



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre

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INTRODUCTION

Bruce Warren

Gungahlin Uniting Church adheres to the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church in Australia.

Our activities reflect our values, which are:

- to share the love of Christ with each other and our community
- being inclusive, accepting and welcoming to all people
- being generous and caring for others
- being informal and friendly
- being open to new ideas
- nurturing spiritual growth
- commitment to community outreach and social justice

Our Churches mission priorities are

- Providing a safe and welcoming place for worship and gathering
- Caring for each other
- Caring for our community
- Growing our church community
- Encouraging lifelong Faith Formation

Our Values and Mission Priorities come directly from our church mission plan.

US President and WWII Army General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.” he further added “...the very definition of ‘emergency’ is that it is unexpected, therefore it is not going to happen the way you are planning.”. Boxer Mike Tyson also advanced this view of planning with what might be his most famous quote: “Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.”

In 2020, with bushfires, hailstorms and a global pandemic Gungahlin Uniting Church has experienced a number of body blows this year. Our annual report reflects this. In it are reports from church leaders reflecting on what has happened in our community of faith this year.

FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Matt Grudnoff

This year has been very challenging for all of us. As a community, as a church and in our families. The Church Council has also had a tough year trying to discern the path that God has placed before us in the midst of so much uncertainty.

When big problems arrive, it can be exhausting, and we can just want to pull the doona over our heads and hide. It can be frightening and make us fearful of anything that is not familiar. But it can also be challenging and help us to stand up and face obstacles head on. We can surprise ourselves and what we can achieve as individuals, families and a congregation.

I know that throughout this year I have at various times reacted in all these ways; with exhaustion, with fear and with determination. I'm sure many of you have as well.

At the beginning of the year the Church Council brought together some people from presbytery to work with us to focus on GUC's direction and to do some big picture thinking about where we wanted to go. This included a survey of opinions from the congregation. We had our first meeting in February, right before COVID hit.

The disruption that COVID wrought has been particularly difficult for a church like ours. Our personal connections with each other has always been one of our great strengths. COVID has made gathering together in community very difficult. It has disrupted how we connect and draw strength from each other. Video get togethers and phone calls have helped but they have not been a substitute for chats at morning tea or a get together over a meal.

After the shut down the Church Council tried to put in place COVID safe ways for us to meet as a community. Zoom morning teas. Online worship services that had a focus on talking with each other. But the reality is that none of these are perfect substitutes for meeting together.

We were fortunate enough at GUC to go back to in person worship as early as August. One of the first Uniting Churches in the presbytery to do so. While these services are limited to make them COVID safe, they have been an opportunity for some of us to gather together again in person.

After a consultation with Terrence Corkin that many of you participated in, the Church Council has put together a group to look at how we conduct worship and how we can make that experience better. Church Council has given the group the ambitious deadline of reporting back by the end of the year.

I would like to thank all of members of the 2020 Church Council. They have given up their time and been dedicated to this role in a year where there have been so many other calls on their time. Thank you, Bruce, Jemimah, John, Kat, Pauline and Ranjini. Thanks also to Jack our church Secretary. He stepped up to the role and has done an excellent job. And Narelle for continuing to be a fantastic Treasurer. Finally, thanks to Darren for being our Pastor in this most difficult of times.

In closing I want to ask all of you to treat each other with kindness and grace. We are all having a difficult time. Whether it's in a small group, or someone that helps with the running of worship, or the minister, or the church council or someone who just wants things to go back to the way they were before; all of us need to take care of each other. More than ever we need to offer and give forgiveness. To cut each other some slack.

Remember you are part of the wonderful family that is GUC.

FROM OUR MINISTER

Darren Wright

This has been a very challenging year for many of us, it began with smoke and fire and continued with hail, storms and a pandemic, there's no doubt, the world has changed and we are being asked to adapt and find ways of being God's people in this new world. What we've experienced this year will likely shape our lives, work and church for much of 2021 and beyond.

I'd like to start off by thanking a number of people for their ministry, support, care and faith in the community of Gungahlin UC. First the Church Council who have continued to lead and support the community through an almost impossible year, they were working through the same issues that the rest of the community were as well as trying to lead the church. To Matt, Jack, Narelle, Bruce, Katrina, John, Jemimah, Pauline and Ranjini thank you. In particular I'd single out Narelle who's work in a very stressful time where we'd lost a lot of income through rental has been amazing.

Moving on a huge thanks to the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade leaders, in particular Bruce and Liz who continued to care for and lead the children and their community through a very difficult time.

I'd also like to thank Margaret and Ron for their ministry, throughout the year, Margaret in particular who continued to develop a written liturgy for people who were finding it difficult to connect online.

There are a number of other people who've been huge parts of my year, the billabong crew who met with me online and for walks, in particular Carrie, Hayley, Thomas, Will, Alexey, James and Inara. To the crew who helped us get back into the building and go through lots of paperwork and make tough decisions, Elizabeth, Vanessa, Alison, Jemimah and Jack I give thanks.

And to Alison who kept the pantry operating and had to pivot many times throughout the year.

There are many of you who I've missed out here, but it's been a rocky year and there have been many people behind the scenes holding it together, to all of you thank you.

Moving on...

We began the year by welcoming in a new Church Council, which had some new faces and old faces. Early in the season we invited Elizabeth Raine and John Squires to help us revisit our community's values and vision to help guide decisions, worship and mission. We had spent a lot of time discussing how we'd do this as a community before COVID hit and put a stop to our hopes.

I'd participated in a few multi faith and multicultural gatherings which were leading towards some opportunities to further build on relationships with the various communities in Gungahlin including the Mosque, the Bahais and the Hindus.

We'd held a few bible studies, book readings to limited success.

I'd welcomed a number of new faces to the community, in worship, oasis, playgroup and other areas of our community life.

Advent and Christmas in 2019 were highlights of the year, times of celebration, prayer, anticipation, hope and joy.

And while the bushfires didn't affect us directly there was a lot of concern about the effect of smoke on the community and keeping everyone safe when we did gather. We spent a lot of time exploring how to keep people safe in a time where it was very difficult.

As we've travelled through the last 8 months our lives and community have been disrupted and turned upside down, through it all we've tried to stay in touch, worship and live out our discipleship by phone, hospitality, studying the bible, reading books, having discussions around video resources and prayed together. Some have thrived with a new reality while many have struggled and longed for familiar faces, music and structure.

Many of us have worshipped in a number of different ways too, some of us have used worship resources in our homes., others have walked together, some have prayed together and some have joined for worship online while others have used this time and space to worship with communities all over Australia and the world. One of my favourite stories from the last 6 months was a couple who shared with me that, over Holy Week

they'd attended Westminster Abbey for worship and had Prince Charles read the bible to them.

Earlier on in the isolation some leaders in the UCA discussed sharing the load together, we ran live worship from all over Australia over Facebook and had leaders from Indigenous, Korean and Tongan communities as well as from many states. This was fun to be a part of (though, our contribution was a beautiful mess) and meant that those who participated in it could hear the gospel preached in many different ways by many different voices.

Later in the season GUC began worshipping together online, attendance was small and some people enjoyed the structure while others struggled, I'd attempted to create a space that allowed for more personal connection and shared prayer rather than replicate our Sunday service. I recognise how difficult it is for many to be online, and for those of you who worked and schooled online, the last thing you wanted was more screen time.

Eventually we were able to start gathering again, and it's at this time I'd like to thank Chris and Bruce specifically as they were able to get the technology working well enough for us to stream a video of the worship live from the building to those who couldn't attend. It was a lot of work, and a steep learning curve but they've done an amazing job to get us here.

Billabong has continued to meet, for some of the year we met much more regularly online than we had, and then we held a few walks where we, and some of the parents of the young people could meet face to face.

We still have a long journey ahead of us, there are many people who have not returned, and if we want to be a growing faith community we need to continue to be hospitable and open to others, change is often difficult but we will adapt.

I mentioned earlier that, at the beginning of the new year the Church Council had been working on creating space for the church to revisit our core values, vision and hopes. We had hoped to do this in a way that would engage everyone and that would have broader scope than just "worship." During isolation we decided to engage Terence Corkin to help us work through some of what we were experiencing. The congregation has had it's share of conflict, particularly over worship style and preferences along with what seems to be a quick change in membership and participation and we really wanted to work through the issues that were beginning to challenge our ability to be a welcoming, creative, loving all

age community. Terence has been working through August and September to help us work through areas of conflict and, we hope that will enable us to again be a missional faith community. This has been a very difficult time for Church Council and, we hope that Terence's work will help us work through these issues quickly.

It's fortuitous that the lectionary readings from September and October have been from the book of Exodus and have followed a people whose lives had been radically changed, and who found themselves in a strange land. Unable to live and worship in familiar ways the community struggled, as did their leaders, trying a variety of different ways to remember God's presence in their lives and recall who's people they were. There are stories of grumbling, of leaders who failed, of a God who repented and golden idols made, yet throughout the story God is present with the people and eventually the people remember who's they are and who they're called to be. It needed a lot of reshaping, listening to the presence of God, changing lifestyle, prayer, sweat and tears to get there though.

I can't help but draw lines between that story of Exodus and our story, not that we'd been taken out of slavery, but we find ourselves in a strange land. For some this land is a place where they'll thrive, for others it's a place where they will struggle. For some it's a call to change and rethink what it means to follow God, worship and be in mission locally, for others it's a time to hold on to the familiar traditions and I'm sure GUC has people who have many different responses. I pray that 2021 can be a time for us to live out the gospel in our neighbourhoods and where our church can grow and thrive throughout the many ways we might need to adapt to live out God's call to love our neighbour.

Shalom

FROM OUR TREASURER

Narelle Dodd

Financial year 2019-20

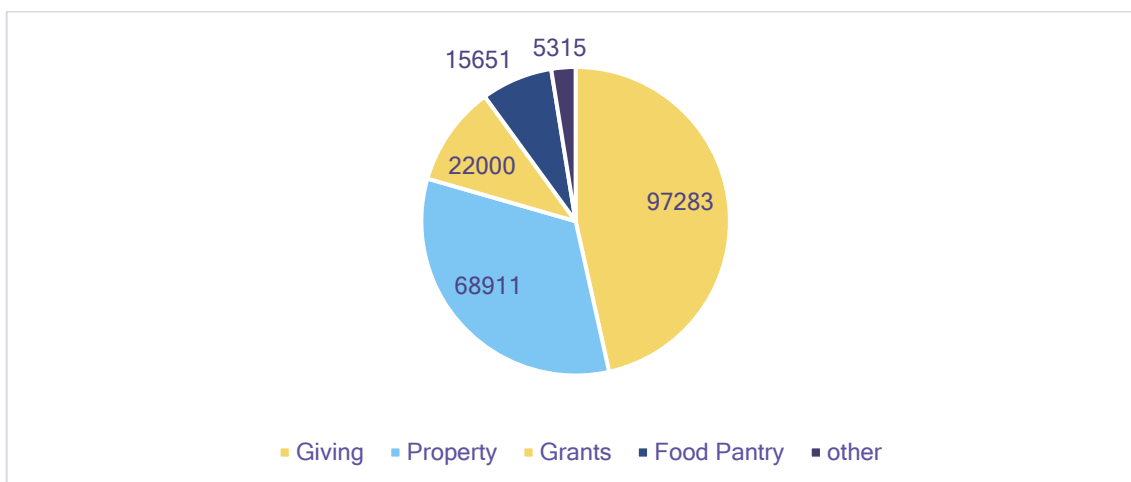
This summary of financial outcomes during the financial reporting period has not been audited. There may be some further minor adjustments.

In 2019-20 GUC made a total loss of \$6 866¹. This compares to a total loss of \$10 790 in 2018/19. While largely in line with what was budgeted, this was nevertheless better than expected given COVID restrictions. In particular, Federal government grants of \$22 000 offset the loss of hall hire in the final quarter of 2019-20.

GUC continues to have significant net assets of 3 300 246.67.

Where did our income come from?

In 2019/20 our total income was \$209 160². This was only slightly less than budgeted and around \$9 000 less than 2018/19. Most of our income came from four sources: congregational giving; income earned from the rental of the church premises; COVID related government grants and income from the food pantry.



Congregational giving was \$97 283. This was consistent with the previous financial year.

Our community centre continued to be well utilized providing a valuable income stream and opportunities for community engagement. Unfortunately, the church closed to all church hire in the final quarter of 2019-20 due to COVID. This meant income was over \$22 000 less than budgeted.

¹ Includes Mustard Seed Food Pantry

² Includes income from the Mustard Seed Food Pantry

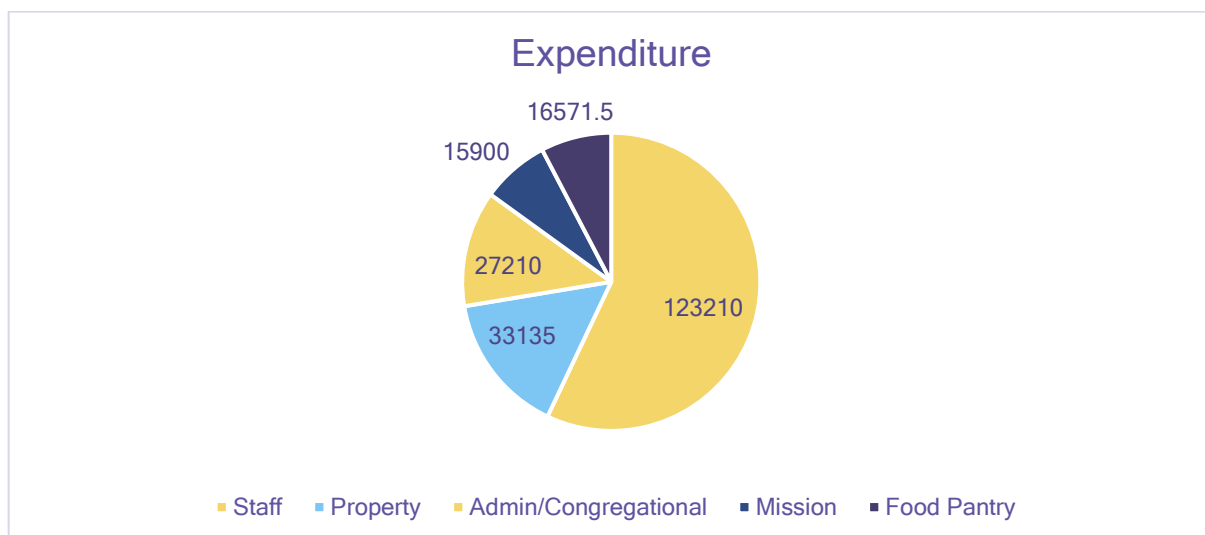
In the final quarter of 2019/20 GUC received a cash flow boost grant (\$10 000) and JobKeeper grants (\$12 000) from the Federal Government, as part of its economic response to COVID. Miraculously, this was almost the same amount by which income from hall hire fell!

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry received \$15 651 from providing food to people in need, as part of GUC's broader mission activity. During the last quarter of 2019/20 the pantry provided hampers free of charge to the community on behalf of the Canberra Relief Network. Income was therefore less this financial year compared to the previous year.

Other income included interest earned, GST that the church can claim back, and some other miscellaneous donations.

What did we spend?

We spent \$216 026³ in 2019/20. This was slightly under budget and some \$12 870 less than 2018/19. Staffing and property costs, our two largest expenses, were both under budget.



Staffing costs are our largest expense and comprise 57% of all GUC expenditure. There was a small increase in support staff wages as the Office and Food Pantry Administration role was readjusted to better support the food pantry.

Property costs came in at \$7000 under budget. Cleaning and waste removal were almost \$6000 less than budgeted as the church building was closed for the final quarter of the financial year. Overall, property costs were slightly higher (\$2110) compared to 2018/19.

Depreciation expenses (\$12923) and audit fees (\$6000) made up a significant proportion of administration and congregational costs. Depreciation costs were included at the request of the auditor following the congregational Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2019

³ Includes expenses in relation to the Mustard Seed Food Pantry

and were therefore not included in the budget approved by the 2019 AGM. As a result, administration/congregational costs were significantly more than allowed for in the budget (\$10410).

A key financial goal is to contribute at least 10% of our income to the wider work of the church. Each year GUC makes a contribution to support the work of Synod and the Canberra Presbytery. In 2019/20 we contributed \$15900, the same as in 2018/19 (\$10600 to Presbytery and \$5300 to Synod). GUC also funds a large proportion of the Office and Food Pantry Administration role to coordinate the Mustard Seed Food Pantry, a major mission activity of the church. Together, these financial contributions represent around 11% of our total income.

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry spent \$16571. The vast majority of this (\$13664) was on food.

What do we own?

GUC total assets are \$3 314 325. The vast majority of this is the church building and manse, land and other capital assets (furniture, sheds, play equipment etc).

We held \$210 340 in cash assets at 30 June 2020.

What do we owe?

Total liabilities at 30 June 2020 was \$14080, comprising taxation, superannuation, GST, ministers expense fund and accrued leave. GUC has no outstanding loans on property.

There is likely to be some minor adjustments to GST items as a reconciliation is undertaken prior to audit with the assistance of an accountant.

FROM OUR CHURCH LIFE WORKER

Alison Tweedie - Administration & Encouragement

Thank you once again for the opportunity to work within our community in this capacity. Thanks to all who encourage and support me in my role, I feel honoured to be trusted with this role and am very grateful.

Church Life Worker- Administration & Encouragement is a diverse role with three main areas.

- 1) Church Administration
- 2) Bookings & Building Manager
- 3) Oversight of the Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Usually in the area of Church Administration my role is to prepare and print the Bulletin each week, prepare church rosters quarterly, produce name tags for newcomers, keep our database up to date, prepare and produce the Church Contact Directory, collate the Volunteer Forms annually and prepare the Yearly Giving Envelopes. I also attend to emails and enquiries, order supplies for the kitchen, bathrooms and office and many other day-to-day tasks as well as more seasonal tasks throughout the year. I am often the face that welcomes and greets people who drop by our building throughout the week with a range of enquiries and needs, from the simple to the more complex

In January this year Chris Martin, on behalf of the church purchased a laptop so I could work remotely. This has proved to be very helpful working from home during COVID-19 lockdown and continues to assist in making work more flexible and accessible.

Since March 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19 many of my 'normal' duties have been put on hold and new duties and skills have been required. During March and April I was busy as we all scrambled to adapt to a new way of working and many things changed. Throughout May and June things settled. From July onwards work began to pick-up as we started to plan, prepare and move forward with the new normal.

As Bookings & Building Manager I liaise with our current tenants and organise any new or one-off events that happen in our facility.

In this role I liaise with our church cleaner and with the Church Property Group on maintenance issues.

My role as Mustard Seed Food Pantry Co-ordinator involves preparing and managing the rosters, orientating and training new volunteers and enabling and encouraging our team. Each week I place a food order with Foodbank, update our customer database and make Membership Cards for new customers. Throughout the year I attend Foodbank Forums, speak with community groups about the work of the pantry, liaise with our donors and supporters and of course each Friday I send out an email updating our team on the happenings from the past week.

My days of work are spread over Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, totaling 14.5 hours per week.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Worship Team

Margaret Reeson - Convenor

Unsuspecting, Worship Team began our work for the 2019-2020 period in the 'normal' way. Pauline Loughhead, Ranjini Rebera, Liz Warren, Jessica Marchant and Margaret Reeson met with Darren Wright about every six weeks. We would meet in each other's homes to plan services, seasons of the church year, music and art, and to be a sounding board for Darren in the area of worship.

Advent and Christmas 2019 included, among other things, Advent Reflections for daily use prepared by Ranjini; a combined Family Carols event, with activities for families, with our neighbours the Salvation Army on 14 Dec; A Blue Christmas Service on 22 Dec for those who find Christmas difficult, led by Margaret; series of Advent services shaped around the theme of the significance of the ancestors of Jesus, led by Darren. Because of the total fire ban, our Advent 'candles' were tall cylinders of coloured water.

After our first meeting in January, when we planned ahead for Lent, Easter and key events right through 2020, Margaret sent out the calendar, with the note: 'This may change as needed, but some key dates are...' A prophetic word, as almost nothing on that list has happened. By mid-March everything changed due to Covid-19. A sequence of artworks by Rose-Mary Faulkner planned for Lent and Easter were interrupted after the first two weeks. Since then the Worship Team has continued to meet via Skye or Zoom and done our best to support our worshipping life.

Some activities included:

- Lenten Reflections 2020 Journeying to the Cross and Beyond were prepared by Ranjini and distributed to 80 people for private use during Lent
- Distribution of a kit of cloth, candle and resources for 'Chapel in the home'.
- A 15-part sequence of Stations of the Cross, prepared by ten church members, including all Worship Team members for use during Holy Week and Easter
- Weekly Home Brewed Worship resources via email prepared by Darren with links to internet
- Weekly 'Simple Aid to Worship' prepared, printed and posted to members without access to internet, by Margaret and Ron Reeson
- Daily evening prayers, scripture, verse via email to 25 people, from Margaret

- Information distributed about options for viewing live-streaming from other congregations
- A group of members have continued to prepare Prayers for Others, to be shared each week.

By the end of May we began to explore using zoom, first for 'morning tea' then with simple worship services from 7 June. Numbers of those who connected with these events were disappointing. In August, under strict Covid-safe protocols we began meeting on-site every second week, with a zoom connection for those unable to attend. A challenge for everyone trying to offer resources during this time has been the very limited amount of feedback. Has it been helpful, or even noticed?

The GUC Checklist for Funerals was revised and updated during the year.

Thinking ahead, Ranjini plans another series of Advent reflections To us a Child is born for distribution in November 2020. A celebration of 25th anniversary of the congregation and 10th anniversary of the building is planned (in faith!) for February 2021

Music Team

Liz Warren - Coordinator

2020 started off well, with singers and musicians working on new songs for the congregation. However, that was short lived. The team looked at different ways music could be used, including using technology to prerecord music. It's a long and involved process and not easily done. The team is exploring how music will be presented under current guidelines, now we are back.

Our musicians and singers have been using the break to relax, look at possible new songs, and reflect on their continuation in the team. Playing and singing is a lot of work and a major commitment. Ngaire has decided to move on from GUC and we know she will be missed. She already is. We thank her for her many contributions to the music we sing and play. I have also decided that after playing at GUC for just over 20 years, and at previous churches, it's time to have a step back from regular playing.

Playgroup

Cassandra Nokham - Coordinator

Playgroup resumed back at the beginning of February 2020. We had quite a few new families arrive during the term. Our numbers were approximately 19 families. Most of these were regular throughout the term. Four of these families are from GUC.

In mid March, due to Covid, Playgroup stopped running. To keep in touch with families, we started a Playgroup Facebook page and Cass emailed families during the time off.

Playgroup resumed in term 3, firstly at Yerrabi Park and then back at the church when the Covid Plan was complete. We have now started term 4

We have had five families attending, on average about three each week. Those attending have a nice time catching up while the children play. We don't have a set craft activity or provide morning tea at the moment. We therefore don't require any of our church volunteers to come and make us cups of tea! They are missed!

Although I have sent emails letting families know we have started back, not all families have returned. We have had some babies born, some illness, and a grandparent returning overseas. I contacted ACT Playgroup association to let them know we have vacancies.

The number of toys put out is limited and are all washed at the end of the session. Parents sanitize and sign in on arrival.

This is an activity that I still enjoy doing as part of Gungahlin Uniting Church.

Girls' Brigade

Liz Warren - Captain



2020 has been labelled as The Year COVID Attempted to Steal Girls' Brigade. COVID failed!

The year started with three of our young women attending FonoMarae, our biennial national camp for Pioneers. I attended as a carer for one of the girls. This year it was a Stanwell Tops, and ran alongside Boys' Brigade's PAC (Pan Australian Camp). There was some doubt whether it would go ahead, given the bushfire conditions. However, with excellent risk management and bushfire planning, we were able to attend.

We had our final pre shutdown night of Brigade on 18th March. We were grateful to have Gordon Ramsay, MLA attend that night as part of our Young Australian work, to talk to us about the way government works in the ACT.

When we were closed down in March, we had already looked at what we could do to keep Brigade running. We had previously looked at how Girls' Brigade Queensland ran their remote company, and had some plans in place. We put together craft packs with weekly sheets for the Cadets and Juniors (Kinder to Year 5) and delivered them to our girls). The Seniors and Pioneers set up Zoom Brigade and we used them as a test to see how it would work for the entire company, starting in Term 2.

With the move to Zoom Brigade for Term 2, Darren organised a subscribed Zoom account via UCA. Without that, Girls' Brigade would have been almost impossible to run. While we didn't have all girls attend online, we were still able to run a program and stay in touch with them. In the meantime, Girls' Brigade Australia was working on a way to return to company nights when we were allowed.

Term 3 saw a return to In Real Life Brigade. While we haven't had all girls return, we have around 22 girls each night, and have had a new girl join us. We run the nights in a COVID Safe way, and the girls and parents have been very understanding of the changes we have had to make.

Our Queen's Award candidates are continuing their work, although current conditions have slowed things down a bit.

Girls' Brigade Australia have moved their Pioneer Leadership Training to an online format this year. We have had three of our girls undertake training, alongside girls from all around Australia and I was privileged to be involved in presenting two some sessions in the training, and organise and host a training day.

Barbara, who had been on leave for 18 months, returned in Term 3. She is working alongside Carrie with the Cadets, our youngest girls. Once again, thanks to our leaders, Lorelle, Fiona, Carrie, Barbara, as well as Heather, Brooke and Caroline, as well as our chaplain, Shirley. And thanks to GUC for your prayers and support.

Boys' Brigade

Bruce Warren - Captain



Sisyphus is a figure from Greek mythology who, as king of Corinth, became infamous for his general cunning and trickery. He ultimately got his comeuppance when Zeus dealt him the eternal punishment of forever rolling a boulder up a hill. Every time he nears the top of the hill, the weight of the boulder becomes too much, and it would roll back down to the bottom. Sisyphus must start again from the beginning. To a certain extent that sums up 2020.

Bushfires at the South Coast at the end of last year forced us to put a Seniors canoeing trip on hold. As the bushfires continued, and indeed worsened, we had to cancel the trip. Every three years Boys' Brigade groups hold their Pan Australia Camp. It went by the catchy tagline PAC 20 in 2020. It was to be held at Stanwell Tops, south of Sydney. Bushfires surrounding Sydney threatened to scuttle the camp, but surprisingly it still went ahead with some minor changes. I and four of our Seniors attended. Everyone had a great time. It was 10 days of almost non stop activity. We shared the campsite with Girls' Brigade who were also holding their biennial camp. Our Boys' Brigade group had the most hospital visits (2) including one leader!

We started our normal weekly meetings in February with new members, while retaining most of our boys from last year. Our numbers were large, we were approaching 40 boys. We also managed to retain some Senior boys as future leaders. Things were going well, then COVID hit! On our last night of Brigade before lockdown two special events took place. The first was that we shared communion with the boys who attended that final Wednesday meeting in March. The second was when the leaders gathered for prayer at the end of the meeting. We made a commitment to stay in touch and we prayed for each boy under our care. In short succession we had to cancel or defer our annual Coast Camp, Anzac Day participation, and all other external activities.

When they went into lockdown before us, Boys' Brigade UK hastily put together a program called BB@HOME. They provided weekly activities and devotions for boys to complete at home. They generously shared the material with BB groups worldwide. I had no idea how to run a Boys' Brigade group during a pandemic but the BB@HOME material provided activities to keep boys engaged. The Uniting Church kindly provided us with Zoom accounts that allowed us to run Boys' Brigade over Zoom sessions. While not as

good as being able to meet in person it did provide us a way to continue operation. It was encouraging to see how many boys joined us on this journey.

Every Wednesday night Boys' Brigade would be run from the Warren family dining table, Girls' Brigade would be run from our family room or bedroom (apparently the Boys' Brigade made too much noise!). Boys' Brigade split into two sessions, Juniors and Anchors meeting for an hour and at 6:30, Seniors. We ran activities from the BB@HOME program, online games, online competitions, we even had a Zoom Pizza Night! We started off small, but it grew, particularly while boys were doing home learning but started to decline as time wore on.

Third Term allowed for the return to in person meetings. A Covid Safe plan and risk assessments were produced and approved by Church Council. After four months Zoom Boys' Brigade it was great to again meet in person. Some activities have had to change. Parades are different, we cannot play some of the games we used to play. Some boys even learnt how to mop a floor! Some boys have not returned due to health concerns or for other reasons.

What has really stuck with me is the resilience of our boys and leaders. Boys came along to Zoom meetings. Leaders have had to pivot into new ways of doing things and parents have tolerated the changes that we have put in place to keep boys safe. The problems of this year produced opportunities to learn new skills, try new things. Leaders have stood up when it would be easy to run away and hide. Our finances have taken a hit. It has been a tough year. It has taken more effort to run Boys' Brigade during a pandemic than normal.

I am grateful to our leaders, Thomas, Chris, Cameron, Wayne, Mark, Alistair, Jay, Billy and Phil, as well as Darren who serves as our company chaplain. Without their commitment and energy Boys' Brigade at GUC would not happen. I am thankful for supportive parents who bring their boys to Brigade. I am also thankful to the church for their support and members of the congregation who help out when needed. I am most thankful to the boys who regularly turn up and joined in the adventure. As I have said before, we have a special group here!

Oasis

Katrina Maciver

This year we have been unable to run Oasis due to the COVID 19 situation we have all found ourselves in. We looked forward to a time where we can bring our children back together to participate in activities about faith and learn the stories of Jesus.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ngaire for all her hard work and dedication as a leader of the Oasis program over the years. Sadly, Ngaire will not be continuing this role with us and therefore we will be looking for not only volunteers to support Katrina with the program but also someone who may be willing to share the role of a leader.

Billabong

Darren Wright

Earlier in the year Billabong met regularly for breakfast and conversation about life and faith. We had a few younger people join early in 2020 and had intended to move towards confirmation workshops and interviews with congregation members before COVID hit.

Billabong continued to meet regularly online over isolation and the close of on site worship. We met via zoom most weeks and eventually for group walks when it became possible.

The Billabong crew were a constant presence in my life over isolation and made some of the experience much more palatable, I thank them for their ministry to me over the year.

We are planning a couple social walks and meals in November and December and back to confirmation early in 2021.

COMMUNITY AND MISSION

Mustard Seed Food Pantry

Alison Tweedie

The Mustard Seed Food Pantry creates a space for friendship and community to happen and thrive. It is the tool that allows us to incorporate our surrounding community by building relationships with many.

Measuring outcomes or accurately counting the benefits of the pantry cannot be found in numbers or statistics, income or expenditure. The social and community impact of our work can never be fully measured. Our church values are to be- Welcoming of the Stranger, Inclusive of all People, Sharing the Faith Journey Together, Friendly Community and Socially and Environmentally Just, what better way to practically demonstrate all these than through our work each week at the pantry.

In June 2020 we recognised seven years since we first opened our doors and we continue to remember and are thankful to all who were involved in the establishment phase.

The past eight months have presented many challenges to the running of the pantry. By the end of March 2020 we had ceased to provide our usual pantry service due to the impact of COVID-19. The ACT government implemented the Canberra Relief Network (CRN) that streamlined services like ours. Hamper boxes of free food for those in need were delivered and then distributed on Thursday's from the pantry from April until September. During this time the Pantry Management Committee also started planning how we could move forward, adapt and return to our normal service.

Many of our volunteers aged over 70 are now no longer encouraged to be apart of the work of the pantry due to COVID-19 health concerns. This has meant we have had to start from scratch in re-building our team of volunteers. I have been pleased at the response to a call for volunteers and we now have a team of twelve people.

I wish to thank all volunteers who have previously been involved but who are now no longer able to participate. Thank you for your commitment and dedication over the many years. I miss you all greatly but am glad that many of you still drop by the pantry on occasions and are still connected and interested in hearing about the happenings of the pantry through my weekly update.

On Thursday 1st October 2020 Mustard Seed resumed a revised COVID-19 safe service allowing customers to once again enter the pantry and choose their own food.

Pre-covid we had a community of around 120 customers that shopped on a regular basis. Most weeks we served between 45 and 55 customers. Since re-opening in October

customer attendance has been averaging around 12 people each week. Things will continue to be slow until the Canberra Relief Network ceases in March 2021 and our regular customers learn we are now operating again Thursday evening opening time (6-7pm) continues to be a popular and convenient time for many. We are the only pantry in Canberra that opens after hours.

We continue to source the majority of our food from Foodbank NSW/ACT based in Sydney, there is a pallet or two delivered every Wednesday. OzHarvest also drop by on Wednesday's to deliver fresh fruit, vegetables, milk, bread and sometimes meat that they have collected from local supermarkets. The Crace Organic Community Garden continues to deliver vegetables weekly on a Thursday morning.

The generosity from the greater Gungahlin community and from other local churches never ceases to amaze. We have regular donations from the Indonesian Church community and Saint Ninian's Uniting Church. We are blessed most weeks with donations from a wide range of people who visit us on a regular basis to drop off donations. Our own church community continues to provide donations through our Giving Basket, which is part of our weekly Sunday offering.

Below are a few extracts of stories I have shared in my weekly updates to the pantry team over the past year. They are stories about conversations I have had or situations I have witnessed from week to week. They tell of the impact and difference we make to the lives of people who come by each week to shop and talk. At times the work of the pantry can seem overwhelming but then an encounter with those whom we exist to serve and we find ourselves touched by people in the most difficult of situations and are given a refreshing perspective for what we are doing.

This extract is from February 2020, a few weeks before COVID-19 hit and changed the way we operated for the next six months.

It is moving and satisfying to know we are assisting those most in need, those who are struggling more than just finding it hard to make ends meet, people who have nothing. Recently a deaf lady, who we believe is a refugee, with three boys, one of whom is also deaf, arrived at our doors. She has no English, no Auslan sign language and finds herself in a new country with her family and we are struggling to find ways to communicate with her. Even our gestures and sign language seem lost on her. Yesterday when she came to pay for her modest selection of food she opened her palm to me which held a handful of silver coins which was not nearly enough to pay for her items. I closed her palm with her handful of coins intact and handed her the basket of food. I am hoping she understood my gesture was an indication that I understand life is hard for her and that this was an act of love.

This story is from March 2020 just before we joined the Canberra Relief Network but while we were providing our own \$10 hampers.

Despite the challenges of the day there were a number of touching moments (not literally!). A family man who works hard to provide for his family in a physically demanding job came and purchased his hamper, meat items and a few extras for friends. After paying for his own food he pulled \$20 from his wallet to pass to us saying “this is for anyone who can’t pay for a hamper”. This man who obviously struggles financially melted my heart with his kindness and thoughts for others. I thanked him for his offer but let him know that we’ve got this. In these trying times it’s good to know goodness can still prevail.

And lastly here is a story I shared recently in my weekly update, since re-opening in October 2020, of an interaction we had with a customer.

Last week a lady supporting her husband and a child came by for the first time. This week she returned to do some more shopping. After she had purchased her pantry and frozen food items Ngaire handed her three full bags of free fruit and vegetables. One of those bags was a plastic shopping bag full to the brim with freshly cut organic silver-beet, delivered to us yesterday morning by John at the Crace Organic Gardens. This lady exclaimed with much enthusiasm, as she looked at the silver-beet bag “This is great!” and went on to explain how she had also received a bag last week and had gone home and made two or three meals with the silver-beet as the ‘hero’ ingredient of these meals. She was so happy and amazed at the amount and quality of the produce. She was again looking forward to making some nutritious meals for her family this coming week. I hope her son feels the same way she does about silver beet!

We always need to be on the look out for signs of life and ways to connect! It is always lovely to hear the difference we make in the lives of those we meet each week. What a privilege to be a part of our Gungahlin community in this way. Thank you to everyone who participated in the life of the pantry this year, those who served, those who donated and those who keep us in their thoughts and pray for the work of the pantry.

PASTORAL CARE AND SMALL GROUPS

Spice Kids

Jean Terbeth

In normal times we meet after church for an informal lunch on the fifth Sunday of the month. Hopefully we can resume this fellowship very soon.

Pub Group

Matt Grudnoff

Pub group, like many activities was forced to take a break during the year because of COVID. But it's back. Pub group is a social gathering where we share a meal at the District pub in Crace. We meet every second Wednesday. Please contact Matt on 0402 483 782 if you would like to know more.

Tea and Talk

Elizabeth Phythian

T&T, an opportunity for catching up with other GUC community members over a cuppa, recommenced its monthly get-togethers at the Gungahlin Lakes Club in February and March this year. Then, when COVID-19 became our new reality, T&T gatherings were put on hold.

As the COVID restrictions were eased, T&T resumed meeting at The Lakes in July. In order to comply with COVID-19 regulations, attendance was limited to those who had attended in the past and an RSVP system was introduced to ensure that the group numbers did not exceed a cap of 20.

It was a joy to meet up again, and for many it was the first time that they had been able to meet face-to-face with each other since the lifting of the COVID restrictions. These gatherings have provided lovely re-connection time, and the opportunity to converse and share the highs and lows of life.

PROPERTY, MAINTENANCE AND BOOKINGS

Property Team

Mark Butson

The team deals with matters relating to property management and maintenance of the building and grounds of the GUCCC facility and also the manse.

The Property Team consists of:

Mark Butson, Mark Phythian, Steve Sweet and Alison Tweedie.

Jobs Completed

- Installation of Solar panels (this project was initiated and led by Ron Reeson)

Ongoing

- Removal of green waste
- Managing fire protection and alarm systems
- Managing annual inspection of roof anchors
- Managing repairs

Bookings, Building Hire and Cleaning

Alison Tweedie

Throughout the last months of 2019 the building continued to be used at capacity. At the beginning of 2020 all our hirers returned for their usual bookings. In March due to the COVID-19 situation our building temporarily closed and all hiring was suspended. Our major tenants for July 2019- March 2020 included Navitas (English classes), Pointe2Pointe Ballet, Canberra Karate Academy and Girl Guides. The Canberra Karate Academy ceased hiring at the end of February 2020.

Slowly, since August 2020 our building has started to re-open to existing and new hall hirer's.

Since the re-opening of the building in August our regular hall hirers now include Girl Guides and a new group- Belco Arts, who provide art classes to migrant women. P2P and Navitas are yet to return. During the building closure period and since re-opening we have had many new enquiries into the hiring of the building as many community groups looked for new venues that were more adequate or suitable to their needs especially in regards to

safe capacity numbers due to COVID-19 restrictions. There has been extra work negotiating terms and conditions of use to all hirers including implementing COVID-19 Safety Plans.

We continue to have good relationships with our tenants and they are very happy with the high standard that our facility offers.

As well as these groups, there are a number of other regular users including Boys' Brigade, Playgroup, Gamblers Anonymous and the Mustard Seed Food Pantry.

We also continue to host special one-off events for our church members, including birthday parties, weddings and funerals. We have hosted a number of events run by Presbytery. We have also hosted 'Safe Church Training Workshops' and other training days, Saturday Afternoon Games and Pot-Luck Dinners- all pre-covid of course.

It can be challenging at times keeping the building clean, in good order and ready for each use. There are many people who come and go through our doors each week. There is equipment and services that require on-going maintenance and attention. Some of these include servicing the instant hot water dispensers, dishwasher and air conditioner units. Other providers that attend our site regularly are our fire maintenance company, our waste removal provider, sanitary bins provider and a number of other services that go along with the maintenance and legal obligations of owning a building. We also engage the services of a security company and regular call upon our plumber, painter and electrician. In May this year we had our chairs professionally steamed cleaned as well as the carpet in the Main Auditorium.

We continue to engage a professional cleaning company to keep our building clean. At present they come once a week. As the building returns to having more use our cleaning needs will increase. During the months of April to August 2020 we were able to suspend our cleaning contract for this period to save on costs as the building was not in use during this time.

Kelly Dodd continues in her role as Accounts Manager. Kelly is responsible for paying our many invoices and keeping on top of all things financial and works alongside the church Treasurer- Narelle Dodd.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance Sheet

Gungahlin Uniting Church 108 Valley Avenue Gungahlin ACT 2912 PO Box 84, Gungahlin ACT 2912		
Balance Sheet As of June 2020		
ASSETS		
Current Account non-UFS		
Total Current Account non-UFS		\$28,476.30
Ministers' Benefit Accs		
IMEA account		\$5,907.43
Fixed Assets		
Land		
Church Grounds	\$400,000.00	
Total Land		\$400,000.00
Building & Contents		
Church Sanctuary	\$1,893,431.06	
Manse #2 Land	\$297,000.00	
Manse 2 Building	\$450,000.00	
White Shed	\$5,000.00	
Food Pantry Building	\$36,900.00	
Food Garden	\$7,058.73	
Food Garden Accum Deprec.	(\$6,324.89)	
Contents Church Sanct	\$37,319.39	
Contents Church Accum Deprec.	(\$33,402.57)	
Contents Halls	\$18,423.65	
Contents Hall Accum Deprec.	(\$15,760.48)	
Contents Office	\$11,659.58	
Contents Office Accum Deprec.	(\$10,434.57)	
Total Building & Contents		\$2,690,869.90
Investments		
UFS Accounts		
Total UFS Accounts [A5]		\$166,356.25
Invest Sale Proceeds [A9]		
Sale Proceeds UFS	\$15,507.93	
Total Invest Sale Proceeds [A9]		\$15,507.93
Total Investments		\$181,864.18
Debtors [A11]		
Accounts Receivable	\$108.24	
Total Debtors [A11]		\$108.24
Other Assets [A12]		
Play Equipment/ground	\$14,460.65	
Play Equipment Accum Deprec.	(\$13,014.63)	
Furniture	\$45,025.83	
Furniture Accum Deprec.	(\$40,103.09)	
Computers	\$6,543.17	
Computers Accum Deprec.	(\$5,812.81)	
Total Other Assets [A12]		\$7,099.12
Total ASSETS		\$3,314,325.17
LIABILITIES		
Minister BExp Liability [L3]		
Min. Wright Benefit Liability	\$6,373.83	
Total Minister BExp Liability [L3]		\$6,373.83
Provision Staff Entitlmts [L4]		
Provn for Annual Leave	(\$1,364.06)	
Other Liabilities [L6]		
Tax Summary		
GST Collected	\$327.11	
GST Paid	\$549.88	
PAYG Payable	\$3,510.01	
Total Tax Summary		\$4,387.00
UCA Payroll Funds Payable		
Superannuation Payable	\$4,681.73	
Total UCA Payroll Funds Payable		\$4,681.73
Total LIABILITIES		\$14,078.50
Net Assets		\$3,300,246.67
RETAINED FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds [RF1]		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$554,753.59	
Accum General Funds	\$2,752,359.44	
Current Surplus/deficit (RF2)	(\$6,866.36)	
Total Accumulated Funds [RF1]		\$3,300,246.67
Total RETAINED FUNDS		\$3,300,246.67

Profit and Loss Statement

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Gungahlin Uniting Church

108 Valley Avenue
Gungahlin ACT 2912
PO Box 84, Gungahlin ACT 2912

Profit & Loss Statement

July 2019 To June 2020

ABN: 15 086 284 575

Email: accounts@gungahlinuniting.org

INCOME		
Ministry & Missions Income		
Congregation Offerings [R1]		
Congregation plate giving	\$28,085.00	
Congregation direct giving	\$69,198.00	
Total Congregation Offerings [R1]		\$97,283.00
Total Ministry & Missions Income		\$97,283.00
Other M&M Receipts		
Government Grants [R5]		
	\$22,000.00	
Donations Non-UCA [R8]		
	\$875.00	
Total Other M&M Receipts		\$22,875.00
Interest Income		
Interest Non-UCA sources [R6]		
	\$34.17	
Interest UFS Invest [R7]		
	\$1,627.03	
Total Interest Income		\$1,661.20
Property Leasing Income		
Property Income [R10]		
Halls		
	\$68,700.02	
Residential Properties		
	\$210.96	
Total Property Income [R10]		\$68,910.98
Total Property Leasing Income		\$68,910.98
Other Income		
Other Income [R12]		
GST Recovered on MEA		
	\$2,778.58	
Total Other Income [R12]		\$2,778.58
Total Other Income		\$2,778.58
Total INCOME		\$193,508.76
Gross Profit		\$193,508.76
EXPENSES		
Staff Costs		
Ministry Stipends Payroll [P1]		
Ministry Stipends & Allowances		
	\$79,046.14	
Ministry Superannuation		
	\$8,298.86	
Total Ministry Stipends Payroll [P1]		\$87,345.00
Support Staff Salaries [P2]		
Support Staff Salaries & Wages		
	\$29,950.74	
Support Staff Superann [P2A]		
	\$2,573.96	
Workers Compensation [P2B]		
	\$2,839.00	
Total Support Staff Salaries [P2]		\$35,363.70
Provn for Annual Leave		
	\$501.24	
Total Staff Costs		\$123,209.94
Property Related Costs		
General Maintenance [P6]		
Electrical Repairs		
	\$988.10	
Plumbing Repairs		
	\$886.00	
Cleaning & Waste Removal		
	\$10,249.80	
Replacement Fittings		
	\$1,352.41	
Fire and Security Systems		
	\$1,917.70	

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

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Total General Maintenance [P6]		\$15,394.01
Property Overheads		
Property Insurance [P8]	\$4,787.00	
Electricity & Gas [P9]	\$8,490.76	
Water Rates [P10]	\$2,132.99	
Council Rates [P11]	\$2,330.18	
Total Property Overheads		\$17,740.93
Total Property Related Costs		\$33,134.94
Mission Costs & Giving		
UCA Living is Giving [P12]	\$5,300.00	
Presbytery Levies [P14]	\$10,600.00	
Total Mission Costs & Giving		\$15,900.00
Administration & Congregation		
Admin & Office		
Audit Fees [P16]	\$6,000.00	
Professional Services [P16A]	\$1,560.73	
Banking Services [P17]	\$69.09	
Depreciation Expense	\$12,923.14	
Stationery & Printing [P22]	\$2,700.44	
Telecommunications [P23]	\$1,036.24	
Postage & Courier [P24]	\$297.90	
Total Admin & Office		\$24,587.54
Licences		\$239.88
Other Expenses [P25]		
Edu Materials (excl mission)	\$163.62	
Total Other Expenses [P25]		\$163.62
Total Administration & Congregation		\$24,991.04
Congregation/Church Services		
Fellowship Expenses [P26]		
Worship & Music	\$776.65	
Hospitality	\$542.05	
Meeting Costs [P27]	\$120.00	
Members' Training/confs [P28]	\$780.00	
Total Fellowship Expenses [P26]		\$2,218.70
Total Congregation/Church Services		\$2,218.70
Total EXPENSES		\$199,454.62
Operating Profit		(\$5,945.86)
Income Generation Activity Inc		
Food Pantry Income		
FP - Sales/Income/Donations	\$15,651.00	
Total Food Pantry Income		\$15,651.00
Total Income Generation Activity Inc		\$15,651.00
Income Generation Activity Exp		
Management Employment		
Salaries & Wages [P34]	\$1,460.44	
Total Management Employment		\$1,460.44
Mustard Seed Expenses		
FP - Purchase goods for sale	\$13,664.47	

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

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Profit & Loss Statement

July 2019 To June 2020

FP - Other Food Pantry expense	\$1,446.59	
Total Mustard Seed Expenses		\$15,111.06
Total Income Generation Activity Exp		\$16,571.50
Net Profit/(Loss)		(\$6,866.36)

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

FINDING HOPE IN A PANDEMIC

The following words have crept into our vocabulary over the course of 2020.

Can you find them?

d	c	l	i	m	a	t	e	e	w	g	q	r	v	h	z	h	c	l	g
e	l	b	b	u	b	o	l	r	g	p	e	l	m	o	o	z	i	h	n
d	e	t	n	e	d	e	c	e	r	p	n	u	c	m	c	n	t	q	i
n	o	c	j	o	c	f	k	b	e	d	h	k	e	g	o	d	s	u	m
a	o	q	i	t	i	a	r	e	u	a	i	s	r	i	n	i	a	a	a
r	c	i	i	m	e	t	k	u	i	s	c	v	t	l	t	s	l	r	e
t	v	o	s	r	e	b	a	l	s	h	h	c	o	d	a	t	p	a	r
s	n	a	b	s	o	d	s	l	o	t	u	f	a	c	c	a	o	n	t
f	m	t	c	j	e	t	n	o	l	d	r	m	i	o	t	n	r	t	s
e	u	o	l	c	o	c	l	a	o	e	a	a	h	r	y	c	c	i	h
o	f	o	k	r	i	i	e	r	p	g	c	y	t	e	e	e	i	n	o
q	v	a	m	e	n	n	p	r	e	z	f	n	i	i	q	z	m	e	p
e	g	z	s	g	v	e	e	a	n	o	i	t	a	l	o	s	i	g	e
p	k	s	o	u	r	d	o	u	g	h	h	u	f	c	k	n	v	q	c
c	h	a	l	l	e	n	g	i	n	g	n	w	o	d	k	c	o	l	q

bubble	distance	jobkeeper	reproduction
bushfire	election	lockdown	safe
cancellation	faith	love	smoke
challenging	frustration	microplastic	sourdough
climate	hailstorm	outbreak	stranded
contact	homeschooling	pandemic	streaming
covid	hope	quarantine	unprecedented
damage	isolation	recession	vaccine
			zoom

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13