



TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH

Annual Report 2021



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Minister's Report

From Galatians chapter 5: Freedom in Christ – *“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. So, stand firm and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery...for the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

We don't seem to have had much freedom in 2021 with all the COVID restrictions. The successive lockdowns have been burdens that have limited our independence by restricting our movements, imposing mask wearing and curtailing meetings with our family and friends. Nevertheless, many have been able to reassess aspects of their lives through this “new normal.”

The passage of scripture quoted above is primarily a call to action through our relationship with God in Christ. While this year our external life has been limited, our internal life, energised by the Spirit could actually be enhanced. It is inspiring to read the stories of those whose liberty has been taken away through imprisonment or disability and how they have coped with the experience by growing and maturing through it. So, to paraphrase St Paul's words to the folk in Galatia, “stand firm...Christ has set you free therefore show the fruit of the Spirit and don't be burdened by the yoke of slavery.”

There are many to thank for their commitment to TUC this year. Let me begin with those who led our worship services through COVID this year: the Rev. John Edwards who has additionally been a great strength in pastoral care; the Rev. Gillian Crozier, the Rev. Wal Baker (congratulations on 50 years of ordination) and the Rev. Peter Beale who has done a great job officiating at TUC weddings and managing brides and wedding parties!

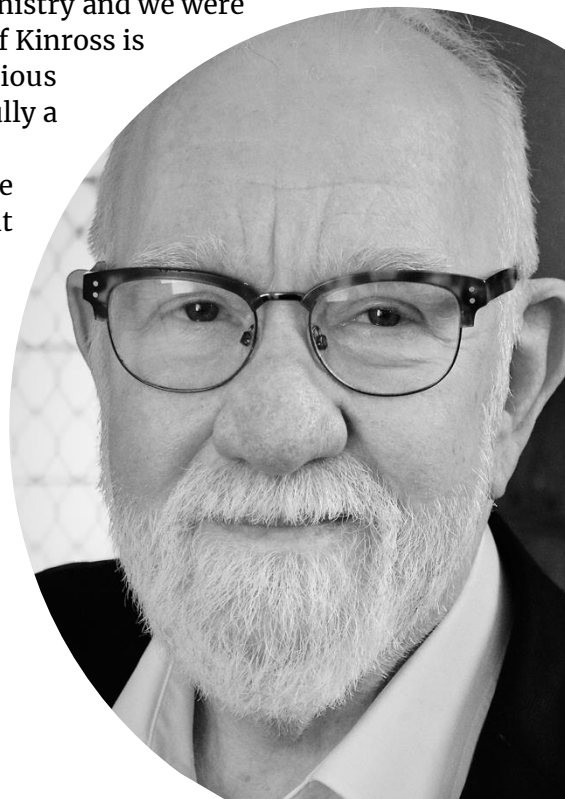
Services have been livestreamed this year and our thanks go to the remarkable team under Jonathan Lancaster's and Barbara McKinnon's leadership and skills. Livestreaming does give us a wider congregational audience and we are always seeking new ways to “market” this ministry.

Jennifer Chou has again provided outstanding music throughout the year. With all the limitations Jennifer has kept lively communication with the choir through recordings and Sunday morning solos.

Pastoral care remains a priority at TUC and we are all grateful to Christine Brown, Rev. John Edwards and Christine's team of Elders and the pastoral team. As our congregation ages there are higher demands for visits and communication with those who have served our community over the years.

Kinross/UAT continues to be an important part of our outreach ministry and we were sad to see Susie Shears leave us this year. The role of the director of Kinross is vital for good relations on our campus between the church, the various artists, the café, John Macrae Centre and the Kindergarten. Hopefully a new director will be appointed in the coming year. Nina Mumford, Pamela Wilson and those who serve on the Kinross committee have worked hard to keep this initiative of TUC alive. We are pleased that Chris Begg was welcomed onto the committee this year to assist with the Kinross finances.

The Church Council and Management Team have been active under challenging conditions. Craig Simonson has worked tirelessly to keep our finances in order and Jon and Thomson Sennitt have kept on top of property needs. We convey thanks to Jenny Stewardson the chair of Church Council and to Malcolm Jack for his work as acting chair for the first part of the year. There have been good relationships among our staff which serves our community well and we sincerely thank all the church staff.



The Tuesday night Zoom Bible study has been well attended. Our last study was on Karen Armstrong's book 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life. It was great to be a part of a lively discussion.

I am aware that I am writing this report after I have left TUC. I am thankful for the ten years I had at TUC and grateful for the kindness and support I received. While it was a pity that my time among you ended while COVID restrictions were in place and we were unable to celebrate on the day with a church lunch, I did receive many cards and emails that thanked me for my ministry. My prayer is that the next minister at Toorak will have your support and your willingness to minister within the congregation and the wider community.

May God bless you all.

Rev Dr Christopher Page
Minister

Church Council Report

2021 at TUC was a year of change, farewells and loss, but also one of renewal and celebration. We had hoped COVID and its restrictions were over, but in fact the number of lockdowns increased. Despite this, with a small but enthusiastic team (including the tireless Barbara McKinnon and Jonathan Lancaster) we kept livestream services going successfully, and pastoral care under Christine Brown continued with phone calls and ministerial visits when possible. Our weekly Update included interesting experiences elicited by Fiona Thomas, from a number of our congregation members.

I was assisted during the year by Pamela Wilson as Deputy Chair, Malcolm Jack as Secretary and Craig Simonson as Treasurer. During the year, Carrlo and Malcolm Jack decided not to renew their Church Council membership, and Catriona DeVere joined the Council as Secretary in July. Both Secretaries were of invaluable help to me.

A number of noteworthy actions have taken place this year. The UAT director Susie Shears resigned in June due to family commitments, having organised some very successful exhibitions for us. The Manse café has found it difficult to operate under COVID. They have done some refurbishment to the kitchen and café itself and provided take away meals. Colin Attenborough has taken over as chair of our IT committee, with the resignation of Mather Mason. The NBN was finally operational at TUC, due to Colin's gentle persistence. It was decided to discontinue the use of the JMC bus to bring people to church on Sundays due to the limitations on numbers able to be present at church. Dancing class experienced difficulties as it was not possible to hold the classes due to COVID, and this caused some disappointment among the students. Lin Cooper did an amazing job keeping in contact with the parents regarding the changing arrangements. Donations from Margaret and James St John of items which had belonged to Margaret's father Dr Watson, were kindly presented to our archives. It was decided to establish a Communications Committee to keep people in contact and to develop our use of online and social media.

Some Toorak Ecumenical activities were cancelled due to COVID: The Good Friday Way of the Cross Walk, and volunteers working in supermarkets for Food for Friends. The Op Shop was closed for a number of weeks. Bronwyn Davis Jones has replaced Wendy Ritchie as a TUC representative on the Op Shop Board. Ecumenical services were limited to the Advent service held at St John's, led by the choir of Trinity College. Back at TUC, the John Macrae Centre had had to close due to COVID but had a limited reopening in April. Our buildings were quiet during COVID's shut down, and heavy rains caused some flooding problems – and extra work for Property Chair, Jon Sennitt and James Widdowson. Office renovations were underway during the year. The John Mackenzie Kindergarten was the only area at TUC which stayed open during COVID. A lease between TUC and the JMK has been signed and is awaiting final Synod approval. It will commence in 2022 comprising two five-year options to take us to 31 Dec 2031.

The groups who use our Hall complex have had difficulties during COVID. Bridge was able, when possible, to have limited numbers still attending. The longstanding tai chi instructor, Gary Jackson, decided to retire during the final term. The group, keen to continue, managed at the end of the year with a "self-service" arrangement, and will appoint a new teacher in 2021.

2021 was the year of our Minister Rev Dr Christopher Pages' retirement in August from TUC after ten years. We have benefitted very much from his warm and inclusive manner and from his theological insights and wish him and Anne all the best for retirement. In March, a joint Nominating Committee to find a new Minister was established. Our representatives are Michael Kenihan, James St John, Catriona DeVere, Lucy Lewis, Malcolm Jack and Anna Field. The Presbytery ministers are Rev Duncan McLeod and Rev Ray Gormann. Prompt preparation was done to prepare TUC's profile for Synod and completed in May. Meanwhile, we were assisted in Supply work by Rev Peter Beale in July when Chris was on leave, and then Rev Gillian Crozier in September. Rev Peter Whitaker kindly took on Supply with us in October, including the Christmas services. He has proved a very popular choice. He will kindly stay on until we find a new Minister.

He was ably assisted by our associate Ministers – John Edwards and Wal Baker. John Edwards had recovered well from a hip replacement operation earlier in the year.

Peter Beale has kindly worked with us for several years. He has celebrated our weddings, taken Sunday service, done pastoral care and sung in our choir, but he has now taken up a permanent ministerial position at Williamstown.

During the year, there have sadly been a number of deaths among our congregation: Lois McKay, Annette Davies' husband Graham, Joan Earle, and John Wischer. Our thoughts are with their families and friends. We think of those of our congregation who have not been well this year. Congratulations are due to our members who celebrated their 90th birthdays These include John Boykett, Barbara Sawyer, Graeme Baldwin, Ian McAlister and Helen Lockwood.

The theological discussion group was re-established, and met weekly, led by Chris Page and John Edwards on Zoom and later by Peter Whitaker. There were many fruitful discussions on Karen Armstrong's 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life, and the Book of Revelations.

COVID regulations in August meant that face-to-face farewells to the Pages could not take place and had to be postponed. Chris and Anne were able to stay on at the Gardiner Manse, taking over the rent themselves. This arrangement will work well, until the building is sold. A livestream service with a limited number of participants in the church was possible for the "releasing of ties" between Chris and the congregation. Presbytery Minister Rev Duncan McLeod was in attendance. The gift from the congregation of a leather chair and a beautiful wooden crozier hand made by Jennifer Chou, were presented at the end of the service. Farewell speeches were made in the church and at the post service online coffee session. Later in the year, a face-to-face post service farewell morning tea was held for Chris Page and Anne, with a special cake supplied by Isobel Negri.

In November we celebrated Rev Wal Baker's 50 years since his ordination with a special service and morning tea. It was attended by Rev Anneke Oppewal and other special guests.

New regulations also meant inventive ways were developed to manage people in church as well as online services. COVID marshals were needed to check on mask wearing, vaccine status and QR details. Holy Communion was administered (when possible) with the use of rubber gloves and small tongs; wafers replaced bread. Jonathan worked out a way using Zoom to enable our Bible readers appear to be in church instead of home. This replaced people reading directly from their gardens or in their homes. Weddings and funerals made use of our online facilities when numbers were restricted. The congregation increasingly became more comfortable going online for their offering.

We thank our office staff for their hard work during the year – Catriona, Bronwen and Anne – who had to work under difficulty from home. We were grateful to James Widdowson and his assistants Thomson and Josh, also working with the restrictions.

Jennifer Chou, our organist, took leave at the end of the year to visit her mother in Hong Kong for a few months. She had made detailed arrangements for our music for when she was away. Our choir and the soloists managed extremely well in her absence, providing us with excellent music.

Finally, we farewelled after 63 years, one of TUC's long-standing groups – Morning Group. The decision was made to disband it due to COVID issues, the difficulty of keeping up numbers, and finding speakers. Over the years, it has been a source of pastoral care to members, and supported groups in need in the community. We thank Anne Smith, and Lyn McAlister, and all those who supported it so faithfully over the years.

Jenny Stewardson
Chair Church Council



Treasurer's Report

GENERAL

No surprises, COVID dominated everything that happened at the Church throughout the 2021 calendar year. Repeated lockdowns stopped the Church doing what it's commissioned to do for much of the year; namely serving the congregation and serving the wider community:

Lockdown v3: 5-days from 12th February 2021 to 17th February 2021.

Lockdown v4: 14-days from 27th May 2021 to 10th June 2021.

Lockdown v5: 12-days from 15th July 2021 to 27th July 2021.

Lockdown v6: 77-days from 5th August 2021 to 21st October 2021.

108 days of lockdown during the year plus the stopping-and-starting around these dates greatly impacted all Church activities. Everyone and every activity was impacted – Sunday worship, Kinross House, the Church Office team, the Church Hall, the Manse Café, Dance Classes, weddings & funerals, the Church's many committees, Uniting (formerly JMC) and the John Mackenzie Kindergarten. Not surprisingly, all this disruption made cash flow management a major headache for much of the year. The only silver lining in all this disruption was livestreaming of our Sunday worship continued every single Sunday throughout the year. This Live-Streaming project was made possible by the purchase of the necessary videography and audio equipment using funds received from the Elspeth White Bequest as well as the tireless work of a team of volunteers who made it all happen.

BOTTOM LINE

A careful reading of the Church's financial statements shows a hardworking **OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT** propped up by a very strong **ALL FUNDS** position:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operational Account	\$101,755	(\$7,773)
Capital Fund	\$102,084	\$52,338
Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests Fund	<u>\$70,030</u>	<u>\$12,916</u>
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$273,869</u>	<u>\$57,481</u>

U-ETHICAL

Like last year, COVID cash flow challenges forced the Church to drawdown on the U-Ethical Enhanced Cash account to cover outgoings as and when they became due. These drawdowns were not replenished before year end and that's why the **GENERAL** line on the following **ALL FUNDS** page shows a negative (overdrawn) \$110,126 balance (2020, \$63,440 O/D). Otherwise, the Church maintains healthy on-call investments in U-Ethical Growth and U-Ethical Enhanced Cash accounts as at 31st December 2021.

- (a) Growth: All U-Ethical Growth accounts are unit based. These growth units are revalued daily based on the market performance of the fund's underlying investment portfolio. During the 2021 calendar year, growth units increased from \$5.8775 each as at 1st January 2021 to \$6.7202 each as at 31st December 2021. (14.3% increase). Consistent with previous years, this unrealised gain in growth unit values – totalling \$187,374 (2020, \$18,073) across the Church's various Growth accounts – has been brought to account in these financial statements.
- (b) Cash: The U-Ethical Enhanced Cash account transitioned from a \$1 fixed unit account to a floating unit account effective 1st July 2020. These floating cash units are revalued daily which means every single transaction passing through this account contains a realised gain (or loss) depending on the underlying fund value on the day in question. During the 2021 calendar year, cash units increased from \$1.0037 each as at 1st January 2021 to \$1.0063 each as at 31st December 2021. A realised gain of \$1,648 (2020, \$2,364) resulting from this movement in cash units is included in the **GENERAL INVESTMENTS** line in the following **OPERATIONAL INCOME** page.

- (c) U-Ethical stopped offering “third party” banking services to account holders during the 2021 calendar year. As a result, the Church now transfers funds from the U-Ethical Warren Clark Bequest account to Westpac to cover the monthly payroll and Mission & Service contributions. Similarly, the U-Ethical Planned Giving account can no longer receive planned giving contributions from the congregation. Westpac is now used for receiving all planned giving.

WARREN CLARK BEQUEST

The Warren Clark Bequest is managed by Equity Trustees. As mentioned in this report every year, the quarterly distributions received from Warren Clark largely fund the Church’s monthly payroll as well as Mission & Service contributions. Without Warren Clark, the Church simply would not be able to support the current model which it has now operated for many years. Warren Clark distributions bounced back strongly after the COVID turmoil from last year. Distributions received totalled \$335,089 (2020, \$265,786) during the 2021 calendar year – representing a 26.1% increase. Budgeted Warren Clark income was a worst-case scenario \$220,000 for the year under review. Predicting Warren Clark distributions is like forecasting the weather. The Warren Clark Bequest’s performance is inextricably linked to ASX and global stock market performance, geopolitical factors, investment strategies, dividend yields, the timing of franking credit refunds and all manner of fund management issues beyond the Church’s control. At the time of writing, upward inflationary pressures and higher interest rates are fuelling a volatile stock price environment so it’d be a brave person to predict Warren Clark distributions in the months ahead.

JOBKEEPER

The Federal Government’s JobKeeper stimulus package ran for exactly 12-months and finished on 28th March 2021. When JobKeeper was announced all eligible Church employees were “invited” to participate and all accepted. A quick reading of the following **OPERATIONAL STATEMENT** shows JobKeeper was hugely helpful propping up the Church’s payroll during the worst of the COVID crisis. JobKeeper receipts totalling \$56,463 (2020, \$118,064) were passed onto Church employees up until the scheme finished on 28th March 2021.

INSURANCE

Insurance is the Church’s third biggest outgoing after payroll and property related expenses. Insurance premiums paid totalled \$43,171 (2020, \$32,577 and 2019, \$33,915) during the 2021 calendar year. Synod negotiates the Church’s annual insurance policy on our behalf. We have no input into these negotiations. Synod have warned insurance premiums are heading higher and this trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

BUDGETING

As mentioned in this report last year, the Church adopted a “worst-case” scenario budget for the year ending 31st December 2021. The 2021 Budget figures disclosed in the following **OPERATIONAL STATEMENT** show a \$116,000 deficit for the period under review. Consistent with recent years, the 2021 Budget includes a \$20,000 Contingency to safeguard against unexpected expenses that may arise during the year. Fortunately, this Contingency was not required. Clearly the actual operational surplus of \$110,755 for the 2021 year highlights the difficulties of budgeting during a global pandemic! Higher than expected Warren Clark distributions, JobKeeper and careful monitoring of all property related expenditure throughout the year all combined to produce an actual bottom line that far exceeded our “worst-case” scenario budget.

CONCLUSION

This is my 6th Annual Report as Treasurer. The last two COVID years have definitely created many financial challenges for the Church, but fingers crossed we are now over the worst of it. Thank you to our hard-working Church Office team – Catriona De Vere, Bronwen Duckett and Anne Binmore – who always go out of their way to make my job as easy as can be. And welcome to Richard De Vere who joined the office team in Feb 2022. Thank you also to the various people I bounce ideas off whenever I’m not sure about something especially my Finance Committee colleagues as well as Jenny Stewardson, Barbara McKinnon, Tim Brown and Jon Sennitt

Craig Simonson, BEc, ACA
Treasurer

Annual Financial Report – Income

2020 (\$)	Operational Income	2021 Budget (\$)	2021 (\$)	2022 Budget (\$)
20,145	Open Plate Offerings ²	26,000	26,303	30,000
77,680	Planned Giving- Envelope & Direct Debit ²	70,000	56,107	70,000
3,710	Planned Giving – Deposit Interest Scheme ³	3,000	1,062	2,000
11,753	Retiring Offering for Outreach Projects ^{2 4}	12,000	12,326	12,000
3,448	Donations to Church ²	3,000	2,401	3,000
116,736	Total Offerings and Donations	114,000	98,199	117,000
8,000	John Macrae Centre	8,000	8,000	8,000
22,889	John Mackenzie Kindergarten	23,000	23,186	33,000
14,594	Other Organisations	53,000	26,772	58,000
45,483	Total Use of Facilities	84,000	57,958	99,000
232,563	Warren Clark Bequest General (87.5%) ⁵	190,000	293,203	315,000
33,088	General Investments	30,000	29,295	30,000
-	Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests (Retain)	3,000	-	3,000
7,408	Elspeth White Bequest (via Synod) ¹⁰	6,000	6,170	6,000
273,059	Total Investment and Bequests	229,000	328,668	354,000
17,565	Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Classes) ⁶	76,000	63,896	76,000
27,954	Uniting Arts Toorak - Kinross (excluding transfers for bills) ⁷	50,000	42,821	74,000
20,470	Weddings and Funerals (including Virginia Davey Contribution) ¹⁵	32,000	36,540	39,000
-	Fundraising by Congregation	-	-	3,000
834	Virginia Davey Music (Concerts, Interest, Gifts) ¹⁵	2,000	470	2,000
54	Fellowship Lunch Club ¹⁹	-	30	-
352	Morning Group ²¹	-	834	-
1,068	Other Income	1,000	657	1,000
68,297	Total Engagement and Activities	161,000	145,248	195,000
93	Elspeth White (JB Fletcher Memorial Retained Interest) ¹³	-	27	-
2,487	Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Trust ¹⁴	2,000	718	2,000
2,747	Memorial Garden ¹⁶	2,000	946	1,000
2,353	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁷	4,000	2,061	4,000
408	Organ Development Fund ¹⁸	-	607	-
183	Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Fund ²⁰	-	235	-
8,271	Total Special Purposes	8,000	4,594	7,000
511,846	Total Income	596,000	634,667	772,000

Annual Financial Report – Expenditure

2020 (\$)	Operational Expenditure	2021 Budget (\$)	2021 (\$)	2022 Budget (\$)
122,560	Ministerial and Pastoral Care	122,000	96,260	98,000
131,306	Salaries - Office & Caretaker	128,000	135,725	128,000
51,942	Salaries - Ministry of Music	56,000	60,101	51,000
(118,063)	JobKeeper - Federal Government	(18,000)	(56,462)	
6,802	WorkCover	7,000	6,168	7,000
3,000	Annual Leave & Long Service Leave ⁹	-	-	-
4,895	Synod Payroll Processing	6,000	5,225	6,000
202,442	Total Ministerial, Salaries and Oncosts	301,000	247,017	290,000
92,390	UCA Mission & Service ⁸	92,000	92,202	93,000
8,000	John Macrae Centre ⁸	8,000	8,000	8,000
21,753	Outreach Projects and Special Appeals ^{4 8}	22,000	22,325	22,000
-	Elspeth White Bequest (via synod) ^{8 10}	6,000	11,046	6,000
122,143	Total External Giving and Mission	128,000	133,573	129,000
21,082	Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Class) ⁶	40,000	34,264	40,000
33,854	Uniting Arts Toorak - Kinross (excluding transfer for bills) ⁷	50,000	46,518	86,000
6,165	Weddings and Funerals	11,000	11,911	14,000
600	Virginia Davey Music (Concerts & Scholarships) ¹⁵	1,000	1,820	1,000
625	Morning Group ²¹	-	1,200	-
62,326	Total Engagement and Activities	102,000	95,713	141,000
5,090	Communication and Publicity	5,000	855	6,000
985	Education & Learning	1,000	276	1,000
6,075	Total Congregational Growth	6,000	1,131	7,000
41,666	General Maintenance	50,000	26,422	60,000
34,220	Insurance and Fire Service Levy	33,000	43,171	44,000
75,886	Total Property	83,000	69,593	104,000
38,253	Utilities	40,000	32,159	40,000
4,583	Office Expenses (postage, stationery and photocopying)	5,000	3,991	5,000
3,731	General Expenses	10,000	5,857	7,000
6,500	Audit and Legal Fees	7,000	6,500	7,000
764	Bookkeeping Fees	-	764	-
87	Bank Charges	-	69	-
-	Contingency ²²	20,000	-	20,000
53,918	Total Services, Administration and Other	82,000	49,340	79,000
-	Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Trust ¹⁴	2,000	-	2,000
-	Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests (Retain)	3,000	-	3,000
876	Memorial Garden ¹⁶	1,000	1,009	1,000
1,700	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁷	4,000	500	4,000
500	Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Fund ²⁰	-	-	-
3,076	Total Special Purposes	10,000	1,509	10,000
525,866	Total Expenditure	712,000	597,876	760,000
(14,020)	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)	(116,000)	36,791	12,000
6,247	Market Value Adjustment	-	64,964	-
(7,773)	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(116,000)	101,755	12,000

Annual Financial Report – Funds

2020 (\$)	All Funds	2021 (\$)
1,947,538	Funds as at 1st January	2,005,019
(7,773)	Operational Surplus/(Deficit)	101,755
65,254	Capital and Bequests Surplus/(Deficit)	172,114
2,005,019	Funds as at 31st December	2,278,888
	Represented by:	
11,691	Westpac - TUC Church Council	9,457
2,000	Westpac - Toorak Uniting Church (Debit Card)	2,000
80,289	U-Ethical - Warren Clark Bequest	114,441
201,889	U-Ethical - Planned Giving	224,897
100	Petty Cash	100
351,239	U-Ethical - TUC, Cash (see A below)	330,269
1,245,023	U-Ethical - TUC, Growth - 219,994 units (see B below)	1,478,159
16,136	U-Ethical - Elspeth White ¹³	15,718
2,119	U-Ethical - Parishioner's Deposit	3,181
107,300	U-Ethical - TUC Roach Family Ministerial Exchange ¹⁴	108,297
18,184	U-Ethical - JA Campbell Bequest - 3,100 units	20,833
587	U-Ethical - David Scott Bequest - 100 units	672
1,173	U-Ethical - Annie Wallis Bequest - 200 units	1,344
5,866	U-Ethical - Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial - 1,000 units	6,720
-	Sundry debtors	1,240
(36,000)	Provision for Annual Leave & Long Service Leave ⁹	(36,000)
(2,825)	Sundry creditors	(200)
(1,726)	Key deposits	(2,176)
2,038	ATO GST refund due/(payable)	366
(430)	Kinross - Art Sales	(430)
366	Morning Group	-
2,005,019	Grand Total	2,278,888
	A: U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash	
(3,337)	Uniting Arts Toorak ⁷	(7,034)
71,210	Virginia Davey Music Fund ¹⁵	73,310
22,366	Memorial Garden Fund ¹⁶	22,303
9,428	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁷	10,989
1,031	Organ Development Fund ¹⁸	1,639
4,565	Fellowship/Lunch Club ¹⁹	4,595
600	Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial ²⁰	835
(63,440)	General	(110,126)
42,423	Total Operational	(3,489)
134,617	Capital ¹¹	158,988
174,199	Stevenson/Bequests ¹²	174,770
308,816	Total Capital and Bequests	333,758
351,239	Total - U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash	330,269
	B: U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth	
414,997	Capital ¹¹ - 73,330 units	492,710
383,297	Stevenson/Bequests ¹² - 67,383 units	452,756
446,729	General - 79,281 units	532,693
1,245,023	Total - U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth	1,478,159

Accompanying Notes

COVID19 – For the 2nd consecutive year, COVID dominated everything that happened at the Church throughout the year. Long periods of State-wide lockdown, strict public health restrictions, vaccination rules and general public anxiety greatly reduced the Church's reach to the congregation and the wider community. From a financial perspective, many areas of Church's operational performance were dramatically compromised. Not surprisingly, at times cash flow management was very difficult. The following notes will refer to the impact of COVID where applicable.

This is a Special Purpose Financial Report. Toorak Uniting Church's "Financial Policy and Procedures", adopted by Church Council in 2015, documents the Church's financial controls and procedures as well as details the delegations responsible for each area of Church's income and expenditure.

Church Council is ultimately responsible for the general administration and financial affairs of the Church and the Congregation. This responsibility includes the preparation, presentation and approval of the Church's budgets, financial statements and accompanying reports as well as arranging for the year end audit of the Church's accounting records.

The 2021 financial statements and accompanying notes contained in this Annual Report have been prepared consistently with the presentation adopted in recent years. In the interests of transparency, the accounting information disclosed in this Annual Report is comprehensive and detailed for all areas of the Church's many and varied activities. Please note the various funds, bequests, committees, trusts and organizations mentioned in these financial statements and accompanying notes all have their own underlying constitutional documents. These documents are in a variety of forms. The comments below are not intended to substitute or replace a complete understanding of the relevant original documentation.

Consistent with last year, the attached **ALL FUNDS** page lists all the Church's bank and externally managed accounts as at 31st December 2021:

- The **Westpac** current account is used for almost all the Church's day-to-day operational receipts and payments. From 1st September 2021, Westpac was also used to fund the Church's monthly payroll and Mission & Service contributions.
- The **Westpac Debit Card** account is only used for small incidental Church outgoings. This account is typically maintained with a credit balance and was "topped-up" to \$2,000 for the purposes of these year-end financial statements.
- The **U-Ethical Warren Clark Bequest** account receives the Church's Warren Clark Bequest distributions from Equity Trustees on a quarterly basis. Up until 31st August 2021, the Church's monthly payroll and Mission & Service contributions were directly funded from this account. After this date, the Warren Clark Bequest account was used to "top-up" the abovementioned Westpac account so sufficient funds were on hand to cover the monthly payroll and Mission & Service contributions.
- The **U-Ethical Planned Giving** account received planned giving donations from members of the congregation up until 31st July 2021. After this date, the congregation was "invited" to use Westpac for all planned giving donations.
- The **U-Ethical Enhanced Cash Portfolio** account and the **U-Ethical Growth Portfolio** account contain the consolidated balances from the Church's previously separate UCA Funds accounts.

- (A) The **U-Ethical Enhanced Cash Portfolio (ECP)** transitioned to the U-Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust – Wholesale (ECT-W) effective 1st July 2020. This new ECT-W fund is a purpose-built unit trust designed for clients seeking an enhanced cash investment in what is an otherwise globally low interest rate climate. Units in the ECT-W are revalued daily, and every single transaction passing through this account contains a realised gain (or loss) depending on the underlying unit value on the day in question. ECT-W units were valued at \$1.0037 each as at 1st January 2021 and at \$1.0063 each as at 31st December 2021. A realised gain of \$1,648 resulting from this movement in unit values is included within the line General Investments in the attached Operational Income Statement.
- (B) The **U-Ethical Growth Portfolio (EGP)** is a unit-based trust designed for clients seeking a higher rate of return than offered by the ECT-W mentioned above. The value of these Growth units varies from day-to-day based on the market performance of the trust's underlying investments. The unrealised gains (or unrealised losses as the case may be) attached to these units are brought to account in the appropriate Capital Fund, Dame Hilda Stephenson/Bequests Fund and Operational Account sections of these accounts. Growth units were valued at \$5.8775 each as at 1st January 2021 and at \$6.7202 each as at 31st December 2021. As a result of this increase in unit value an unrealised gain of \$187,374 (2020, unrealised gain \$18,073) has been brought to account as at 31st December 2021.
- (C) As always, with any investment product it is important to mention that past performance of the abovementioned ECT-W and EGP units is not indicative of future performance.
- **Six U-Ethical** accounts which are retained because of their founding documents.
 - **Morning Group** was sadly disbanded during the year. All remaining Morning Group funds were donated as disclosed at Note 21 in the Accompanying Notes attached to these financial statements.

The following notes should be read in conjunction with the relevant **Operational Income**, **Operational Expenditure** and **All Funds** pages in this Annual Report:

1. **Cash accounting:** The Church's accounts are prepared on a cash accounting basis. The only exception to this rule applies to interest income generated by the Church's various U-Ethical accounts. Second half interest from these U-Ethical accounts has been brought to account as at 31st December 2021 although the interest was not actually credited to the Church's statements until 1st January 2022.
2. **Accounting control:** All bequests, donations, giving and offerings received by the Church are banked and brought to account on the soonest available business day after receipt.
3. **Parishioner Deposit Scheme:** Members of the Congregation have deposited with the Church \$156,000 (2020, \$156,000) not otherwise disclosed in these accounts. These deposits are invested in the U-Ethical – Church Parishioner's Deposit Account and the interest earned is included in the Church's Offering & Donations income.
4. **Outreach Projects:** The Outreach Projects Committee receives retiring offerings, individual donations and an annual budgeted Church contribution. The Committee decides on recipients of the money donated and the Chair of the Committee authorises final expenditure. All income received during the year is distributed in full. Preference is given to recipients with ongoing relationships and recipients that do not attract tax deductibility.

2020 (\$)	Outreach Projects	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
10,000	General Funds	10,000
11,753	Retiring Offering	12,326
21,753	Total	22,326
	EXPENDITURE	
5,439	Cranbourne Regional Uniting Church - Food Truck	5,185
5,438	Officer Pakenham Mission Area	5,185
5,438	Robinvale Secondary College	5,185
5,438	Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya	4,736
-	Boroondara Community Outreach	2,035
21,753	Total	22,326

5. Warren Clark Bequest:

(i) History: The Warren Clark Trust was established through the wills of Alison Margaret Clark (1907 – 1995) and Henry Stuart Logan Clark (1902 – 1986). The Trust is administered in perpetuity by Equity Trustees. Toorak Uniting Church benefits from one quarter (25%) of the net income from the will of Alison Clark and one fifth (20%) of the net income from the will of Henry Clark. Alison and Henry were two of the three children of (Alfred) Warren Clark (1861 – 1948) and Blanche Eva Clark (nee Baird) (1871 – 1955) who married in 1898. Warren Clark was a successful stockbroker, as was his son Henry, and the family lived at “Waratah” in Clendon Road, Toorak from around 1900. The connection of the family to Toorak Uniting Church came through the marriage of their first child, Hamilton Warren Clark, to Cecily Jenner. Cecily’s father, Leslie, an Elder of the Church (from 1940 to his death in 1956), committed his life to charitable and community service following an early retirement at 42 years of age. Leslie persuaded Alison and her mother Blanche to become Life Governors of the Austin Hospital. Alison attended to her ageing parents at their home in Walsh Street, South Yarra but the focus of her religious and social life was always Toorak Uniting Church. During the 1950’s, Alison moved to 8 Como Street, South Yarra where she lived with her brother Henry who she cared for in his older age.

(ii) 2021: The paradox of COVID was global financial markets experienced a “bull” run and bounced back strongly during the 2021 calendar year. Investors across the world enjoyed bumper results. The Church was a beneficiary of this “bull” run with the Warren Clark Bequest providing improved distributions during the 2021 year. Total Warren Clark distributions received were \$335,089 (2020, \$265,786). It’s noteworthy to report, the Church’s first Warren Clark distribution for 2022 was \$97,480 (1st distribution 2021, \$104,042). As always, it’s notoriously difficult to budget Warren Clark Bequest distributions going forward although at the time of writing it’s fair to say world financial markets are predicting uncertainty ahead for the rest of the 2022 calendar year.

6. **Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Classes):** COVID wreaked havoc on Dance Classes during both 1st and 2nd semester. Lockdowns, strict public health restrictions, community anxiety and our resolve to do “the right thing” all combined to delay the start of 1st semester to 20th April 2021 – only 2 months later than originally planned! Adopting a compressed timetable, Dance Classes were able to reach Week 7 (out of an 8 – week program) before lockdown v5 from 15th July 2021 to 27th July 2021 forced us to cancel the final week of the 1st semester program. By the time 2nd semester came around, lockdown v6 from 5th August 2021 to 21st October 2021 made offering Dance Classes totally untenable and 2nd semester was regrettably cancelled before it had barely started. All unused 2nd semester Dance Class fees were refunded where applicable. Planning for 1st semester in 2022 started in late 2021. Fortunately, despite all the COVID setbacks, demand for Dance Classes remains strong and almost 220 Years 9/10 boys and girls are participating in our

current year's 1st semester program. At the time of writing, all 1st semester Dance Classes have taken place as scheduled. The 2021 accounts include \$15,132 (2020, \$Nil) prepaid Dance Class fees as these are typically paid in advance for the semester ahead.

7. **Uniting Arts Toorak (UAT):** Not surprisingly COVID forced the closure of Kinross House for much of the 2021 calendar year. The UAT/Kinross Committee operates the Kinross Arts & Spirituality Centre (KASC) from the Manse at 603 Toorak Road. KASC explores spiritual themes along with contemporary and traditional arts to enrich the lives of Church members as well as people in the wider outside community. UAT/Kinross generates income from various sources including (i) rent received from the seven artist studios attached to the Manse (ii) rent received from the Manse Café, (iii) exhibitions & events, (iv) \$300 wedding contribution, (v) fundraising and (vi) interest (if applicable). Note, the \$300 wedding contribution was implemented effective 1st August 2019. Consistent with previous years, the Church covers the UAT/Kinross gas, water, maintenance and insurance expenses. The Manse Café also pays a fixed monthly contribution towards electricity, gas and water consumption. Refer to the Kinross section of this Annual Report for a comprehensive summary of all Kinross activities during the year.

2020 (\$)	Uniting Arts Toorak	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
23,695	Use of Kinross facilities	30,108
1,960	Exhibitions and Events	7,793
1,399	Donations and fundraising	1,470
900	Weddings and funerals contribution	3,450
12,887	Transfer for gas, water, maintenance & insurance paid by TUC	11,062
40,841	Total	53,883
	EXPENDITURE	
6,552	Property	5,723
1,664	Exhibition and events	2,192
1,234	Cleaning	2,676
7,936	Electricity	6,174
14,069	Salary and administration	29,710
-	Interest	43
2,399	Apple laptop	-
12,887	Transfer for gas, water, maintenance & insurance paid by TUC	11,062
46,741	Total	57,580
(5,900)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,697)
2,563	Funds as at 1st January	(3,337)
(5,900)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,697)
(3,337)	Funds as at 31st December	(7,034)
	Represented by:	
(3,337)	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Uniting Arts Toorak	(7,034)
(3,337)	Total	(7,034)

8. **External Giving and Mission:** Total External Giving and Mission was \$133,573 (2020, \$122,143). In addition, Morning Group made donations totalling \$1,200 (2020, \$600) during the year – refer Note 21 below. Members of the Congregation also made independent donations to other seasonal appeals including Food for Friends (\$1,288) and the Christmas Bowl Appeal (\$223) during the year.

9. **Annual Leave & Long Service Leave:** Synod maintains the Church's payroll records on an ongoing basis. These records were relied upon to calculate the Provision for Annual Leave & Long Service Leave totalling \$36,000 (2020, \$36,000) as at 31st December 2021. Annual leave totals \$13,863 and long service leave totals \$22,137.

10. **Elsbeth White Bequest (via Synod):** Lady White left a substantial bequest to the Uniting Church. The Board of Mission and Resources ("BOMAR") of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania resolved in August 2012 that the annual income from the Margaret Elspeth Maxwell White Bequest be divided equally from 2013 to 2022 and "that half be granted to the Toorak Uniting Church to be used only for mission". In addition, "each year Toorak Uniting Church shall inform BOMAR of the mission use to which the funds were applied as BOMAR itself is ultimately accountable for bequests in the name of the Uniting Church." Last year, Church Council agreed to commit the Elspeth White income entirely to the purchase and installation of livestreaming equipment to record our weekly Sunday 10:15am service for the benefit of people who are unable to attend the service in person. This livestreaming equipment was purchased in early 2021 – total spent \$11,046.



Lady Elspeth White

2020 (\$)	Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial)	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
93	Interest - Capital (25%)	27
280	Interest - Maintenance (75%)	80
58	Realised gain on underlying units	41
431	Total	148
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Interest transfer for maintenance (75%)	566
-	Total	566
431	Surplus/(Deficit)	(418)
15,705	Funds as at 1st January	16,136
431	Surplus/(Deficit)	(418)
16,136	Funds as at 31st December	15,718

11. **Capital Fund:** Originally created to accept 25% of all Warren Clark Bequest distributions (subsequently reduced to 12.5% by Congregation decision in April 2009) into a dedicated capital fund to provide for capital projects on the Church property at 603 Toorak Road. Interest earned on this account is reinvested in the fund to support future works. Refurbishment of the Church Office was the only capital project undertaken during the year.

2020 (\$)	Capital Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
33,223	12.5% Warren Clark Bequest	41,886
13,202	Interest and distributions	17,400
46,425	Total	59,286
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Church Office - refurbishment	8,088
-	Church Office - carpet	6,009
-	Church Office - painting	4,310
-	Total	18,407
46,425	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)	40,879
5,913	Market Value Adjustment	61,205
52,338	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	102,084
497,276	Funds as at 1st January	549,614
52,338	Surplus/(Deficit)	102,084
549,614	Funds as at 31st December	651,698
	Represented by:	
134,617	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Capital	158,988
414,997	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Capital	492,710
549,614	Total	651,698

12. **Dame Hilda Stevenson Bequest Fund:** Seeded by an original contribution from the Estate of Dame Hilda Stevenson, this fund has since been used as a general fund for untied bequests received by Toorak Uniting Church. Substantial additions in 2011 and 2012 came from the Estates of Mimi Chisholm and Louise Deravin respectively. In 2009, the Congregation approved a recommendation from the Funding Review Committee that “the capital of untied bequests should not be used for recurrent expenditure” and that “half the income of untied bequests be retained and reinvested in the fund and half be available for normal recurrent expenditure.”



Dame Hilda Stevenson, 1971

2020 (\$)	Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
7,003	Interest and distributions	8,825
7,003	Total	8,825
-	EXPENDITURE	-
7,003	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)	8,825
5,913	Market Value Adjustment	61,205
12,916	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	70,030
544,580	Funds as at 1st January	557,496
12,916	Surplus/(Deficit)	70,030
557,496	Funds as at 31st December	627,526
	Represented by:	
174,199	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Bequests	174,770
383,297	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Bequests	452,756
557,496	Total	627,526

13. **Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial Fund):** This fund was established by Lady White in 1989 with a \$10,000 donation. Lady White specified the fund was “to assist with the maintenance and development of Toorak Uniting Church property”. Lady White further documented “It is my wish that 25% of the annual income of the Trust Fund be added to the capital of the fund and the balance be paid to a property reserve fund at the Toorak Uniting Church for the above purpose.” It is worth mentioning that the 2021 interest transfer for maintenance (\$80) will not occur until late 2022 and as a result will be reflected in the 2022 financial statements – this transfer has no P&L impact for the year ended 31st December 2021.



James Fletcher

2020 (\$)	Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial)	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
93	Interest - Capital (25%)	27
280	Interest - Maintenance (75%)	80
58	Realised gain on underlying units	41
431	Total	148
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Interest transfer for maintenance (75%)	566
-	Total	566
431	Surplus/(Deficit)	(418)
15,705	Funds as at 1st January	16,136
431	Surplus/(Deficit)	(418)
16,136	Funds as at 31st December	15,718
	Represented by:	
16,136	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Elsbeth White	15,718



14. **Roach Family Ministerial Fund:** This fund was created in 1980 with a \$20,000 donation from the Roach Charitable Fund “to enable the Minister of Toorak Uniting Church and his wife to visit in 1981 a church in the United States of America and the fares for the Minister of that Church and his spouse to visit Toorak Uniting Church.” The establishing memorandum then required Toorak Uniting Church “to apply the income of the Fund towards the provision of exchange tours similar to the 1981 visit but to such places and at such times and on such conditions as the Parish Council of Toorak Uniting Church and the Minister shall decide.” In 2013, Church Council agreed that in addition to continuing to provide for ministerial exchanges at planned regular intervals, the Fund may provide for the professional development of our Minister and/or to bring distinguished speakers to Toorak Uniting Church. For the 2nd consecutive year, COVID made it impossible to organise a Roach sponsored event during the year.



Ian Roach

2020 (\$)	Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
2,487	Interest	718
385	Realised gain on underlying units	279
2,872	Total	997
-	EXPENDITURE	-
2,872	Surplus/(Deficit)	997
104,428	Funds as at 1st January	107,300
2,872	Surplus/(Deficit)	997
107,300	Funds as at 31st December	108,297
	Represented by:	
107,300	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Fund	108,297

15. **Virginia Davey Music Fund:** The VDMF fund was initiated in 2008, when donations of \$15,000 were received. The purpose of the fund is to support music in worship at Toorak Uniting Church. To build the corpus of the fund, Church Council decided in 2008 that \$200 from each wedding and funeral conducted at Toorak Uniting Church would be contributed into the fund. This contribution was subsequently increased to \$250 for each wedding and funeral, effective from 1st July 2016. Again, the contribution was increased to \$350 for each wedding and funeral, effective from 1st August 2019. Interest earned by the fund is reinvested.



Virginia Davey, 1996

2020 (\$)	Virginia Davey Music Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
1,150	Transfer from weddings and funerals	3,450
834	Interest	470
1,984	Total	3,920
	EXPENDITURE	
600	Scholarships	1,820
600	Total	1,820
1,384	Surplus/(Deficit)	2,100
69,826	Funds as at 1st January	71,210
1,384	Surplus/(Deficit)	2,100
71,210	Funds as at 31st December	73,310
	Represented by	
71,210	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Virginia Davey Music Fund	73,310

16. **Memorial Garden Fund:** Fees for the interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden together with all interest earned are held by the fund whilst maintenance and calligraphy costs of the Garden and Memorial Book are paid out.

2020 (\$)	Memorial Garden Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
2,500	Interments & calligraphy	800
247	Interest	146
2,747	Total	946
	EXPENDITURE	
276	Maintenance and refurbishment	609
600	Interments & calligraphy	400
876	Total	1,009
1,871	Surplus/(Deficit)	(63)
20,495	Funds as at 1st January	22,366
1,871	Surplus/(Deficit)	(63)
22,366	Funds as at 31st December	22,303
	Represented by:	
22,366	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Memorial Garden Fund	22,303



17. Minister's Discretionary Fund: This fund allows the Minister to provide financial support to deserving recipients without approval from Church committees or Church delegates. The fund is increased through an annual donation from the profits of the Toorak Opportunity Shop. The Toorak Opportunity Shop constitution stipulates that any payments from the fund cannot be used for the Minister's personal benefit. Before his retirement, Rev. Christopher Page made one hardship payment totalling \$500 during the year.

2020 (\$)	Minister's Discretionary Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
2,250	Distribution from Toorak Opportunity Shop	2,000
103	Interest	61
2,353	Total	2,061
1,700	EXPENDITURE	500
653	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,561
8,775	Funds as at 1st January	9,428
653	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,561
9,428	Funds as at 31st December	10,989
	Represented by:	
9,428	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Minister's Discretionary Fund	10,989

18. Organ Development Fund: This fund was established in August 2011 with a \$25,000 donation (not bequest!) from the Estate of Lady Elspeth White. Over \$40,000 of organ maintenance has occurred since this date. The fund continues to provide for ongoing organ expenditure as and when necessary.

2020 (\$)	Organ Development Fund	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
400	Donations	600
7	Interest	8
407	Total	608
-	EXPENDITURE	-
407	Surplus/(Deficit)	608
624	Funds as at 1st January	1,031
407	Surplus/(Deficit)	608
1,031	Funds as at 31st December	1,639
	Represented by:	
1,031	U-Ethical -Toorak Uniting Church, Organ Development Fund	1,639

19. **Fellowship Lunch Club:** This club is no longer active. The funds in this account relate to surpluses achieved when the Club had an active membership.

2020 (\$)	Fellowship Lunch Club	2021 (\$)
54	INCOME	30
-	EXPENDITURE	-
54	Surplus/(Deficit)	30
4,511	Funds as at 1st January	4,565
54	Surplus/(Deficit)	30
4,565	Funds as at 31st December	4,595
	Represented by:	
4,565	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Fellowship Lunch Club	4,595

20. **Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Fund:** Janet Torry Mackenzie was the wife of the Reverend John Mackenzie, Minister of Toorak Uniting Church from 1914 to 1944, and the mother of Lady Elspeth White. Friends established the Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Fund. Interest from the fund is used to support Deaconesses who Janet Mackenzie worked with and assisted during her life. Authority for expenditure remains with the Chair of the Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Fund Committee. There were no payments made from the fund during the year ended 31st December 2021

2020 (\$)	Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial Committee	2021 (\$)
183	INCOME	235
	EXPENDITURE	
500	Support of Deaconess	-
500	Total	-
(317)	Surplus/(Deficit)	235
917	Funds as at 1st January	600
(317)	Surplus/(Deficit)	235
600	Funds as at 31st December	835
	Represented by:	
600	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Janet Torry Mackenzie Memorial	835

21. **Morning Group:** After 63 years of faithful and supportive fellowship Morning Group was sadly disbanded during the year. Final Morning Group accounts have been “clipped” onto the Church’s accounts as at 31st December 2021. All remaining Morning Group funds were acquitted as per the following table.

2020 (\$)	Morning Group	2021 (\$)
	INCOME	
270	Membership	480
71	Donations	350
5	Interest	4
6	Realised gain on underlying units	-
352	Total	834
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Donation to Hotham Mission	300
-	Donation to TUC Outreach	450
-	Donation to Food for Friends	450
600	Donation to UCA Bushfire Relief	-
25	Stationery	-
625	Total	1,200
(273)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(366)
639	Funds as at 1st January	366
(273)	Surplus/(Deficit)	(366)
366	Funds as at 31st December	-
	Represented by:	
24	Commonwealth Bank - TUC Morning Group	-
342	U-Ethical - TUC Morning Group	-
366	Total	-

22. **Contingency:** Consistent with recent years, the Church’s 2021 Budget contained a Contingency of \$20,000 to provide for any unexpected declines in income and/or unexpected increases in expenditure during the year. It is important to point out this Contingency is used for budgetary purposes only and is not included in the Church’s accounts as at 31st December 2021.



Craig Simonson
Treasurer



Jenny Stewardson
Chair, Church Council

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF TOORAK UNITING CHURCH**

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the special purpose financial report of Toorak Uniting Church (TUC) which comprises the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2021, Statement of All Funds at 31 December, 2021 and Accompanying Notes.

In my opinion, because of the existence of the limitation on the scope of my work as described in the Basis of Qualified Opinion paragraph and the effect of such adjustments, if any, as might have determined to be necessary had the limitation in scope not existed, I am unable to and do not express an opinion as to whether the income amounts are complete.

Subject to the above, in my opinion, the Financial Report presents fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Toorak Uniting Church as at 31 December, 2021 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

Basis of Qualified Opinion

It was not practical to extend my examination of donations, appeals, fundraising and other income generating activities beyond the amounts as disclosed in the books and records of Toorak Uniting Church. It is also not practical for the Church Council to put in place all the controls necessary to satisfy usual audit requirements to provide the assurance that all moneys due have been received. As a consequence, I am unable to verify that all income that should have been brought to account, has been receipted and banked.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australia Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide the basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Members in accordance with the Constitution and Regulations of the Uniting Church in Australia. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Church Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the financial report for the year ended 31 December, 2021, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Church Council for the Financial Report

The Church Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet their requirements. The Church Council's responsibility also includes such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Church Council is responsible for assessing TUC's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Church Council either intends to liquidate TUC or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Church Council is responsible for overseeing TUC's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Church Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Church Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Church Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Dated at Melbourne on the _____ of _____ 2022

.....

Peter B Corrigan FCA

Archives

2021 was a year of consolidation of the Archives. The many closures meant that new exhibitions from the Archives were unable to be planned but we continue to keep the Archives in good order for the future congregations of TUC.

Pamela Wilson

Convenor, and Jeanette McArthur

Congregational / Pastoral Care Committee

Our thanks must first be directed to our clergy leaders for their ongoing support and encouragement of our congregational members. TUC is blessed to have their commitment to us all in the many ways they serve. Their wisdom and experience is beneficial also when the Pastoral Care Leaders meet six times a year to review the service they, too, offer in care.

Our community is strengthened by the extended hand of fellowship and by the support we give in times of everyday account as well as in joy and concern. Gathering for refreshments after both Sunday services gives opportunity for friendship, shared interests and an understanding ear. Thank you to the rostered team members who provide and clean up behind the kitchen bench each week. You make the coffee hours happen!

On behalf of the congregation I extend gratitude to those who, through our long COVID-restricted months of isolation and concern, have kept us connected through their skilful delivery of online worship.

A number of our long-time faithful members have died during the past year. TUC was the better for their company, and we acknowledge their contributions as we also offer their families our condolence. Others have been welcomed into the community and we are glad for that.

Christine Brown

Team Leader

Sunday Worship

2021 began well, with a fine season of 9:30am services over January and even the return of the 9:00am service. However, the surge in COVID cases saw the community back in lockdown by the second week of February. Fortunately, the livestream was in place, allowing our community to gather in spirit even when in person not possible.

The year seesawed between lockdowns, with the intermediate periods still requiring special care and precautions in place so that we could protect each other as we went about worship. Morning tea was often outdoors or highly distanced, with participants having to wait for the tea and coffee trolley to be brought to them. During lockdown, morning tea was over Zoom. Breakout rooms substituted for small gatherings around the table and the refreshments were strictly BYO.

Sadly, the end of Rev Dr Christopher Page's placement coincided with the final 78-day lockdown. Only five people were able to be in the church, which included the moderator, Rev Duncan Macleod. Nevertheless, through a combination of Zoom and YouTube, pre-recorded and live broadcast a special and moving releasing of pastoral ties was able to be conducted on Sunday August 29. The congregation even presented two gifts to Christopher over Zoom – a classic leather easy chair for him to enjoy in his retirement and a beautiful hand-crafted crozier, fashioned and hand-painted by Jennifer Chou.

In October we welcomed Rev Peter Whitaker to assist TUC with supply. We have been so fortunate to have three excellent ministers, Rev Peter Whitaker, Rev John Edwards and Rev Wal Baker to support us as we await the filling of the placement at TUC. All three ministers have navigated the new waters of livestreamed ministry with aplomb.

The 9:00am service was revived in November with the end of lockdown. The small but dedicated congregation particularly values the discussions stimulated by the ministers' message during the service and enjoys excellent fellowship over coffee and baked goodies following the service.

A November highlight was the long-awaited commemoration of 50 years of ministry by Rev Wal Baker. It was a joyous service followed by morning tea in the hall where all partook of a particularly magnificent cake. TUC was honoured to be able to host this special occasion and to share it with Wal's family and friends, in particular his wife Marilyn and daughters Sharon and Lisa.

Finally in December, following the nine Carols and Lessons, the congregation had an opportunity to express their gratitude to Rev Dr Christopher Page for his decade of ministry at TUC, with an exceptional morning tea. The sun shone, allowing the congregation to spill out on to the paved area outside the Faichney room. The Christmas services were a high point on which to conclude such a difficult and complex year.

2021 placed extraordinary demands on our ministers, music director, musicians, church councillors, congregation and employees. TUC should be proud of the extent to which it managed to maintain a connected, caring community in the face of so many challenges. The livestream has been instrumental in allowing the inclusion of many who would otherwise not be able to experience worship services at TUC. However, we do not worship in isolation. The expressions of fellowship in so many forms, from email to telephone to Zoom to socially distanced morning tea is witness to a community of worshippers that aspires to "love one another as I have loved you."

Barbara McKinnon
Chair, Congregation

Whole Church Community

The Whole Church Community morning teas and lunches are a popular way for the two congregations to catch up. We were fortunate to start the year with a COVID friendly lunch of sliders thanks to our masterchef Jon Sennitt, a great team of bakers and fine weather. Morning teas kept us gathered until the lockdowns stopped us completely (we managed four out of six bi-monthly gatherings). Once restrictions eased, we were finally able to farewell Chris Page in person with a special morning tea to celebrate his ministry at TUC. A big thank you to Christine Brown and everyone who offers to help with catering and serving. I always receive lots of positive feedback about how enjoyable the gatherings are for the church community.

Jaki Simonson

Coordinator, WCC refreshments

Morning Group

After 63 years of caring and supportive fellowship, service to, and beyond Toorak Uniting Church, as well as years of interesting and mind broadening speakers Morning Group has ceased to exist in its traditional form. Commencing in February 2022, (third Thursday at 10am), we plan to meet in the Manse Cafe for coffee and fellowship.

At the meeting on Thursday November 18, we formally disbanded the group and divided the money in the bank account between TUC Outreach committee and Toorak Ecumenical Council Food for Friends appeal.

All the formalities necessary will be completed this week. We give thanks for the wonderful founding members and all the amazing contributions made by so many over the past 63 years.
THANKS BE TO GOD

Anne Smith

Chair



Music Report

This annual report marks the end of my first decade as the Director of Music at TUC. I am so grateful to my team and everyone at TUC for the support and encouragement over the years.

Choir and Special Services

Early this year, we welcomed James Penn as the new TUC tenor soloist. Nick Tolhurst accepted the position of bass soloist after the resignation of Andy Long.

After a consecutive 110 days or so of lockdown in 2020, there was a lack of confidence for 2021. As a precaution, I put in place for Good Friday just two singers with string quartet and continuo to perform Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, allowing for the worst case scenario in which only five people would be



allowed indoors to live stream (two singers and just myself replacing the whole ensemble on the organ).

Soon after Easter, the choir and I began to prepare music for the next special services of the year. Snap lockdowns turned into long lockdown.

By mid-August, it was clear that there would be no face-to-face service to farewell the Rev Dr Christopher Page. Plan C and D were activated and the TUC soloists recorded most items for the service at the 11th hour before our unsuccessful application for more permitted workers permits for the TUC soloists was made known. The choir was able to be “present”, as a piece intended for this service was pre-recorded on a wintry evening in July, just in case! I played the Prelude and Postlude on site to provide some live music. As a church service normally ends with music, I intended, to send Chris off into the future, that the very last note of music heard in the entire duration of the streaming should be live and not an excerpt from reminiscent of past services.

Little did we know that Wal’s service of celebration was going to be rescheduled three times! By the time the date was finally fixed, I knew that I couldn’t be there as the Australian Border Force has granted me permission to exit Australia to see my mother who was ill. God sent the eminent Dr June Nixon to conduct the TUC choir, and Conrad Helfrich to play the organ. The choir was able to sing what we had practiced for months face to face and on Zoom. I joined the service on YouTube and couldn’t have been more grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make Wal’s celebration special.

Conrad Helfrich subsequently made himself available on the third Sunday of the month for TUC. He also directed the Nine Lessons and Carols service. Tristan Sumarna played the organ and piano on the second Sunday of the month, Elizabeth Buttery played on the first Sunday of each month, and Thomas Man played on the fourth Sunday of the month. Thank you to the “Fantastic Four”!

I am in debt and most grateful to Ursula Paez who took the reins for the entire two months including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Ursula and I already had gone through lockdowns together for one year making music for the TUC congregation. This time, Ursula alone had to plan and run rehearsals with everyone, guest musicians, organists, send emails/texts, make phone calls, sort out problems, etc. The TUC choir has been totally supportive of her. I cannot be more proud of the music team at TUC, for their dedication, commitment, the care they show for each other, and their love of making music together.

A few days before I left for Hong Kong, a small window allowed the choir and I to meet for an outdoor rehearsal. I was overjoyed to see everyone after nearly 80 days of lockdown.

A special thank you to TUC soloists Catriona De Vere, Ursula Paez, James Penn, Nick Tolhurst. Their professionalism provides the vital support for the music ministry of TUC at all times.

Guest Musicians

The Emjodore String Quartet was engaged as the TUC Resident String Quartet for 2021 to perform on Good Friday and on Christmas Eve. Double bass player Chris Gelok played on Christmas Eve.

Choral (Vacant) and Organ Scholarships

Elizabeth Buttery was appointed the TUC Organ Scholar to replace Anna Duan who left for Townsville for university. Elizabeth will continue as the TUC organ scholar in 2022.

Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

It was a year with many starts and stops for the PBHC. By the time we could resume again, I was already overseas. A great thank you to Leanne Leong who graciously directed six rehearsals for the group in November and December to let everyone ring and to help ringers consolidate their skills and to learn new techniques. Most ringers came back as soon as we were allowed to gather again.

Recording During Lockdown

Similar to the second half of 2020, I decided to pre-record whenever possible for live streamed services, especially during the long lockdown No.5. My entry level equipment and over a decade old computer did not fail me. To save time, I ditched most filming and audio syncing work, instead, I made slideshows with one audio and one photo each, except for Chris's service.

Organs and Pianos

Both organs and pianos at TUC continue to be tuned and serviced by Hargraves Pipe Organs and Paul Smith respectively whenever it was practical to in between lockdowns.

A second-hand piano was donated to us during one of the lockdowns. It quickly became very useful in the Wettenhall Room. Tenants started renting the room for small student concerts and rehearsals. Its unplanned presence also materialized a hope I had had for two decades: one person may take a sectional rehearsal with part of the choir in one room while the others carry on simultaneously in the other room. An extra bonus was the choir could operate in the Wettenhall Room with no hassle when the Faichney Room was needed to be set up for Congregation Meetings.

Jennifer Chou

Director of Music

Outreach Projects – Congregational

The Congregation approved a 2021 budget that included an allocation from Church Council of \$10,000 that was the same as in 2020.

This approved amount of \$10,000 together with the retiring offerings following Communion at the 9:00am and 10:15am services enabled us to distribute \$8,850 from the first half of 2021 and \$13,475 for the second half of 2021. Thus totalling \$22,325 in sums distributed for the calendar year of 2021.

The four projects that we have supported for a number of years and intend to continue to support are listed below. The amount with which we have been able to support them is of a significant nature and vital for these programs to continue. Our TUC congregation from the two services, even during continuing lockdowns throughout 2021 continued to give most generously. We thank our congregation for their unwavering support for the TUC Outreach Programs.

As in the year before, our Outreach Committee continued to be in touch with the directors of these programs to offer support and encouragement in any way possible and to keep the line of communication open during the times of isolation from various lockdowns.

Throughout 2021 our committee discussed looking for an additional program that we might support. Chris Begg was instrumental in finding another Uniting Church agency with which we could share our retiring offering donations. This program is the Boroondara Community Outreach in the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra. A description of the program will be found below.

Following are the distributions made on behalf of the Congregation in 2021.

Robinvale College \$5,185

There are two projects within this college that our money supports. The first is a breakfast program that enables students to study better during the day and also get them to school on time. There are many disadvantaged families who cannot provide breakfast to their children.

The second is to help those children with Irlen Syndrome who are disadvantaged in their ability to read properly and thus struggle with their schoolwork. These students require coloured reading

sheets that enable them to read text correctly without missing random letters in every word printed.

SOSK (Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya) \$4,735

This Kenyan project arose out of the enthusiasm of a Surrey Hills Uniting Church member and her passion to help the forgotten women of Kenya. The project supports education of women in prison, schooling for small children, and hygiene education to the very poorest in the neighbourhood slums where clean drinking water is often a rarity. Many families in these neighbourhoods have either one parent (a mother) or are orphaned.

The Food Truck, Cranbourne Uniting Church \$5,185

Cranbourne Uniting Church has converted an old 'Fire Truck' into a mobile cafeteria. When not in lockdown or facing restrictions during the year it would deliver food to two locations in the Cranbourne area when possible and feed homeless people in each of the areas. At times when restrictions were lifted they were also able to provide counselling support to people who come to the 'Food Truck' for assistance.

The Homework Hub – Officer/Pakenham Mission Area \$5,185

This is for continuing support to the Pakenham Uniting Church in order to provide the running costs of a homework supervision program once a week after school for three hours. The tutors involved are members of the Pakenham Uniting Church with, when possible, a few local high school students who volunteer their time. The primary school age children in this program are mostly from families who have little or no English spoken at home. Again throughout 2021 this weekly program was greatly hindered by the state government-imposed lockdowns but Rev Jo Crisp remained in touch with the families mostly via telephone calls with nearly all families without use of laptops or the internet.

Boroondara Community Outreach \$2,035

The BCO mission is to support people socially isolated or living with a mental illness to live with dignity and engage in community. During the pandemic the groups and community lunches had to be suspended. However, support was given to their community with food and other goods such as phones, phone recharges, myki cards, clothing and medication. The hall was open to the homeless to come during the day for food or to get warm or cool off depending on the season. Over 40,000 meals were cooked and distributed over the past two years. BCO also lends support to asylum seekers, women and children escaping family violence, international students, low-income earners and people who have lost their jobs. BCO have in this past year done an on-line exhibition that showcases the art of 8 people the agency supports. Two are homeless men. The exhibition can be accessed through their website bcokew.org under the stories tab Stories – Boroondara Community Outreach.

These TUC outreach projects would not be able to continue as they do without the generous support of the people of our church. Our Outreach Committee is most grateful for the extraordinary love and support shown by our congregation for these programs during the past two years of stress and strain in COVID times.

Outreach Projects Committee

Anna Field *Co-convenor*
Chris Begg *Secretary*

Jaki Simonson *Co-convenor*
June De Vere *& Lucinda Kenihan*

Elspeth White Bequest Report

The amount of money received from the Elspeth White Bequest in 2021 was \$6,170.

In 2020 following the success of the live streaming of the Sunday morning worship services it was agreed by Church Council that this facility was making significant outreach to the Toorak Uniting Church community and to the community at large. It was agreed that the continuance of this service should become a regular feature of TUC.

In 2020 Church Council approved the expenditure of \$15,000 to achieve this end

It was agreed that this should be supported by the Elspeth White Bequest by applying the available 2020 monies of \$7,408 and a further \$3,638 was expended in 2021 – representing total expenditure of \$11,046 for the acquisition of Live-streaming equipment in early 2021.

Elspeth White Bequest Committee

Anna Field *Co-convenor*
Chris Begg *Secretary*

Jaki Simonson *Co-convenor*

Property Committee

COVID-19 continued to impact the operation of the property committee throughout 2021.

Ongoing maintenance of the buildings on the TUC precinct continued to be difficult to plan and implement as access to the property was limited and disrupted due to travel and work restrictions.

The ability of the Committee to meet and agree an annual plan as in past years was effectively stymied as once again the planned program of maintenance had to be stopped expenditure limited to emergency repairs only.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the age of the buildings and infrastructure in our care meant maintenance was a constant concern and expenditure on ongoing maintenance and repairs had to continue.

Refurbishment of the office was completed despite delays and work on investigating the refurbishment of the hall and other meeting rooms was ongoing and now nears completion.

New leases were entered into with the John Mackenzie Kindergarten and the Kinross café which secured beneficial income streams and stable tenancies which will benefit TUC as the financial disruption caused by COVID-19 gradually dissipates.

We look forward to reinvigorating the committee and proceeding with long needed refurbishment works in 2022.

Jon Sennitt
Chair

Memorial Garden Subcommittee

2021 was the final year of the ministry of Rev Dr Chris Page, who we thank for conducting many services of great sympathy and support for the loved ones gathered in our Memorial Garden. His final service was for John Wischer (1934–2021) the author of 'The Presbyterians of Toorak', our Centenary history. It was a very supportive service of gratitude for his family and church. A private service was also held for Sylvia Colvin. Their names have been recorded in the Memorial Books in the East Chapel.

The Memorial Garden is a quiet beautiful garden which attracted many family members to sit for reflection during the recent Pandemic.

Pamela Wilson
Convener

Roach Committee

Our Roach Committee was able to meet face to face for the first two monthly meetings of 2021. At these meetings we were in the beginning stages of discussing potential candidates for the next Roach Lecture speaker for the coming year. The Committee had made initial inquiries to candidates ranging from prominent theologians to a high-profile artist in the performing arts to noteworthy journalists in the social justice arena. Unfortunately, with the resurgence of COVID the state of Victoria reinstated restrictions preventing public gatherings or even interstate travel. This created great difficulty in trying to make any plans for the next future Roach Lecture speaker not knowing when or how restrictions would be lifted or amended.

In addition, with Reverend Christopher Page in his final year of tenure at TUC, it was not practical to consider a ministerial exchange, global pandemic or not.

Our committee looks forward to getting back to planning for the next Roach Lecture at TUC. We will also be discussing the possibility of smaller gatherings for more informal talks over breakfast on campus followed by discussion.

Anna Field
Chair, Roach Committee,
with Christine Brown, Chris Legge, Mather Mason & James St. John

John Macrae Centre

At the beginning of the financial year 2021/2022 consumers and staff faced challenges once again due to COVID-19 restrictions and the closure of Uniting John Macrae Centre. However, staff adapted swiftly to the challenging situation by moving the programme into remote service delivery.

Staff continued with regular welfare checks to provide social and practical support to our consumers by phone. Activity packs and John Macrae's monthly newsletter were posted to keep consumers cognitively stimulated and to stay connected. Visual activities on Zoom were held on regular basis which included chats, sing a long sessions and bingo.

In November John Macrae resumed their programme in line with Government's restrictions, providing four hours of activities including a homemade lunch meal for consumers.

The operating hours are currently on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am – 2pm.

The COVID safe changes to the service include:

- QR code registration for all staff, volunteers, visitors and participants.
- All participants will be required to wear a face mask whilst indoors where social distancing is not possible.
- All Staff and Volunteers being fully vaccinated and received booster shots while consumer's vaccination status won't be checked.

Uniting will continue to review and alter the services again if needed depends on COVID situation.

The John Macrae Centre received a generous gift this financial year, money from the Sylvia Anderson Bequest will be spent on our programme and its participants on the following activities and equipment:

- Art therapy (Kinross)
- Entertainer Joy
- Physio and Tai Chi Instructors
- Concert outings to the Art Centre
- Music instruments, garden equipment



Despite the interruption of the face-to-face program, John Macrae receives a high level of demand from individuals seeking social interaction and who want to join the programme. Newly joined participants are mainly from JMC's neighbourhood, former volunteers, members of the Uniting Church and John Mackenzie Kindergarten relatives etc.

Last year two new staff members have been employed to support the team in programme planning and service delivery. Both employees graduated with a 'Master in Social Work' from University and bring a wealth of knowledge and skills including work experience from multicultural community organisations.

Reviewing the past 12 months, shows that the service that John Macrae Centre delivers has made a big impact on the life and emotional wellbeing of participants. The fact that staff continue to be connected with consumers and carers remotely, has deepened relationships and supported everyone through the challenging time.

Susanne Walker

Team Leader, John Macrae Centre

Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Class

Due to COVID restrictions and guidelines, we had to use a different format for our 2021, Semester 1 dance classes. With number restrictions in the hall, we ran two classes on each of the three nights, each for an hour instead of the normal one class for an hour and half. The hall and surrounds had to be COVID cleaned in between classes, everyone had to wear masks and QR Code check-in, we had to have a Dance Class COVID Plan in place and a COVID marshal on site. We were almost able to finish the Semester, however, had to reschedule and cancel some classes at the end.

Semester 2 was to have one smaller class on each of the two nights but we only managed to get one Tuesday class in before lockdown which saw no further classes being able to run for the year.

Numbers were down in general, which is understandable, and refunds were offered for classes that could not run.

Thank you to everyone associated with Dance Class for your ongoing support and especially Craig Simonson who has assisted and supported so much with the navigation of COVID rules.

Thank you to the Dance Class Staff, Rhonda Tellis, Rachelle Evans, Sylvia Strenzke, John Druzynski, William Legge and Alex Kinsella. Thank you also to Joshua Brown for helping us keep to our COVID Safe Plan.

As for most, the year in general, was difficult, more so difficult, the activity of our dance being progressive and not being able to maintain social distancing however, being able to offer the program when we were able to, was very much appreciated and reflected by the number of telephone conversations and emails received.

Lin Cooper
Dance Class Coordinator

Kinross Arts Centre

Despite our high hopes, 2021 continued to be a year of further closures because of the spread of the Covid virus. Our Annual program was subject to sudden cancellations and forward planning was very difficult. In February we welcomed our new Director, Susie Shears, who used her experience and contacts to recreate an attractive forward exhibition program.

1. EXHIBITIONS 2021



About the House, Kristin Headlam

6-25 April Kristin Headlam: 'Freeze Frame'

A noted portraitist and depicter of domestic scenes, the opening and exhibition were very well attended.

27 April – 4 May 'A bubble of hope'

Artworks from John Mackenzie Kindergarten

A celebration of a book of the children's illustrations.

8 May-23 July 'Utopia and Beyond''

Indigenous paintings from the Central Desert and Utopia, NT.

Art specialist, Jennifer Dudley, provided a range of women artists with diverse styles. This was a very popular

Exhibition with many bright small paintings in the Gallery which sold well. Jennifer also gave interesting floor talks.

1-15 September 'Bird and Nature in Springtime'

Beautiful Artworks and craft by the John Mackenzie Kindergarten to celebrate Spring.

25 November – 14 December

**'A Selection from the Begg Collection o
Decorative Arts'**

Christopher Begg kindly arranged for this beautiful selection of Decorative Arts to be displayed in Kinross Gallery. He also gave informative floor talks which were extremely popular with our Congregation and other local groups.

This exhibition provided a positive ending for Kinross after another year of restrictions.



Fundraising events

Jill Nazar: 'A Day of Beautiful Things' Sale on 14 May.

Launch of the book 'Intoxicating' by Max Allen, from Studio 2, on 24 May.

The Committee's major Fundraising Lunch and Speaker, planned for Sunday 1 August, was cancelled by another Covid shutdown.

2. KINROSS STUDIOS

The tenants of our Art Studios on Level 1 of Kinross House have their own independent access to their studios during closures, they were able to continue working there, if desired, at reduced rents.

Studio 1: Angela Sach (Art Therapy)

Studio 2: Max Allen (Writer)

Studio 3: Fran Haarsma (Writer)

Studio 4: Robin Stewart (Artist)

Studio 5: Vacant

Studio 7: Alex Schoeffel



3. MANSE KITCHEN CAFÉ

Studio 6 & Ground Floor Café Area: Manse Kitchen

2021 was a difficult period for the Café with constant closures, few customers, so they switched to take away/home delivered meals. We are pleased to welcome their return to Kinross.

4. UNITING ARTS TOORAK (UAT) Committee 2021

- Chairperson: Nina Mumford (Law/Contracts, Strategic Planning)
- Pamela Wilson (Church Council, Heritage Management, Archives)
- Jenny Stewardson (Church Council)
- Anne Page (Psychologist, Community Arts)
- Sarah-Jane Watson (Education, Public Programs)
- Angela Abbott (Artist, Arts Marketing)
- Felitsa Giannopoulos (Events, Education, Arts Marketing)
- Sally Upjohn (Arts Administration, Fine Arts Auctions and Valuations)
- Christopher Begg (Treasurer)
- Rev Dr Christopher Page (Spiritual and Religious Leadership) Ex Officio

The UAT Committee provides oversight of Kinross Arts Centre and in association with Church Council and the Director sets the strategic direction for the Gallery, Studios and Café that it embodies. Kinross Arts Centre is at the forefront of community outreach and engagement utilising the arts and spirituality.

5. NEW KINROSS DIRECTOR

We wish to thank Susie Shears for her professional contribution to Kinross as our Director in 2021. However, by June 2021, through personal circumstances relating to Covid closures, she felt obliged to resign from this position on 30 June 2021.

As Kinross was closed for many periods following, we wish to thank Lynne Kells and Thomson Sennitt for their assistance with administrative and other tasks that enabled Kinross to present three more successful exhibitions in 2021.

6. VOLUNTEERS.

Kinross Arts Centre is very fortunate to have many skilled volunteers and we thank all who helped make our few 2021 exhibitions so successful.

7. KINROSS FRIENDS AND PATRONS

We have not forgotten our wonderful supporters – you will be hearing from us again in 2022.

8. THANK YOU

The UAT Committee thanks everyone who supported Kinross Arts Centre throughout 2020 and 2021. Kinross Arts Centre is heralded as a very special place and we look forward to rebuilding our association with our community in 2022.

Uniting Arts Toorak Committee

Nina Mumford, Chair & Pamela Wilson

Toorak Ecumenical Council

COVID wrecked our normal activities, however we were delighted to the response for Food For Friends, so all our agencies were able to be accommodated.

Anne Smith
Chairperson



Photos: Swedish Church, Toorak Uniting Church,
St Peter's Catholic Church, St John's Anglican Church

Toorak Ecumenical Opportunity Shop

It has been a very difficult trading year for the shop. We started 2021 confidently, with a full complement of 21 volunteers, but trading was variable over the first half due to COVID-19 restrictions. Trading changed from full days to half days in June and July, only four days trading in August, and closed in September and October.

Several long-term volunteers retired during the year, including Margaret Rees-Jones, one of our TUC representatives who served as chairman and secretary for many years. Margaret was replaced by Bronwyn Davis-Jones on the committee as one of the TUC representatives.

Many of the older volunteers retired during the year, so the shop now operates with reduced hours, from 12pm to 4pm, six days per week.

Our new Op Shop treasurer, Linda Marett, has shifted our banking online and negotiated a partial rent relief with the landlord as a consequence of COVID-19.

Since the street bin receptacle has closed, the sorting load has been reduced but we still need good saleable clothes to be brought into the shop. A pick-up service has been arranged to assist collection of donations – where someone has many bags of clothing to donate.

At the request of our supporting churches, we have enrolled all volunteers on a Working with Children and a Police Check register and also on a Vaccination register.

Operations during 2021 enabled the distribution of \$120,000 (\$40,000 x 3) to 30 charities nominated by the committee members from each of the three churches – St John's, St Peter's, and Toorak Uniting. The distribution to the charities was completed in November 2021 by digital bank transfer well before the Christmas break.

On behalf of the committee, I offer my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for their sterling service under difficult circumstances during 2021. The committee is always grateful to those who supported the Op Shop by making donations and by purchasing goods during the year.

Carrlo Jack
Committee member

Church Council & Committees

Church Council

Minister of the Parish
Associate Ministers

Chairperson
Secretary

Treasurer

Jonathan Lancaster*
Chris Begg*
Mather Mason
Christine Brown*
Garry Brown*
Carrlo Jack* (until 30 June)
Pamela Wilson*

**Elder*

Elders Emeritus

Ian McAlister
Karin Mackinnon

Management Team

Rev. Dr. Christopher Page
Jenny Stewardson
Craig Simonson
Pamela Wilson
Christine Brown

Rev. Dr Christopher Page
Rev. John Edwards, Rev. Wal Baker &
Rev. Peter Beale
Jenny Stewardson*
Malcolm Jack (until 30 June)
Catriona De Vere (from 1 July)
Craig Simonson

James Barber
Doug Lee*
Nina Mumford
Jon Sennitt Thomson Sennitt
Isobel Negri*

Suzette Morgan
W. Norman Macleod

Church Congregation

Congregation Chair
Congregation Secretary

Barbara McKinnon
Fiona Thomas

Church Outreach Centres Chairpersons

John Macrae Centre
John Mackenzie Kindergarten
Uniting Arts Toorak

Susanne Walker, Team Leader
Amelia Holmes
Nina Mumford

Parish Administration

Office Managers

Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Classes
Church Officer / Caretaker
Uniting Arts Toorak Manager

Music Director
Church Organists
Bookkeeper

Catriona De Vere, Anne Binmore &
Bronwen Duckett
Lin Cooper
James Widdowson
Hugo Leschen (resigned January 2020).
Position vacant for rest of year
Jennifer Chou
Jennifer Chou and Jonathan Lancaster
Catriona De Vere

Committee and Activity Convenors

Archives	Pamela Wilson
Choir and Music	Jennifer Chou
Continuation and Planned Giving	Stan Laughner
Dancing Class	Anne Smith
Finance	Craig Simonson
Flower Roster	Annette Baldwin
Memorial Garden	Pamela Wilson
Morning Group	Anne Smith
Outreach Projects	Jaki Simonson & Anna Field *co-chairs
Congregational Care	Christine Brown
Property	Jon Sennitt
Readers Roster	June DeVere
Roach Committee	Anna Field
Rosters	Jenny Stewardson
Toorak Ecumenical Movement	Anne Smith
Toorak Ecumenical Op Shop	Margaret Rees-Jones
Volunteers	Christine Brown
Welcome	June DeVere
Whole Church Family Fellowship	Jaki Simonson
Worship and Education	Christopher Page

Church Membership

The current Membership breakdown at 31/12/2021 is as follows:

Baptised:	88
Confirmed:	31
TUC Members:	118
Members in Association:	9
Adherents:	25
Unsure:	45
TOTAL	316

There are an additional 91 people on the roll as Non-Members.

Rites Celebrated at TUC

Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals	Interments
1	0	5	7	2



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