

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting
7 February 2021

Contents

05	Welcome
06	Our Mission & Vision
08	Rector's Reflections
11	Church Life—a snapshot
12	Know Jesus
17	Treasure Jesus
21	Depend on Jesus
23	Represent Jesus
27	Financial Overview
31	Treasurer's Report
34	Warden's Report
35	Our 2040 Vision

Welcome

The Annual General Meeting of our church is a time for us to reflect on the year that has been, and turn our hearts and minds to the year ahead.

This Annual Report presents a snapshot of some of the aspects of church life over the past 12 months. You will find brief updates to various ministry areas, as well as statistics in how we are tracking in certain measures. Of course, not everything that can be measured is of the same importance, but they can be helpful in getting a feel for where things are at, and what needs attention.

Whilst the past 12 months have provided us with many highly unusual challenges, we have also been blessed in many unexpected ways. New initiatives and opportunities arose that we had not planned for. And, in spite of the difficulties of the year, God continues to grow our church in both size and maturity.

I hope this report will encourage you in what God is doing in the life of our church, as we pursue the mission of Jesus in the city of Blacktown. And may we give thanks to God in our prayers for the significant things he is doing among us, represented by the pages ahead.

Our Mission & Vision

In September 2019, we launched a Mission and Vision for our church. This was a way for us to place a marker on the map, and clearly define where we are going and what we are seeking to do. We defined it this way:

Our Mission is to grow people who Know Jesus, Treasure Jesus, Depend on Jesus and Represent Jesus.

This is our way of expressing what Jesus meant when he told us to make disciples in Matthew 28. This is the way we describe what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Our Vision, then, is an expression of what we believe could happen if we pursue that mission.

Our Vision is to see our city flourish in God's good design through a Jesus shaped community.

Under God, this is a picture of what success in our Mission will look like.

The last 12 months have very clearly reminded us that none of this is achieved within our own power or plans. And we have been clear from the beginning that all of this is only achieved under God and in his timing and power.

Importantly, our expression of our Mission and Vision isn't tied to one particular way of doing things. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic radically altered many of our plans, our fundamental Mission and Vision remain unchanged. We pursue this in our context, navigating around whatever challenges may confront us. But our goal is always clear: Jesus. To grow in our depth and breadth, as individuals and as a community, into all that he has designed and called us—and all people—into.

On the following pages, you will see some of the ways our Mission and Vision has landed in practice and some of the plans we have for the future as we continue to pursue this together. In bringing all things together under our Mission and Vision, our hope is to be as effective as possible in faithfully serving God in this city with the resources God has provided us.

Our Mission & Vision



For Salvation

Knowing Jesus as your king and saviour

For Life

In relationship, theology, wisdom and ethics



In worship

Through praise and obedience

In community

Through Jesus centred unity and Jesus shaped relationships



Prayerful

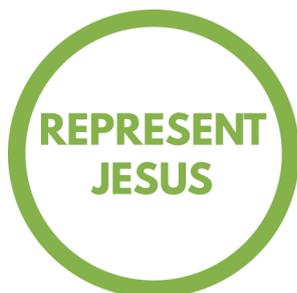
Growing in devotion, depth and breadth

Generous

Trusting God's sufficiency and provision

Courageous

Trusting God's ability to do more than we could ask or imagine



Proclamation

Telling the good news of Jesus

Presence

Reflecting the character of Jesus through Jesus shaped living

Practice

Providing advocacy and aid to support human flourishing

Rector's Reflections

Reflections on the past 12 months

¹³ Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13-15

When our staff were planning ahead for ministry and mission in our church in 2020, it is fair to say that we did not plan for a pandemic. I think it is fair to say, though, that we had been prayerful in our planning, seeking to show bold courage but without arrogance.

It has likely been the most challenging year our church has ever experienced. Many of us have been personally challenged by separation from loved ones, isolation and loneliness, supervising schooling at home, changing work conditions, and the mental health strain that comes from all of these and more.

We have been greatly blessed by the technology that has enabled us to stay connected digitally during a pandemic, when we have been physically unable to gather. And it has opened up some wonderful opportunities to build new connections with people in our church and across our city. But there have also been challenges in continuing ministry and support more broadly among our church family members who are not technologically equipped.

I have been greatly encouraged to hear the many ways that people have continued to encourage and support one another on a personal level. It is a wonderful expression of what the people of God are called to as a church. But there will also be others who, for various reasons, have not been as well connected through this time. We all have a responsibility to ensure that every member of our church is cared for, and no doubt there will be many new opportunities to do this in the coming months.

I want to express my great thanks and appreciation to our staff team: to Robbie, Renee and Laurice. You have each been amazing servants of Jesus in your roles, navigating the ever-changing needs and expectations that we faced. And you have each served tirelessly with great humility, grace and servant-heartedness.

Laurice has done a brilliant job stepping into the role of Office Administrator. She has gone above and beyond in filling her responsibilities, and been an enormous support to the ministry staff. She has also been a wonderful voice in our staff mix, and helped sharpen our ministry thinking across our church. We would not be where we are now without her.

Renee has done an excellent job in navigating ministry to kids and families when you can't easily see them face to face. She has put a lot of time and energy to implementing new ideas to connect digitally with families, and putting care packs together and hand delivering them to families. Renee also took on a number of other responsibilities, helping organise Church Online, updating our foyer space and stage design.

Robbie and I are polar opposites in many ways, and we balance each other's strengths exceptionally well. Many of you have now personally experienced what a wonderful pastor Robbie is, as well as his gifts in teaching and preaching. Where he and I differ in personality, we are united in our ministry philosophy and our vision for our church. He has continued to be a wonderful blessing to me as an assistant minister.

Together, you have been a wonderful team who has supported one another—and myself—at every corner. I could not have asked for a better team to serve alongside in the past 12 months. God has been very kind to me, and to our church through each of you. I believe we have lived out well Paul's words in Galatians 6:2: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

To our Wardens and Parish Councillors, thank you for your work and support in navigating the challenges of 2020. We have been well served by you, and are ready to face the new opportunities that lie ahead of us.

To our church family: thank you for your support, encouragement, messages and prayers over a difficult season. My prayer for you is that God would continue to give you joy in all that he has for you, and that this joy will overflow in thankfulness and fruitfulness as you serve him by serving his people.

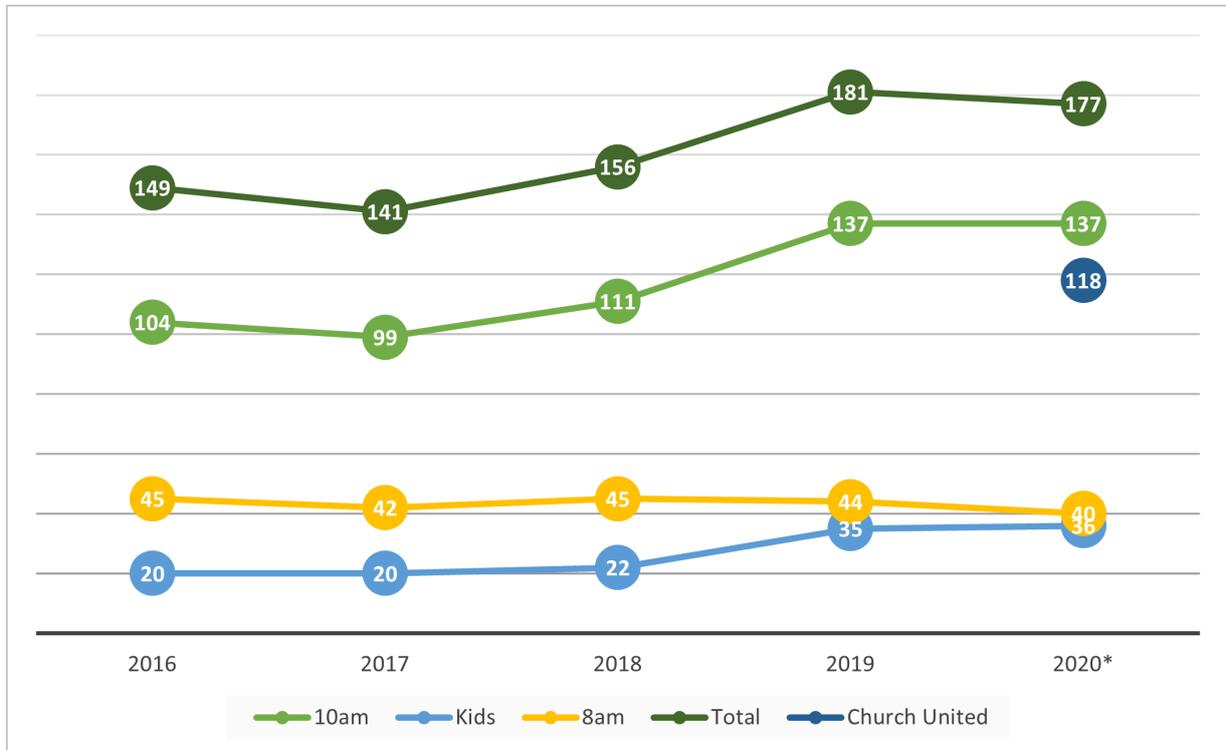
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Thomson". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first name "L" being a simple vertical line and "Thomson" written in a more complex, connected script.

Luke Thomson
Senior Minister

Church Life

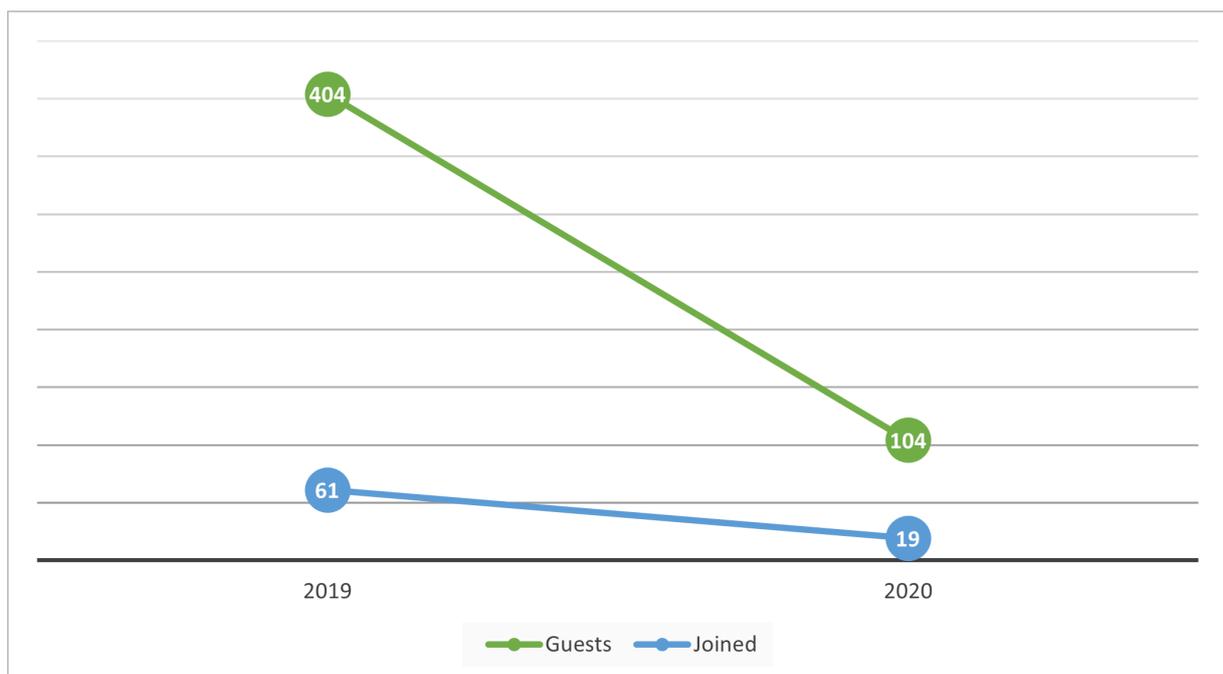
A snapshot

Average Sunday service attendance



*2020 attendance for 8am and 10am only for period 1/1/20-15/3/20. Church United includes total attendance from 1/11/20-31/12/20.

New members and guests



104

guests visited our church

19

people joined our church

Know Jesus

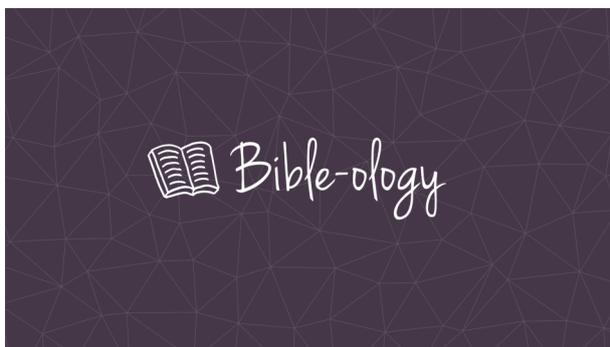
For salvation and for life



We want every person to Know Jesus as their King and Saviour.

We seek to grow to Know Jesus as a life-long and life-changing endeavour, understanding what God is doing in the world through Jesus, and how we should respond. What have we done in 2020?

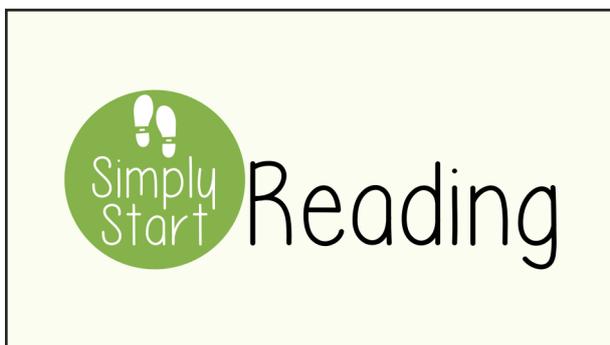
Bibleology



As part of our Habakkuk sermon series, we created a four-part video series to take people deeper into the text of the Bible and unpack how we understand God's word, verse by verse. Since publishing this online, we have been approached by others who

have been keen to use the material in their own churches. A great way to resource the wider church.

Simply Start Reading



Simply Start Reading took our previous reading program into the digital space, encouraging people in developing the habit of regularly reading the Bible. Using the Bible App on phones or devices, it allows people to follow along with others, and

engage in comments and discussion together as they grow to Know Jesus.

Bible studies



In term one, we produced Bible Studies alongside our sermon series in Luke. This resource encourages us to grow deeper in exploring the Bible together beyond the sermon, in our Community Groups or on our own.

Know Jesus

For salvation and for life



Discover Jesus



This four week course is aimed to help people discover Jesus for themselves: who he is, what he has done, and how he makes sense of all of life. In 2020, we created an online option for the course.



9 people attended Discover Jesus

Discover Life



This four week course is aimed at those who have very little to no church experience. We ran this once in 2020, an alternative option to our Discover Jesus course. We hope in time it provides another avenue for people to ask questions and explore

the meaning and purpose of life.



3 people attended Discover Life

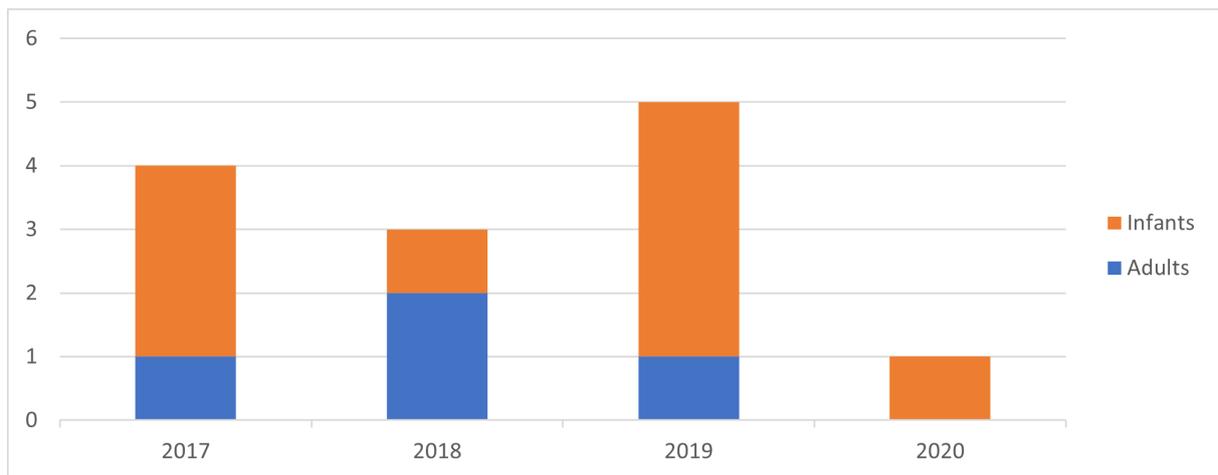
Know Jesus

For salvation and for life



Baptisms

As we work at helping people come to Know Jesus for the first time, we hope



My Story

Oliver Hopkins

Over the past twelve months I have had some interesting experiences. My journey through lockdown was one of the most frustrating sections of my life, but I found that church online was something I could always look forward to. I haven't made it onto camera that much, but I have helped in other ways that suit my personality and abilities better, by doing the sound for the three recording sessions of music.

The other part of church life that I could look forward to was youth group online where not much changed. The only difference was

that we went in the building together, it was one of the most high energy times of the week.

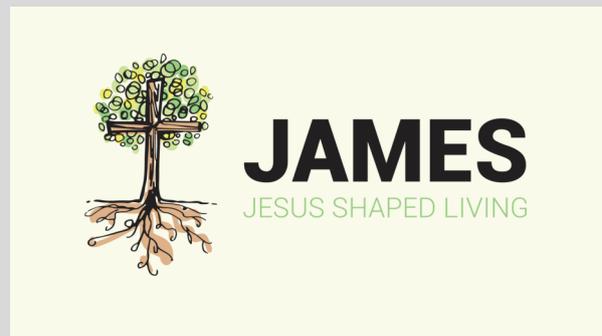
After the lockdown things went back to being fairly normal. I found myself behind the sound desk and not helping out the back in kids church, which was a welcome change but it took a bit of adjusting to. And as one of the youth kids I still have to crawl into boxes and do kids spots but I also have other areas in which I now serve in.



Sermon Series



Here is what we have preached through over the past 12 months to help us Know Jesus through his Word.



What's Next?



Hosea Seminars

Alongside a 5 week series in the book of Hosea, we will be running a series of evening seminars to go deeper into some of the significant theological issues the book raises. Seminars will include: theology of marriage, understanding Old Testament prophecy, justice and judgement, and a theology of divorce. The seminars will provide an opportunity to explore these topics at a much deeper level than a sermon allows for.

Ministry Grid

Ministry Grid is an online resource with training videos that cover everything - from discipleship to people skills, from kids ministry to running a Community Group, and from Missional thinking to Stewardship. Each area of training can be done at a volunteer level, to a team leader level, right through to a Senior Minister level. We'll be rolling out Ministry Grid progressively over the year as yet another way for us all to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Preaching

In 2021, we are planning to preach through the books of: Luke 9-13, Hosea, 1 Corinthians and Ruth. We will be preaching topically in several short series: "What if...", "What happens when you die?", and "One Another" (considering how we live out some of the 'one another' passages of the New Testament). Later in the year, we will preach our annual Vision series and Advent series.

Bibleology

We are looking to run another series of videos later in the year alongside a sermon series.

Treasure Jesus

In worship and in community



We seek to grow people who Treasure Jesus in Worship, through praise and obedience, and in community, through Jesus centred unity and Jesus shaped relationships.

What have we done in 2020?

Live Streaming Sunday Services



Since returning to physical gatherings from our COVID-19 lockdown, we have purchased equipment and begun live-streaming our services each Sunday. This has enabled us to better connect with and engage those who cannot attend for various reasons. This has

been a great blessing in increasing the connectedness of our church community, as well as providing opportunities to engage with people who are searching for a church, or those looking to find out more about Jesus but may find it difficult to attend physically.

Community Groups

In 2020, we relaunched our Bible study groups as Community Groups, to better reflect the broader focus these groups have in the life of our church. The temporary closure of Sunday gatherings rapidly increased the importance of Community Groups in our church for pastoral care, and for expressing community together. We launched one new Community Group, and began a termly meeting of Community Group leaders to continue training & equipping, encouraging one another, and praying for our groups.

Sharing our Stories

Through our Church Online services, we include a variety of community segments that helped us hear the stories, or discover hidden talents. We were also able to include a large number of people who read the Bible or led prayers for the first time. It was wonderful to see so many more involved.

Treasure Jesus

In worship and in community



Kids Care Packages and Family Day

In the absence of face-to-face kids ministry, we put together monthly Kids Care packages as a way to support and encourage parents to continue raising their kids to know Jesus. During the year, a special family day of activities was held to help families and kids connect face-to-face at a time when options for doing so were extremely limited. It was a great way to meet significant social and emotional needs in trying times.

Zoom Morning tea

While physical gathering was not possible, we began weekly morning tea times for social interaction after Church Online. It helped some of our newer members meet and connect with others in our church, and was important in providing a social expression of our church community. As well as having much fun with a different format, we saw some great cross-congregational relationships forming through this online initiative.

Youth@10

We started the year with a specialised monthly program for youth on Sunday mornings, as a way to help them understand and integrate into the life of our church. The program seeks to help our young people understand clearly significant aspects of church life, theology and ministry, and help them get connected into the broader life of our church. As our youth ministry begins to build momentum, this will be a significant way to welcome and integrate them, and we have already seen some great fruit with many of our young people committing to serve across a number of valuable ministry areas.

Music & Production

We have improved a number of aspects of our music and production, including the purchase of new sound and visual equipment to update some of our practices, or alleviate previous technical issues. We have begun to change our stage design for each sermon series to assist in our visual communication and engagement.

Treasure Jesus

In worship and in community

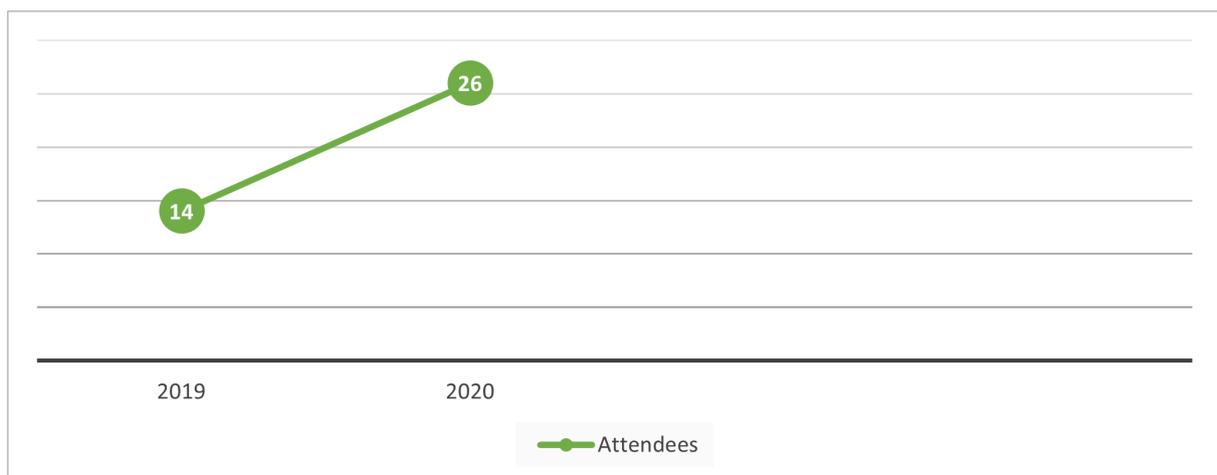


Welcome Lunches



Welcome Lunches are an opportunity for those new to our church to connect with others, hear a little about the Mission and Vision of our church, and consider the next steps in partnering with us in our mission to the city of Blacktown.

Welcoming people into our church is a vital step in pursuing our mission, and helping people navigate pathways to connect, belong and partner with us.



My Story

Alex Lo & Catalina Mora

Catalina and I felt very welcomed from our very first visit. We are encouraged by the simple and yet powerful vision. It portrays clearly the discipleship journey. The church's desire to be part of Blacktown and the local area is self evident in the sermon applications.

We enjoyed greeting and meeting members from various age and culture. It is also encouraging to see the church investing in the children. May God be kind and use this church to further his Kingdom.



What's Next?



My Jesus Story



In 2021 we will be launching a three week program in our Community Groups to encourage people to reflect on and write their story of Jesus' work in their lives. Our hope is to film a significant number of these to share in our services to build a deeper sense of being a Jesus shaped community. We also hope to use them as part of an increase in our online engagement, sharing real stories of how Jesus impacts our lives.

Men's and Women's ministry

We are launching four events each for men and women in 2021. Each event will have a particular focus on one of the four aspects of our Mission: to help us Know Jesus, Treasure Jesus, Depend on Jesus or Represent Jesus.

Family Events

We are looking to continue building connections among our families, and helping to support our young people as they grow up to follow Jesus. We plan to hold at least one special family event later in the year.

Welcoming & Integration

In 2021, we will start gathering our welcoming teams together once a term to continue being better equipped in how we engage and support guests into the life of our church.

Community Group Leaders

We are continuing to build on a training and development program for Community Group leaders. We will be especially working at training and growing new leaders to meet the increasing need for more groups as our church continues to grow.

Depend on Jesus

By being prayerful, generous & courageous



We are seeking to grow in our devotion, breadth and depth of prayer, being generous with our time, talent and money, and through courageous decisions and actions that reflect our deep trust in God's power and grace.

What have we done in 2020?

Prayer Week



We continued to set aside a week devoted to reflecting and growing in prayer together. It was a blessing to have our new bishop, Gary Koo, join us to preach in prayer week.

Zoom Prayer Gatherings

We moved several of our prayer gatherings online in 2020, over Zoom. This allowed a number of people to join us, who normally are unable to get out at night. It also allowed us to invite one of our Mission Partners, Gil and Ruth, to join us from overseas, share their experiences of life and ministry in a pandemic, and to pray with them—an amazing blessing that is not usually afforded to us when we gather physically.

We also ran a Mission morning tea, where we got to hear from a number of our other mission partners, and to pray with and for them together online.

What's Next?



Growing prayerfulness in the digital space

As we have done with Simply Start Reading, we hope to increase our digital presence in connecting and guiding people in prayer. We plan to introduce some online tools that will help us build godly patterns and a sense of unity in our prayer lives as a church community.

Increased prayer across our services

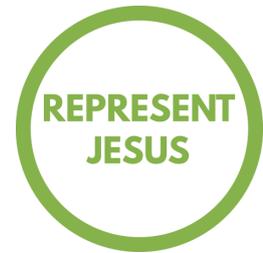
As we look to focus our sermon series each on one particular area of our mission, our 10am services will be structured in ways that help to highlight this focus across the whole gathering. In our service format that focusses on Depending on Jesus, we will be using a variety of methods for praying specifically for various aspects of church life and mission, with an increase in prayer as part of those services.

Pledging

We temporarily paused our practice of pledging in 2020, recognising the great uncertainty that many of us felt (and continue to feel). We intend to resume this for 2021, as we consider further opportunities before us to stretch and grow our ministry and mission. We want to be courageous in our plans, and clearly dependent on Jesus for our financial needs to support a growing church.

Represent Jesus

By our proclamation, presence and practice.



We seek to grow people who Represent Jesus by proclaiming the good news of Jesus, being a Jesus shaped presence in every sphere of life, and through our practice of advocacy for God’s good design and assisting in practical aid.

What have we done in 2020?

Mobile Community Pantry



The past 12 months have seen our pantry an especially crucial resource in supporting people through providing physical aid in the form of food. Our broader pastoral support has been limited due to COVID-safe restrictions, but the opportunity to develop and

sustain relationships with shoppers remains an important element in this ministry, as we represent Jesus’ wholistic care for people. Pat & Dave Kinnear have been doing a wonderful job in leading this ministry, with great support from their team.

Marriage Course



We launched our marriage course as a way to explore and support God’s good design for relationships both in our church and across our city. We provided both onsite and online options, and it was an excellent start to this ministry. In time, we hope to

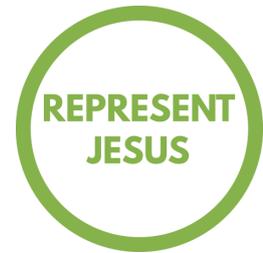
see many from both our church and the wider community take the opportunity to strengthen their marriages. Healthy marriages across our city are an important element of seeing our city flourish.



people attended the Marriage Course in 2020.

Represent Jesus

By our proclamation, presence and practice.



English Classes



Our English classes run on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings, and help meet a significant practical need of people in and around our city.

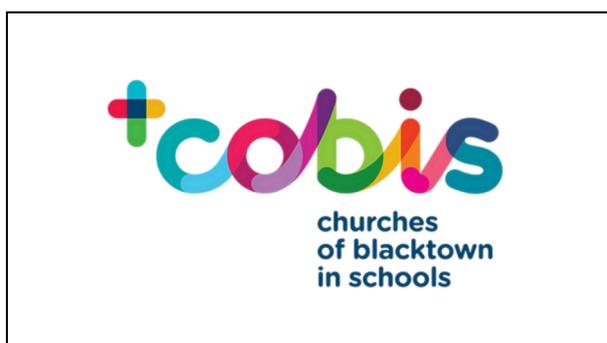
Playtime



We relaunched our playtime ministry with a new program. It has been great to build up a regular group of families attending both from those who have recently joined our church, and from those in the wider community.

Scripture in Schools

Renee co-ordinates a team across four of our local primary schools to teach kids about Jesus each week. It is a wonderful opportunity to serve kids, their families, and the school community, as we develop important relationships through this ministry.

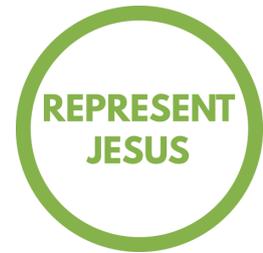


We also partner with COBIS (Churches of Blacktown in Schools) who are involved in supporting Scripture teachers and other workers in several local high schools. Auvita Parker and Teena Philip have been serving on our behalf as COBIS members, and

Stephen Bradley will be joining them in 2021.

Represent Jesus

By our proclamation, presence and practice.



Blacktown Hospital

Luke & Robbie are connected with the pastoral care team in the hospital, and are on call to visit people who would like to speak to an Anglican minister. Typically these are people in critical situations, and our presence is greatly appreciated by patients and their families, and hospital staff view us as an important part of broader patient health and care.

Blacktown Council

Luke & Robbie are regularly invited to take part in local council meetings by opening the meetings in prayer. This has been a great opportunity to serve and build relationships with our local government and officials.

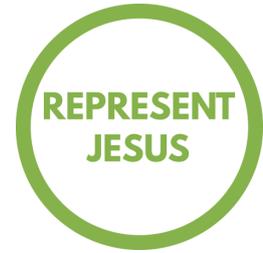
Mission Partners

We support a number of mission partners, both in Australia and overseas. Many of these work in challenging places, and sharing public information about their work can threaten their work, or even their safety. We continue to support them through the difficulties of the pandemic. And are working through possible ways to continue connecting with them and sharing about their work, as we navigate around the increasingly public and online presence of our own church. Our Beyond Blacktown mission committee continue to work faithfully in connecting with, praying, and supporting their work on behalf of our church. As you will read in our treasurers report, we also provided financial support to their work over and above our normal means.

Toys n Tucker

Each year, we continue to support Anglicare's Toy's n Tucker appeal to meet a real, practical need for families around the Christmas period. Thankyou again to all those who gave generously.

What's Next?



Marriage, Parenting & Finance Courses

We will again run the Marriage Course in 2021 to further cement it's place in our church life. We then intend to run it every couple of years, alternating with a parenting course, and a financial management course. Each of these courses are aimed at advocating for people living according to God's good design in the various spheres of life. They are intended to be both a blessing to our own people, and an opportunity to engage and connect with the people of our city.

Building Ministry Teams

As we re-launched our physical gatherings, we have moved towards people serving in a single area of ministry on a Sunday, where possible. This has already allowed us to start building a team-ministry mindset as we serve alongside others, and has increased our ability to train people to serve in various ways. We hope to continue to further this in 2021, including appointing more team leaders across various areas, and making clearer pathways to serve.

Carols in the Park

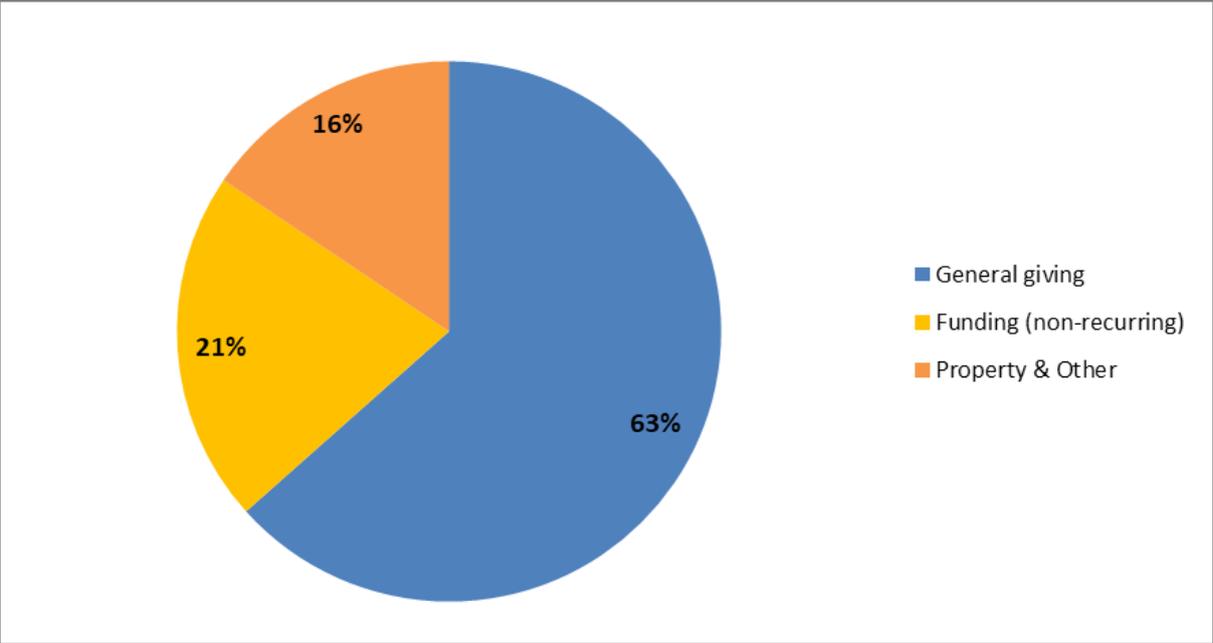
We intend to resume running our Carols event in December. It is a wonderful opportunity to lead our city in celebrating Christmas, and the good news of Jesus coming into our world.

Financial Overview

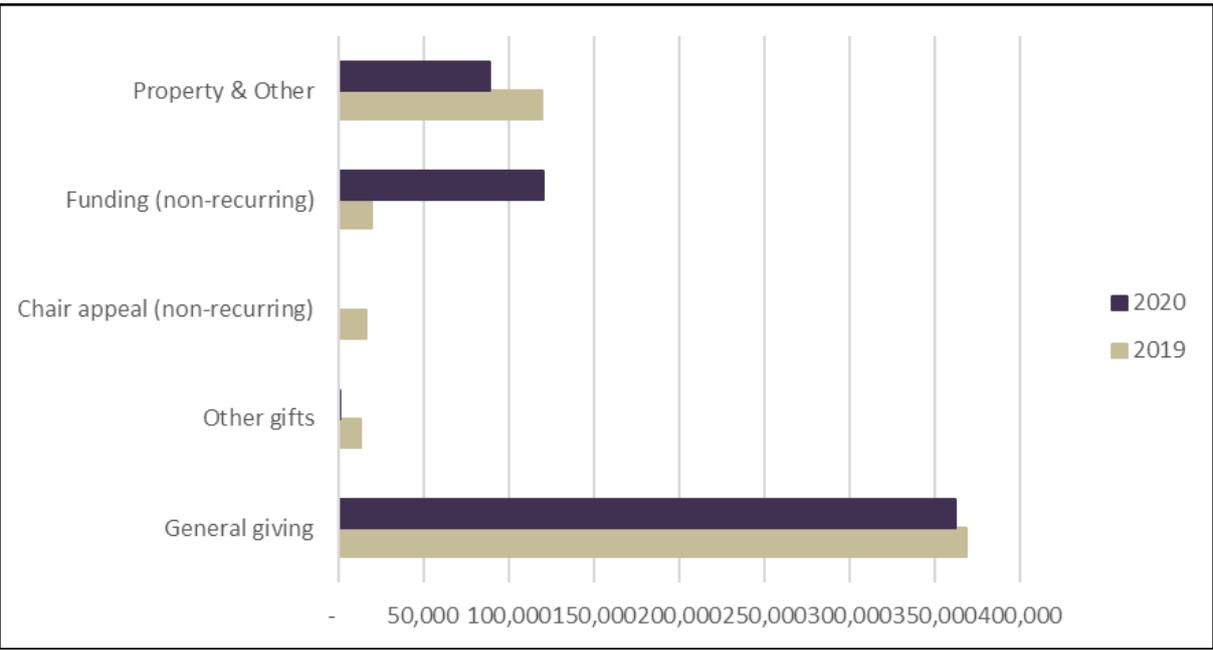
A summary of our income and spending for 2020.

See the detailed financial reports for further information.

Our income in 2020

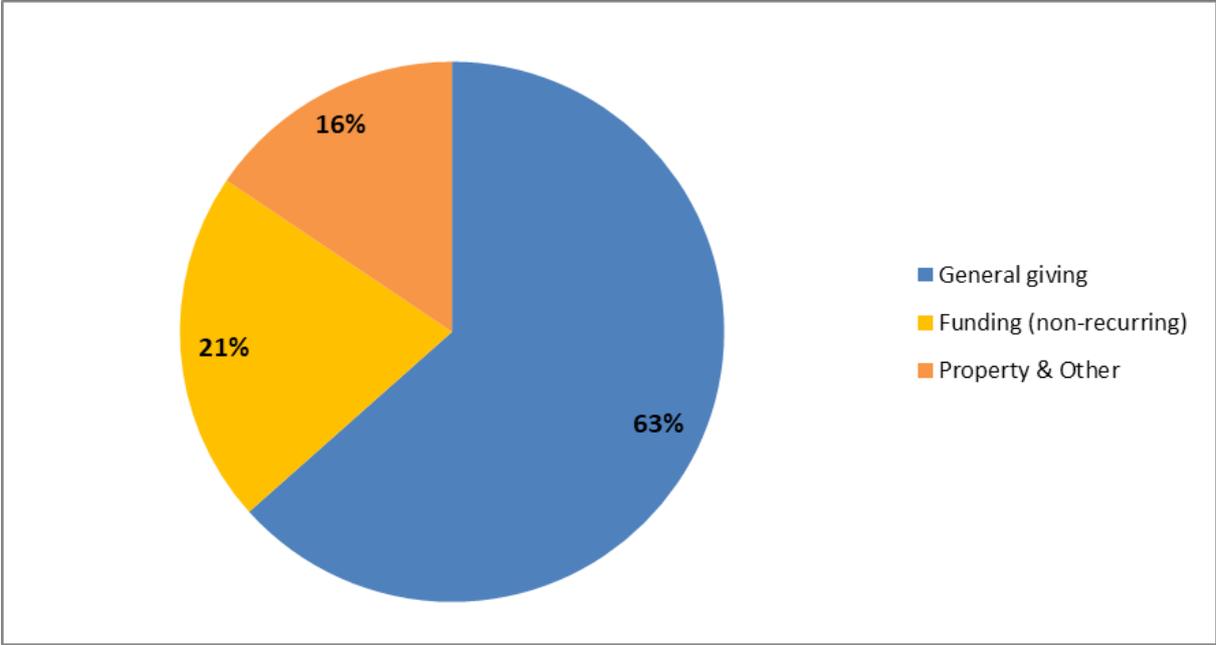


Income compared to last year

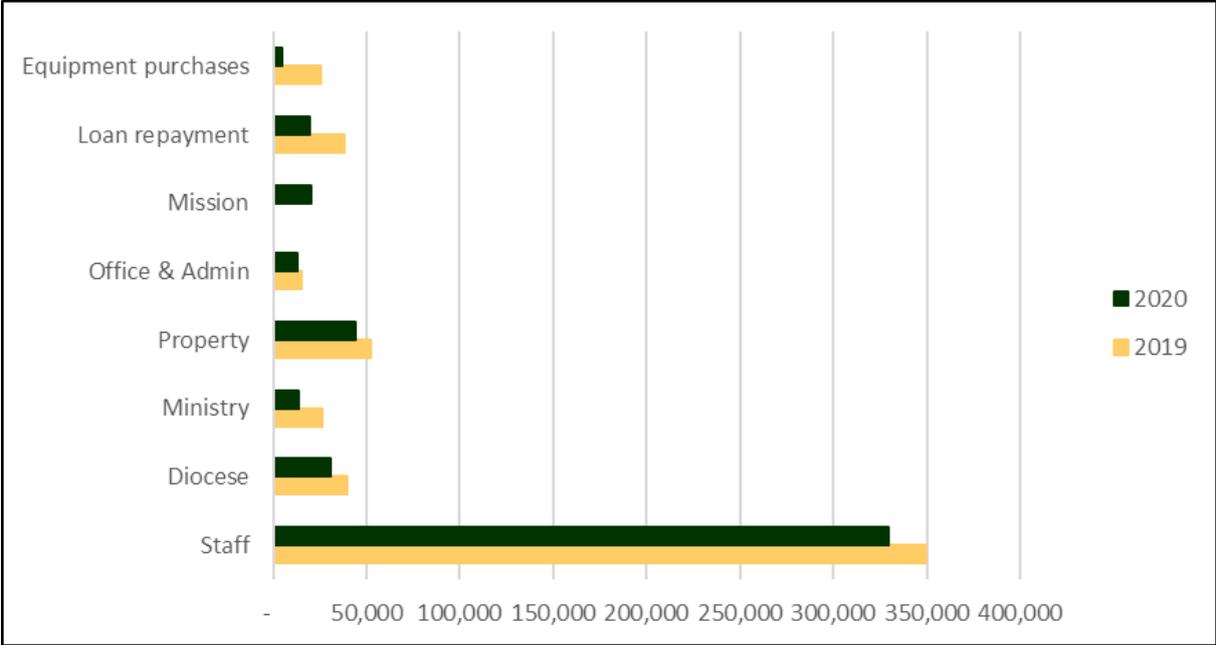


Financial Overview

Our spending in 2020

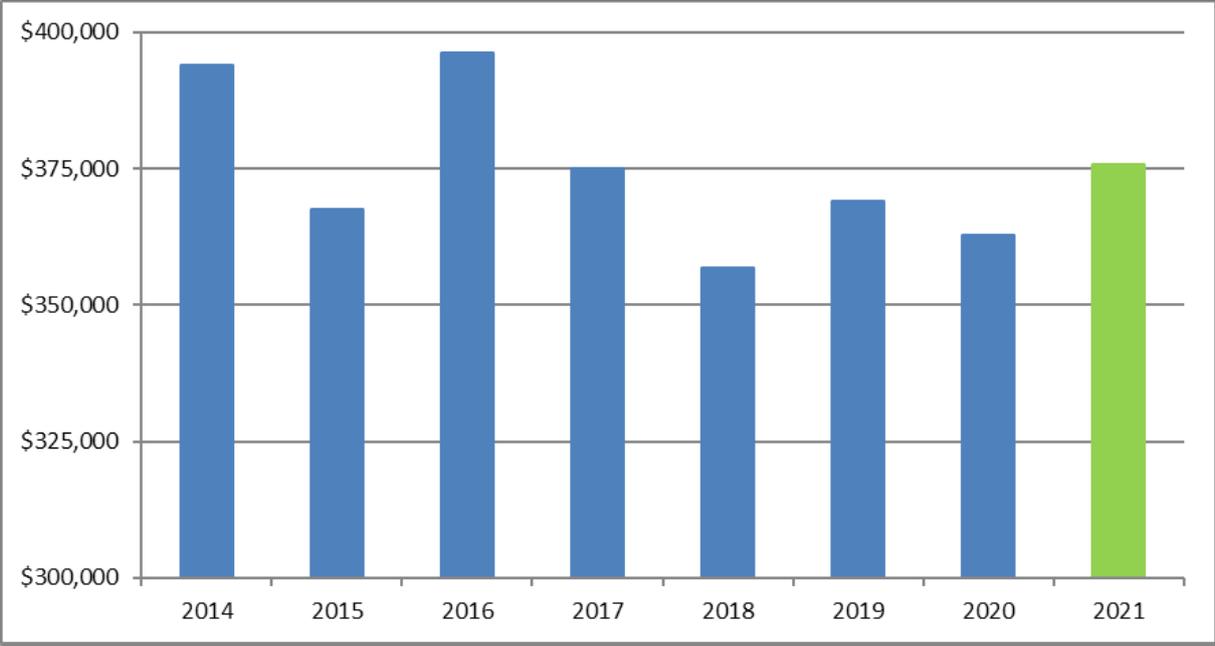


Spending compared to last year

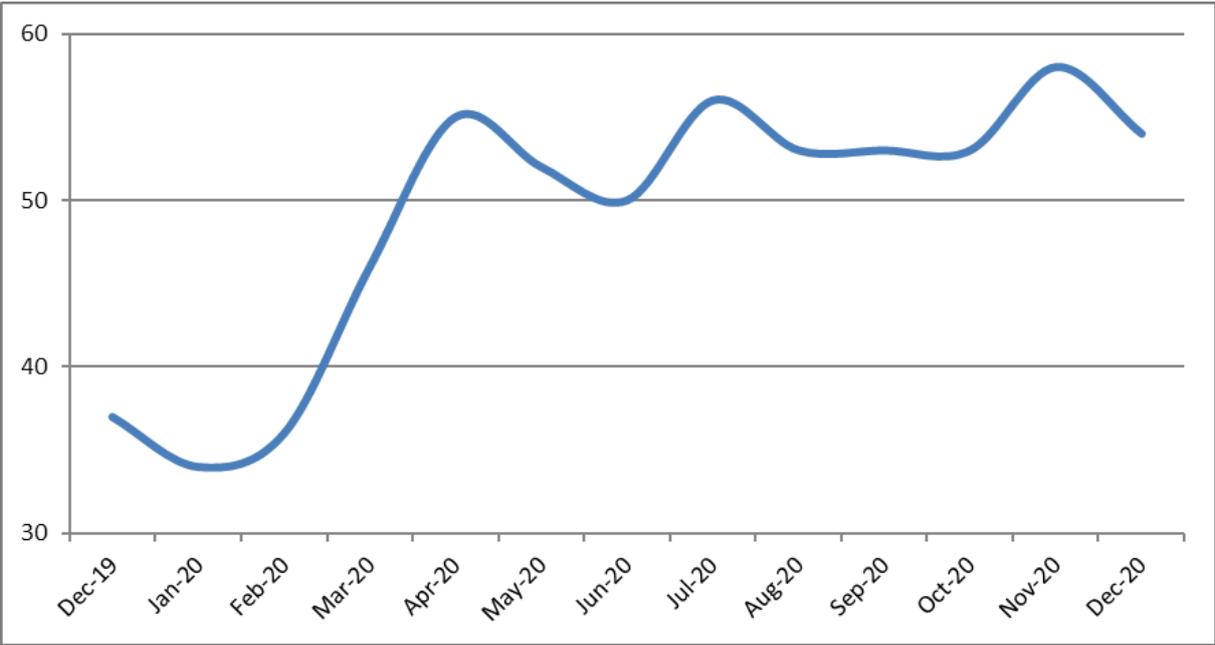


Financial Overview

Regular giving trend

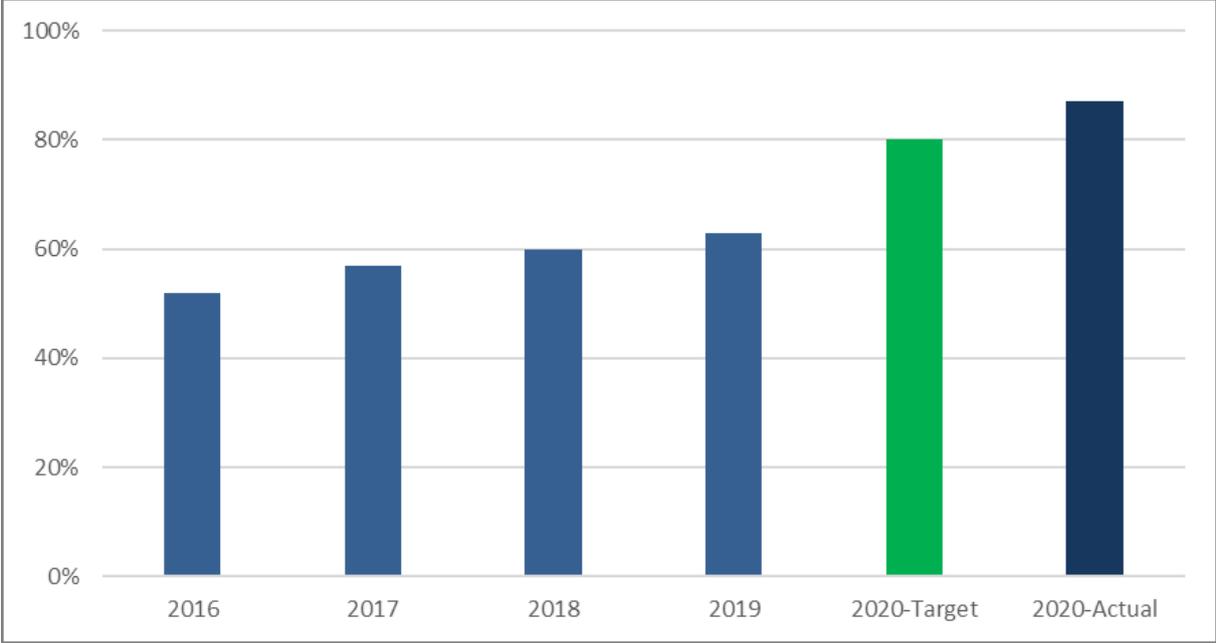


Number of direct givers

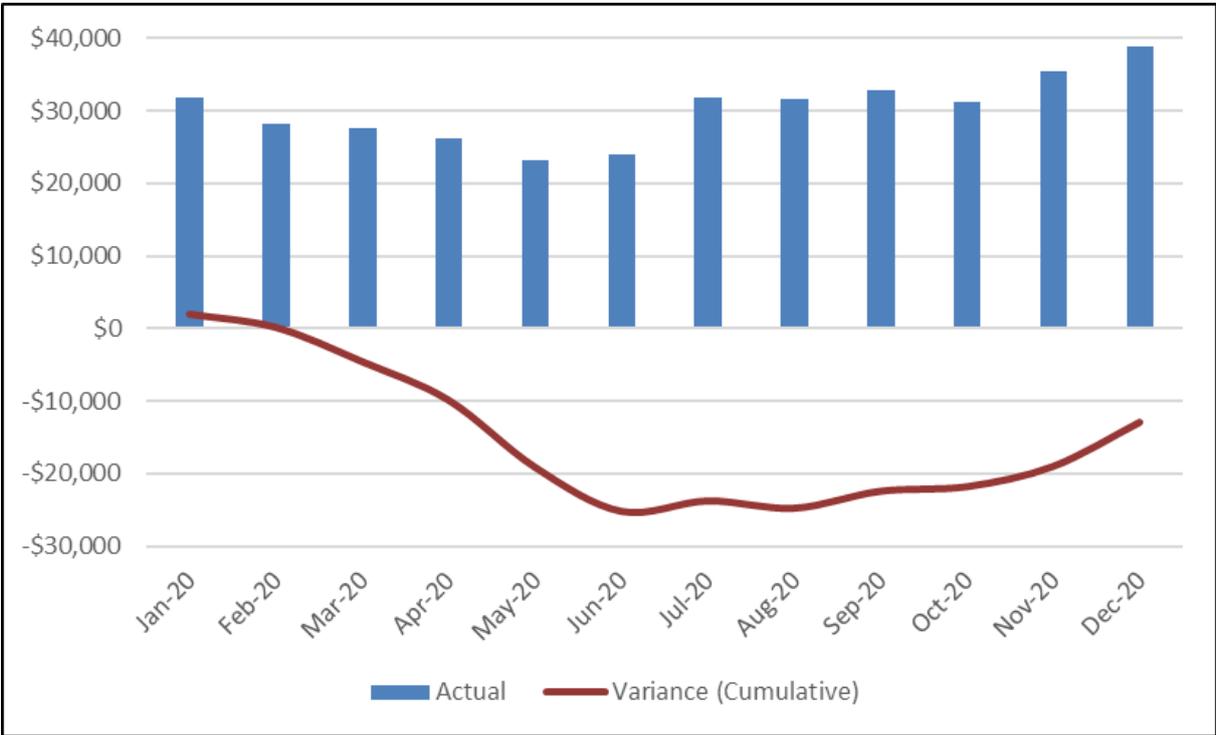


Financial Overview

Direct giving as a % of total giving



Giving across the course of the year



Treasurer's Report

Greg Muddle

Parish funds in summary

	2019	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Income from:				
General giving	370,883	375,700	363,529	375,700
Other donations	26,976	-	-	-
Funding	19,308	-	120,578	-
Property & other income	125,824	118,980	88,898	108,500
Total Income	542,991	494,680	573,005	484,200
Operating expenses	(500,378)	(466,880)	(465,357)	(474,112)
Net Income – PFS page 2	42,613	27,800	107,648	10,088
Loan capital repayments	(25,462)	(27,800)	(10,619)	(29,800)
Capital expenses	(25,689)	-	-	-
Funds Surplus (Deficit)	(8,538)	-	97,029	(19,712)

When we first went into lockdown and couldn't meet physically there was an immediate impact on our income. Giving was down – at least in part because the usual method of giving for some church members was shut; and rent from our childcare centre was uncertain – they were having their own challenges with falling attendances and uncertainty about their funding arrangements.

The government provided assistance, firstly through their *Boosting Cashflow for Employers* program and subsequently with the introduction of *JobKeeper*, which we were able to access as our income was more than 15% below normal levels.

Our giving continued to be unstable through the first half of the year – down 15% in March, then 17%, 28% and 20% in the following months.

Then in July giving returned. From that point on, our income has been ahead of budget (i.e. sufficient to meet all the costs we had planned for this year), with some left over. We ended the year only 3% behind budget overall.

One outcome of this is that we no longer qualify for continued *JobKeeper* funding in October. As nice as it would have been to have that extra cash, we didn't need it.

We thank God for providing for us in all seasons. In times of uncertainty, through the agency of our government we had funding security when our

attention really needed to be on things other than finances. At other times God provides financially for our parish through the giving of church members, and it has been encouraging to see this sustained and even grow in difficult times.

The Diocese also provided support for our parish. Firstly, by cancelling the land acquisition levy for 2020, and secondly, by allowing us to reduce our loan repayments for 6 months—something we put in place quite early before the government announced *JobKeeper*.

The funding we received provided us the opportunity to do several things apart from paying the regular bills:

- We provided rent relief to the Childcare Centre at a time when their finances were uncertain;
- Mission support was impacted by the closure of regular church services, proportionally more significantly than parish giving. Usually, mission support is limited to the amount received from the congregation. This year the church made a contribution of \$20,000;
- We were able to afford to refresh the paint inside the building;
- Parish council resolved to put \$50,000 aside for a long-term capital maintenance fund, to ensure we better placed to keep our facilities effective.

A summary of the key differences between our budget for 2020 and what eventuated is provided at the end of this report.

We are also able to afford to run at a deficit in 2021, and you will see from the financial summary that after loan repayments we have a net deficit of \$19, 712 in next years budget.

We have not planned for any increase in giving. Despite some improvements in the general economic outlook and the progress with vaccines times are still uncertain. We will be glad to see continued growth in giving, as a sign that our church members are enjoying God’s providence and growing in their faithful stewardship of all He has provided them – and we need that long-term to sustain and grow the way our church engages with the community around us – but we haven’t planned for it. We do expect a small decrease in property income from what we planned in 2020.

At the same time, we expect a small increase in costs, largely the result of inflation, but also the introduction of an additional levy on property income to fund Diocesan work.

Greg Muddle

Budget Surplus (before debt repayments)	27,800	Benefits received from...	
Actual Surplus	107,648	JobKeeper	97,500
		Boosting Cashflow	23,078
		Diocesan charge relief	9,680
			<u>130,258</u>
		Put to use by...	
		JobKeeper top-up payments	-23,004
		Childcare rent	-25,110
		Mission support	-20,000
		Internal Painting	-14,000
			<u>-82,114</u>
		Giving shortfall	-12,171
		Expense savings	43,875
Difference	<u>79,848</u>		<u>79,848</u>
		Main expense savings	
		- Carols	10,000
		- Admin staff hours	15,000
		- Utilities & general maintenance	12,000
		- Everything else	6,875

Warden's Report

Geoff Stevenson, Graeme Tuckwell, Greg Muddle

This is a brief report to document the major property items of the last year. At the end of 2019 remedial work was completed on the eastern curved wall.

This included:-

1. Repairing the cracked brickwork.
2. Installation of missing down pipe.
3. The installation of a drainage system in the area surrounding the wall.

This work paved the way to painting the exterior of the building. Graeme Tuckwell worked closely with a team from Mobile Mission Maintenance to paint the exterior of the church and Day Care Centre. The project was completed in March 2020. Graeme managed the project from conception to completion, and did many hours of painting as well. Our thanks go to Graeme and the MMM team for a tremendous job.

After having some sections of the interior painted earlier in the year (main office, hallway, Bungaribee room and family room), Parish Council endorsed a proposal to paint the foyer, auditorium, and remaining hallway. Given that there was virtually zero usage of the building due to the heavy COVID-19 restrictions, it was an ideal time to paint the interior while causing minimal disruption. Using contractors this project was completed to coincide with the return of services in the building.

The production of online church services required the purchase video cameras and associate equipment. Expenditure was kept to a minimum thanks to the expertise of our staff and parishioners. Delivering online church services during the epidemic has been an enormous challenge which has been unseen by many of us. Many thanks go to Luke and his team, and a special mention goes to James Sheedy for his generous contribution of time and technical know-how. Thanks also to the music team who have made an important contribution to the success of our online services.

As always the wardens are grateful for the volunteer assistance we receive from many people in our church family. Thank you all for your efforts and we look forward to yet another year of mission together.

Our 2040 Vision

Over the next 20 years, Blacktown will see many people come and call this city 'home'. We seek to grow, spiritually and numerically, so that we might pursue our Vision to see our city flourish, in God's good design, through the Jesus shaped community we are within this city. We are dreaming big about the kind of impact we might have, and how we might see this Vision become a reality. Here are some of our big dreams for our church, ministry and mission in the next 20 years:

- 100 new confessions of faith in Jesus each year.
- 1000 kids in a holiday kids club program.
- A growing community of trained leaders equipped and empowered to serve Jesus in our church, our city and around the world.
- Resourcing the global church to pursue excellence in cross-cultural and cross-generational ministry.
- Having a clear Jesus shaped identity and character that is known, recognised and appreciated throughout our city, its people and institutions.
- A thriving ministry involvement in the new Blacktown university.
- A network of church congregations gathering each week across our city, and a recognised partnership with other Christian churches for the sake of the gospel.
- Our church representing the diversity of the city in age, culture & language.
- A significant and visible presence with staff and patients in the hospital, where our partnership in public health is recognised and valued.
- Connecting with every new parent/baby born in Blacktown Hospital.
- Sending groups in short-term mission trips to support and resource work in remote places.
- Sending people from our church into long-term mission fields beyond Blacktown with significant prayerful, financial and pastoral support.
- Every person in the city of Blacktown hearing the good news of Jesus and experiencing something of the grace shown to us all.

Will you join us in praying toward this end, for the glory of Jesus and for our joy?

