

2020

Annual Report



EMMANUEL
— *Uniting Church* —

Real People *with* Relevant Faith *for* Our Community

Emmanuel Uniting Church

29/04/2021

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Minister

2020 has been a challenging and yet fruitful year for Emmanuel UC. The year began with a sense of hope and expectation. Both from Claire and I and from the congregation as we looked forward to sharing ministry together. I began formally in February and set about the tasks of getting to know people and trying to settle into the patterns and rhythms that were Emmanuel UC. There was a strong desire to re-affirm the vision and purpose of Emmanuel and shape ministry in that direction, as well as meeting and getting to know people.

We had only been in the congregation or 5-6 weeks when COVID struck and suddenly face to face gatherings were banned. The team and others quickly adjusted (pivoted became the new catch phrase) and produced material that enabled us to offer people an online experience of worship. Our time and energy was directed to maintaining pastoral contact at this time and I was encouraged by the number of people who regularly rang up others. This continued for several months and as the government and church got a better handle upon how to manage things the possibility of returning to face to face meetings emerged with quite a number of restrictions and protocols. A lot of work by many, particularly the team and Church Council Executive enabled Sunday worship to resume on 21 June. Not long after Sunday School and Boys' and Girls' Brigade recommenced. Then later in the year small groups were given permission to resume. One cannot underestimate the amount of work that was needed, and went into getting those activities back and up and running within the COVID environment and adapting when changes and varied regulations came in place. Most of that burden was carried by the Ministry Team and the Church Council Executive and they collectively deserve our sincere thanks. One of the other responses to the health risks of COVID has meant that many of our small groups have been unable to meet through this time and some will not resume. As much as we had planned that small groups would be the solid core of holding us together this has struggled to be the space. One result of that is that our Pastoral Care needs to be readdressed. A number of our volunteers have also had to step down from roles either due to health concerns or the increased complexity of some of the roles. We are still in the process of recruiting and training people into those roles. There has also been a whole new set of tasks that need to be undertaken such as the increased cleaning and contact tracing requirements. Thank you to those who have stepped up. Because of the unpredictability of the virus much of 2020 has been more reactive rather than proactive. Also there has by necessity been an over emphasis on procedures and protocols. It is my hope and prayer that next year we will be more able to focus on our mission and purpose.

However the whole year was not COVID. The congregational meeting was deferred and finally held on the 11th October. This saw us receive the Annual report from 2019. We welcomed Noel Pinkerton and Ross Wakem as new elders and confirmed the appointment of Bronwyn Cox and Peter Coombes. There have been several other challenges that we have sought to address this year. Helen has completed a lot of work on the fire safety plan and it is has been adopted by the Church Council and is ready for implementation. Our oversight of Blue Cards and Safe Ministry are now more robust. Due to changes with people's health and personal situations I took on the role of chair of Tiny Town and have led Tiny Town through the year. I am

thankful for the support and wisdom of the Committee and particularly Alison and Kaye but recognise that this was a time commitment from me that I had not initially planned for. It is planned that Tiny Town will transition to Synod management in the first half of 2021.

Financially we have done amazingly well over the year. Giving has been down but this has been compensated by job-keeper. The response to thanksgiving with over \$25,000 was a true blessing. Thank you everyone for your faithfulness in these troubled times. Christmas provided an opportunity to see how far we have come with being able to provide well attended Carols and Christmas services with online options for all. The commitment of the Ministry Team, and the Church Council is to maintain our vision and purpose. To focus upon providing the opportunities for people to grow as disciples. Though at times it has been difficult and challenging I am proud of the efforts we have made and grateful for the opportunities. As we look back, as a church we have much to be thankful for. We have done well to hold the line and the focus during the past year. We have provided face to face and online worship, daily devotions, faith at home materials as well as the work of our Sunday School, Playgroup, Boys and Girls Brigades and school programs that have all operated as soon as they have been able. I look forward to 2021 with hope and optimism.

Weddings

Rachel Pegg and Jevahn Gordon on 3 October 2020

Funerals

Ivy Maude Biggs deceased 26 March 2020

Gloria Edith Hunter deceased 9 September 2020

Valerie Dawn Canning deceased 23 September 2020

William George Sharman deceased 27 September 2020

Helen Winifred Greenham deceased 10 November 2020

Baptisms

Olivia Smith baptised on 16 February 2020

Sebastian McCreery-Rye baptised on 16 February 2020

Caroline (Caz) James baptised and confirmed on 8 November 2020

Brian Hoole

Minister

Church Council Chair

Churchill is quoted as saying, "never waste a good crisis". I'm not sure COVID-19 was a 'good crisis', but nevertheless we have tried to make the most of 2020, and stay focused on our church's purpose and calling amongst what seemed a myriad of distractions.

Firstly, it was a real pleasure to welcome Brian and Claire Hoole to our congregation at the start of 2020. We are so privileged to have called a Minister who is passionate about discipleship and aligned with our church's purpose. Brian was inducted by the Presbytery on 9 February.

From 22 March, due to COVID-19, we did not hold a face-to-face worship service after the Synod directed congregations to close. I expect this is unprecedented. The

team did a great job to set up an interim arrangement and provide worship resources electronically. We made a deliberate decision during this period to encourage worship in the home, rather than 'worship as entertainment' via a broadcast. The focus was to ensure effective pastoral care and in the main this was embraced, with members ringing each other regularly and keeping in contact.

In early June COVID restrictions eased and we decided to re-commence face-to-face worship as soon as possible. Again, there was excellent work done by the team, and over a few weeks cost-effective solutions were developed so we could broadcast our services via YouTube. The documentation, planning, cleaning, technology, and check in processes has taken an immense amount of preparation by a small task force of very capable people. Resultantly we restarted face-to-face worship several months before many other congregations.

In July we commenced discussions with the Synod regarding a transition of Tiny Town's management to them. This was in response to changes to legislation requiring Synod to have more direct control, and a realisation that we can't sustainably provide volunteers with the required experience to manage the Centre. Members of the Tiny Town committee, chaired by Brian, have been working tirelessly since July to facilitate a transition that has just occurred in April 2021. This has been a time consuming, complex, and at times frustrating process. Thank you to Brian, Kaye, Alison and the team for your hard work on this transition. Our focus in 2021 needs to be missional connection between the Centre and the church.

For five years we have been working with the Synod and the late Greg Hungerford's Trustees on the resolution of Greg's estate. Emmanuel is the residuary beneficiary of the will. In October the Synod Property Trust acquired land from Greg's estate. We are working with Synod to identify the best future use for the property. Greg's immense generosity has the potential to contribute to local ministry for many years. Growing Disciples is our core business and during 2020 we did some initial investigation with the Shift m2M process. This is a framework to help churches grow Christian disciples more effectively. Preparatory work during 2020 sets up for a more intentional focus during 2021 and beyond.

The Church Council reluctantly accepted the 'retirement' of Dennis Shanks and Barry Jardine from the Church Council at the end of the year. Dennis served as an Elder for 14 years, including an extended period as Chair of Church Council. Barry has served in various leadership roles during his 44 years in our congregations - most recently serving as Treasurer for an extended period. We are deeply appreciative of their commitment and service of the congregation and will miss their wisdom and experience at Church Council. Thank you Dennis and Barry.

This is a time of extraordinary change and transition in our world. The church is not immune to these changes, but equally our world needs to hear Christ's message of hope more than ever. Thank you for continuing to journey together, building a Christian community that is Good News to our local community.

Nathan Robertson.
Church Council Chair

Families Pastor

2020 was an interesting and challenging year for the world, and along with all areas of the church and society, Emmanuel's Youth, Children's, and Families Ministries were impacted. It was not all doom and gloom though, and I think that while there were many interruptions and obstacles, there were also many new opportunities and blessings presented. Even though the global Covid-19 pandemic brought sickness, death, grief, stress, and heartache, throughout the year I have also recognised and started compiling a mental list of "things I'm thankful to Covid for" and resonate with other Ministry Agents and practitioners that have chosen to view the pandemic as an opportunity to press a "reset button" on the way that we do life and ministry. As we navigated ministry during Covid lockdown and prepared to return face-to-face post-lockdown, we tried to focus on the things that we *could do*, instead of all the activities we *couldn't* do. Relationships was the key thing that we decided we could do regardless of all other circumstances, and so we pushed into that. With the decision to resume face-to-face Children's Ministries as soon as we could in term 3, this focus continued, and helped us process and manage the all-important *why* of ministry when we were hard pressed finding solutions for and managing the extra challenges of physical distancing, cleaning, activity, and programming changes.

Sunday School & Worship

Sunday School started again as usual in Term 1, with one group of children aged 3+, meeting together in the hall. All services and ministries were suspended due to Covid lockdown just before Easter, and during the time we were physically apart, we provided resources for the congregation to Worship and Dig into the Bible and Faith together at Home. We held one online Sunday School session for Pentecost, and it was great to be able to connect and see each other in that way.

When we resumed face to face services post-Covid we made some adjustments to our Sunday School session structure to enable a better focus on relationship building among the children and the adult leaders, while also simplifying the preparation required for leaders and helpers each week. In the new structure, the children are split into three, age-based small groups: 3-5-year-olds; grades 1-3; & grades 4-9: each with an adult leader, with which they: share their highs, lows, and buffalos; discuss the talk about video viewed in worship; play a game or do an activity connected to the lesson; and pray for, and with each other. The Bible lesson is presented to the whole group by the designated leader for the day.

We have found the small-group method advantageous for building better relationships, which in turn has helped behaviour management, discipleship, and faith growth. The new overall structure has also allowed for the materials to be used and accessed more easily at home, for times of potential future lockdown and continued Faith at Home development.

Across 2020 we saw a greater consistency of attendance numbers in Sunday School, averaging 15-20 children each week and growing. This is the upper limit that we can currently manage based on recommended adult to child ratios under our current rostered system, so we are looking to add an extra adult leader each week which will also help facilitate an extra small group, specifically for our high schoolers (grade 7-9) who are more consistently choosing to stay in Sunday School. Adding this extra adult each week is proving a little more difficult than we'd like as about half of our Sunday School helpers have had to suspend their positions for the time being due to their vulnerability and "at risk status".

Across 2020 we continued with more 'Dig In' curriculum focussing on some Epic Teaching of the Bible and Foundations of Faith while also using alternate material for Lent and Easter. The across-church preaching and teaching focus, continues to be well received, and made things a lot easier for families during lockdown, when all worship and faith development was happening at home.

In worship, we committed ourselves to a renewed focus and intentionality in facilitating worship and preaching that is engaging and accommodating for all-ages, faith stages, and incorporates different learning styles and senses. It is particularly exciting to see the congregation be led and engaged in these practices which help worship be interesting, engaging, and meaningful for *all* members of our community.

Boys' and Girls' Brigade

Although there was some disruption to regular programming in 2020, Emmanuel Boys' and Girls' Brigade continue to provide environments for belonging, discovery, discipleship and fun for boys and girls in primary and high school. Before lockdown we were able to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the start of the 46th Brisbane Boys' Brigade during the annual Brigades enrolment worship service, and it was great to hear from past boys and leaders about how BB at Emmanuel has shaped their faith, life, and ministry.

During lockdown, our Girls' Brigaders moved to meeting fortnightly online via Microsoft teams, while Boys' Brigade shared online BB @ Home materials while both continuing to pastorally care for their leaders and families. While this worked well, both were keen to move back to face to face as soon as possible, even with the additional cleaning and physical distancing procedures required.

The end of 2020 saw us farewell Barry and Carolyn Jardine as Brigade Chaplains as they moved to retirement on Bribie Island. We will miss them and the great support they offered but look forward with anticipation to Ross and Sue Wakem filling these roles in 2021 onwards.

Playgroup

Emmanuel Playgroup continues to be an active and caring community of children, parents and grandparents coming together to support each other, even during a global pandemic, and individual personal crises. With a renewed vision for building relationships, we moved in Term 2 to sharing online resources and phoning playgroup families to provide support, encouragement and a listening ear as required and held 2 online playgroup sessions via zoom. In Term 3 we started back with playgroup at the park, and then returned to the hall with a lot less toys, and a lot more cleaning. We have noticed a significant drop in attendance numbers, but welcome this as it actually helps our focus on building authentic relationships and supporting those who really need it, when they need it.

Tiny Town

Tiny Town continued to face new challenges in 2020, and while my weekly visits were put on hold for a period, I continued to relationally support the children, staff, families, and committee where I could. The calls of "when are you coming to visit us?" from the children in the playground was a regular challenge and reminder to continue to find ways to connect and build relationships in this space. Attending and supporting the staff and students at Graduation in December was a privilege and highlight of the year, and so many of the children were sad to see their time at Tiny Town end. Many have moved to Enoggera State School and I am excited to be able to

continue to connect with them and their families as they grow and navigate new stages of life.

Enoggera State School

Our relationship with ESS continues to grow as we continue to intentionally build relationships with students, staff and parents through our involvement in RI, Kids Hope and School Chaplaincy. After a great and much earlier than normal start of RI and Kids Hope in Term 1, these were put on hold for Term 2, but were able to resume again after a bit of extra training for the volunteers in Term 3. Due to their “vulnerable” health status, some mentors had to cease for a period of time but we hope and pray that they can return again soon. Throughout the year we were also able to continue supporting Chappy Sarah through supply of Bananas, breakfast supplies and food and Christmas Hampers for needy families, thanks to our Foodbank shoppers and other donations.

Events

2020 saw a reduction in the number of events that we could run, but our annual Kickstart service, Brigades worship services and Christmas Carols event provided great opportunities for intentional relationship building and we will continue to push into this space further in the future. Day Camp ran an @ Home format this year with a much smaller number of children and leaders, but still provided great opportunity for faith development and relationship in different models of ministry.

We continue to seek and discern how best to facilitate and provide places and spaces for intergenerational sharing, serving, and witnessing within our community.

Education and Training

Education and Training to further equip and grow me for ministry continues to be vital, especially when there are added challenges and alternate method of ministry to be explored. In 2020 I completed my Graduate Diploma of Divinity through Malyon College, my final unit being “Church, Sacraments and Ministry” which was a great end to the degree, and a very interesting unit to study during a time when life as we know it was very different, and we could critically question some long-held views and practices of church and ministry.

I also attended Amplify and the Amplify Summit, completed Code of Ethics and Safe Ministry with Children for Ministry Agents training, attended Intergenerate Conference online, and connected with other Children’s Youth and Families workers through a number of online forums throughout the year. These opportunities for networking and sharing life, support, resources, ideas, and prayer are so valuable, life giving, and essential for me to be able to continue and sustain what I do.

Especially in such a challenging year, I want you to know how much your continued support, prayer and encouragement means to me as we all work together to support and equip children and families in our community to be and make disciples.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jess Pinkerton

Families Pastor

Pastor

The year 2020 presented a number of new spaces that we ended up needing to lean into. Due to the lockdown early in 2020, the focus of my role shifted towards the use of technology in worship, and one on one discipleship.

Early in the lockdown, we chose not to stream worship live as we felt that the time we invest on live worship could be better used to connect with individuals and families. Instead we made the decision to pre-record the content for services and create playlists of worship songs that fit in with the weekly services. When we were able to return to in-person worship, we recognised that a portion of the congregation would not be able to come to worship in person due to health concerns so we invested the time and resources to facilitate worship being able to be accessed live online. There was a valuable initial investment of time and resources that I am extremely grateful for. However, I find myself incredibly thankful weekly as those who are on screen each week at our 8am and 9:30am services navigate the increasingly more involved setup required for us to go online. The teachability and patience displayed by those who have had to learn new systems has been absolutely vital to allowing our Sundays to run smoothly. Another space of growth and learning has been in our welcoming on Sunday mornings.

Due to government regulations shifting, we have been required by law to keep digital copies of who comes to services. This ensures that if something were to go wrong, we could communicate clearly and accurately to the relevant parties. The requirement to record increased the number of people required to be on welcoming and registering and I am once again thankful for the patience and teachability of all who have spent the time with me to learn the system.

Streaming online and welcoming people are two of the ways in which our relevant faith is able to connect with our community. People are able to connect with us online to learn a little bit more about who we are before coming in person, and the importance of ensuring the safety of everyone who comes to Emmanuel allows us to continue to have a physical presence and point of connection.

As we continue to explore how we grow disciples who Exalt, Explore, Embody, and Engage my role has shifted to include growing disciples with a focus on our teenagers and young adults. For the last couple of years, this has manifested in the Youth Band which met to play music and read the Bible together. This year, in recognition that playing an instrument can be a barrier of entry, I am stopping the Youth Band so I can start a new group. The purpose of this group is to intentionally grow relationships within our young people, and a culture of disciples who grow disciples. The shape of this group is still forming but I look forward to seeing how God moves in this space.

As we continue to journey through 2021, I am excited to see the way God speaks into Emmanuel and grows us as Real People, with a Relevant Faith, for Our community. As we grow disciples who Exalt, Explore, Embody, and Engage, I am sure that God will move, and I pray that I may have eyes to see and the courage to follow where He leads.

Grace and Peace

Dom Chan

Pastor

Tiny Town

2020 has been a tumultuous year for Tiny Town. We began the year with a new Director, Ashley Griffith, who leads a team of experienced staff. The year began with a bang as we were informed of a formal assessment and rating cycle in February. Thank you to Ashley, Kaye and others as this required a huge amount of work and preparedness in such a short space of time. The result of the assessment was that we are meeting expectations. This rating will stay in place until our next assessment. March saw the beginning of the Corona Virus within Australia and subsequent government decisions that affected the whole of the Childcare Industry. The Centre was required to stay open and be appropriately staffed. The introduction and access to Jobkeeper meant that the Centre came through the year in a financially stable position. The annual meeting saw a change to the committee with long-term member Robyn Battley, and then current secretary Liz Robertson stepping down off the committee and Kaye Whitta stepping down as chair.

The new committee consists of;

Rev Brian Hoole – Chair

Jeanette Kirby – Deputy chair

Rebecca Arends – Secretary

Robyn Garrett - Fundraising

Alison Anderson – Treasurer

Kaye Whitta – Member

Nathan Robertson -Ex officio -member.

I do want to thank the committee members, both past and present for the hard work and commitment they have given, and I am grateful for their expertise and dedication.

The Corona Virus saw us meeting at one stage almost weekly as we considered the effects of the virus and the resulting government directions. That we have come through that period in a good space is a credit to staff and committee. In 2019 a review commissioned by the Synod Standing Committee was conducted that reported on the oversight, management and governance of the 23 child care services that operate under the auspices of the Property Trust as the approved provider. The outcome of this review is that the Synod Standing Committee adopted a proposal that for child care facilities to remain under the auspices of the Property Trust they would need to come under the management oversight of a new department Uniting Education and Early Learning with their own dedicated staff. A local committee will still exist but will focus upon maintaining connection with the congregation at both a relational and missional level. Discussions with the Committee and the Church Council has seen a commitment to move towards this model as soon as practicable and so much of the remainder of the year has been focused on preparing for this transition, as well as maintaining a quality child care centre and program. As a result it has been a full and challenging year. Ashley continues to find his feet as director and we feel blessed to have him in the role. The Centre has been blessed over a number of years by its staff. We do thank Tabitha Egan and Heila Wetzal for their service as they concluded at the end of last year and look forward to continuing to work with the current staff going forward.

The preparation to move to Synod management and oversight continues and should happen in the first half of 2021. It involves a substantial change for the Centre, and its relationship with the church, and for staff, children and families. Please keep this in your prayers.

The work involved in preparing and doing the due diligence for the new, as well as continuing to provide a quality program has placed increased pressure and workload upon all involved.

As a part of the due diligence a review of our current model as a 2-5yo long day care Centre was conducted and the preferred recommendation of being a 3-5yo Centre was adopted as being a more sustainable model. A transition period was agreed to, to help us move to that model without affecting current families. One of the consequences of this change is about reduced staffing hours and that has been negotiated with staff. The appointment of Valerie King as Project Manager for the Early Learning Transition and Yolanda Borucki Manager Early Learning -Operations by the Synod has given the transition project the point people to facilitate it happening in a timely manner. We are working closely with them to ensure as seamless handover as possible. There are still a number of issues and agreements needed for the transition to take place but we are working away at those.

At Yolanda's suggestion we have applied and been granted approval by the Department to increase our capacity from being a 24 place Centre to being a 27 place Centre. This allows us to maximise the staffing ratios with two 3-5yo groups (11children per staff) and one 2yo group (5 children per staff). While still focusing upon the 3-5yo program it allows us to better ensure the continuity and flow of numbers.

As you can see it has been a huge year for the Centre. I am thankful and do want to commend Ashley as Director and the staff for the professional and committed way that they have served the families and children within their care. For Ashley, Charmaine, Svetlana, Jo, Antonella, Hitomi, Tabitha, and Heila thank you. I am also very thankful for the committee, particularly the executive for the many hours of hard-work that have been put in. To Jeanette, Alison, Bec, Robyn, Kaye, Nathan thank you.

2021 will also be a year of change as the Centre moves into Synod management. Please continue to pray for the staff, the Committee, the new Synod Management Team and our children and families as we go through this year.

Rev Brian Hoole

Chair Tiny Town Child Care and Kindergarten Management Committee

Boys' Brigade

Boys' Brigade offers a weekly program that challenges Boys spiritually, physically, socially, and educationally. Our focus is on friendships, leadership, the self-discipline needed to achieve excellence and understanding the Christian faith. All Boys can earn awards, badges, and participate in leadership training, working towards their Queen's badge (the highest award a boy can receive).

We also are part of a larger network of companies in the local area Battalion as well as at State, National and International levels. One way we connect with the wider movement is by providing the Boys the opportunity to compete in competitions and attend camps with other Boys' Brigade Companies. In January we sent a contingent to the 20th Pan Australian Camp, held in Wollongong. This was a chance for 300 members of Boys' Brigade from across the country to come together and experience 10 days of fun, fellowship and adventure. The attendees were able to learn new skill,

challenge themselves and implement leadership skills that they learnt throughout their Brigade years.

2020 was a significant year for the company, with it being the 40th anniversary of our formation. As part of the celebrations we were able to come together for a celebratory service. We were able to recognise the work done by leaders both past and present and share stories of how Boys' Brigade has influenced their life.

This year also saw our Company Chaplain retire. After years of service, Barry Jardine has decided to leave our congregation and have a sea change. However, through his foresight he has already set in place a succession plan to see a new Chaplain take the reins.

This year we continued our work on renewing and updating our equipment in our canoeing and gymnastics programs. We were successful in obtaining Government grants, through their active clubs program, which provided us in over \$4000 funds to spend on new and much needed equipment.

While the impact of Covid was felt through our program, through the hard work and dedication of the leaders, we were able to conduct 3 full terms of program with minimal disruption. While there will be a legacy of changes felt into the future, the ability to adapt will see the company to continue to provide a comprehensive program that continues to serve the needs of our community.

Noel Pinkerton

Boys' Brigade Captain

Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade offers a weekly program for girls looking for fun and friendship in a safe and supported environment. All girls have the opportunity to earn awards and participate in leadership development appropriate to their age in smaller groups. Girls' Brigade empowers girls and young women to be themselves, to develop and use their gifts and skills, and to discover what it means to have *life to the full* in their generation. Our weekly program includes a wide range of activities that supports the spiritual, physical, and emotional growth of girls and is committed to the values of:

There were many changes to Girls' Brigade in 2020, the biggest being completing all of Term 2 online. This was a challenge for many leaders and girls alike. It certainly was different but we all felt that the continuation throughout the shutdown was a beneficial even though the numbers were a little sporadic at times as sometimes the support offered or the game played encouraged both girls and leaders when needed as at times it was the only contact they had at times with their peers. We all rejoiced when we were able to resume meeting face to face even though the times changed slightly and adjusted well to the covid safe measures as it was easier to gather feedback, read body language and interact during devotions and group work. Our worship time continues to be an integral part of our nightly programme with relevant and interesting devotions like unexplored bible stories, bugs, emoji's and lollies teaching us all that God created us to be who we are and given each of us specific gifts and through the sweet and sour moments God is always with us even if we don't realise it at the time and encourage us to share God's love with those around us.

Throughout the year many of our Pioneers completed Leadership Training, and it was great to watch them learn and grow and develop their skills in different areas. We are

also very proud of Hannah Krause and Zoe-Mae having completed and gained their Queen's Awards. We said farewell to Carolyn as our Chaplain and thanked her for her ongoing friendship, support, encouragement and guidance throughout her time as our Chaplain. We are looking forward to all our leaders returning for 2021 and cannot wait to see what God has in store for us all. It is such a blessing to be supported by our Church family and Ministry Team and we thank you very much.

Sonya Cornwell

Girls' Brigade Captain

Playgroup

Emmanuel Playgroup offers a safe place for children aged 0-5 and their carers to play, chat and develop new skills. We usually meet weekly on Friday mornings 9:30 – 11:30am during school terms. The families that attend say it is a great place to make new friends, learn new things and be part of a caring community. Each week we engage children in different themes and activities, including sandpit play, playdough, craft, painting, water play, story time, singing and free play.

Covid-19 pushed us to facilitate a modified Playgroup @ home program in Term 2 with weekly email and Facebook posts sharing resources and activities suggested by Playgroup Queensland, and fortnightly Mainly Music videos. We also phoned playgroup participants to check in on them, delivered a few Playgroup @ home craft and activity packs, and hosted two Playgroup online Zoom sessions which were well received by the few that attended.

By tweaking our program to include a few weeks meeting at Teralba Park, much less toys and craft in the Hall, and much more cleaning, we were able to resume Playgroup face-to-face in Term 3. We have noticed a considerable drop in weekly attendance numbers post lockdown, but we recognise that this has provided a great opportunity to be intentional about building better and deeper relationships with those that are there. This was one of the key things we'd identified as important early on in COVID-19 and it was great to be able to do this well when we returned face to face.

We are so thankful for the few regular playgroup volunteers including Ann, Susan, Vicki, Heather, and Kaye, who so faithfully serve as and when they can, and the support of Jess too.

We are excited for the possibilities awaiting us through Playgroup 2021 and strive to continue to build stronger relationships with the families that attend, while we also

Ann Pegg and Susan Walker

Playgroup Co-ordinators.

Kids Hope

Emmanuel's Kids Hope mentoring team have been operating a partnership between Emmanuel UCA and Enoggera State School continuously for 15 years, based on the model of "1 child, 1 hour, 1 church, 1 school". Like everyone, the team had its ups and downs across 2020.

We praise God for much – the liaison with the school which Jess has provided when the coordinator could not, and for her general oversight; our stable and experienced team of mentors; the early start to mentoring with the school well-organised; the re-start for some mentors in August and their safety in doing so, thanks to layers of

caution overlaying the program; and, not least, the focus on relationships reflecting God's love, which continued to be encouraged.

2021 may continue some of the uncertainties seen in 2020, but we place our trust in our LORD who holds all things in His hands.

Since 'vulnerability' has meant the team has lost, for the time being, several valued and long-serving members, we really need new people to join the team. Extensive training and ongoing support and resources are part of the job. Coordinator, Vicki Botham, or Jess would be delighted to give interested people more details. Prayer support is always a necessity, for the program, the mentors and the students, staff and families at Enoggera SS. The coordinator has regular contact with mentors and will keep in touch with those who, for now, are not able to mentor because of covid-19 restrictions and health matters.

The ongoing vision of the Church Council which allows the program to continue as a part of Emmanuel's mission, is greatly valued. The support, liaison and oversight Jess has given in 2020 has been instrumental in allowing mentoring to continue.

Vicki Botham

Kids Hope Coordinator

RI

Emmanuel Uniting Church has been actively involved in providing RI volunteers for local schools for many years. In 2020 Anne, Maureen and Lulu served again at Enoggera SS, Coral at McDowall SS and Coral was ready to help at Everton Park SS if required.

At Enoggera SS, the year started very well with all weekly RI classes up and running in week 3 of Term 1. Due to Covid, we rested for the whole of Term 2, but as soon as school resumed face to face in Term 3, RI also started back. Apart from the extra hand sanitisation and physical distancing processes, things were pretty normal going back. Although a few lessons had to be skipped and a few condensed, the Connect Series A curriculum provided a great overview of Knowing God as Creator, Trusting and Having Faith in God and Trusting and Following Jesus for the excited students. The end of year RI event at ESS is a very special and much anticipated time for the students and teachers, and we are very grateful that Quiz Worx created and presented their Christmas Puppet show material via a video download that we could show in the last RI lesson of the year. This meant that students were still able to benefit from the fantastic and fun telling of God's story, which Christmas is a very special part.

Due to a serious injury late in the year, Maureen will be taking a break from RI in 2021 and so we are eagerly looking for someone to cover the year 3 and 4 classes at Enoggera. Lulu is also struggling with some dizziness issues and we keep both of them in our thoughts and prayers.

At McDowall SS Coral managed one class before Covid put an end to all RI for the rest of the year and due to some other volunteers leaving for other roles, Everton Park SS struggled to get RI started and will need some additional volunteers to be able to get it started again. Coral shared that at her one lesson she was able to trial a new method of bible verse memorisation that she had learned at a session at the Amplify conference, which was very well received by the students and classroom teacher.

Some highlights for 2020 RI include the “hugs” given by appreciative students, loving hearing students “taking over” and telling the bible stories in class, excited students bringing their bibles to class, supportive teachers who eagerly welcome RI into their classrooms, and the special prayers for graduation year 6 students at the end of the year.

We are thankful for government support for RI in schools for another 4 years. We pray for a smoother 2021, that we can find and train new volunteers to cover the classes that we need so that we can continue to share the Good News and Love of Jesus to students in local schools.

Maureen Witheyman and Jess Pinkerton

RI Co-ordinators

Pastoral Care

At Emmanuel, the team oversees Pastoral care to all our Church family. Members are Bronwyn Kelly - Leader, Rosemary Costello, Narelle Brock, Claire Hoole and Brian Hoole.

Previously much of our caring was done within small groups but as these had to go into recess, members were still encouraged to keep in contact with each other. Ultimately some groups were able to meet via technology or in parks before coming together face to face. Sadly some groups have folded completely. Pastoral friends are also appointed to anyone not in a group. Other areas the team co-ordinates are prayers through our prayer team and cards sent on the anniversary of a bereavement of a loved one. Both services have had positive responses.

The team also acknowledges there are many acts of caring done quietly by various members of the church family including those who can no longer attend services and for these people. Home Communion, Ministerial visits and Newsletter mailouts are offered to the ones who wish to receive them.

In your prayers we ask that you give thanks for the caring carried out by so many people. Please pray for the continuation of the Pastoral Care Ministry and that it may be extended in other areas where people need support.

Remember: *Pastoral Care is for everyone by everyone* Specific needs can be referred to either the Pastoral Care team or the Ministry team. Emmanuel has a prayer team so please advise either Bronwyn Kelly or the Church Office if there is anyone needing special prayers. Their permission to do this is essential.

Bronwyn Kelly

Pastoral Care Team Leader

Community Helping Hand

2020 was certainly an unusual year for CHH when the outbreak of COVID upset some of our usual procedures.

Finances

Cash donations given at the first Sunday of each month have been the important revenue source for CHH.

Online giving was encouraged when church services in the church building were curtailed in March 2020. Apart from ease of organising, it also was a better option than handling cash during COVID.

We are grateful that our minister has kept reminding of the need for congregational support for the work of CHH and so support continued for CHH. Ross Wakem has advised that \$339 was given over the Christmas Day services for CHH.

In July Foodbank started offering free hampers and that offer continued for several months. This greatly assisted our financial situation. Those free hampers are no longer available but were a great help in coping during that difficult time.

Melba Herron continued to support CHH with her recycling at the Pickering St Recycling Centre. When she set up the link with Emmanuel she advised Helen of that code so that other members of the congregation could do the same.

Twice during 2020 we received gift cards from Drakes Supermarket, McDowall, through their support for community programs, and we received in total \$185 to spend there. One of these gift cards was used for the Christmas Hampers. The gift cards from Drakes reflects the amount of shopping done there by members of our congregation. Their contribution is well worth while and appreciated.

And our thanks also goes to those in our congregation who support CHH by donating food to boost our stock in the CHH cupboard.

Last year we submitted an application for a grant from the Kedron Wavell RSL. This was put on hold due to COVID last year, but we have just been advised that they will now look at our submission. We hope that our submission will be successful.

Personnel - Helen

It takes a lot of **Helen's** time and energy to meet and greet the recipients of the bags of food. Her personality is perfect for she is caring and empathetic to their needs. She is also efficient in recording the necessary information for helping CHH planning, and for best assisting the needs of the recipients. She also attends to the paper work necessary for the annual renewal of our Foodbank registration, and for our UC insurance, and for her attention to various other time-consuming requests throughout the year.

Our team going to Foodbank

When the severity of COVID in Qld increased, Foodbank decided to place restrictions on who would be allowed to come to their warehouse. Unfortunately their ban on those *70-and-over* meant that our Foodbank team last year were no longer able to do so. The dilemma was that people in our wider community still relied on support from CHH. This put pressure on Emmanuel members who were younger, but also busy with work and family. These generous people gave of their valuable time to fill this gap and continued to do so until the 70+ ban was rescinded in July. Thanks to them CHH continued to reach out.

Ill health dogged some of those who were regularly rostered for Foodbank visits. Again kindly people stepped in to help. The boxes of bananas for the school, and items such as cartons of multiple boxed cereal and milk cartons are quite heavy for some of our Foodbank Team, and pushing the loaded trolley up the short slope to the car can be tough. So we do have a need for younger stronger people to join our team.

It was also apparent that there was a need for more volunteers so as to spread the load and to make it easier for others to offer when the task is smaller.

Up until the end of 2020 Foodbank rules were that we could only have 2 teams going to Foodbank, with a very occasional extra. This made it difficult for us for the above reasons. Fortunately at the end of 2020 we were advised that changes were being considered, that our numbers would not be so restricted, and they had plans for an online photo system so that those on the entry desk could check online who legitimate Foodbank Visitors are.

This year we are hoping to have 4 teams rostered for Foodbank visits, necessitating only one trip to Foodbank every 4 weeks for each team. This will assist those who would like to help but are already busy in other ways.

Our Food Bag Packers

Each week someone from our packing team packs food bags ready for distribution. During the height of COVID in Queensland there was a welcome surprise of free hamper boxes being offered at Foodbank. This was a wonderful help for our finances, and a wonderful help to our packers as many of our recipients were happy to take those hampers and so fewer food bags needed to be packed during that time. However the gift of free hampers did come to an end after a few months. Filling our bags with food takes some time and effort, and getting them up to Helen's office takes a bit of strength. It's not a glamorous job, and a job done quietly without fanfare. That is real service to give of one's time quietly and unseen.

The food bags are packed for three levels of needs: small, middle and large families. Three different coloured bags indicate for whom the bags have been packed. The colours change over the years due to what is available from the suppliers.

Our long time supplier for our **nonwoven bags** is now no longer available, which is a shame as we have been dealing with them since the start of CHH. They were always helpful. Now we have the problem to solve to find similar sized bags for a similar cost or else come up with another solution. The bags we have been using have done the job well but cost 70c. They are an expensive item. In 2019, 474 bags were used and cost \$400. We need to consider ways to reduce this expenditure.

Other points to ponder.

Over the past 2 years there has been some disappointing trends at Foodbank and these became worse during the COVID year.

1. Firstly the cost of buying food at Foodbank has increased significantly, often doubling what we were used to spending there.
2. Once it was easy to stock our shelves with food that would serve a family well including cereal and milk for breakfast, foods for a balanced main meal at night, and muesli bars and juices for children to take to school. And also toiletries, and other staple items. Now there is often less stock of such items, and more stock of odds and ends that don't really help a hungry family.

Getting in to the carpark at Foodbank had become increasingly difficult as the carpark is small, and many people come from far and wide seeking help for the people they serve. The rule is that we must be parked in their carpark before we can begin shopping. Fortunately last year Foodbank employed someone to organise the entry procedure which has eased frustration of gaining entry. That is a big plus.

In January this year I was advised by email that Foodbank are looking at ways to improve the access and parking situation.

Foodbank offers free frozen food packs, and sometimes Helen asks us to get them. Taking a frigid esky from home is the necessary requirement to get the frozen food back to the freezer at church.

Boxes of bananas for the schools are heavy and bulky, but are important for hungry students at Enoggera and are delivered weekly during the school term.

Conclusion.

CHH role has always been to offer a helping hand to those in need in our wider community. We continue to strive to serve that need, and do this outreach to serve God.

A vital part of our operation is the support by the Emmanuel Congregation. We are grateful for that, for without their financial support, verbal support and lots of prayers, the work of CHH could not survive.

Ros Gepp

CHH Co-Ordinator

Day Fellowship

Following our Annual Meeting in February, 2020 we were unable to meet as usual during the year due to Covid-19.

The Fellowship Group commenced in 1996 when the ladies groups from Enoggera and Everton Park joined together as the Emmanuel Uniting Church Day Fellowship. During the last 25 years or so, we have seen many new members who have also joined our church but, sadly, many of our members have left us – some going into care, some going elsewhere having left the area and some, having served their time on earth, being promoted to glory.

At the end of 2020, we held an informal morning tea meeting and, since our numbers had dropped below 10, it was reluctantly decided to fold as a group in its present form. Our remaining funds were distributed, including \$600 to support Christine Bryant in Senegal for 2021 and a final distribution to Emmanuel Community Helping Hand.

The ladies who remain at Emmanuel hope, in future, to have some informal gatherings to keep in touch. We thank God for the friendship, fellowship and faithful service of all our ladies over the past 25 years.

Carolyn Jardine

Ladies Day Fellowship Leader

Tennis Group

2020 saw the closure of this activity and group. A number of factors attributed to this and Covid cemented the decision for us.

On behalf of Richard Robinson

Co-ordinator

Indoor Bowls

2020 saw us taking a break due to the pandemic. We will reevaluate our activities in 2021.

Written on behalf of Indoor Bowls.

Craft Group

2020 we paused for a season and have put out expressions of interest for 2021.

Written on behalf of the Craft Group.

Friendship Group

Friendship Group only met once in the past year so there is nothing to report.

Unfortunately I will be unable to lead this group any longer and I really think that with the very small numbers of folk who were attending, it would be the right time for a relook at what can be offered to the aging group in our church community. I would be happy to discuss this further.

Carol Perry

Co-ordinator

Working Bee Team

Membership

Doug Perry, Carol Perry, Geoff Cornwell, Ron Stanton, Trevor Battley

Activities

Our group meets for about 4 hours most Thursday mornings and at various other times through the week as required to keep the facilities including the Childcare Centre functional and safe

Our routine tasks are

- Mowing, gardening and cleaning of all exterior paths, driveways, carparks
- Pruning of shrubs and trees
- Clearing of gutters and drains
- Repairing defects – doors, gates, windows, tables, chairs, taps, toilets
- Servicing and resupply of cleaning equipment and consumables
- Responding to security and fire systems minor defects
- Electrical Systems and equipment annual compliance checks

Minor Projects

During 2020 a number of projects have been undertaken and included

- Refurbishment of the gardens beside the Laurel St entry steps
- Recoating of all exterior walkways with non-slip coatings

While our group is focused on the practical side of our church operation our members maintain regular contact and provide invaluable support and encouragement for each other.

Trevor Battley

Team Co-ordinator

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast had a pause due to covid. We are looking at recommencing in May.

Written on behalf of The Men's Breakfast Team

Financials

God has richly blessed us as we have generously invested in our church and its role within the community in seeking to live out our vision of being "Real People with Relevant Faith for Our Community." It is inspiring to be part of a Christian community that gives generously of their time, talents and resources to support our local community through building their faith and providing much needed support through local mission and outreach.

As God calls and leads us into the future, growing our faith, deepening our trust in him and blessing us in ways that we have not experienced before, I ask you to again consider how you might invest financially. Whilst the Emmanuel Uniting Church here at Enoggera is in a reasonably sound financial position as can be seen in the attached reports our income is declining and expenses are increasing compared to recent years. In 2020 COVID-19 impacted many organisations and individuals and we were no exception. The main impacts to us were a decrease in hall rental income (\$6k) and Tiny Town receipts (\$7k) however, these were more than offset by our receipt of the Government Grant in the form of Job Keeper payments (\$82k) providing a buffer to future losses, for now.

2020 Overall Results

Despite the above mentioned reductions our income in the main was maintained at a very good level of \$367k excluding Job Keeper (down from \$394k in 2019) due some very generous donations and a sound stewardship program. A summary of the main items is as follows:

	<u>2019 (\$- 000's)</u>	<u>2020 (\$- 000's)</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Offerings (incl Thanksgiving)	305	291	-14
Property – Manse	29	31	2
Hall Hire	7	1	-6
Tiny Town	39	32	-7
JobKeeper	0	82	82

Expenses were maintained at similar levels (\$349k in 2020 up from \$344k in 2019) due to generous support from Presbytery in reducing our CPMP payments to \$58k (from \$71k in 2019) which helped to offset the increase in Stipends to \$168k (from \$140k in 2019) with us now benefitting from having a full time minister and two part-time pastors.

We were able to reduce our debt in 2020 by paying off our Synod Loan \$20k and reducing our Presbytery Loan \$4k and Tiny Town Loan \$9k. The remaining balances of these loans will be paid in 2021.

Future Outlook

The 2021 budget shows a further reduction in cash reserves with income \$357k insufficient to meet expenses of \$363k and this is with Presbytery continuing to support

parishes following 2020 COVID-19 impacts by reducing CPMP payments (\$57k for Emmanuel in 2021).

The 2020 Job Keeper payments received to help us meet the salary and wages of our full time minister and three part time staff has helped us to increase cash reserves and repay debt and this will help to sustain us over the next few years whilst providing important support to our community and living out our mission of being "*Real People with Relevant Faith for Our Community*". I would again like to thank you for the wonderful and generous contribution that you make to the life of our congregation. Stewardship is about acknowledging that we are custodians, or stewards, of the resources at our disposal – time, talents, money and other resources. As disciples of Jesus we are called to be good stewards and direct these resources in ways that bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. I therefore ask that you continue to share with me in the work of God and His church, by prayerfully considering your financial investment, through Emmanuel, to the blessings of God.

Grace and Peace

Ross Wakem

Treasurer

Attached Reports:

Income and Expenditure Report 2020

Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 20

Income and Expenditure

UCA - EMMANUEL UNITING CHURCH ENOGGERA

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Account	2020	2020 Budget	2019
Trading Income			
I-01 General Offerings - Direct Dr, Envelopes, Open Plate	264,138	273,360	264,765
I-01 Offerings - Thanksgiving	27,020	20,000	40,122
I-06 Income from other Non UCA Sources - Donations - Com Help Hand	4,086	4,000	3,749
I-06 Income from other Non UCA Sources - Donations - General	3,548	2,000	1,639
I-06 Income from other Non UCA Sources -Donations - Solomon's	2,218	1,000	4,000
I-06 Income from other Non UCA Sources-Donations - Play Group	259	1,000	773
I-08 and I-09 Interest Income	346	450	819
I-12 Property Income from Manse	30,907	29,120	29,200
I-13 Other Property Income - Hall	1,221	7,500	7,497
I-14 Bequests Received	0	0	500
I-16 Receipts for Congregation Sub-entities - Transfers from church groups	1,456	0	2,000
I-19 Surplus Generating/ Business Activity Receipts - Transfer from Tiny Town	31,542	31,684	38,844
I-05 Jobkeeper Grant	81,900	86,400	0
Total Trading Income	448,642	456,514	393,906
Operating Expenses			
E-01 Ministerial Stipend Payments	168,654	165,353	139,970
E-02 Housing - Rental of Residence	0	0	14,751
E-02 Housing Allowance	15,675	15,670	4,161
E-04 Lay Staff Salaries, Wages, Allowances, Honorariums	41,175	42,289	41,440
E-06 Other Employment related expenses - Staff Training	10,950	14,000	15,350
E-11 Repairs & Maintenance	11,704	12,000	8,585
E-12 Insurance Premium - Buildings and Contents	2,648	4,500	2,624
E-13 Electricity and Gas	1,465	2,800	2,334
E-14 Rates and Taxes	5,686	5,750	6,223
E-15 Property Management - Manse Operating expenses	8,714	7,200	7,015
E-17 UCA Contributions-CPMP	58,020	58,020	71,000
E-20 Local Mission Support-Local O'Reach - CHH	3,645	7,500	6,673
E-21 Overseas Mission Support - Solomon's	1,197	1,250	4,000
E-22 Mission Education Costs - Outreach	(49)	1,250	994
E-24 Audit fees	1,550	1,500	1,500
E-26 Bank Charges	502	1,000	890
E-27 Repairs & Maintenance - Non Property Assets	70	0	0
E-30 Stationery and Printing	3,339	4,500	4,248
E-31 Telecommunication and Internet	1,682	2,300	2,199
E-32 Computer and Software Costs	326	200	0
E-33 Postage and Courier	0	200	85
E-34 Other Miscellaneous Costs- Advertising	2,853	3,000	2,653
E-36 Interest Expense UCIS Borrowings	398	800	646
E-38 Congregation Life	990	0	1,091
E-41 Other Worship Costs	8,080	8,400	6,084
Total Operating Expenses	349,275	359,482	344,516
Net Profit	99,367	97,032	49,391

Balance Sheet

UCA - EMMANUEL UNITING CHURCH ENOGERA

As at 31 December 2020

Assets	
Bank	
F-1 UCIS MSS Benefit Account	1,925.51
F-2 Other Financial Institution Accounts - General Cheque Account	154,902.72
Total Bank	156,828.23
Current Assets	
Petty Cash	400.00
Total Current Assets	400.00
Fixed Assets	
CP- 8 -Plant & Equipment	119,753.76
CP-10 - Less Accumulated Depreciation on Plant & Equipment	(48,439.00)
Total Fixed Assets	71,314.76
Non-current Assets	
Accrued Income	3,600.00
Total Non-current Assets	3,600.00
Total Assets	232,142.99
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accrued Expenses	1,000.00
GST	(434.69)
Rounding	0.03
Sub Entities (Receipts to I-16 Exps to E-37) Bank / Ledger Balance-Donations - All Causes	1,557.49
Sub Entities (Receipts to I-16 Exps to E-37) Bank / Ledger Balance-Friendship Group	1,881.36
Sub Entities (Receipts to I-16 Exps to E-37) Bank / Ledger Balance-Indoor Bowls	708.45
Sub Entities (Receipts to I-16 Exps to E-37) Bank / Ledger Balance-Monday Mother's Bible Study	56.65
Total Current Liabilities	4,769.29
Non-current Liabilities	
L-3 Loans Payable - Presbytery Solar Loan	4,000.00
L-3 Loans Payable - Tiny Town Loan	13,250.00
Total Non-current Liabilities	17,250.00
Total Liabilities	22,019.29
Net Assets	
	210,123.70
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	82,035.07
Other Reserves-Reserve Children's Camps	2,825.80
Other Reserves-Reserve Children's Outreach	2,837.66
Other Reserves-Reserve Community Helping Hand	707.63
Other Reserves-Reserve Community Building	1,279.37
Other Reserves-Reserve Equip Replacement	24,983.73
Other Reserves-Reserve Families Ministry	1,507.78
Other Reserves-Reserve Future Ministry	17,811.25
Other Reserves-Reserve Manse Property	872.77
Other Reserves-Reserve Outreach	2,623.91
Other Reserves-Reserve Property	4,954.00
Other Reserves-Reserve Solomon Islands	2,027.83
Other Reserves-Reserve Transfers	21,610.84
Retained Earnings	44,046.06
Total Equity	210,123.70