

St Luke's Uniting Church Highton Annual Report 2019 and 2020



Our Vision

"To be a community that grows Christians, knows Jesus and makes him known to others. We follow Christ, and create a safe place to share and grow together, drawing closer to God."

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Church Council Report for 2021 Annual General Meeting

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ

In preparing this report I looked back at my last report to you, in 2019. The Congregation agreed to our new values and our new expression of our focus:

"We follow Christ, and create a safe place to share and grow together, drawing closer to God."

Throughout 2019, we continued work on our spaces and slowly progressed our exploring and planning under the theme of Dreaming Big. In 2020 we planned to take the next major steps along that journey, before the COVID-19 virus stopped the world in its tracks.

Walking through the shadows, we see God's light breaking through

Like our country, St Luke's was very fortunate to have capable and willing people ready to creatively think how to adjust to keep our community of faith (and those beyond us) safe and well, not just physically but also emotionally and spiritually. The Holy Spirit was already ahead of us, leading the way, by bringing everything together needed to have Shaghek Quassabyan join our ministry team from early 2020.

The result was both exciting and stood the test of the long and drawn out challenges the pandemic has brought us:

- Pastoral care across the ages and into our new arrival communities
- Weekly times to connect, sharing in worship and a chat
- Small groups that creatively sought to keep in touch with their members and inspire them with God's love
- Special events like picnics and evening fireside chats with guest speakers (over Zoom)
- Supporting families and our community through trauma and transition, made all the harder because of restrictions on meeting.

The combined efforts of so many have created a legacy of now over 50 online reflective worship services and pieces on the St Luke's Youtube channel. (type in "St Lukes Uniting Church" to the Youtube search site to see the whole channel!) Even with our return to face to face worship, we've been able to keep that ministry happening most weeks by streaming our services.

Let's not go back to the wilderness

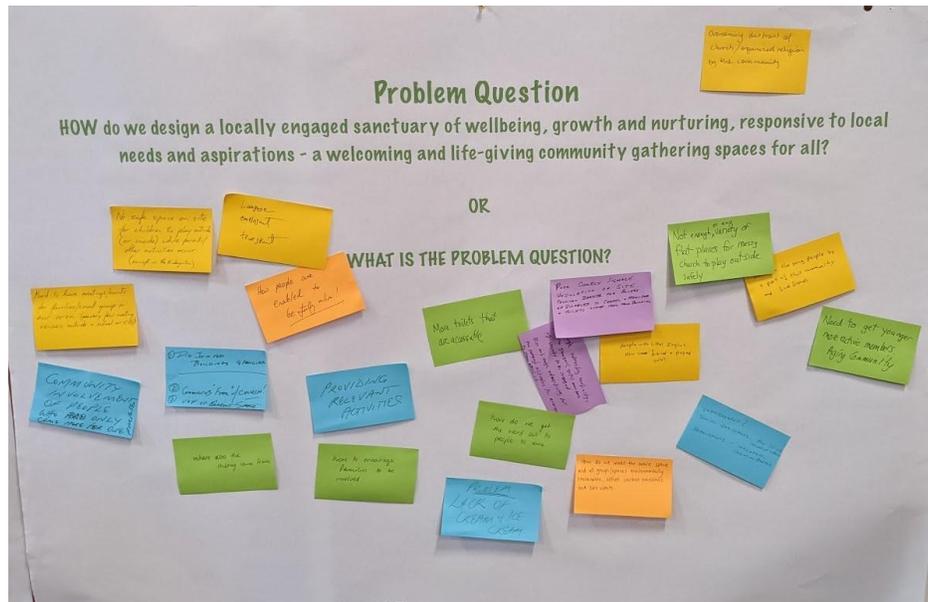
For many the last 18 months has been tough physically and emotionally. In recent months, a number of God's faithful servants have left us to take up God's rest. We had to remove a loved, iconic old tree for safety reasons in late 2020. Our leaders and helpers are tired and struggle with the many expectations that, it seems, continue to grow. It can be tempting (like the Israelites) to look back over our shoulders with longing for the wilderness of yesteryear rather than take God's hand to journey on into the Promised Land.



I encourage you to lift your vision and see God at work among us.

In September 2020 a team from the church with partners including Deakin University put together an application to the City of Greater Geelong to help fund a significant 'master planning' project for our Barrabool site. Not only were we successful, but the workshops and conversations in the first half of 2021 have inspired young and old to dream dreams

and see visions – and not only our church members but also people joining us from the community. We will continue to share the possibilities and welcome thoughts and suggestions. A Design Brief is due in July with the resulting draft architectural master plan for the site and buildings to be prepared by Deakin University by August/September.



After significant delays in the construction sector, this month Church Council reviewed plans for the rebuild of our carpark and we expect construction should commence within a couple of months. This will also allow us to start planting out the areas around the carpark and a new rain garden to treat the storm water – drawing on another grant the Environmental Group gained from the City Council. The Children’s Services of Uniting plan to begin refurbishing the Kindergarten late this year, and have been part of our broader Master Planning to achieve greater integration. Similarly for the Men’s Shed with shared visioning and plans for government assisted improvements.



Yes, we are having to deal with a number of maintenance jobs around the place (most notably the repair of the entrance portico a couple of months ago), but we have funds in

reserve and are looking for partners to join with us, to turn the visions and opportunities God gives us for a revitalized St Lukes UCA community into reality.

That reality will extend beyond the Barrabool Rd complex – new possibilities with our sister churches, Epworth Hospital, Deakin University and others to bring God’s love into people’s lives, and give us inspiration, joy and partners in our service are steadily developing.

Journeying on

We have much that is still to come at St Luke’s. Transition and change will bring both anxiety and anticipation! Our challenge is to capture the energy and focus of the first disciples on the day of Pentecost – despite lingering uncertainty and anxiety they were ‘filled with the Spirit’ and went on boldly in God’s service. May we continue to live passionately as faithful disciples here in Highton and beyond.

Blessings, Lloyd.



Report of the Minister in Placement 2019-2020.

Paul, the apostle, begins and ends his letters with words of blessing. Many of these words are quite familiar to us because we use them regularly in the life of the church. Paul, for example, concludes his second letter to the Corinthians with the following statement:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Over these last two challenging years we have needed to draw heavily on the grace that Christ offers, the love of God and God's presence through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Back at the beginning of 2019 you might remember that at St Luke's we held a series of studies/services based on the theme of "Dreaming Big" in which we explored what it means to be a Christian Community sharing in Christ's mission of love to the world in our time.

One of the images used in that material which struck a chord with people was of the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras. The Bridge was rebuilt in 1996 and was state of the art! Detailed planning was carried out to make it strong enough to cope with the hurricanes that regularly hit the area. So, when the area was lashed by a terrible storm in 1998 it stood firm while lots of other buildings in the area were destroyed. But there was one problem: in that same storm the river shifted! The Bridge was rendered useless. Today it is a bridge over land.



While holding onto the priceless treasure that is the Gospel, Christ calls us to be ready and able to respond to the world as it is today. The warning provided by the story of the Choluteca Bridge is that we could easily end up just like it if we are not open to the Spirit's leading.

And as we have drawn on God's grace, love and presence in a time marked by the Pandemic I believe the Congregation has indeed responded to the situation that presents us at this time, we have not been left "high and dry."

Here is a list of some of the highlights for the Congregation during 2019 and 2020.

The Congregation:

- Developed further the ministry with newcomer families with the appointment of Shaghek Qassabyan to the role of Community Ministry Worker. (The pandemic brought further strain into the lives of newcomers as the countries from which they had come often experienced large numbers of COVID-19 cases.)



- Utilised new technologies to remain in touch with as many people as was possible during the days of lockdown. (Our recorded services made available on Youtube were regularly watched between 100 and 200 times and engaged some people who had no connection otherwise with the Congregation. Messy Church was able to operate in a limited fashion using Zoom. A regular weekly time of prayer on Zoom was initiated as well as opportunities for sharing on Zoom on Sunday mornings.)

-
- Continued to offer a strong ministry of pastoral care even if face to face visits were limited.
 - Explored in 2020 N.T. (Tom) Wright's short book "God and the Pandemic: a Christian reflection on the Coronavirus and its aftermath." (This excellent publication stimulated useful conversation in the St Luke's community about the way we navigate difficult times.)

Clearly this is not an exhaustive list. I hope you can add to this list from your own experience.

In noting the statistics listed below I wish to underline that during the reporting period there were quite a number of funerals.

In the periods of severe restrictions caused by the pandemic only up to ten people (other than the minister, the funeral director and staff) were allowed to attend funerals. A number of the funerals listed under the 2020 statistics fall into this category. While nearly all these funerals were streamed on the internet, deciding who could attend was an added burden for mourning families and friends to carry. (Not that I heard anyone complain about this.)

2019 and 2020 saw the death of some beloved faithful members of the Congregation who offered significant Christ-like leadership and ministry over their lives.



Lloyd Walker in his report has written about the ways the Congregation is seeking to discern future directions through the Community Planning Project.

That said, to conclude my report, I would offer a few observations about the challenges and possibilities facing the Congregation:

Like many Congregations the aging of the community means that the number of people available to offer leadership is limited. I would like to thank all those who have offered leadership over the last two years and in so doing carried a significant weight of responsibility.

St Luke's continues to engage in many areas of ministry and mission. (The "stand" at the mission expo held at the recent combined regional Pentecost Service made this clear with information about the Men's Shed, the Environment Group, Messy Church etc.)



In the years ahead it would seem obvious that church communities should work more closely together, and there are signs that with Presbytery leadership this may happen across the Uniting Church Congregations in Geelong, but I also pray for an increase in ecumenical engagement which seems currently at a low ebb.

There are possibilities for the Congregation to build on partnerships with organisations in the broader community, these include groups that use our facilities but also institutions like Epworth Hospital and schools including Christian College where I serve on the Board.

The challenge of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in a highly secularised country like Australia is great, many have rejected formalised religion of any kind, but maybe one positive from the pandemic is that some people seem more open to exploring meaning in life and the value of faith.

Saint Luke, “our patron saint” to use an Anglican expression, was a sharer of good news and a healer. Surely that is not a bad description of the Congregation’s calling to bring good news and healing into the broader community.

For these ongoing days of uncertainty I wish to offer to you again the words of Paul:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Paul Stephens,

Minister in Placement.

Statistics

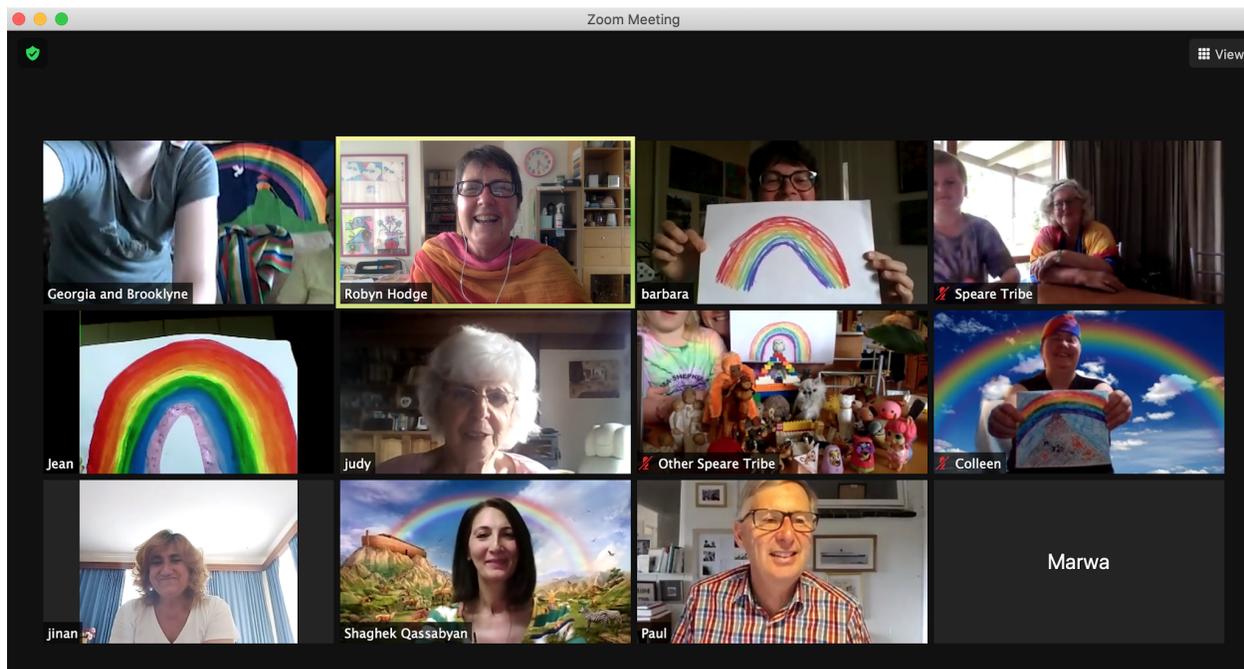
YEAR	2019	2020
Baptisms	2 (one child, one adult)	0
Confirmations	3	0
Weddings	1	0
Funerals in register	6 (one was a person regularly involved at St Luke’s)	11 (7 were persons regularly involved at St Luke’s)

Pastoral Connections Annual Report to June 2021

The last 18 months encompassing the roller coaster of Covid-19 lockdowns, changing restrictions and isolation, has meant that it has been hard going for many of us in our faith community here at St Luke's, and for your Pastoral Connections Team.

As a team we have had to think outside the box and learn new digital ways of connecting to, helping and comforting our St Luke's folk. Our usual methods of connecting through personal visits, hospital or care home visits, organising special morning teas and catering for funerals were all for many months not able to be done which was frustrating for us as we knew this increased the isolation and aloneness of those not able to see a friendly face.

This meant a complete rethink of our team's methods. Thank goodness for the trusty telephone which became our lifeline to others, and Zoom, which was mastered by most and enabled group get togethers. In addition, our St Luke's small group leaders also kept in contact with their group members. We valued everyone's help in keeping St Luke's connected during these past 18 months. Shaghek has kept our Connection's Team up to date with concerns and happenings of the newcomer community. We give thanks for Shaghek's valuable pastoral work and her addition to our team.



For those not able to access church services when we went on-line or even email, a pastoral letter from Rev Paul Stephens plus a Crosslight magazine letterbox drop, was organised and delivered with the help of many volunteers. During this time of isolation, we received lots of phone calls thanking us for keeping them in touch with what was happening in the church. A voice on the end of a telephone may have been their only outside contact for that day.



Its interesting how many felt that without the regular church season and rhythms of life, this last year felt like one long bland journey. Although many services were unable to be held in our familiar way, one special one- the Blue Christmas Service was commemorated in December by something different. A Tribute Pamphlet- recognising the "Saints of St Luke's" who had passed during the year was organised. Rev Paul wrote a pastoral note and prayer while each person was remembered, and a photo included.

There have been many times of sadness over the past 18 months in our Congregation. Supporting those who have been ill, who are in hospital but cannot be visited, or who have lost loved ones but could not have the funeral they wished, was hard from a distance. Thankfully, God finds a way! The 35 Prayer Shawls (faithfully knitted and prayed over) were a blessing to many in these situations. The embrace of a shawl was a hug we were not allowed to share personally, and their warmth has been described by more than one person as like "they were being embraced and held snugly in the palm of God's hand." We thank the makers of shawls, the pray-ers and all those involved in this powerful ministry.

As the Covid-19 situation eased and we could begin worship in person, in the church building, it was clear from the many animated conversations held from behind masks- that it was human interaction and new faces that many had missed most. With the easing of restrictions Coffee and Chat has been reconvened at Brioche on Fyan's Street and has proven to answer a real need for our members for fellowship, cake and a cappuccino!

Another welcome point of connection for our congregation, instigated over the last 18 months are our weekly prayer meetings on a Wednesday morning. Here joys and concerns are shared and prayed over together. A real sense of common purpose springs from these meetings. The prayer points are then emailed out to members of St Luke's who feel called to be part of the prayer chain and want to pray for our St Luke's family.

In closing, I am grateful for the combined efforts of our whole Connections Team in helping to keep our faith community in touch during these trying months. I realise we in St Luke's are in a good position. We are part of a very loving and caring community where not just our team, but all members, each do our best to support each other during the ups and downs of life's journey.

Thanks be to God,

Barbara Murphy, on behalf of Connections:

(Pam Seller, Joy Hicks, Shaghek Qassabyan, Judy Clarke, Val Grills, Carole Findlay, Beth Allen and Rev Paul Stephens.)



MISSION OUTREACH TEAM ANNUAL REPORT TO ST LUKE'S UNITING CHURCH FOR THE YEAR 2020

As with most ministry teams in 2020 – the year of Covid 19 and many restrictions – we did not meet as a team until 16 May 2021. Nevertheless many in the group were still able to be active in a 'missional' way.

Community Ministry Worker

In March 2020 Shaghek Qassabyan commenced her role as Community Ministry Worker – just as the pandemic hit.

Her role included communicating with newcomer families, connecting them with the Church and each other. Zoom meetings were used to do this – prayer meetings, post church fellowship and Messy Church.

Shaghek has helped some newcomers in renting homes. The paperwork was one of a number of difficulties involved. Many 'knock backs' came but eventually good news was received. Furniture and other goods were sourced through Ken and Rae. Lino was able to move the furniture and family/ies.

Shaghek has volunteered newcomers to 'work' in Uniting Care 'opp' shops. The sense of isolation has been eradicated, mental health improved and the feeling of contribution and being part of something produces positivity. (Sally Highton and Tony Corio)

Shaghek has provided friendship and a listening ear. She has done a number of courses to better support the role she is performing as a community worker and received certification for this.



The Chapel Room

Proved to be very active during Covid with many newcomers requiring support in homewares when open.

Trading Table

Reverted to in foyer purchases made by people who used the church facilities, when open, during the week. Honesty box was provided for payment.

Bread Deliveries

Monday nights saw Jean bring bread to St Luke's for 5 families and Greg take the rest to Uniting Geelong. The bread along with groceries was distributed to clients from the site once they had been interviewed by the Uniting Geelong Emergency Relief workers.

About half of the Tuesday Bread collection, once the bread had been sliced and bagged, together with the rolls, was transported to Uniting Geelong in Norlane for distribution to those in need.

The Salvation Army in Corio took any 'overflow'. Uniting also made bread available to school breakfast and meals programs at Corio, Grovedale and Winchelsea and to emergency relief sites at Plant Shakers Empower and 3216 Connect in Grovedale.

Uniting Geelong thinks "the support given by the St Luke's Bread outreach is fantastic and is a great assistance to people experiencing food insecurity in the Barwon area." It also shows how the Congregational and Community Service arms of the Uniting Church work together to spread God's love amongst God's people.

Tuesday nights

At the commencement of Covid Tuesday night deliveries ceased.

Ken, Rae (and supporters) have been thanked by Church Council (on behalf of us all) for this amazing outreach over a 10 year period. For those of us who were able to 'ride shotgun' in the bread van we were truly blessed to interact with so many newcomers to our country.

These 'newcomers' to our city not only received food but also the gift of welcome, friendship and personal support. All of which continue as this report is typed.

Environment Team

2019/2020 Bushfires – the St Luke's Environment Action Group grew seedlings of herbs, vegies and flowers to help bushfire victims to start their gardens. Members of the congregation supported the project with many varieties of potted plants from their gardens.

The children made bird nesting boxes (thanks to Geoff Boehm) and other members of the congregation knitted shawls.

Friends of the Environment Group stacked the plants, birdboxes and shawls and set off to Bairnsdale in March where they were warmly greeted.

Plants, birdboxes and shawls arrive at Bairnsdale UC thanks to Sarah and Andrew.



"A representative from Sarsfield community fire support group collected all the plants and bird boxes, for which they were very appreciative. The throws were collected by our bush chaplains and taken to the high country. Folks are slightly worse off there.

Thank you again and God bless Highton UC and their mission activities"

Marilyn, Bairnsdale UC church council

Membership

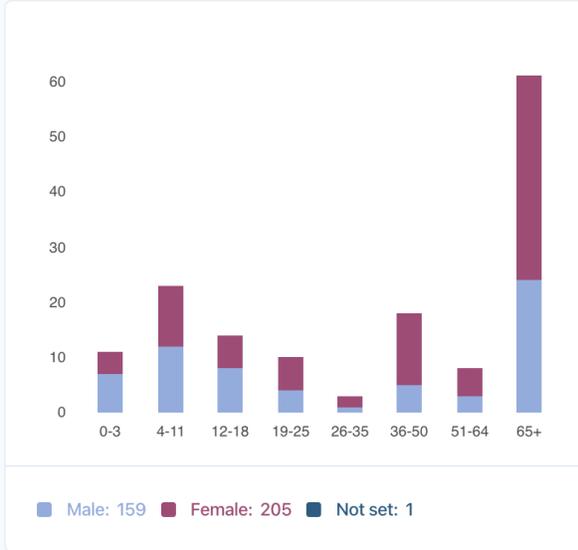
Current Membership Roll

Confirmed Members	129
Members in Association	10
Baptised	23
Adherents	102
Interested in membership	3

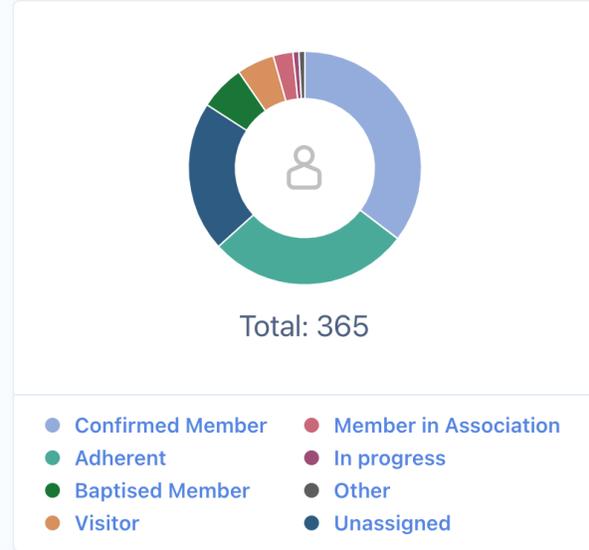
Changes to rolls

Changes to rolls	2019	2020
Remove - deceased	3	8
Receive by baptism	2	0
Received by confirmation	3	0
Add to Roll - Member	0	1
Add to Roll - Member in Association	0	4
Receive by transfer	0	1
Return to Roll	0	5
Remove by request	6	0
Remove under 2 year rule	0	0

Demographics

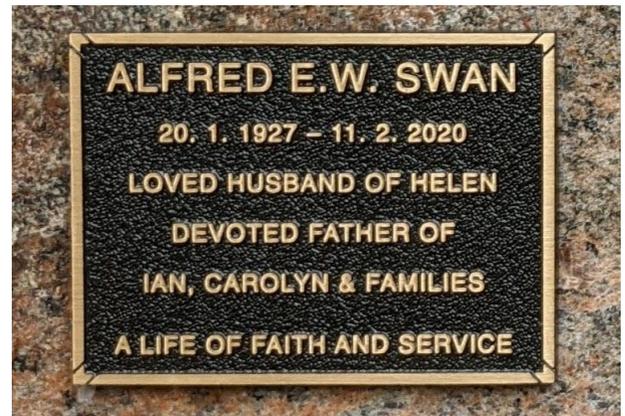


Membership types



Memorial Garden

In 2019, Joan Marshman handed over the administration of the garden to Robyn Hodge as part of the office co-ordinator role. In the period of 2019-20, the only remains to be interred in the garden are those of our dear friend Alf Swan. In addition to a plaque mounted in the garden area, a record of those whose remains are in the Memorial Garden is kept in the Memorial book which is located in a wall mounted cabinet beside the Eastern entrance to the church foyer. Many of these are people who have made a great contribution to the life of St Luke's or who have felt a strong sense of belonging.



Financial Statements

**St Luke's Highton Uniting Church Statement of Receipts
and Payments for the year ended 31/12/2019**

1 **St Luke's Uniting Church - 2019 Statement of Receipts and Payments**

		2019 Actual	
		Income	Expenses
Resourcing		\$	\$
5	GST	4,169	4,047
6	Offerings		
7	Offering pledged	29,775	
8	Offering direct giving	58,614	
9	Offering House church	215	216
10	Offering mid week	708	
11	Offering non pledged	2,681	
12	Offering open plate	14,803	
13	Offering Messy Church, open plate	917	1,378
14	Donations	1,250	1,288
15	Other income	1,288	428
16	Investing in Mission		
17	Stewardship program, envelopes etc		326
18	Property Use		
19	Property use, 174 Barrabool Rd	11,695	1,909
20	136 Barrabool Road manse incl rates.	18,142	4,273
21	Manse 224 Roslyn Road inc rates	15,851	1,352
22	Preschool reimbursement/rates etc	7,081	428
23	Interest Income		
24	Interest income (UCA account & Bendigo account)	7,723	
25	Stipends		
26	Stipend - ministry team/admin/visiting preaches		117,522
31	Insurances		
32	Insurance		7,157
33	Workcover		1,944
34	Buildings, property		
35	Cleaning		2,741
36	Kitchen & toilet supplies		723
37	Maintenance		4,864
38	Minor Capital Improvements		2,000
39	Depreciation		2,225
40			
41	Gas, electricity		4,059
42	Fire services		732
43	Gardens (Incl Memorial Garden)		
44	Office, administration		
45	Telephone & postage		1,025
46	Stationary & printing		4,769
47	Computers repairs/maintenance/software		444
48	Other		
49	Cancel cheques	139	
50	Special appeals		100
51	Other expenses, petty cash		0

52	Sub total Resourcing	175,051	165,950
53			
54	Education		
55	Small Groups		
56	Small groups		
57	Traning Courses		
58	Studies (Lenten etc)		
59	Attendance at courses, conferences		
60	Mental Health Course	241	400
61	Library		
62	Purchase books etc		89
63	Other		
64	With Love to World booklets	225	272
65	Misc		
66	Sub total Education	466	761
67			
68	Communications		
69	Advertising, publications		
70	Weekly news sheet, power point, Link preparation		1,265
71	Signage, social media		
72	Rebranding of St Luke's		
73	Other		
74	Misc		
75	Sub total Communication	0	1,265
76			
77	Mission Outreach		
78	Fund Raising		
79	St Lukes fund raising/ Mission Outreach fund raising	3,659	164
80	Repair Café	72	
81	Scholarships		
82	School scholarships		
83	Grants		
84	Simpson Fund grant (Regeneration)	0	
85	Outreach		
86	Sewing group		41
87	Mens Ministry		
88	Men's Shed activities - general	19,766	8,598
89	Volunteer grant		
90	Local Mission		
91	Easter and Christmas cards (Postcards)	400	400
92	Environmental Group		
93	External Mission		
94	Mission & Service		20,900
95	Uniting Care Geelong		
96	Social Issues		
97	Social issues		
98	Uniting Barwon Education Fund		
99	English classes		3,213

100	International Mission		
101	Fair trade	304	785
102	Trading Table	2,650	
103	Candidates for Ministry		
104	Garage sale	1,353	
105	Refugee Ministry Fund Raising & Grants	4,851	
106	Gideons appeal		
107	Groups		
108	LEF		
109	Loan Funds - Fund Raising		
110	Refugee loan funds, donations, support		
111	Loans to refugees		
112	Repayment of loans	2,400	
113	Appeals		
114	Christmas bowl	1,123	677
115	Lenten appeal	148	
116	Uniting World (Everything in common)	739	739
117	Pancakes	266	266
118	Other appeals (Bushfires, floods, disasters etc) Ikoni	990	1,112
119	Misc	40	175
120	Sub total Mission Outreach	38,760	37,070
121	Worship.		
122	Young People		
123	Kids Church & Youth Group		-18
124	Special events (Lent/Easter/Christmas)		
125	Communion related		
126	Choir, music		
127	Music & copyright		725
128	Other (Worship)		
129	Worship aids		352
130	Sub total Worship	0	1,058
131	Connections		
132	Fund raising Cake Stalls		
133	Community		
134	Special event catering - Chorale	615	
135	Catering groups (3 off)		
136	Travel/parking/visiting costs		
137	Kinder pancakes & Christmas gifts for children	81	81
138	Gifts & care packages, cards, postage		
139	Morning tea biscuits & milk etc		
140	Misc/other		
141	Sub total Connections	696	81
142		214,972	206,185
143	Income - expenses		8,787
144			
145			
146			
147			
148			

31 Dec 2019

149	UCA Cash portfolio as at end December - General account		284,509.57
150	UCA Cash portfolio as at end December - Refugee loan account		6,889.23
151	UCA Cash portfolio as at end December - Men's shed account		3,355.69
152	Bendigo Bank as at end December (cash book)		35,039.23
153	CBA bank as at end December (Cash book)		5,228.31
154	Total investments		335,022.03

Notes to the report

St Luke's had a relatively stable year in 2019 with revenues coming in slightly higher than anticipated in the 2019 budget and expenses coming in lower than anticipated in the 2019 budget. As a result the year resulted in a surplus of nearly \$9,000 rather than the budgeted deficit of \$14,000. The total funds on deposit as at 31.12.2019 was \$335,022.

2019 Auditor's Statement

*Greetings from Jan and Don Smith,
1 Crimson Mall, Grovedale, Victoria. 3216, Australia.
03 5241 1110. donjan01@bigpond.com*

4th February 2020.

*The Secretary,
St Lukes Uniting Church,
Highton,*

Dear Secretary.

Check of Church Financial Records.

I advise that I have completed a check of the financial records and statements as produced to me by Treasurer Ian Pooley. I find that all the recording is accurate and correct, I congratulate Ian on the system used, it certainly makes my work easy.

If you require my services, I will be available next year, I must be due for long service leave and a pay rise.

Yours faithfully,



*Don Smith,
Retired Bank Manager.*

St Luke's Highton Uniting Church 2020 Budget

A draft budget was prepared but not presented to the congregation due to the disruptions to gatherings caused by the pandemic. Information about the budget is captured in the financial statements for 2020.

**St Luke's Highton Uniting Church Statement of Receipts
and Payments for the year ended 31/12/2020**

1 **St Luke's Uniting Church - 2020 Statement of Receipts and Payments**

		2020 Actual	
		Income	Expenses
		\$	\$
2			
3			
4	Resourcing		
5	GST	3,014	134
6	Offerings		
7	Offering pledged	26,774	
8	Offering direct giving	93,105	
9	Offering House church		
10	Offering mid week	145	
11	Offering non pledged	1,761	
12	Offering open plate	6,780	
13	Offering Messy Church, open plate		177
14	Donations	2,070	
15	Other income		
16	Investing in Mission		
17	Stewardship program, envelopes etc		390
18	Property Use		
19	Property use, 174 Barrabool Rd	4,169	1,693
20	136 Barrabool Road manse incl rates.	16,974	2,410
21	Manse 224 Roslyn Road inc rates	16,929	1,052
22	Preschool reimbursement/rates etc	6,488	260
23	Interest Income		
24	Interest income (U Ethica acct & Bendigo acct)	6,269	
25	Stipends		
26	Stipend - ministry team/admin/community worker		144,597
31	Insurances		
32	Insurance		7,298
33	Workcover		1,836
34	Buildings, property		
35	Cleaning		2,067
36	Kitchen & toilet supplies		89
37	Maintenance		5,000
38	Minor Capital Improvements		5,500
39	Depreciation		2,225
40			
41	Gas, electricity	348	2,439
42	Fire services		381
43	Gardens (Incl Memorial Garden)	262	184
44	Office, administration		
45	Telephone & internet		632
46	Stationary & printing		4,217
47	Computers repairs/maintenance/software		38
48	Other		
49	Cancel cheques		
	COGG Grant		
50	Special appeals	0	
51	Other expenses, petty cash	1,815	175

52	Sub total Resourcing	186,903	182,794
53			
54	Education		
55	Small Groups		
56	Small groups		
57	Traning Courses		
58	Studies (Lenten etc)		
59	Attendance at courses, conferences		
60	Mental Health Course		
61	Library		
62	Purchase books etc		
63	Other		
64	With Love to World booklets	318	1,300
65	Misc		
66	Sub total Education	318	1,300
67			
68	Communications		
69	Advertising, publications		
70	Weekly news sheet, power point, Link preparation		
71	Signage, social media		
72	Rebranding of St Luke's		1,000
73	Other		
74	Misc		
75	Sub total Communication	0	1,000
76			
77	Mission Outreach		
78	Fund Raising		
79	St Lukes fund raising/ Mission Outreach fund raising	980	
80	Repair Café		
81	Scholarships		
82	School scholarships		
83	Grants		
84	Simpson Fund grant (Regeneration)		
85	Outreach		
86	Sewing group		79
87	Mens Ministry		
88	Men's Shed activities - general	6,111	16,000
89	Volunteer grant		
90	Local Mission		
91	Easter and Christmas cards (Postcards)		150
92	Environmental Group		
93	External Mission		
94	Mission & Service		
95	Uniting Care Geelong		
96	Social Issues		
97	Social issues		
98	Uniting Barwon Education Fund		
99	English classes		
100	International Mission		

101	Fair trade	16	
102	Trading Table	1,145	
103	Candidates for Ministry		
104	Garage sale		
105	Refugee Ministry Fund Raising & Grants	12,320	950
106	Gideons appeal		
107	Groups		
108	LEF		
109	Loan Funds - Fund Raising		
110	Refugee loan funds, donations, support		
111	Loans to refugees		
112	Repayment of loans		
113	Appeals		
114	Christmas bowl	10	1,103
115	Lenten appeal		
116	Uniting World (Everything in common)		
117	Pancakes	205	301
118	Other appeals (Bushfires, floods, disasters etc) Ikari		
119	Misc		
120	Sub total Mission Outreach	20,785	18,583
121			
	Worship.		
122	Young People		
123	Kids Church & Youth Group		
124	Special events (Lent/Easter/Christmas)		
125	Communion related		
126	Choir, music		
127	Music & copyright		1,070
128	Other (Worship)		
129	Worship aids		159
130	Sub total Worship	0	1,229
131			
132	Connections		
133	Fund raising Cake Stalls		
134	Community		
135	Special event catering - Chorale		
136	Catering groups (3 off)		
137	Travel/parking/visiting costs		
138	Kinder pancakes & Christmas gifts for children	157	361
139	Gifts & care packages, cards, postage		
140	Morning tea biscuits & milk etc		
141	Misc/other		205
142	Sub total Connections	157	566
143		208,163	205,472
146	Income - expenses		2,691

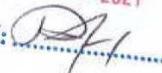
Notes to the report

The 2020 year was a challenging one for individuals and organisations around the world as a result of the Covid 19 outbreak. St Luke's was no exception with worship disrupted from March onwards and rental income from the hire of the Church facilities well down on historic levels. Additional expenses around cleaning and the rapid transition to online services also impacted the cost base. Fortunately through the ongoing generous support of our members and the Federal Government's job seeker program, which covered a solid proportion of our wage costs from April 2020 to March 2021, we ended the calendar year with a small surplus of \$2,691. The total funds on deposit as at 31.12.2000 was \$341,069.

In early 2021 Ian Pooley, after many years of diligent service as St Lukes Treasurer, amongst his many other roles, retired as Treasurer and from Church Council. We thank Ian for the incredible job he did and the valuable contribution he made.

2020 Auditor's Statement

*Greetings from Jan and Don Smith,
1 Crimson Mall, Grovedale, Victoria. 3216, Australia.
03 5241 1110. donjan01@bigpond.com*

RECEIVED
20 APR 2021
BY: 

20th March 2021.

*The Secretary,
Church Council,
St Lukes Highton Uniting Church,*

Dear Secretary,

I advise that I have checked all the documents presented to me by Treasurer Ian Pooley and I advise that total of funds held are true and correct to the relevant banking and investment authorities. I congratulate Treasurer Ian on the methods and systems used and the accuracy of the recording.

Ian has advised me that he is retiring after some 19 years, what valuable service he has been in God's work. I think I have been auditor for slightly longer as I can recall checking books for Dawn Swayn and Bob Hale which makes me approximately 22 years. As Ian is retiring I feel this may be a good time for me to retire as well. So I will put away my pens and calculator and relax.

I wish your new treasurer good bookkeeping and I am sure you will be able to locate a suitable auditor.

Yours in God's work,



Don Smith.

St Luke's Highton Uniting Church 2021 Budget

	Full Year Budget 2021
Receipts	
Offerings	
- Systematic Payments	94,300
- Open Platre	15,000
	-
Donations	-
- General Purpose	(300)
- Messy Church	-
- Uniting Church appeals	-
- other income	11,500
Legacies / Bequests	-
Interests	4,000
Rent and property Income	-
- Manses	23,075
- Church	17,470
Govt Grants (inc Job Keeper)	11,970
Mens Shed income	-
GST Refund	750
GST included in receipts and payables	-
Total Receipts	<u>177,765</u>
<i>check</i>	
Payments	
Ministry	
Stipends ministry team/admin/community worker	(154,940)
Car Allowance	-
Supply ministers	(1,500)
Parish Fixed Charges	-
Workcover insurance	-
	<u>(156,440)</u>
Christian Education	
Sunday School	-
Messy Church	-
Mens Shed	7,000
	<u>7,000</u>
Property Services and Maintenance	
Cleaning Material	(3,000)
Property Services	(9,400)
Property Insurance, rents	(9,900)
Property Maintenance	(4,000)
Interst and loan charges	-
Loan repayments	-
	<u>(26,300)</u>
Communication, Fundraising	
Choir, Music, Library	-
Office expenses/Printing	(10,250)
Telephone Postage	(1,825)
Fundraising expenses	-
	<u>(12,075)</u>
Mission and Service	<u>(20,900)</u>
Donations	-
	<u>(20,900)</u>
Equipment	-
Miscellaneous	(6,485)
GST included in payments and receivable	-
	<u>(6,485)</u>
Total payments	<u>(215,200)</u>
<i>check</i>	
Surplus (Deficit)	(37,435)

Notes to the Budget

2021 Budget

Setting a budget for 2021 has proved to be challenging given the uncertainty of the Covid world in which we live. We have conservatively budgeted for a deficit of \$37,000 given the uncertainty around some revenue streams (open plate donations and hire of the Church facilities) as well as additional Covid related expenses (cleaning and cleaning supplies). Fortunately the strong opening cash position enables us to work our way through this time of uncertainty with confidence.

While the 2 Manses continue to provide a strong stream of rental income and enable us to provide concessional rent to a refugee family, they are becoming increasingly costly to maintain as they are both around 50 years old. Likewise the maintenance costs of the Barrabool Road Church continue to increase. It is likely these maintenance costs will remain elevated as our congregation ages reducing the amount of maintenance we can perform internally and statutory requirements around maintenance increase, especially new legal standards around residential rental property safety.