



Kew Baptist CHURCH

2018 Annual Report

KEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN 2018



159
**WORSHIP
SERVICES**

199
ATTENDANCE

COMBINED WEEKLY
AVERAGE ACROSS 3
CONGREGATIONS

122
**SMALL GROUP
MEMBERS**



9
BAPTISMS

1. DAUGHTERS AND SONS
2. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME
3. GREAT ARE YOU LORD

3
**TOP
SONGS**

19
**HOSPITALITY
MEALS**



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KEW BAPTIST CHURCH IN 2018



5
**NEW
ARRIVALS**

3
DEDICATIONS



\$31,595
MISSION GIVING



52 kg
PRODUCE GROWN

144
**FACILITY
BOOKINGS**



100%
**INCREASE IN
ORDAINED PASTORS**

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KBC Life and Ministries

Senior Pastor Reflection

This year has been amazing! Every week I meet with and observe and hear about people in our church community living faithful and devoted lives for Christ. There are so many people serving at KBC and beyond that I can't imagine the difference and influence we are having for God's work in this world. But I know that we are making a difference. We have seen some new families join us for 10am and a fresh and growing sense of community and purpose as we trial meeting in the hall. NightChurch has seen good growth in numbers this year, but also in spiritual maturity.

So what has Jesus been doing in us and through us this year? Where do I start? In no particular order, and I can't cover everything, here's some highlights:

9 young adults baptised! It's been decades since anything like this happened in our church. What a joy and a blessing for them and for our whole church community. We give thanks to God for the faith He birthed in Briah Sansom, Claire Ireland, Jarrod Syers, Jordan & Hannah Rutherford, Bree Monahan, Tim Richardson, Joel Palmer and Daniel Lloyd. Let's continue to pray and serve and give as a church to continue to see young lives transformed by Christ.

Flourish Women's Ministry: Thanks to the leadership of a number of gifted women in our church for the wisdom and excellence in bringing this new dimension of ministry at KBC into being. To have 75 women of all ages at the launch event was huge! The threefold vision of Empower, Grow & Support is one that we can build on into the future to better support women at KBC. More recently the idea has been floated by the Flourish Team to appoint a female Pastoral Care person 1 day a week to be available to pastorally care for and support women in our church.

Kew Cares: I realise we have only just started to go public with this, but Michelle Ginnivan and myself have been working with Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre and Women's Liberation Halfway House in Kew to form a partnership to better support victims of family violence. We undertook some research in the local area as part of Just Cause campaign to help better lobby the Federal Government regarding resources and policy. And we have set up a Facebook page and strategy to help raise finance and donated goods to help the Halfway House in Kew support women and children. Over the next year you will hear about this more regularly and be given opportunities to help.

Worship: I have sensed strongly this year a growing devotion and openness in our worship together as a church. The monthly Worship and Prayer nights that Lauren has overseen have been very special nights of encounter with God and prayer for one another. I believe there has been a shift in the culture of our church in our gatherings and I sense greater expectation that God's Spirit will be with us and move among us as we worship, pray, hear God's Word and fellowship together.

Service & Commitment: There are SO MANY people at KBC who are serving God, using their gifts and selflessly offering their lives for His Kingdom work. And over the past year I have noticed more initiative and people stepping up in so many ways. I even found out last week that our church is the second biggest sending church in Victoria for the wonderful Red Frogs ministry. I'm so proud of the way our church puts skin in the game and embodies the gospel in practical loving service.

Generosity: This has been a visible area of God's work among us. Not only has our giving increased this year, but a number of ad hoc calls for support were so well supported: New drums (\$2000), Mission Appeal (\$5000); Asylum Seeker support (\$2000), Pong-a-Thon (\$2000); Red Frogs (\$1000). And this doesn't include the many people who give outside our church to aid and mission organisations. In fact, I was contacted by



Tim Richardson's Baptism

one major aid organisation recently by someone wanting to catch up to thank our church for the many donors on their books from KBC.

Ministry Team: It has been such a blessing to work with Paul and Lauren these last 6 years. Paul has grown more into the role here every year and offers a caring and thoughtful ministry at KBC. Lauren serves the church so well in Admin and Worship and made them her own. Her planning and management ability has enabled our church to run smoothly, and her musical gifts and leadership in our worship ministry has been such a blessing to our church. Mark and Amy have been such a blessing to our community and we thank God for calling them to Kew. They are both gifted and highly capable leaders and spread encouragement and blessing everywhere they go. And Sarah Brown as our 10am Worship intern has been a joy to work with this year. She has served the community well with her gifts and cheerful nature.

5 G's Membership & Discipleship Pathway: Over the past year we rolled out our new Membership and Discipleship Pathway for KBC. The basic premise is that church membership equals discipleship. In it I outline that we, as any church is, are a community of faith birthed in and sustained by God's grace to us in Jesus Christ. There are 4 key practices and responses to God's grace and they are:

- Grow: we take seriously the call to grow more like Christ and into deeper spiritual maturity
- Gather: we commit to love and bless others at KBC and to create a welcoming community
- Give: we cheerfully offer time, talents and finances to resource the church and serve others
- Go: we make the Great Commission, sharing Jesus locally and globally, our highest priority

Preaching & Teaching: We started the year with a church-wide series called Jesus the Game Changer. We also ran a 6 week mid-week Hub Night around the series with 40-50 attending each week. At NC we did a big series called "You Can't Ask That", but recently changed the name to "Hard Questions" due to a letter from the ABC legal department. At 10am we spent some time Slowing Down with Jesus and looking at God's work in the everyday, and we did a series called "Being Disciples of Jesus" in which we outlined the 5 G's. And 1 Corinthians has been a timely source of wisdom, correction and encouragement for our whole church across many issues.

I'm deeply grateful to my fellow preachers this year: Paul Pallot, Ken Manley, Amanda Tuohy, Mark Gellie, Lauren Pickering, Crispin Newmarch, Taryn Atkinson, Miriam Dale and Ashray Rajagopalan.

Final Thoughts

I am so thankful for Amanda's devotion to God and ministry at Kew over these past 7 years. If you talk to pastors' spouses, and I do, so often they can feel invisible, taken for granted and just part of a "2-for-1" deal. But Amanda has put in significant time and energy in faithfully praying for people in our church, meeting with and mentoring women, preaching, writing letters and notes of encouragement, and many other ways. I want to honour her for her faithful ministry and service to God, not just here at Kew, but for the last 20 years as a couple in pastoral ministry.

Finally, we are both so grateful to be part of a wonderful church community with such a rich heritage and so many gracious and godly people. I finish with the words of Rod Pell, Senior Pastor from 2000-2009, who wrote in his 2008 Annual Report:

"Our goal is not to grow a mega-church, but to be an equipping and sending community focussed on those near and far who have not had the chance to respond to the Good News of Jesus".

This is something I think holds true for us today. Let's continue to look outward and upward as a church.

Love and blessings,

Nicholas & Amanda Tuohy



Vietnamese Congregation

We give thanks to God for another year. After the successful With A Mission (WAM) mission trip in January this year (see separate WAM report from Christina), we have had a less intense year. With few fundraising events, we were able to concentrate on the local mission, with 2 international students coming to Australia via the support of the WAM ISS (International Student Services) program.

We had one baptism this year and we praise God for that blessing. We also had quite a few newcomers, some are on the way to make their commitments to Jesus.

This year we also have started the process of reviewing the long-term direction for the congregation, and how best it should be structured for the next 5-10 years to support its vision and mission.

The Congregation: as a congregation, we have faced a number of challenges, with a few members who moved away due to visa issues, and also to the nursing home and long-term travels.

Aunty Lan took an extended 9 month trip to VN, aunty Chinh and her daughter returned to Perth and is hoping to return in the near future. Aunty Van had a stroke in April this year for the second time and though she was in critical condition and had a brain operation, she is now recovered. We give praise to God who has protected and kept her, however, due to her health, she is not on the deacon role anymore.



Lunar New Year

Aunty Thuy had her final major operation for her cancer and thank God that she is recovering well. Pastor Daniel Duong, who started with us as a pastor for the young people, with a special focus on International Students Services ministry within WAM last September, unfortunately has returned back to Perth due to visa complication.

On the other hand, we welcomed 10 new regulars, 2 families and 4 international students, 2 of which are the result of the ISS Program. In terms of leadership, Chau has taken a step into the deacon role early this year and a few youth members participate more in serving.

Our services are now bilingual, and it's great to see the young people participate in different parts of the service. You are welcome to join our service and it would be a blessing for us.

Small Groups: The bible group at Fitzroy on Thursday and at Kew on Friday provide pastoral care for the members in the area. The bible group for the youth and young adults has moved from RMIT City to Kew church and it has deepened the relationship between the young people and the adults during fellowship meals.

The Friday bible group at church, although not growing in number, is a place where the older members gather faithfully to study God's work. The Thursday bible group, on the other hand, attracts new faces and acts as an outreach location for the people in Fitzroy. Both of these groups are being taken care of by Pastor Khoi and Pastor Thuan (from Reservoir Baptist, assisting Pastor Khoi every fortnight at Kew). Just recently, we have also started the bible class at the nursing home in Footscray once a month for aunty Van, who had a stroke this year and now permanently resides in the nursing home.

The young people also gather on a weekly basis to study together the "Jesus the Game Changer" series and now the Bible Projects. As initiated by Pastor Paul early this year, we now have an Alpha for Kids group which is being led by a couple of the Res's young adults every fortnight. The group is growing and has the average number of 5-7 kids every week.

We have encouraged all of the congregation members to attend at least one bible class a week to study about God's words and enhance our fellowship, and this year, up to 70% are attending bible study. However, we are praying that everyone will commit to come to bible study group.

Events: On top of our weekly service, we took every opportunity to invite friends to come to our special services like the Vietnamese traditional New Year celebration, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter and upcoming Christmas service. We also had our family church camp in September where we spent a few days together to pray, had fellowship and strengthened the bond among us.

Finance: The finance is healthy and we have a surplus of around \$17,000 excluding With A Mission activity. The surplus is an evidence of God's providence with the increased overall giving. In addition to our current saving, it will be used to pay salary for our pastor in the future.

From the mission fund raised last year, we sent back to VN with the January mission trip around \$21,000, which is around 31% of the total expense for the 17-18 financial year.

The giving of time, effort but also financial givings have been evidence of God's work in people's hearts and the cause of our thankfulness to him. We are keen to see growth in numbers, but what God is doing in the hearts of the people is even more joyful.

2019 and beyond: We are excited to be part of Kew Baptist Church and the work that God is doing through us all at Kew. We look forward to 2019 and beyond. VNC has been asked to once again host the 2019 National Interdenominational Youth and Young Adults Conference in Melbourne. This is a recognition of the leadership qualities and vision of the young adults at Kew, but it is also a great opportunity to continue the vision that Kew has led across this area over the last number of years when it comes to next generation leadership for the church in the years to come.

We are also working on a number of local outreach programs which we will share with the rest of the church earlier next year. Drug addiction is a major problem within the suburbs of Richmond, Abbotsford, Collingwood, we are working to bring the outreach program from the blessed rehab ministry in Vietnam (VCRM) to Melbourne. Please keep our vision of reaching these people in your prayers.

Once again, please give thanks to God for what He is doing in this congregation, but also continue to pray over the challenges that we face and that we would persevere through them. Though we face many unexpected changes, we see God's faithfulness and provision for the Vietnamese congregation and it is wonderful to see the growing commitment of the members.



On behalf of the congregation,

Pastor Khoi Doan & Huong Nguyen

Young Adults

2018 has perhaps been the most significant year in young adult ministry at Kew Baptist Church for some time. God has been at work, and we've been able to see this in a few ways. By the numbers, it's been a particularly special year. 20 of the first year students, and 17 of the second year students at the Kew Student Residence (KSR) have been involved in Kew Baptist Church this year. There have been 7 newcomers' dinners, attended by 34 new people, 26 of whom have stayed around and connected at NightChurch. We added 66 new NightChurch people to our online records, and only archived 18 people who have moved on to other places. There are currently 10 young adult small groups operating, with about 90 young adults in these groups. This includes two Alpha groups that have run this year. We have had 9 baptisms at NightChurch, and our 2018 NightChurch average attendance in 2018 has been 104 per week, compared to 77 in 2017.

But more than the numbers, it's been wonderful to hear great stories of God's work in our young adults this year. Our ministry is fairly decentralised, with the KSR and the House, our various small groups, camps and

programs, personal spiritual friendships and intentional conversations. This means often we don't see, but simply get to hear the stories of what God is doing around us. We have heard of people exploring faith, either for the first time or returning to their search, and discovering true, great things about God, and taking steps towards real faith in Jesus. We have heard about people growing in faith, dealing with persistent sin in their lives, understanding more about God and his grace. We have heard and seen examples of leadership and service, people stepping up to serve, hearing God's call upon their lives in various ways. The last few years have been a great time for people serving God overseas. But this year, as an answer to prayer, we've also seen people engaging in and seriously considering local ministry as part of their lives.

One challenge in this ministry area is working out how to prepare and organise things for such a range of people; from those who don't know Jesus to mature believers, from people just out of high school to young adults in their thirties, some with children of their own! Please pray that we would be wise and careful to minister to people wherever they are with God. One other challenge is the delicate balance between planning responsibly and carefully, and accepting that God's working when we're not around, and in ways we often don't expect. Pray that this won't lead us to complacency or disorganisation on one hand, or to rigidity and inflexibility on the other hand. Please pray also for those who are with us for just a couple of years, that during their time at Kew, they might grow in faith, find opportunities to serve, and be nourished and fed by God for the years that lie ahead.



Farewell for Kate Lowe

Paul Pallot

Leadership Team

Thank you for your prayer and support this year.

I am thankful to God for a hard-working and unified Leadership Team. Our small team (David Atkinson (Secretary), Michael Nguyen (Treasurer), Ashray Rajagopalan and I) has worked closely with the Ministry Team (Nick and Paul) throughout the year to bring opportunities, concerns and requests to God in prayer. It has been our sincere desire to know God's leading in all the decisions we make, from the seemingly mundane (health and safety requirements) to the more involved (vision and strategy). We are grateful to Mel Hill and Bree Monahan who joined us for the last six months or so as observers. We have been deliberate in seeking to grow the Leadership Team to keep up with the increasing workload. Neither will be staying on into next year, but we are very thankful for their input, prayers and service to our church community.

We share in the excitement of the Ministry Team regarding the encouraging results in our NightChurch community this year; increasing attendance, nine baptisms and a significant growth in giving. These outward, measurable results are an indication of God's unseen work in people's lives. What beautiful answers to prayer!

Student Residence. Personally, I am excited about our closer working relationship with the Res ministry. It was great having Mark Gellie attend our June meeting. Through his involvement we have been able to pray for and support this incredible ministry more specifically. I would like to see this continue next year, especially as we move towards a reworking of our facilities. I am excited to see what God has in store for the use of these facilities in serving the students and young adults we engage with.

Finances. Last year we called the church to pray and give as we were noticing a concerning trend in relation to our finances. It is wonderful to report that we have witnessed encouraging signs month after month. An increase in giving has been supported by greater use of our facilities over the last 12 months. Not only does this bolster our financial position, but more importantly gives us greater opportunities to

bless and connect with our community. Thank you to Michael for his efforts and of course to Lauren for her support with finances and property hiring.

Property. You will read more about property progress through the annual report, but briefly, we are confident in God's leading despite the process not progressing exactly as we had expected. You'll remember that last year the best plan we had was the concept that Studio B had put forward. The Property Steering Group (PSG) took this plan and tested it thoroughly revealing that for various reasons it wasn't right. In many ways this has taken us back to square one, only with more experience! David Constantine is an elected Deacon but working within the PSG. Along with the rest of the PSG, David has put in a mountain of work which is laying a great foundation for the direction God is leading us.

We ask that you would join with us in praying, first and foremost that we as a Leadership Team would keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus. Yes, we would like to have more people on the Leadership Team and of course we would like God to reveal to us the plans He has for us, but I am constantly reminded that we just need to be faithful and obedient to Him. You can pray this prayer too, that above all else we would let Jesus be glorified as the Lord of our lives.

James Docking on behalf of the Leadership Team

Small Groups

Small group ministry has grown gradually as this year progressed. In first term we ran the "Hub" nights, which drew about 40 people along each week. The plan was then for small groups to re-convene, and where needed, new small groups to start up. In a general sense, this is what happened, although it took longer than expected for groups to form. At present, we have 13 small groups across the church, with about 122 people involved. There are also a few other groups, meeting monthly or on an ad hoc basis, as people gather with friends to encourage each other, pray together and do life together.

One real highlight this year has been new leaders stepping up to lead new groups. Looking back to the Annual Report from 2017, we were concerned about a lack of leaders, which was one reason that led us to try the Hub night format in first term. We are grateful to God that the lack of leaders hasn't been such a



concern this year, and we've seen new groups form around those willing to serve in this way. As NightChurch in particular has grown this year, the need for a strong small group ministry has increased. Many new people have joined groups, which has helped them get to know others from NightChurch much more quickly than they would otherwise just attending on a Sunday night. God has provided new leaders to make this possible at just the right time! Our leaders have also enjoyed having centralised study content for their small groups, to take the pressure off them for preparation before group gatherings.

While having more leaders has been a great blessing this year, please pray that even more people would be willing to lead going into next year! Particularly given the transient nature of NightChurch, and the many new people attending, we always need more leaders to help begin more groups. Pray that people would see this as a great opportunity to grow in gifts of leading, prayer, pastoral care and organisation through these roles. Pray also for individuals considering joining a small group. With so many good things happening every week, to commit to a small group to do life with is a serious time commitment. Pray that our groups would be places where God is glorified, God's people are grown in faith, and supported in love and prayer.

Paul Pallot

Worship

There has been so much happening in our worship ministry at Kew Baptist over the last year! It has been an encouraging and fruitful year and we have so much for which we can be thankful to God.

Sunday Worship

We've had new life injected into our 10am worship this year, thanks to our 10am Worship Intern Sarah Brown! Sarah has done a great job in this role – particularly with recruiting new musicians for the 10am service, including a large number of Res students; it's been wonderful see the growing connections between the Student Res and the 10am congregation this year. Sarah has also been encouraging a couple of the older girls from Sunday School to get involved in the 10am music team, with both Tayla and Sarina joining the band for the October All Ages Service – definitely a highlight for the year!



At NightChurch, we've also had a number of new recruits this year – again with a strong showing from the Student Res! The music continues to be at a consistently high standard at NightChurch and I'm particularly thankful for the worship leaders who help make this happen – Tim Richardson and Luke Evans (currently leading), as well as Mat Hunter and Kate Lowe (leaders from the first half of the year). The highlight of the year for NightChurch worship would have to be the baptism celebration services, where we enjoyed big bands, musical items, and an electric atmosphere of passionate worship across the whole congregation!

Jam Nights and Worship & Prayer Nights

This year, we changed our fortnightly 'Worship Jam' to a monthly 'Jam Night'. The emphasis has been on welcoming and integrating newcomers to the music team (especially new Res students at the start of the year), as well as a space to learn new songs and work on musical arrangements together. One of my favourite memories this year was when one Jam Night spontaneously turned into a massive hymn-fest!

After running quarterly 'Worship & Prayer Nights' last year (with an average attendance of about 10 people), we stepped out in faith this year and decided to run monthly 'Worship & Prayer Nights' – and we ended up seeing an average attendance of about 30-40 people each month! These have been such special times of gathering together, with extended time for prayer ministry and open times of worship in song. God has been working in profound ways through these nights and we've seen the fruit of these gatherings overflow into our Sunday night worship. The highlight of the year was our final gathering in October, where the evening was shaped around the theme of 'Lament' – a very moving and powerful time together.

Final Reflection

We've seen God at work in many ways through our worship ministry this year; in particular, we've seen an increasing hunger for God in people's hearts, and an increasing openness and freedom in times of worship. Praise God for what He is doing in the lives of His people here at Kew Baptist! And pray for this to grow and continue into the coming year.

We'd also love your prayers for a few exciting things in the pipeline for 2019. We've recently started up a songwriting collective, seeking to create an intentional space where we can nurture creativity within our church community. We currently have about half a dozen young adults involved, workshopping original songs and collaborating together; we hope to see this develop further in the coming year. We're also keen to work on a recording project with the NightChurch music team; preliminary work for this has already started. Please pray for God's grace and wisdom as we seek to nurture and grow our creative arts ministries at Kew Baptist Church; we want to be good and faithful stewards of what God has already blessed us with! Pray particularly for God to continue to raise up leaders and people to serve in this ministry. Soli Deo Gloria!

Lauren Pickering

Family Ministry

2018 has been a great year for family ministry. A number of new families have joined our church family, and there has been great ownership of some of our ministries. There have also been some new ventures, in particular some students from the KSR helping with 10am crèche, the commencement of a new Friday night youth program, and the start of NightChurch crèche, running fortnightly. This last example is a particular point for praise to God. At NightChurch we now often have up to ten little children attending, and as this need has grown, God has provided leaders for crèche! In a similar way, it became clear at the start of the year that a roster was needed for Kids at Kew (Sunday School), and again, God provided the leaders we needed!

It would be great to see even more people serving in our various children's ministries, especially Kids at Kew. Please also pray for more possibilities to connect with local families, and praise God for Tea & Tots, which has begun to do this really well.

Paul Pallot

Kids at Kew

'Jesus called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.' (Matthew 18:2-5)

It is a privilege to journey with the children and youth of Kew Baptist as they grow in their knowledge and understanding of God.

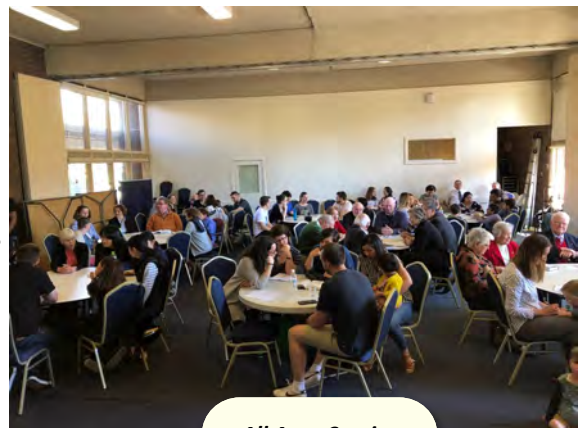
The Jesus Storybook Bible has been used as a resource this year, with the premise being that 'Every story whispers his name'. Each of the Bible stories points to Jesus and his love for us. A typical Sunday morning would involve sharing in the story together, discussing its meaning and implications, praying for each other, and being involved in an activity. The art gallery that has transformed the noticeboards in the Sunday School room is evidence of the creativity in our midst!

This year has seen some changes. We were sad to farewell Lucy and James in February. However, it has been wonderful to have Reuben and Nathan join us.

It has been fantastic to have a number of people assist in leading the group this year. Changing the structure in this way has provided an opportunity for more to be involved and for greater connections to be made. Thankyou to Ann, Emma, Jacqui, Marcia and Paul for all that you have contributed!

We look forward to all the excitement and opportunities that 2019 will bring.

Jennie Taylor



All Ages Service

Crèche

2018 has been a year of new beginnings for our crèche group. With a growing number of pre-schoolers, some of the parents recognised that it would be worth taking a more structured approach to biblical teaching for our 2-5 year olds. Rather than just telling a stand-alone story - without a context or theological basis that our little ones could understand - we took the approach that we could be helping them to better comprehend who God is. Every term we have focussed on a particular theme; we have looked at the characteristics of God, The Fruits of the Spirit, how God made our bodies, and thanked God for our families

and our world. These sessions usually start with group time, followed by a story or bible reading, a game or craft to reinforce the idea and then we share in a 'communion' of morning tea together (BYO). Our curriculum sources vary, but the most effective we have used this year has been from the Mustard Ministries. It has been wonderful to see how this new format and structure has seen our kids blossoming and taking on a greater understanding of who God is and how he has made us so he can have a relationship with each of us. Not to mention how much more engaged they have become with 'going to church'. We have also been joined by some amazing volunteers from the Res and it has been great for the children and leaders to build some new relationships with our Students. We look forward to this continuing into the future. Big thanks to our Leaders (and Mums!) Amy Gellie, Tarnya Harper, Kylie Kollmorgen, Amy Repse and our lovely helpers Kirsten, Lucy, Rachael, Kara and Brooke.

Hannah Constantine

Youth Group

We commenced the Kew Baptist Church Youth Group in July this year. We've had children from both morning church and the Vietnamese service join us every fortnight on Friday evenings in the hall. Our group ranges from about 10-15 children between the ages of 8-13 years old. Our evening consists of getting to know the children, playing games, doing craft activities and we have been watching a Youth Alpha video series. The videos explore topics of Christianity, faith, prayer, the Bible and identity in Christ and stimulate thought-provoking discussion with the children that is still engaging and relatable to everyday life.

Our highlight has definitely been getting to know the children and spending time with them. We've really enjoyed their curiosity, playfulness and inquisitive nature.

Throughout the Alpha series it has been interesting to hear the input from the children and question their understanding of faith. We are excited to see how God will work through these children because they are still young and are yet to develop a deeper relationship with Christ. We are blessed with the opportunity to have a positive impact on these children. Settling into the role of leadership has been a learning experience for us as leaders and we are eager to further develop our skills in leadership. We are thankful for the way the numbers have grown since July and the fact that the children are keen to come to youth group and attend regularly.

We have our last youth event for the year coming up on November 16. We would appreciate prayer for us over the summer as we plan for next year and prepare the materials, games and program for the youth. We would also appreciate prayer for the youth that their experience throughout 2019 would be fun, positive and thought-provoking.

Julia Malan, Calvin Thompson and Jeremy O'Shannessy

Tea & Tots

Tea & Tots is a growing group of young families from Kew and surrounding areas. We have been meeting at Highbury Common every second Friday and each week we are encouraged by the new and returning faces. Some of these families do not attend church, and some attend different denominations elsewhere.

For each term throughout the year we have covered a different theme such as 'Nature', 'Transportation' and 'Environments', and focused on a different aspect from these each week. Activities for the morning usually include a craft activity, interactive play setups, storytime and music, and we all enjoy some time together over morning tea.



Tea & Tots Activity

We also try to incorporate an offsite excursion each term that fits with our theme for the term. For our Transportation term we took a tram and a train into the bustling Flinders Street Station, Fed Square and surrounds. Many kids, and even some parents, were very excited about their first train rides!

We are very excited to see this group continue to grow and look forward to seeing what God has in store for Tea & Tots next year.

Tarnya Harper

Ladies' Evening Fellowship

This year has been great! We've had a few new people come along to hear different speakers. Each speaker is unique but I would say the highlight was listening to Pastor Khoi Doan tell us about his journey from a young boy to present day. He has a great sense of humour too! Another highlight was the trip to Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. We wandered around and ended with lunch. All in all, a wonderful day for getting to know each other.

For some time now, LEF has been looking at different ways to attract younger women to our group. I believe God was behind the recent FLOURISH Event which saw women of all ages come together in harmony.

The year ahead will continue its format of having a speaker at each meeting but is open to change. Please pray for wisdom and guidance to reach more women and touch each life with God's love.



Ladies' Evening Fellowship

Carolyn Schiffman

Flourish

This year has seen the beginning of a new kind of women's ministry. Flourish Women's Ministry was birthed out of a desire to support, grow and empower the community of women we have at Kew Baptist Church and in our local area. Our launch event on Tuesday 30 October was attended by over 75 women; giving each woman a chance to connect with other women from all 3 congregations, hear wisdom from many women in our own community, to honour women who have served our church in the past and to dream about what is next for us in the future. Moving forward we hope to: encourage women to explore their gifts and how they will be able to use them in ministry, provide pastoral and prayer support for everyone and to help women explore their faith in new and exciting ways. We have such a wonderful group of women here at Kew and it is such an honour and privilege to walk alongside them in this way.

Please pray for the women of our congregations, may they know Christ's love in new ways this Christmas season and the Flourish team know how we can best love, support, empower and grow our sisters over the coming years.

Bree Monahan

Transformer

Transformer commenced in August 2017 and this year celebrated its fifteenth session. Meeting fortnightly before NightChurch during the university semester, the Transformer theology discussion group has provided the opportunity for us to pray and discern God's will and God's truth through studying Scripture together. Through all of this, we have sought to know the God we love and love the God we know, who himself transforms and renews our minds, as the Apostle Paul describes in Romans 12:2.

Over the last year, we have discussed weighty topics such as baptism and communion, the doctrine of grace, predestination, the authority of the Bible, the role of women in church ministry, the meaning of church and the meaning of marriage. These are, of course, hotly debated, sometimes divisive topics, and yet God has graciously given us his guidance on all of these in the Scriptures, and it has been our privilege and joy to seek to know our heavenly Father better through these studies, with love and patience towards each other as well.

We look forward to continuing to mature and grow in God's truth through these studies in 2019, trusting that in all of these things, our heavenly Father's will is indeed *good, pleasing and perfect*.

Ashray Rajagopalan

Ministries to the Community and World



Kew Student Residence

2018 has been a great year at KSR! It seemed like yesterday that we were welcoming new students and running Orientation activities and yet here we are at the end of Semester 2 reluctantly about to farewell the students who as our two-year-old Lewis refers to as "our family". In a year at Res, the semesters are mapped out by the various events and Res annual traditions. A first-year student recently reflected on the fact that he had heard the second-year students raving about how good the Footy Day was last year and how he thought they were all just exaggerating and were

full of hype but then after experiencing the day for himself he said it was one of the best days of his life! There is a reason as to why O-Week, Family & Friends Day, Easter Dinner, Christmas in July, Footy Day and Formal are all such unique and wonderful events that continue to be made a priority on the Res calendar. Some of these events include the wider Res community, ex-students and church members and it is a constant reminder to the current Ressies that they are a part of a large and significant community. Although these events might change slightly from year to year, the heart of fun, connection and unity remain the thread between them all.

As much as we enjoy the big events and milestones had throughout the year, we equally enjoy the small things that we witness every day at Res. A student offering to drive another student to uni, the airport or Officeworks! A group of first-year boys praying together in their room. A Ressie covering someone's duty not because they have been asked but because they want to help their friend out. These small acts are what add up to make one large, loving, caring, fun and healthy family of students.

We have continued to make improvements to the Res buildings this year. The biggest bathroom (upstairs on the old side) containing two toilets and two showers was done up over summer and it looks incredible. The second-year girls have loved having such a modern space to enjoy. The courtyard has been upgraded as

a part of the capital levy project with a folding arm awning installed, some new outdoor bean bags and gas heaters. The students have been using the courtyard as a study space a lot more this year. During this coming summer the whole first-year side will receive a big face lift with new carpet, painting throughout, laminate and cork board upgrades and another two bathrooms being renovated.

On 27 October we were extremely excited to officially launch the KSR Accommodation Scholarship Fund at an afternoon event. In 2017, the KSR Accommodation Scholarship Fund was established to help provide student accommodation at an affordable cost for families in need of financial assistance. In 2019 we will be offering a partial scholarship to at least one successful student who applies to live at Res next year. The Fund has been established with the Australian Communities Foundation, which acts as the trustee. Our vision is that the fund will one day provide enough fee relief to ensure that financial reasons will never prevent someone from living at KSR in order to undertake tertiary study.

One of the biggest highlights for us this year has been seeing a true hunger and eagerness amongst the students to know more about God. It is so encouraging to watch them growing together in their faith in Jesus. There are regular "God chats" that are happening very naturally amongst the Ressies, over coffee, at dinner or even around the pool table. By the end of November we will have seen 5 students from this year's cohort and 3 past Res students be baptised (6 at KBC and 2 at Planetshakers) in 2019. We have loved seeing so many of them engaging in church activities and volunteering in various ministries; crèche, youth, Christian camping programs, Love Abbotsford, Red Frogs and Prison Ministry are just a few! We are again thankful to the amazing team of support staff that mentor, care, love and nurture our students. They model what it is to be a Christ-follower and do this in such an organic and natural way.

Reflecting on all of this, it is no wonder that we have 27 of our 29 current first-year students returning next year, leaving 23 available positions for 2019. We have again seen an increase in student applications for places at KSR and at this present moment we have received close to 80 applications for the 23 first-year positions available in 2019, which in itself is a remarkable thing. We do not take lightly the blessing and favour that is upon this ministry and the great privilege it is to lead the Res. Please continue to pray for the Res community, our students and staff and that they would always know God's love and truth in their lives.

Mark & Amy Gellie

The House

It occurred to me the other day that living in the House has been the most life-giving experience of my life, albeit a short life in comparison to the many wise characters at KBC morning church.

Living at the House with Simon and Mat Hunter, Emily Black and Jacob Creek makes share-housing easy, and I'm still yet to experience what the share-house headache is all about. Living at Res makes me understand that we aren't meant to be alone, or for that matter, live alone. I'm more than ever compelled by the power of friendship. I'm learning more and more that God not only draws us to Himself, but He also draws us to one another - and even that they are one in the same.

I love meeting impressionable students coming to Res at the start of the year with all their questions and hesitations and then watching them grow into themselves and find their confidence, their own groove, their opinions, their faith, their likes and dislikes, and their lifelong friends. At the House our role is to try and cultivate that as much as possible through various activities and events and through the 6th (and my personal favourite) love language: coffee dates. In other words, don't go to Cru if you want to have a private conversation, because most likely you'll bump into six other Ressies.



Mat, Emily, Simon, Zoe, Jacob

Looking over the year is always an indistinguishable haze of crazy memories. Our backyard saw a disco party, a spa night, bonfire and chai nights, morning workouts and casual hangouts. Our lounge-room saw a disco dance floor (yes, with disco ball), a hectic list of movies, Bible studies, prayer times and after-church dumplings. One of our goals as a House this year was to invite a handful of KBC and Res people over for dinner each week, intermingling corners of the church family that don't usually.

As always, the Res Road Trip, where we visited (at least) 27 students' homes across a week during the mid-year break was a huge highlight. The surprise Maddogging trip is also coming up in late November, and with 39 of us going, it's sure to be a ridiculous adventure. Last year I did a lot of praying when we were climbing over waterfalls in Cairns so prayers over the safety of this trip would be much appreciated.

It would be great if we could also pray over the friendships of the second-year students as they disperse into share-houses next year, and also the first-year students as they break for the summer. Pray for Emily Black as she holds the fort as the only House member staying on in 2019 as well.

God has graced me with eyes to see him kneaded through my two years living as staff at KSR. If the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that grows into a grand tree with birds perched in its branches, then that makes a lot of sense indeed.

Zoe Boyle

(on behalf of Mat Hunter, Emily Black, Simon Hunter, Jacob Creek)

Highbury Common

Over the past 3 years this has been such a life-giving and wonderful grassroots initiative. The last year we have been so grateful to Katie Chapman, a neighbour in Highbury Grove and a young Christian women, for the energy, initiative and dedication she has put into Highbury Common. She has been amazing! We had a Highbury Common morning tea, put in irrigation, a community library out the front, and more vegetable beds among other things.

Highbury Common is full of immense potential as a connection point between our church community and our local community. It already is fulfilling that with neighbours popping in with children to play and others



Highbury Common

involved in the community composting and vegetable gardens. But for it to take the next step in the vision that I see, we need to have someone on staff at least a day a week as a Community Connections Coordinator. I have the Role Description and I can see where this initiative can go. But we need the person and the finance. I see a small but professional café space running midweek and community groups, church groups and Res groups using the space more and more.

Many people in our community are cold to the idea of church, but the kind of things we are doing at Highbury Common are interesting and attractational. We must create spaces and make opportunities where Christians can connect meaningfully and in partnership with their neighbours. Maybe when Jesus said to "love your neighbour", he literally meant, to love your neighbour!

Next year is a critical time for Highbury Common. We need to prayerfully and practically get behind it to see it move to the next stage and become a connection point for Res, Church, and local community.

Nicholas Tuohy

Makers' Market

After the success of our 'Highbury Common Creative Festival' in November 2017, we decided to run two similar events in 2018 – this time rebranding to the 'Highbury Common Makers' Market'. We decided to forego the 'art exhibition' component of the original event, but we kept the remaining elements: handmade markets, live music, food stalls, barista coffee and kids' activities. Our first 2018 market was held on Saturday 17 March, as part of the official Kew Festival. There were a few hiccups leading up to the event – even to the point of considering cancelling the market altogether – but praise God, it all came together in the end! Turnout was smaller than our first November market, but it was still a wonderful event, with many stall-holders commenting on the uniquely positive community vibe. Connections were made not only across the KBC community (with all three congregations and the Student Res actively involved), but also connections with our neighbours and other members of the local community. We're so encouraged by how God has been working through these events!

At the time of writing this report, the November Market is still a couple of weeks away (Sat 24 Nov), but we've already had an encouraging response; in fact, we've had so many stall-holder applications that we have had to turn people away, which is an amazing problem to have! Please pray for this event as it approaches – for smooth logistics in the final organisational processes, for a strong turnout on the day, and for positive connections to continue to be built in our local community. Please also pray for the future of the Highbury Common Makers' Market as we consider plans for 2019 – for wisdom in decision-making and for personnel to make it sustainable. Sincere thanks to all those who have volunteered their time already to make these events possible!



March Makers' Market

Lauren Pickering

Love Abbotsford

It has been a great year for Love Abbotsford, with 9 visits to the housing estates on Hoddle Street, and one more pencilled in for a few weeks' time. Love Abbotsford is a really powerful outreach and ministry of our church. How it practically looks is on a Saturday or a Sunday every 3-4 weeks, our team arrives in the afternoon to the outdoor playground/rotunda area below the housing estate high rises, and we spend a few hours serving the community. We serve in a number of ways; firstly we offer a quality lunch which we all share together: marinated chicken, sausages and salad. We also engage the children and families with games, soccer, basketball, football, chasey, playing on the swings and face-painting. We also provide the adults free coffee or a hot chocolate. The program has really grown this year in a number of significant ways. Firstly, we have had 29 young adults get involved this year; some coming once or twice, and others involved regularly and becoming known by name by the children. We regularly hear the children asking for a team member when we arrive. As well one of the highlights was seeing our team pray for a lady in the community who was struggling with her health. Finally, what stands out has been the enthusiasm and passion we see in our volunteers and how that joy and fun is really changing the atmosphere at the Collingwood housing estate and in the surrounding community. Please continue to pray for this ministry, which serves both as a vehicle for showing Jesus' love to people in need, and also as a great opportunity for our young adults to pour themselves out in radical love to reach our city with the love of Christ.

Mark Gellie

Carrical Rooming House

The Carrical Rooming House in Hawthorn is a ministry of the Hawthorn West Baptist Church through a not-for-profit arm, Servants Community Housing. The ministry has been operating for more than 30 years. Servants provides affordable and safe housing for those on low incomes at Carrical in Hawthorn and two homes in Kew. There are approximately 90 long-term residents across these facilities.

The ministry is built around offering a structure in which vulnerable individuals can live in relative comfort. All too often the residents —many of whom suffer from long-term mental illnesses—have been afforded little dignity or respect in their lives prior to being housed by Servants. They may have been homeless, may have left a psychiatric ward for the first time, experienced a relationship breakdown, loss of employment, substance issues...

The model of housing is founded on the belief that each individual is worthwhile. Residents find a safe and secure place and tend to stay for many years, enjoying a strong connectedness and sense of community.

On the fourth Saturday of each month a group from Kew Baptist Church meet at Carrical to cook dinner and share time with the residents. This ministry has been ongoing for a number of years. Grace Loh, the current faithful coordinator, makes sure the team is notified of the dates, confirms who is attending and oversees what food the team take to cook and share.

The residents always seem to anticipate our visit and enjoy not only the food but the opportunity to chat about all sorts from the mundane to issues of significance.

Thanks to Grace, Lindsay, Deirdre, Ian, Michael, Phan, Tayla, Caitlyn, Rachael and those others that attend from time to time for being part of the team!!



If you are interested in being part of this important ministry please talk with Peter or Marion Todd or Grace Loh – we would love you to have the opportunity to be part of the team.

Peter & Marion Todd

Global Mission & Evangelism Team

The Global Mission and Evangelism Team (GMET) is all about sharing the Good News of Jesus both locally and globally, by providing prayer and material support for a number of cross-cultural mission workers, including some young adults from our own congregations, and by inviting and encouraging others at Kew Baptist to share in God's mission to the world in their daily spheres of influence.

Highlights from 2018:

- The GMET met every two months, starting with a shared meal together.
- Rachel Bakker returned to serve God in PNG and Townsville with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) for six months from January, attending a Discipleship Training School. Her nursing and midwifery skills were much used on a number of outreach trips into villages, as well as on the YWAM hospital ship.
- May/June Mission Month speakers:
 - Brooke Prentis about mission amongst Indigenous Australians.

- Bernie Power about his significant ministry amongst Muslims in Australia and about how we can talk to our Muslim neighbours.
- Matt & Tash Sharpe, concerning their 4 years in SE Asia. (N.B. the Sharpes have now taken extended leave from Global Interaction (GIA), and our support has come to a close).
 - May/June Mission Month Special Appeal: Close to \$4000 was raised and shared between two projects:
 - Support for refugee families, mostly Afghani, in the Middle East.
 - The Sunflower Centre in Uganda, to support children with disabilities.
 - It is so exciting to sense God at work amongst us, and to hear from those He has called to serve Him locally and globally.
 - Praise God for the many ways He is using Highbury Common to impact our local community. You may be familiar with the flourishing veggie patches, but have you seen the new Street Library set up by Katie Chapman, already being used by our neighbours?

Plans for 2019:

- Rachel Bakker has committed to serve two more years with YWAM in Townsville and PNG, recommencing in January 2019.
- Bree Monahan has committed to return to Uganda for at least two years in Feb/March 2019 to assist in the running of the new Sunflower Centre for children with disabilities in Arua.
- We will be supporting new workers, Mike & Kathryn, and son Simon, working with GIA in South Asia from January 2019.
- We will continue to support Warwick & Natalie Short and their family, and look forward to hearing from them early in 2019, while on Home Assignment.
- We will continue to support Natalie Smith, in PNG with the Leprosy Mission.
- KBC will partner with GIA at the end of January 2019, when Res and church facilities will be used by GIA to conduct a Strategic Mission Week and Culture and Language Workshop. It is hoped that there will be opportunities for interactions between GIA missionaries who will be staying at the Kew Student Residence and people attending KBC.
- New GMET members would be extremely welcome in 2019.



Deirdre Willis

With A Mission

At Kew Baptist Church, we have been taught about God's greatest commandment which is to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves. We have experienced God's unconditional love and we want to share it with others thus we have built a non-profit organisation called With A Mission (WAM), this is a ministry of the VNC to carry out mission work both locally and globally.

With God's grace, in 2018, we were able to build 6 houses, provide free medical check-ups for more than 600 people and support \$5,000 to the Vietnamese Christian Restoration Ministry (VCRM) [our global

reach], as well as helping 2 students come to Australia to study via our International Student Services (ISS) initiative [our local reach]



In January 2018, 23 of us from different churches in Australia went on a Mission Trip to Binh Phuoc, Vietnam. This is our third trip over the last 6 years. It gave us the opportunities to interact with the local communities overseas and to put our words into action. We thank God for our fellowship with the local communities and with each other as

well as the things that He has taught us along the way.

We also visited the drug rehab centre in Ha Noi (VCRM). We were touched by the stories of our brothers and sisters whose lives have been transformed and restored by God at VCRM. We thank God for his blessings upon this ministry and we are still praying for more funding to build the facilities at the female campus to give our sisters a safer and better place to recover and to serve God. This would be the first all female rehab center in Vietnam. Please let us know if you would like to know more or would like to commit to support this initiative.

WAM would not be able to bring the good news to those in need without our sponsors, advisors, members and volunteers who have supported WAM financially, volunteered their time, showed the team love and encouragement as well as continuously praying for WAM. On behalf of WAM I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your generosity. May God continue to bless you and your family as you persist in blessing his people with your generosity. You can continue to support WAM via different ways for example:

1. Prayers
2. Donation (Account name: With A Mission; BSB: 083 004; Account No.: 89 311 1911)
3. Helping and getting involved in fundraising events
4. Sponsoring someone to go on mission trip
5. Joining the mission trip with WAM

Finally, I would like to give a big thanks to the 2018 mission trip team. I'm very encouraged to see many young people stepping outside of their comfort zone and putting their love in action. I look forward to many more young people stepping up to join us living a life with a mission.

Christina Dao Ly

Karana

Karana Aged Care has a special place in the history of our church, with around 60 years of connection and partnership. We had a recent season with no current or former Kew folk in care at Karana after Betty Barclay went to be with the Lord in October 2017. But this changed recently with Brian Garth and Marg Sparkes taking up residency there. I have continued this year to lead Tuesday chapel at Karana, and Ken Manley is regularly involved in the Sunday service. Lindsay Glascott and others do some visiting there too. Sam Lo the chaplain does a wonderful job of pastoral care and support, and in recent months they have had a high number of funerals. So please remember Karana, its staff and residents, in prayer as they continue this valuable and caring ministry to the elderly.

Nicholas Tuohy

BUV Delegate

Along with Ben Cronshaw from NightChurch, I have enjoyed representing Kew as one of its Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV) Delegates this year. As usual, the delegates gathered for dinner in May and October. Personally, a highlight was the joy of being prayed for as an ordinand at both gatherings, before my ordination on 20 October. As always, there's lots going on in the BUV. One particularly special event this year was the "Empower" conference: a day gathering designed to encourage women in leadership roles, and to assist churches thinking about practical ways to help this become a reality. This event was well represented by Kew Baptist Church.

The BUV has begun a process of looking into topics of Baptist Identity and Freedom of Conscience. These are big topics, and discussion will continue into 2019 and 2020. Pray for wisdom in the BUV as they discern God's guidance regarding these topics. The other big topic for the year is the National Redress Scheme for victims of Child Abuse. The BUV has joined the federal government's Redress program, and now individual churches need to decide whether to "opt in" or not. This will be discussed at our KBC November Annual General Meeting.



BUV Ordination Service

Paul Pallot

Kew Inter Church Council

Around 4 years ago I stepped into the Chairperson's role for this group. Since then we have had the Melbourne Chinese Baptist Church become involved and last year I managed to get St Hilary's Anglican on board. The other churches are Holy Trinity Kew, St Paul's East Kew, Sacred Heart Kew, St Anne's East Kew, and East Kew Uniting.

The main events each year are the Kew Festival Carmelite Monastery Ecumenical Service, which I preached at this year, a Good Friday Vigil in Petrie Square, and the Kew Community Carols. Last year I told the group I was wanting to step down from leading the Carols Event as it is a huge amount of work and it is hard to get help from the other churches, but alas, no one was willing to step up and so I find myself in the thick of organising a sizeable community event approaching fast on Dec 2! The Kew Carols has grown from a smallish and low-key affair over the past 7 years to a bigger and better event. And this year will be bigger and better than ever!

In the end, it is vital that local churches forge some partnerships and cooperation as an outward symbol of the unity and oneness we share in Christ. And this is why I have made a significant commitment to this group over the last 7 years on behalf of our church.

Nicholas Tuohy

Ministry Support

Administration

It's been another busy year in the church office; there's always a lot of different hats to juggle – office reception, communications, social media, finance/bookkeeping... the list goes on! Perhaps the biggest area of growth in the last year or two has been facility hire. Here's a few facts and figures from the year:

- Between Jan-Oct 2018, we received **54 enquiries** via the online form on our webpage; and this doesn't include direct phone or email enquiries, of which there were dozens more!
- At the time of writing this report, we have had **144 external bookings** for the 2018 calendar year.
- We've had **4 long-term hirers** this year: after-school program (weekly), music rehearsal (weekly), exercise classes (fortnightly), not-for-profit business meetings (monthly).
- We've also built relationships with **4 recurring hirers** this year: a choral group, a disability support group, a special-needs school, and an evangelical ministry group.
- For one-off functions, the **most common** bookings have been for **children's birthday parties**; the Highbury Common playground is a big drawcard!
- And for some perspective, see the below graph for a comparison of our facility hire income over the last 7 years.

It's been encouraging to see this growth – not merely as a source of income for the church, but as a bountiful source of opportunities for us to make connections with our local community! One highlight from the year was seeing a family visit the 10am service, having discovered the church through their kids attending the after-school Lego program that runs in the hall. Let's give thanks to God for His provision and continue to pray for wisdom in managing our facilities into the future.



Lauren Pickering

Audio/Tech Team

Earlier this year, I was given the opportunity to oversee our audio/visual department. We owe a lot to the work and leadership of Phil Prior to getting our audio/visual department to where it is today, something I don't think should be too controversial to say. We have working PA and projector systems in both the main church building and the Newnham Hall. We have working microphones both cord and wireless for speaking and singing. We have capabilities for instrumental input into our system. We also have a team of sound and vision operators who understand the technology and are gifted to produce quality sound and visual for our services. These are the absolute basic requirements of any church system, and there are churches out there who don't even have this. For a small suburban church, we are blessed to be in the position we are in.

But it is really tempting to look at these requirements and simply say "Our system does what we need it to do, so let's just leave it at that." This doesn't seem like the right attitude to have. Technology changes rapidly around us (Does anyone remember that iPods used to click?). Because churches are mostly focused on other things such as helping the homeless or funding overseas missionaries (just to name a few), it is very easy for in-church technology to seem like a secondary concern. Please don't think I'm going to make an appeal for any church to swap its priorities like that; in the grand scheme of things, fighting poverty and saving souls is a lot more important than projecting onto a wall the lyrics to songs we should know because we sing them every week. But clearly we see the value in upgrading in-church technology because we don't

use song books anymore, hands around mouths are a terrible way to preach, and the last time I saw an old overhead projector, it was covered in dust in a warehouse.

*... I'm aware I'm being super conversational in a formal document, but this is my first report...Please be nice to me...?**

So where do we go from here? What's the next chapter for Kew Baptist Church from an audio/visual perspective? For the most part, our main focus this year has been general upkeep and improvement on the systems we currently have in place, the methods



which we use to employ the audio/visual needs for the church, and the servicing of equipment in disrepair or purchasing of additional equipment. These include the mending of the subwoofer and the purchase of a second handheld microphone, both in the main church building.

At first glance, these seem like insignificant things; they seem like things that naturally we should be doing anyway. But this has mostly been for my own benefit as someone new to the role of church leadership (still feels really weird to say) in order to gauge where we are currently at (both as a church and as a department), and looking ahead to where we can possibly go in the future. At current, the team focus has simply been "Get your house in order before you start re-arranging furniture". As part of this, we held our first audio team meeting back in June to discuss what we were doing well, what we weren't doing so well, and what improvements we could make. Our discussions ranged from general short-term maintenance to possible long-term improvements, including mic'ing and soundproofing the drums, improved foldback systems which may or may not include in-ear devices, adding a subwoofer to the hall's sound system, and possibly upgrading the church's 4:3 ratio screen (square) to the more modern 16:9 ratio (widescreen). These are all discussions we are having and we will continue to meet more regularly in the following year. We would love prayer for inspiration and dreams of how we can use technology to benefit God's Kingdom in Kew Baptist Church, but also prayer for guidance in determining what is and isn't right for our church.

We do have one project currently in its infant phase. Through discussion with others both inside and outside the church, as well as the popularity of Kew Baptist Church's online video sermon series *The God I Don't Believe In* and *Hard Questions 2018* (formerly known as *You Can't Ask That*), we are looking into the option of live-streaming our sermons. A small number of us are working on this, finding the best and easiest way of bringing our sermons to a new audience online, whether it's people who don't like coming to church, people who can't come to church, or people who wish to catch up on teaching later in the week. At this stage, we are only focusing on NightChurch messages, maybe only starting with major sermon series and evolving into weekly streams, but there is the option to include Morning Church and/or the Vietnamese congregation as well, potentially streaming full services if there is a need. We have been testing video technology (not the streaming aspect) both outside of church hours, as well as during baptism services. We aim to take time in our testing to ensure we iron out as many bugs as we can before presenting a proposal to the Deacons.

We are unfortunately suffering from a shortage of data operators in both congregations and are eagerly looking for volunteers. We are able to offer training and there is room to transfer to audio mixing. We welcome anyone from any level of experience, rate of church attendance, age, gender, race, ... preferably the same religion...

Please pray that God may provoke people's hearts to serve the church in a way they may not have considered before. It might not be the most glamorous role of serving, but it plays a huge role in 21st century worship.

** (PS. What are the chances they're going to take this bit out?)*

Tim Mitchell

Maintenance/Property

Phil Prior moved to Wodonga earlier this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his work across the KBC properties over the past few years. Organising anything from Audio and Video installations, through to general painting and property upgrades, Phil was very committed to improving the facilities for the use of everyone.

Since that time, I have had the opportunity to step into that role on an interim basis and work with the various groups in the church to try and keep up with the maintenance. This could be anything from spraying locks with WD40, painting patches in the plaster and completing the Red Book (OH&S) inspections for property safety.

In the latter half of the year there have been no working bees but a general clean-up and decluttering will be planned for early 2019. Some key items of note:

Maintenance issues with the manse are becoming more frequent as it ages. Guttering leakage, water pipe issues and HWS/Heating problems have all occurred in the past 12 months. The Senior Pastor has assisted in some repairs where possible and for others the appropriate tradesmen have been required. This situation is expected to continue and a review of maintenance requirements is necessary for the manse to be in an acceptable condition in the future.

One additional issue with the gas supply having been cut off from the Church Sanctuary was baptistry water heater no longer functions. Cost-effective electric immersion heaters have been obtained and these have proven to be satisfactory. The electric heating elements in the church are somewhat disappointing and need review as part of the overall property development program.

Recently the air vents above the windows in the hall have been sealed up. (Whilst not visible there was a 50mm air gap all around the hall above the windows). Evidence to date indicates that the hall is much warmer on cold days as a result. It is recommended that a budget item for reverse cycle air-conditioners be set aside for the hall.

CCTV monitoring and a new network has been installed in the hall area with the assistance of the Vietnamese congregation. This was part of the dollar for dollar grants for improvements that came from government programs.

If there are maintenance requirements please advise me about them and we can attend to them. For the present any other works are decided upon based upon the likelihood of future development as part of the property upgrades.

The other major need is for a Church Safety Officer. This is a role that on a monthly basis checks to see that the Red Book safety manual reports are being completed and to ensure that other aspects relating to safety and good working conditions are all being attended to. This would involve a few hours a month liaising with various leaders to ensure policies are in place and being adhered to.

David Atkinson



10am Church Lunch

Property Steering Group

It has been a year of seasons for the Property Steering Group, as God has continued to reveal His direction and timeframe through our discernment, discussion and support of the Ministry and Leadership Teams.

There have been times of great momentum and progress, times of reflection and consolidation, and times of frustration and questioning. We acknowledge that this is all part of the process and are thankful for a spirit of openness and a loving commitment to a greater purpose shared by all.

I thank the team on the PSG for their commitment and service. Professional, wise and steadfast in their sacrifice of time, ideas and energy.

Please pray that as the project continues to progress, that God stirs hearts, existing and new to serve this future-looking ministry to our church family.

David Constantine (deputy to Casey Tan)

Membership

KBC MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AS AT NOV 2018			
	10am/NC	Viet	TOTAL
<u>ACTIVE MEMBERS 2017</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>100</u>
Baptised into membership	0	0	0
Transferred into membership	5	0	5
Transferred from absentee roll	2	0	2
Moved to absentee roll	-4	0	-4
Died	0	0	0
Transferred away	-3	0	-3
No longer attending/roll revision	0	0	0
<u>MEMBERS 2018</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>ABSENTEE MEMBERS 2017</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>
Transfer from active members	4	0	4
Transfer to active members	-2	0	-2
Death	0	0	0
Roll revision	0	-2	-2
<u>ABSENTEE MEMBERS 2018</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS 2017</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>150</u>
Moved away/roll revision	-32	-4	-36
Died	0	0	0
Deduct - became members	-5	0	-5
Add new active non-members	76	16	92
<u>ACTIVE NON-MEMBERS 2018</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>201</u>

Like many churches in the Western world, we are doing well just to keep level with numbers each year. And with that in mind we had 100 members last year and 100 this year! However, this last year we have seen significant growth across the church in active non-members, particularly through NightChurch. Even so, it needs to be said that a church's health should be better measured by its sending capacity not its seating capacity. And truth be told, as a mid-sized church we punch well above our weight in terms of sending people out, people serving locally and globally in mission, and the high percentage of people at Kew involved in some form of active ministry here or beyond.

Late last year a burden on my heart emerged to see our church grow numerically, and I set it as a theme of prayer for my 6am prayer session in the church building every week. Why don't you join me (not necessarily at 6am Sundays, though you are welcome!) in praying for

God to add to our numbers. It is not numbers for numbers' sake; I have specifically prayed for God to add to our number those being saved (Acts 2:47) and for God to add to our gathered worship on Sundays more worshippers (as opposed to passive attenders). I want more people in our church because I want more people to know the love of their Heavenly Father and live lives of purpose for Jesus Christ.

Here is the substance of my prayer that I invite you to join me in:

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. (Acts 9:31)

Nicholas Tuohy

Finance

Thank you for your prayers, support and contribution this year.

I'm thankful for God's grace and love and the generosity of our community – 10am, VNC, NightChurch and the Res. Not only through tithes and offerings but providing time and working tirelessly to minister God's message.

Thanks to the effort of Lauren Pickering (KBC) and Huong Nguyen (VKBC). Both girls are superstars!

We achieved a net surplus in 2017-18 FY. This was a positive turnaround comparing to a deficit of approx. \$13,000 in 2016-17 FY.

Several accruals have to be carried forward to 2018-19 FY which resulted with a deficit of approx. \$3,500.

- BUV Ministry Contribution - 10,400
- Global Mission Giving - 1,000 (Gift to the Sharpes)
- WiFi & CCTV Accessories - 1,500

Our property expenses were less than rental income and investment which potentially could support property maintenance independent of general offerings. It should improve further in 2018-19.

A representation of how we used the income in 2017-18:

- Church Ministries = 10%
- Personnel Salaries = 63%
- Administration = 3%
- Properties = 15%
- Other costs = 9%

HIGHBURY COMMON

Funding Summary

Govt	BUV	KBC	KSR	VNC	OTHERS	Total
19000	2500	4500	4000	1500	1300	32800

Projects Overview

Projects	Spent	Budget	Overrun
Equipment & Festival	21900	21500	400
Chairs, WiFi & CCTV	11700	11300	400
Total	33600	32800	800

Projects cost overrun approx. \$800. Great result in controlling costs.

CHURCH BUILDING

Spent \$9,610 to replace church heaters.

2018-19 FY – Refer to Financial Summary Oct-18 for more information

Kew Baptist Church YTD figures for the four months were better than budget with income figures up on budget and expenses steady. The overall results are tracking towards a surplus.

Vietnamese Kew Baptist Church YTD figures were in surplus.

Michael Nguyen

1. Statement of Income and Expenditure 2017-18 FY

2017		ACTUAL 2018	BUDGET 2018	VARIANCE Favourable (Unfavourable)
	OFFERINGS & OTHER INCOME			
230,342	General Offerings & Gifts	245,978	241,850	4,128
12,833	Vietnamese Congregation Contribution	14,400	14,400	-
230,342	TOTAL OFFERINGS & OTHER INCOME	260,378	256,250	4,128
	RENTAL INCOME			
37,500	Student Residence (Hostel) Levy	38,625	38,625	-
10,573	Hall Rent	16,649	15,500	1,149
60,906	TOTAL RENTAL INCOME	55,274	54,125	1,149
	INVESTMENT INCOME			
2,500	Student Residence (Hostel) Loan Interest	2,200	2,500	(300)
163	Bank Interest	103	350	(247)
2,663	TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	2,303	2,850	(547)
	OTHER INCOME			
-	Sale of Items	1,300	-	1,300
-	Donations & Gifts	3,170	-	3,170
-	Govt Grants	5,000	-	5,000
-	Other Grants	2,500	-	2,500
-	Matching Grants	5,500	-	5,500
15	Sundry Income	-	-	-
-	Highbury Common Income	8,108	-	8,108
15	TOTAL OTHER INCOME	25,578	-	-
293,926	TOTAL INCOME	343,533	313,225	4,730
	LESS EXPENSES:			
	SALARY COSTS			
202,701	Salaries & Associated Costs	209,865	206,925	(2,940)
202,701	TOTAL SALARY COSTS	209,865	206,925	(2,940)
	OUTREACH & MINISTRY ALLOCATIONS			
3,775	Church Ministry	3,388	4,000	612
	Contributions to Other Groups			
8,225	Baptist Union of Victoria - Ministry Contribution	8,224	8,150	(74)
32,489	Global Mission Team & Local Needs	28,975	32,250	3,275
-	Highbury Common	2,203	750	(1,453)
1,515	Visiting Speakers	685	1,250	565
46,004	TOTAL OUTREACH & MINISTRY EXPENSES	43,475	46,400	2,925
	ADMINISTRATION & OTHER EXPENSES			
2,240	Audit Fees	1,950	2,250	300
297	Bank Fees	337	350	13
140	Consultant Fees	136	500	364
-	Advertising	260	-	(260)
534	Equipment Maintenance	-	700	700
3,505	Equipment Purchase	2,313	3,500	1,187
464	Postage	368	500	132
1,857	Printing & Stationery	1,999	1,750	(249)
1,484	Sundry Supplies Hospitality	449	1,500	1,051
-	Licensing & Subscription	458	-	(458)
2,365	Telephone, Internet & Website hosting	2,698	2,700	2
12,886	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & OTHER EXPENSES	10,968	13,750	2,782
	PROPERTY EXPENSES			
11,121	Cleaning	10,972	11,500	528
3,138	Council Rates	3,293	3,200	(93)
5,973	Electricity	6,551	7,250	689
1,447	Gas	1,329	1,500	171
10,297	Insurance	10,130	10,750	620
4,096	Water Rates	3,470	4,500	1,030
922	Audio/Tech	3,142	1,250	-1892
8,210	General Property Maintenance	10,496	9,250	(1,246)
45,204	TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSES	49,393	49,200	(193)
	OTHER EXPENSES			
-	Matching Grants	2,500	-	(2,500)
-	Building Equipment	9,610	-	(9,610)
-	Property Equipment	20,884	-	(20,884)
-	Property Supplies	573	-	(573)
7,525	Studio B Expenses	-	-	-
7,525	TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	33,567	-	(33,567)
314,320	TOTAL EXPENSES	347,268	316,275	(30,993)
(20,394)	NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	(3,735)	(3,050)	(685)

2. Balance Sheet

KEW BAPTIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
Equity		
Prior Year Adjustment	12,907	-
Property Reserve	-	5,764
Retained Profits	82,148	85,913
TOTAL EQUITY	95,055	91,677
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank - NAB Cheque Account	34,066	13,134
Cash at Bank - NAB Cash Maximiser Account	15,026	24,293
Exempt Benefits #1 Account	4,629	8,163
Exempt Benefits #3 Account	2,448	3,928
Loan - Kew Student Residence	52,500	62,500
Provision for GST	1,858	1,488
TOTAL ASSETS	110,527	114,135
Current Liabilities		
Superannuation Payable	2,111	1,925
Exempt Benefits Liability #2	(869)	(869)
Exempt Benefits Liability #1	5,498	9,031
Exempt Benefits Liability #3	2,448	3,928
Global Interaction	-	2,410
PAYG Liability	6,284	6,034
TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,472	22,459
Net Assets	95,055	91,676


3. Auditor's Declaration

Auditors Independence Declaration
Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To Members of Kew Baptist Church

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2018, there have been:

- a) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements in relation to the audit; and
- b) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


David J Taplin
TBT Accounting Pty Ltd
Suite 3, 43 Railway Road, Blackburn Vic 3130

Dated this 28th day of August 2018

**Kew Baptist Church
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Members of
Kew Baptist Church**

Qualification

It is not practical to establish Audit Control over the various offerings, gifts, donations, other income or cash disbursements until their initial entry in the accounting records. Our Audit relating to such Income and Disbursements was therefore limited to the amounts recorded.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- a. the financial report of Kew Baptist Church is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2018 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012
- b. the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.



David J Taplin
TBT Accounting Pty Ltd

Dated this 28th day of AUGUST 2018

Kew Baptist Church Discipleship and Membership Covenant

In response to the grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ, we intentionally commit to these 4 practices as a way of life:



We believe each Christian is called to a life of worship and devotion, learning from Jesus each day. We will rely on the Holy Spirit to sustain us and we will intentionally work out a daily/weekly rhythm that gives priority to prayerfully reading God's Word, listening to that Word taught, discussing it with other disciples and applying it to our lives; to prayer (adoration, thankfulness, confession, petition and intercession). Other disciplines we will embrace are a weekly Sabbath rest from work, solitude, repentance and confession, reading and reflecting upon good Christian literature, journaling, and enjoying the beauty and gift of creation.

We prioritise and schedule time to regular prayerful reading of God's Word, submitting to its authority for all things in the life of faith. We commit to a lifestyle of daily prayer and a commitment to live in step with the Holy Spirit, seeking to put to death sinful attitudes and actions. We will also embrace other spiritual disciplines to nourish our spiritual lives and commune with Jesus. We prayerfully, and with humility, consider each day: "What is God saying to me and doing in my life, and how will I respond to Him?"



We believe each Christian is called to love others in a community of faith and be loved in that same community. No matter what season of life we are in we will prioritise and willingly participate in gathered worship, sharing and praying more intimately with others throughout the week, being hospitable by eating with, caring for and sharing life with others in the church. We believe that God has chosen to help us and bless us in and through community.

We willingly and generously commit to participate in sharing life together as Kew Baptist Church through authentic, accountable and honest friendships, working together to create a loving and caring spiritual community. We will share the responsibilities of managing the practical and necessary aspects of church life. We will pray for our leaders and diligently strive for peace and unity in the church. Weekly we prayerfully consider how we might express God's love to others at KBC.



In response to God's gracious and lavish generosity to us in Christ, we believe each Christian offers to God their whole lives in loving others in the church and wider community. Both spontaneously and by scheduling, we will give generously of our spiritual gifts, time, energy, possessions and money, offering them to support others in our church, support the ministry and mission of Christ, and to help those in need. We commit ourselves to answer Christ's call to daily follow and serve him in all spheres of life, being generous in response to God's generosity to us in Christ.

We generously offer our whole lives to serve Christ's Church and others, and in a regular scheduled pattern, we will cheerfully give financially to our church and to other aid and charity needs as God guides us, being humble and grateful stewards of all God has entrusted us.



We believe each Christian is called to show in their lives and tell with their words, with love, respect and humility, the good news that Jesus is Lord and calls all to come to him and follow (the gospel). We will live for Jesus in the sphere of influence we find ourselves - our work, family, study, homes and friendships. We will actively engage in our culture to see it transformed by Christ. We will be committed in praying for our community and for non-Christians, diligently listening to the questions and barriers people have to faith, looking for opportunities to share our personal faith with others, inviting people to connect with our church, and supporting others with a global mission call in prayer and with finance.

Daily we pray for at least one person in our lives to come to faith in Jesus, be active in inviting others to church and offering hospitality in our homes, pray for and seek opportunities to share our faith in Jesus, and support global mission prayerfully and financially.