

SEEDS CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT
2020



THE YEAR THAT WAS



Senior Pastor

**JONATHAN
DAVIES**

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Dear friends,

In years to come I wonder what we will make of the year 2020? I am sure it is going to be very different to our current perspective. I suspect our reflections will be more about the faithfulness of God than a pandemic which raced across our land.

It's times like this that we do need to look to our Saviour and see the blessings that extend from his hand. To constantly remind ourselves of what we do have that a virus will never remove. The goodness of God stands over all things.

Given all the restrictions and the rolling shutdowns, I believe our church managed remarkably well. In a time of great upheaval, I saw so much patience and tolerance by our church. Thank you for all your adaptability and your willingness to go with the flow! Things were changing from week to week and yet our wonderful church kept on adapting and doing what needed to be done.

Of course, over the last 12 months since I wrote my last report many, many things have taken place in the life of our church. Things that have benefited us as a church and things that have benefited our wider community.

Let me name just a few;

- Online Platform
- Baptisms at XS
- Easter Eggs to neighbours and care homes
- Church planting direction
- Online Alpha
- Emergency Relief Centre
- Craft Group
- Keenagers
- Cafe
- Men's Shed
- Playgroup
- XS
- Seeds Klds
- Welcome Teams
- Studio in the Hall
- Young Adult Revival Nights
- Community Meals
- Prayer Group
- Zoom Meetings
- Newcomers Lunch
- Kidventure
- Basketball
- Small Groups
- Family Picnic
- Retaining wall repairs
- Green Team Quiz Night
- New communion elements
- A YouTube following
- Community Garden
- Fence at the front of the Cafe
- Defibrillator in foyer (thanks Keenagers)
- Men's 4WD Weekend
- Sown In Love
- Operation Christmas Child
- Youth Alpha
- Nu4u Op Shops

And that is just what I can think of!

These are some of the things that we as a church were able to do and able to continue to do or start in the last 12 months. I'm certain there are things we have missed out on. Apologies if you are involved in any that I have missed.

Of course, over this time we have all become very clean and our building gets a through work over several times a week!

A list of things achieved or attempted or even started is not something that we should brag about, rather it points us to the faithfulness of God towards us. God continues to work through us and use us for the benefits of others. This is the one thing we should revel in and celebrate! That the Living God is here moving in our presence. I find that deeply encouraging.

Those who know me understand that I am firmly future oriented. I like to vision about what the future will hold. A little while back I spoke about us planting churches. This one thing is vitally important for us to do. Our hearts have to be inclined towards those who are far away from God and those who will never have the chance to hear about the goodness of God unless they hear it from our efforts. We must be a church that not only talks about faith sharing but a church that actually does it. History tells us that new churches excel in faith sharing like nothing else. We have to exist for those who don't belong! For the next while you will hear me talk about this and related themes.

When we talk about planting churches I find that most people agree and think that they are a great idea. Yet I don't think that many – myself included – would have a full understanding what this will entail. I suspect that there is deeper loss and greater rejoicing than we can now envisage. Yet this one thing I know; that the voice of the Spirit is being heard among us to embrace this direction. We must obey, whatever the cost.

This is the part where I love to say the big thank you's – it's the important part! For without everyone's involvement we would not be where we are today nor would we have achieved without everyone's contribution.

There are so many who contribute its difficult to name everyone. I know that there are many who faithfully give, who serve without complaining, who mentor and disciple, who care and help. Thank you all so much!! Thank you to the small group leaders, the XS and kids leaders, the Keenagers leaders and all those who carry that leadership mantle.

To the church council. Thank you for your diligence and service. To the staff, thank you too for your hours of work behind the scenes.

We don't know what the future holds but we know the one who holds it. I continue to trust in Him.

With my love and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan', with a stylized flourish underneath.



Church Council Chair

BOB BUXTON

UNPRECEDENTED YEAR...

The year 2020 has not been anything like what we envisaged or planned for! This year has seen our world change in unprecedented ways that imposed significant restrictions on how we live our lives and express our faith, but with this has also come significant opportunities. Seeds Uniting Church has reoriented its ministries to suit the COVID restrictions, and we have done things that 12 months beforehand we would not have even contemplated.

Our worship ministry has changed significantly from our usual practice, to being completely online, to returning to live corporate worship (albeit restricted in numbers) with a live stream going out to the world. Whilst we are still learning how to fine tune this new reality I am ever grateful for the time, energy and effort our staff, worship leaders, musicians, technicians, welcomers and volunteers put in to make worship possible across all of the services each week. Our children's ministry has had to adapt significantly to this new reality, and again I am grateful for the work of our staff and volunteers to support the growth in faith of our children.

The Church Council has undergone significant change this year with elders leaving and new elders being elected. Our thanks go to Lisa Newbury and David Sharp for their significant time of service to Church Council. Lisa served on the Church Council for over 5 years, with a number of those as the Council Secretary. Lisa's wisdom and good humour was always appreciated in her time on Council. David served as the Chair of the Church Council for over 5 years, and shouldered immense responsibilities over that time. Seeds Uniting Church has developed significantly since David came onto Council, in no small part due to his wisdom and leadership. I wish to thank all the members of the Church Council for their service this year, guiding Seeds Uniting Church through this time, and faithfully discerning the way forward.

During 2020 the Seeds staff, under Senior Pastor Jonathan Davies, have adapted and changed the ways of Seeds "being church" on an almost week-to-week basis. Some of the Seeds staff are undertaking roles completely outside of their previous experience, so that the church could keep going, and could grow into new ministries. I wish to thank the whole staff for their tireless efforts this year to support the work of Seeds Uniting Church, and going above and beyond time after time to ensure that the ministry could continue.

As always, the ministries of Seeds simply can not happen without all of the volunteers who contribute. My thanks to our many volunteers who continue to give of themselves, and go above and beyond, to realise the mission of Seeds.

As we approach Christmas and look forward to 2021 we will continue to live out our mission, to bring people to Jesus and be transformed into His passionate disciples.

Bob Buxton

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FINANCE REPORT

PROFIT AND LOSS

JULY 2019 - JUNE 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>
Offerings	\$812,396	\$805,102	\$7,294
Annesley Chaplaincy Services	\$36,650	\$36,650	\$0
Donations & Grants	\$15,617	\$5,519	\$10,098
Interest	\$28	\$89	-\$61
Property & Café	\$11,966	\$15,709	-\$3,743
Nu4u Shops	\$111,107	\$137,651	-\$26,544
Next Gen Ministries	\$21,836	\$16,549	\$5,287
Other Income	\$8,414	\$5,149	\$3,265
Government COVID Supports	\$115,734		\$115,734
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,133,748	\$1,022,418	\$111,330

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>
Employment costs (incl Job Keeper top ups)	\$674,471	\$645,726	\$28,745
Property & Café	\$58,769	\$59,617	-\$848
Depreciation	\$15,029		\$15,029
Loan Repayments	\$41,688	\$21,380	\$20,308
Administration costs	\$50,073	\$52,623	-\$2,550
Communication	\$4,089	\$4,440	-\$351
Discipleship Resources	\$4,927	\$7,200	-\$2,273
Beyond Seeds	\$13,931	\$16,343	-\$2,412
Synod M&S Fund & Networks	\$72,183	\$78,094	-\$5,911
Nu4u Shops	\$76,079	\$87,490	-\$11,411
Creative Ministry	\$4,964	\$4,780	\$184
Next Gen Ministries	\$10,193	\$13,209	-\$3,016
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,026,396	\$990,902	\$35,494

OPERATING SURPLUS	\$107,352	\$31,516	\$75,836
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Comments:

- Due to COVID restrictions, from mid Mar to Aug Seeds closed the church to services, venue hire, café and playgroup; and during Apr-May 2020 the Nu4u Op Shops were also closed.
 - We were eligible to receive Job Keeper for Apr-Sep 2020 due to our Apr 2020 drop in income. This along with the ATO Cash Flow Boost (a PAYG tax relief) and the SA State Government Grant, boosted our cash reserves.
 - At the end of Mar 2020 our cash reserves were \$21,724. At the end of Jun 2020 were \$113,305.
 - Employment costs above include Job Keeper top ups.
- The net COVID supports from the Government to Jun 2020 was \$85,628.
- Nu4u Op Shop expenses include some COVID rent relief negotiated with the landlords.
 - The total building loan repayments (including principal amounts) are now reported as expenses rather than just the interest due to removing of loans from the Balance Sheet (now disclosed separately by way of note to the audited financial statements).

Thank you to all who give generously to the work of God through Seeds Uniting Church.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$207,822
Receivables	\$6,553
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$214,375
NON CURRENT ASSETS	
Property, Plant and Equipment	\$76,897
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$291,272

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Payables	\$4,112
Other Liabilities	\$90,025
Employee Benefits	\$48,539
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$142,676
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Employee Benefits	\$9,557
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$9,557
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$152,233

NET ASSETS	\$139,039
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EQUITY	
Retained Earnings	\$31,687
Current Year Earnings	\$107,352
TOTAL	\$139,039

We also have an additional liability in respect of building loans which are not recorded in the Balance Sheet (land and buildings, including the building improvements financed by these loans, are similarly not recognised as an asset in the Balance Sheet. Legal title to the land and buildings is held by The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust SA).

The balance of our building loans as at June 2020 is:

Loan - Synod SA (12138)	\$296,100
Loan - Synod SA (12112)	\$531,624
	\$827,724

PROFIT AND LOSS

JULY - OCTOBER 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>
Offerings	\$270,766	\$270,207	\$559
Annesley Chaplaincy Services	\$18,577	\$18,577	\$0
Donations & Grants	\$13,225	\$13,225	\$0
Interest	\$248	\$248	\$0
Property & Café	\$2,557	\$2,440	\$117
Nu4u Shops	\$45,458	\$44,388	\$1,070
Next Gen Ministries	\$3,491	\$3,267	\$224
Other Income	\$4,054	\$3,645	\$409
Live Stream Appeal	\$27,758	\$27,658	\$100
Government COVID Supports	\$219,484	\$219,484	\$0
TOTAL INCOME	\$605,617	\$603,139	\$2,478

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Difference</u>
Employment costs (incl Job Keeper top ups)	\$256,529	\$256,541	-\$12
Property & Café	\$14,814	\$17,733	-\$2,919
Loan Repayments	\$27,048	\$27,048	\$0
Administration costs	\$18,598	\$19,499	-\$901
Communication	\$544	\$544	\$0
Discipleship Resources	\$1,013	\$1,450	-\$437
Beyond Seeds	\$6,661	\$6,661	\$0
Synod M&S Fund & Networks	\$34,888	\$34,888	\$0
Nu4u Shops	\$26,533	\$26,604	-\$71
Creative Ministry	\$54,710	\$55,230	-\$520
Next Gen Ministries	\$2,919	\$3,169	-\$250
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$444,257	\$449,367	-\$5,111

OPERATING SURPLUS	\$161,360	\$153,772	\$7,588
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