other.

It has been a great pleasure to have had John Howden with us. He has been able to add some very good insights into our studies; as well it has been good to have him as a back-up leader when I have been unable to attend.

Studies we have considered during the year have been, Discipleship, Growing older and wiser, this study helped to understand that there is no retirement clause for older members in the bible as it relates to Christians. There is always something God has for us to do, no matter our age! We must never just sit back and say, Well I have done my bit, now it is up to someone else, this is not the way with our God for His people. Another study was, Some women in the Bible; and we shared a study leading up to Easter provided by Uniting world. This study helped us to become more aware of our Pacific Neighbours and how we may help them in their Spiritual journey. We thank Sylvia Wright for making this study available, and her insights as to the work of Uniting World as she is very much involved in this area.

We began the year with an average of 14 members, but Covid 19 caused some interruption, as it did for most groups, and our average fell away to 7 for the second half of the year. But numbers are not everything, we will continue with the persons God provides for this important purpose of studying the scriptures. We are His servants, and we will continue to be so.

All in all, a good year, and productive year of study and fellowship was shared and enjoyed by all who attended, and we look forward to what God has in store for us in 2022.

Leader, Rev Wes Furness.



## Men's Breakfast

It is always good for our menfolk of our church, along with some guests, to gather together for a monthly breakfast. We have enjoyed the fellowship of each other, as we have learned more about each other while eating together and enjoying some interesting speakers. Some of the speakers have been, Paster Andrew Creighton, from the Church of Christ; Darren Everard, from the Hervey Bay Council; and the Rev Ian Stehbens. We also enjoyed our yearly visit to the Anglican Men's Breakfast early on in the year.

We thank all those who helped in the Kitchen to make sure our breakfast happens on time. We especially thank our wonderful cook, Phil Ayoub, He does a great Job on the BBQ. Sausages, eggs, hash browns, bacon, tomatoes and mushrooms; and the guys inside with baked beans and toast and coffee and tea.

As you can see we have a wonderful breakfast and this fortifies us for the days ahead!

We began the year with 30 to 35 attendees, but Covid 19 had a marked effect upon us dropping down to around 15 to 20 in the second half of the year.

It is important to continue on despite the drop in numbers, because it helps to maintain the solidarity of Christian men within the life of the church.

We look forward to what God has in store for us in 2022, may He continue to bless our activity.

Leader: Rev Wes Furness



## **WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST VAN**

Over 10 years ago Rev Brian Hoole and members of the church council were looking at more ways that our church could be involved in outreach to the needy folk in Hervey Bay and an opportunity to show God's love in a very practical way.

Instead of reinventing the wheel Rev Hoole knew that the outreach arm of the New Life Church (We care 2) had a breakfast van that served the homeless and needy folk on the beach front each week. As breakfast was been served on Mondays and Fridays our church offered to tow & stock the van and then cook and serve the meals on Wednesdays from 6a.m. until 8a.m. This service has continued every Wednesday since .

We make it our aim to show God's love and be his hands and feet by cheerfully & humbly serving (Gods guests as we call them) and be good listeners. Each morning we commence with a short prayer and before serving the meal is served we give God thanks for his blessings. ( 8 of our volunteers are church members and 5 are friends & volunteers)

During 2001 we have had 3 loyal drivers, 4 BBQ cooks & 10 ladies who do fortnightly some weekly turns (3 at a time) to work in the van making the tea/coffee & toast, heat the baked beans or spaghetti & serve the cooked eggs & sausages .During the year our loyal bbq cook Jack Ryan passed away to be with his Lord and we have farewelled our loyal driver Roger Slat-ter, & BBQ cooks Trevor Dong & Ron Collins., & thanked our loyal helpers Gili-an Ayoub & Liz Carden who had to pull out because of health reasons. We welcomed our new driver & First Aider Robert Smith and new volunteer cook Rob Hyne.

I would like to thank our church members who have assisted with donations of unperishable food & toiletries & monetary assistance to support this outreach. Some mornings we serve up to 30 or more meals & give take -aways to folk who are genuinely homeless others who have special needs of ad-dictions, or loneliness or depression. I would like to thank my Co-Cordinator John Dietsch for using his special gifts of listening & praying & sharing his faith with needy clients as well as his practical gift of driving & stocking the van. Thank you to our ladies who supplied blankets & warm clothes during the year. We give special thanks to residents of Torbay who also this year decided to support the needy with warm clothes & blankets etc We give thanks for all our loyal volunteers who willing get out of their warm beds on chilly winter mornings to voluntarily serve folk who are needy in our commu-nity. We are greatly blessed to serve our Lord in this way. Any other folk who

are interested in joining us and are willing to get their blue card & do an induction & food handling course would be welcomed to volunteer.

Thank you for your prayers for these folk with special needs in our community and pray that our volunteers are all kept safe & well to continue this special service. Please pray for our governments & councils to be able to provide more low cost housing & support in the community for these needy folk.

Lynn Furness (Co-Ordinator)



### **Monday Prayer Group.**



This group is only a very small group, four or six members at most; we would love to welcome others to come and join with us. We meet together at the church each Monday morning from 8-30am to 9am.

We meet in this way because we know that where two or three are gathered together in Jesus name, He is with them in their midst. And we are certain of this fact.

St, Paul in 1 Thess.5:16 says, "Pray at all times and in all circumstances; for this what God wants from all who claim union with Jesus Christ."

Our meeting runs like this, We begin with a chorus and a short reading from the Psalms. This sets the scene, and prepares us to come to our Lord in prayer. After an introductory prayer, each member then has the opportunity to offer prayer as the Spirit leads.

It gives us the opportunity to praise our God and to give Him thanks for His goodness toward us, His great love is so abundant and so freely given. We pray also for the needs, personal, family, church, community and our world. We pray also for encouragement & support for our Minister and family.

This time together is always a time when our spirits are uplifted, and often renewed, and it gives each of us a wonderful start to each week.

For any who are unable to attend, we urge you to use this time to pray for a page in our prayer directory or to use the prayer points from the UC.

Wes and Lynn Furness

## **Christmas Hampers Giving 2021**

Our Hervey Bay and Howard congregations have again been generous in our 2021 Christmas Food Hampers Giving with 23 grocery bags of foods delivered to Uniting Care in Pialba early December 2021. This year, a very generous contribution of 10 Woolies giftcards to value of \$30 each was also received to enable Uniting Care to purchase further items or distribute as needed.

I have received an email from Kay Halford of Uniting Care to thank you for the donations for their Christmas Hampers. She has confirmed that they gave out 15 very generous hampers which were received with appreciation and gratitude.

Kay has asked that I pass on their heartfelt thanks to you for your contributions that have helped in their giving of hampers this year. Kay has shared some of the recipients' stories so that you can have a better understanding of the help that your giving has provided.

- ♦ A single mother with two children with major developmental & health issues lost her job in October due to her need to care for her sick children. By November she had exhausted all her savings and then asked to leave her rental property. When she received her hamper she was in tears and she said she had tried to keep Christmas a secret from her children. But after receiving the hamper, she felt that at least they could celebrate in a small way.
- ♦ A single father of one child with intellectual disability had also lost his rental property. While he was very lucky to gain another rental unit, he has to wait for 4 weeks for the unit to become available. The client is living in a motel with all his funds spent on accommodation with no money left over for food. This hamper helped ease the constant pressure the client felt under.
- ♦ A 44 year old male with an intellectual disability had received some assistance from Financial & Wellbeing and now living independently but with his moving costs and extra expenses he did not have any money left to celebrate. He advised that he was going to share it with his new neighbours and invite them in for a meal.
- ♦ A single father with two children, unemployed and undergoing a very acrimonious divorce with his children removed from the area. He now has to drive 4-5 hours weekly to visit his children. The petrol costs use up all of his money and he is surviving on food kitchen and handouts. He was so appreciative of the hamper saying that it reduced his stress lev-

els and gave him faith in the human race.

- ♦ A single mother of three children had escaped a domestic violence situation but had no family support in the area. Due to the housing crisis, she is currently living in a tent. 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.

Kay said that they hear these stories every day with this being just a small snapshot of the clients they try to assist. They are real people trying to live with unimaginable hardship and stress. So, from them, through Uniting Care, thank you for your wonderful and generous support.

As you can see from the stories above, while it is wonderful to give foods relating to Christmas, the everyday foods are welcome to stock a cupboard for someone who is only able to afford a little food for themselves or their family. Along with Uniting Care, I again send you much thanks for your contributions to this appeal that do make such a difference to someone's life.

Submitted by Gail Grimsey



## School Chaplaincy Christmas Appeal

Every year the Chaplains at the government state schools at Torquay, Sandy Straits, Torbanlea, Howard, Urangan, Kawangun, Pialba and Yarrilee Primary Schools are asked to nominate the most needy children at their schools for receiving a Christmas present.

The Chaplains then supply the names to the Uniting Church and appropriate gifts for the age levels are supplied. In the past, Target had a giving tree and the public were offered the opportunity to buy a present and leave it under the tree, but the last few years due to economic reasons, this activity stopped. Some funds or gifts would come from the Business Men's group called The Lunch Bunch.

Joan Whitmore has been the co-ordinator for many years and has done an amazing job of co-ordinating all the gifts and we would like to acknowledge her for her awesome work and effort in supplying these gifts.

2021 was a difficult year as far as funds for children's presents were limited, thankfully we still had a few presents and left over funds from last year in reserve, so the call went out to our congregation and thanks to their amazing generosity we were able to supply 120 children with a suitable gift. To some of these families, it would be the only present the children would receive under the Christmas tree.

The general feel in the purchasing of presents, was to give the children something useful, ie. balls, beach towels, art and drawing sets, the focus on healthy activities, sport and artwork.

Thanks to the Wow group for the people who shopped for presents, came every week, sometimes twice a week to sort out age appropriate presents and wrap and tag and arrange in the correct schools for the chaplains to collect or for us to deliver.

Gwen Hall and Thora Nolan



## Howard Uniting Church



**2021** has seen change, some of it due to the ongoing situation here and around the world because of Covid-19. We have also seen change in ministry and change in the church building itself.

We have had to change the way that we do things because of Covid having to first sign in and now we must use QR codes to as we enter the church. We

have had to wear masks when it has been required. Not being able to stand when singing and then be able to stand to sing. Just keeping up with the Government requirements has been a hassle but it has not stopped us from loving our God and praising his name. Those that have embraced technology have been able to view the Hervey Bay message on YouTube this is particularly a wonderful opportunity to connect if a person has been unable to attend service face to face.

The numbers attending services have been consistent average of approximately 23 people. We have appreciated the messages that we have received from all those who have shared the messages with us.

I was wonderful to have 2 believers baptism this year. They were both baptised in the Burrum River. We praise God that this was able to happen and continue to pray for each person as they continue their life Journey in Christ.

We were disappointed with our minister Luke Smallwood being moved to another parish, but we wish him all the best in his new role as he continues to spread the word of Jesus to the world. We have been blessed by having supply ministers to continue to preach the word and pastorally care for us.

The church has been refurbished during 2021. The old pulpit that has not been used and had become a storage palace and dust collector has been removed. The walls have been painted and the floors have been renewed. We have a new aisle runner and new carpet square at the front of the church under the communion table. With thanks to Beverley Baillie from the Hervey Bay Congregation generous donation, we now have a screen that we can use during services which opens so many opportunities for the ministers to be able to utilise it when they give their message. So, we have been very blessed by the gift.

We now have 2 representatives on Church Council they are Karen Davison

and Louise Crittenden. Louise will continue to be presbytery representative.

As we move into 2022 we see that there are opportunities for growth. It was announced that 600 jobs will be created in Torbanlea. In Howard a new development will see more than 200 new homes are being built and second stage will see a nursing home built. Contact has been made with the Mission Development Officer Phil Smith from presbytery and in conjunction with Synod, we will be investigating how we can bring the love of Jesus into the community to grow the congregation and meet needs emerging needs in the community.

We continue to pray for the right person to be called to ministry.

**'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'**  
**Mark 16:15**

### **Burrum Heads**



What a year. We have all been effected by Covid and changing Government regulation. So many people to thank. We have lots of 'putty people'. That is they just fill the gaps. The gaps in our rosters, the gaps in services and the gaps in maintaining the continuity that is our Church here in Burrum Heads.

### **Services**

We have managed to maintain services throughout the year. Covid and Government regulations have impacted the numbers attending. We thank the clergy from all our denominations for their dedication to keeping services going. We particularly thank Norma for the beautiful services she led. Your dedication to our Church has been apparent to all. We thank you for your contributions of time and your talent for organisation. Your rosters, minutes of meetings, your work as our treasurer. And finally your special skill as a junk buster. THANKS

For some periods during the year, we have managed to have morning teas after services. Here I would particularly wish to thank Lesley. Lesley who ensures that we always have sufficient of all the bits that are required for morning teas. Lesley who most often opens the building each Sunday. Lesley who is always available to fill a hole in the service. THANKS.

### **Tombola**

A successful Tombola with reduced numbers. So much work goes into preparing for the Tombola and it was disappointing that the numbers were

down. It was however a financial success. With returns in line with the long-term averages.

Margaret has indicated that she would like another person to be involved so she can devolve the leadership of this group to a new person. Margaret THANKS.

## **Finances**

During the year we have been in receipt of several significant anonymous donations. This together with income from offerings, tombola, mothers day, morning tea and the art sale, rent contributions and car boot sale has left us at year end with a bank balance of just under \$20K

## **Carols**

Another successful town Carols Night with about 200 people attending. Format for our carols was changed this year with Hervey Bay musicians providing music and leading the singing. This was funded by a grant from FCRC. Food trucks and a coffee van were also new additions. All very successful. Thanks to Norma who was the organiser this year.

## **Solar Panels**

Installed on the roof of the Church and generating income. We are just covering our total power outgoings and adding a small amount each month to our credit.

## **Maintenance**

Generally, the building and grounds are in good order. Thanks go to several men who have undertaken the work required to maintain the main ramp. Some internal and external painting was undertaken in the past twelve months. Thanks go to Snip-it for the regular mowing.

Water from the toilet roof was connected to the wastewater to the street.

In the next twelve months we need to begin to plan for the ongoing maintenance of our buildings. It is time to again refresh the ramp.

## **Activities**

Play with Kids used the hall during 2021. Numbers were small and will not continue in semester one.

Live Life Get Active has maintained activities on the grass at the front of the Church throughout the year with active cross training and boxing currently being available.

## **Church Times**

History of our worshipping congregations had necessitated a variety of Church times. This was confusing for all. Decision was taken during the year to have all our services at 7:30am and 4:00pm. This seems to have been suc-

cessful.

## **Church Sign**

The sign on the front corner of the block is looking decidedly tired. Possibility of purchasing a redundant sign from St Johns did not come to fruition. Back of the envelope costing is about \$600- for a new sign. Design work is under way, and we will proceed to replace the existing sign before Easter.

## **Food is Free**

Continues to wax and wane as gardeners surpluses are donated and utilised.

## **Vestry Storage –**

The Burrum District Mens Shed is about to receive a large donation of cabinet making materials. I am confident that with an agreed layout plan the required materials could be donated.

## **Audio Equipment**

Norma and her son Michael have undertaken an upgrade of the existing system utilising the mixer that was purchased to improve our carols night. I also sought advice from Hugo Nolan (Hervey Bay Uniting Church). This has resulted in a conversation with Dave Salsa from Ultra Music who supplied both the old existing amplifier and that small mixer. The mixer has an inbuilt amplifier and with a bit of fresh cables and wiring, we can refresh and update the audio system. Back of the envelope costs \$200-300.

So many people to thank. I picked a couple to specifically mention but as in all things it is you, the members of our Church who make us what we are. All that happens, all of how we present ourselves in our community.

How we connect to our community. So, thank you.

## **Plans for 2022**

Messy Church

Virtual morning tea after Church so we can still have our contact and discussions.

Review the Memorandum of Understanding between our Churches

Chris Thompson

Chairperson – Burrum Heads Community Church

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.



## Infant Baptisms

Avery Bridgette Powderham

Amelia Mae Blackhurst

## Believers Baptisms

Norman Kennicott

Aileen Joan Claxton

# Born into the Kingdom of God



## In Memorial

John (Rodney) Boyce

Rose Edith Nash

Elsie Merle Boldery

John William ROSS (Funeral 2022)

# Eternal Rest

## Attendances Hervey Bay Congregation

Year	9 AM
2019	142
2020	127
2021	104

## Church Parish Membership 2021

187 Confirmed Members

12 Baptised Members

52 Adherents

12 Members in Association

16 People from other denomination

98 People with unknown status

**377 On pastoral care Roll**



*The members of the Hervey Bay  
Uniting Church Congregations mission:*

*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 numerically.  
Through prayer and forming active  
and accountable disciples of Jesus.  
We seek to grow our Congregation into  
an effective missional church that will engage  
with the community.*

### **Prayer Chain**

Shiree Royall 0417 171 020 [shiree.tropix@gmail.com](mailto:shiree.tropix@gmail.com)

**Please follow and like us on Facebook Click the link on the bottom of our website.**

**[www.hbuc.org.au](http://www.hbuc.org.au)**