



ST JOHN'S
DIAMOND CREEK

**THE ANGLICAN
PARISH OF
DIAMOND CREEK
ANNUAL REPORTS**

**2022
2023**





ANGLICAN PARISH OF **DIAMOND CREEK**

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SENIOR MINISTER'S REPORT

Tim Johnson



The transition from 2022 to 2023 has seen renewed energy and engagement at St John's. The two years of Covid lockdowns in 2020 and 2021 exhausted us all and so 2022 was a slower year of recovery. However, with a new year it has been exciting to see our church grow again and a high level of engagement throughout the church and into the community.

Our current church vision to 2025 is *Reconnect and build a multiethnic and intergenerational network of congregations, Life Groups and mission initiatives for Diamond Creek and the northern suburbs*. Given the ongoing impact of covid in 2022 we decided that the main focus in 2023 should be on reconnecting and so set the goal to *Reconnect all ages, building a sense of belonging*. This has involved ensuring that there is regular hospitality at our services, organising extra events that will bring people together, developing a clear integration pathway for new people, ensuring that everyone on our database is contacted, and strongly promoting Life Groups to encourage people to join a group in 2023. It has been exciting to see these things

happen and for people to reconnect and grow in belonging throughout the year.

Over the past year we have seen each of our in-person church services grow in attendance. The overall increase in attendance has been 18% on the previous year (see the statistics later in this report). This growth is remarkable for a church of our size! Admittedly it was from a lower base given the Covid recovery but it is sizeable growth nonetheless. We must be thankful to God for his gracious provision in bringing new people into our congregation and also renewing and increasing the regular commitment of our members to being at church services more often.

This growth is all the more remarkable given the understaffing which we have experienced this year. Given budget constraints, we made the decision not to fill the four days of ministry undertaken by Kirk Mackenzie after he was appointed as Senior Minister at Plentylife. Instead, we reallocated the workload to existing staff and reassigned responsibilities, with Joel Snibson moving to oversee Sunday@6 and

Tim Johnson assuming oversight for both morning congregations. At the end of 2022 Kylie Pilkington concluded her role as Children and Families Minister and in April 2023 Cam Berndt concluded as Youth Minister. These dual vacancies allowed us to combine the roles into a single full-time role of Generations Minister, an extra day of funding for these vital ministry areas. On 23 July 2023 Maddy Bialecki commenced in this role and has made an outstanding contribution already as she has engaged energetically in building relationships and reshaping ministries.



Given the reduced staffing levels this past year I am especially thankful to our volunteer leaders and teams who have carried extra responsibilities and workload especially in the area of children's and youth ministry. The staff team has also worked very hard in these circumstances, especially when at the start of the year we rejoiced to have two babies born to staff members (Joel Snibson and Andy Barras) and so significant periods of parental leave were added in. Again, God has been so gracious in providing all our needs in abundance through the faithfulness and hard work of his people.

On Sunday 17 September 2023 I celebrated 10 years as Senior Minister at St John's and it was a joy to celebrate this with a dinner on the preceding Friday and services together on the Sunday. I consider it a great joy and privilege to have been entrusted with the responsibility of being your pastor over this



time. When we arrived at St John's our children were 4, 2 and 11 weeks old! Over the past 10 years you have loved, encouraged and ministered to us as well as receiving our love, encouragement and ministry. It is a joy to continue looking forward to what God will do in our midst in the coming years. I hope that this report helps highlight areas to give thanks to our gracious God for, and continue to follow his leading into the future.

Church Services

In 2023 we continued our pattern of three in-person Sunday services at 8am, 10am and 6pm, and a Digital Service streamed each Sunday at 9am and available to be watched at any time from then.

Our 8am service has grown markedly this year (29% increase on the previous year) with one service having 61 people present as we celebrated Dora Huggins' 100th birthday. Morning Tea has

been introduced each Sunday and this has helped to build a regular community at this congregation and strengthened relationships outside the formal service time.



Our 10am service continues to be intergenerational with new babies being born and beautiful interactions occurring across ages and demographics. It has been encouraging to see steady growth at the 10am service this year with an 11% increase overall and new people joining us. The 6pm service has continued to see an encouraging number of youth and young adults attending but again has people of various different ages. Hospitality has been key at 6pm this year with fortnightly dinners and weekly suppers fuelling bodies and relationships. The 6pm service increased by 27%, a very healthy sign for our church as we continues to engage and grow younger generations.

In terms of teaching this year we have covered the following:

- Waiting for... (Advent 2022, various passages)
- New Year's Resolutions (January 2023, various passages),
- Dear Church (Revelation 1-5),

- The Church on Mission (Acts 24-28),
- Trekking with Jesus (Luke 18-19),
- God and Suffering (Job),
- Stand Firm (2 Thessalonians),
- Stories of the Kingdom (Matthew 20-22), and
- You do You, on expressive individualism (various passages).

Our Christmas services were well attended in 2022, with all of them growing from the previous Covid-affected year. It was especially encouraging to see Community Carols return to the sort of numbers we saw before the pandemic, with over 600 people coming down to Coventry Oval for the event. Similarly, all our Easter services were larger than the previous year and we had over 500 people attend across all services, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday.



On 10 September we held a Confirmation service conducted by our new Bishop, Brad Billings. Alex Ellul, Mia Borg and David Tregale shared their testimonies and it was an encouragement to hear how God has built and encouraged their faith. It was especially encouraging to hear how significant our youth ministry has been for each of them.

Running weekly services involves a large number of volunteers and I am so thankful to everyone who serves in various ways: music, prayer, welcoming, hospitality, bible reading, service leading, kids



ministry, communion setup and assisting, and more. A special note of thanks to Sue Jetten who coordinates music across the church and encourages our band leaders and musicians in their dedicated and joyful service of us all.

Life Groups

Life Groups remain a vital part of St John's community life, providing a venue for discipleship and mutual pastoral care of group members. Our Life Groups Minister, Delle Matthews, continues to nurture and encourage the various groups, bringing great wisdom and experience to her role.

There are currently 19 Adult Life Groups including one intergenerational group, and two Youth Life Groups, covered in the Youth Ministry section on page 18. At the beginning of the year a new group for people new to the faith or on the fringes of church was started.

There are approximately 188 adults and five children attending a Life Group. This year, 24 adults joined a group for the first time, thanks to frequent and enthusiastic promotion in our services. New members have been directly

recruited by group leaders and members and through completing the form on the St John's website.

Each group has a contact person. Most would call themselves the group leader but we are seeing an increasing trend to move to being a contact person only (7 of the adult groups). These groups share the load of leading and all are groups of mature Christians.

We can be thankful for the high dedication and quality of those that do lead a group and the willingness of facilitators to take up the role, often on top of other responsibilities.

Life Group leaders and facilitators met together for an update in August. This was a time of sharing what works well and some challenges as well as a reminder of the purpose of Life Groups and possible needs in 2024.



Over half the groups are using study questions provided, based on the sermon series. Delle has been producing questions for each of the series, and alerts group leaders to other resources they might find useful.

Delle has also been attending a network of Life Group ministers from around Australia that meets each term on Zoom. The group is useful for mutual encouragement and ideas.

There are some challenges ahead. Most of our groups have reached capacity and there will be need for new groups in the future. Planning is already underway to meet that need.

Church Library

St John's Church Library includes books and other resources on Christian living, Christian doctrine, biographies and novels. In 2023, a number of new titles were added to the collection. Duplicates and books not needed were passed on to other libraries both here in Australia and Africa.



In October, St John's hosted a meeting of the Australian Church Librarians Association. The

speaker, Rel Mollet, a book blogger, reviewer and support of authors spoke on encouraging authors and readers.

Prayer

Prayer is vital to our church life, and one of our values is *Pray expectantly*. Prayer happens in a range of ways throughout St John's: personally, in prayer pairs and triplets, in Life Groups, church services, prayer meetings, and prayer ministry.

Each Thursday at 8am, a small group of staff and church members meet to pray through the needs and ministries of the church. We regularly have around 8 people attend this gathering.

It has been wonderful to resume prayer ministry at all of our services in 2023. This has been led by Lyndell Whiting (8am), Robyn Bland (10am) and Linda Cridland (6pm), who have gathered and trained teams to offer prayer at the end of each service. This is an important part of our pastoral care as we offer this as a way of responding to God each week and a space to avail ourselves of his listening ear.

Pastoral Care

As a church we are committed to the biblical principle of mutual care, where all Christians minister to one another and support one another as we follow Christ. Our Life Groups are the main way that we exercise this ministry but it happens in a variety of other ways, both formal and informal. The staff team are always actively engaged in pastoral support of people within our congregation.

Our Pastoral Care Support Team has again been led by Nikki Isaks, Judy Parkin and David Smith and they have coordinated additional support and care as needed. In a large church like ours there are always pastoral and practical needs and

I am thankful to the many people who love and serve others by providing meals, driving people to appointments, praying and listening, and offering various other forms of practical assistance.

Over this past year we have said farewell to some beloved church members and held funeral services for family members and those in the wider community. We give thanks to God for the lives of Beverley Aitchison, Therese Jacobs, Margaret Macmillan, Deidre Lobb, Martin Wright, Margaret (Lexie) McVeigh, Marilan McGahy, Muriel Farrington, and Cath Marriott. These faithful servants of Jesus encouraged us in our faith in many different ways. We grieve their passing because we miss them and yet we grieve also in hope knowing that they are now in the presence of their Lord and Saviour Jesus and enjoying his commendation 'well done good and faithful servant'.

In our memorial garden at St Katherine's we interred the ashes of Jennifer Hearty and Brigitte Metz and at St John's those of Henry Huggins and Barry Hammond. Again we give thanks for these saints who served the Lord and our church.

We have also rejoiced in celebrating the weddings of Tim Gillie & Steph Moore and Andrew Durance & Katherine Zietsch. Over the year we also celebrated the baptisms of Grace Jacobs, Jarrah Chalmers, Cedric Bland, Will Price, and Mackenzie De La Rue.

Local Mission

Our mission and mandate as Jesus' disciples is to know Jesus and make Jesus known. This call is not only for certain individuals with evangelistic gifts, but every person at St John's as they go

about their daily lives.

Equipping for local mission happens in three ways; in our services, Life Groups and through various Local Mission Teams (LMTs). In 2023, mission has been a key focus in our church services and Life Groups with our; 'Church on Mission' series from Acts, and current "You Do You" series addressing current cultural narratives.



Local Mission Teams (LMTs) are smaller teams, engaging in regular mission and key events that serve Diamond Creek and beyond, aiming to create opportunities for gospel engagement.

LMTs including; Mainly Music, Going Bananas, Kids Hope, Friday Playgroup and SRI are covered in the Children's Ministry Section of this report and fall under the responsibility of the Generations Minister. We want to acknowledge the considerable volunteer contribution to these LMTs in the absence of a Generations Minister before Maddy was appointed to the role.

Ongoing LMTs include:

Diamond Creek Community Carols

The Community Carols is a key event to bless our community and make Jesus known each year.



In 2022 the carols returned in person for the first time since 2019, and welcomed a large turnout estimated to be around 600. There was community appetite to gather and celebrate. Plans are in full swing for the 2023 Community Carols on 17 December involving local choir groups, face painting, food trucks, followed by the Carols. Please pray that community groups continue to financially sponsor our event this year. I would like to recognise the demanding work of the Community Carols Committee including Sue Jetten, Phil Wadeson, Jan Loughman and Andy Barras.

Leith Park and Wattle Glen Chapel Services

At Leith Park the team continue to run fortnightly chapel services, including the monthly Holy Communion service where Joel Snibson presides. This ministry continues to be

a considerable source of encouragement, as we facilitate Christian community and worship in the nursing home.

I want to thank Bev Ward and Charlotte Chidell for their diligent leadership and Kris Ryall, Jan Hollingsworth, and Nola Borrie for their ongoing pastoral care of the residents and how they have stepped up serving in new ways. I especially want to thank Jan Hollingsworth for her pastoral support for our bi-monthly chapel service at Estia Wattle Glen. Given that Diamond Creek Uniting Church is without a minister, our involvement at Estia in 2024 may increase to a monthly commitment.

Footy Chaplaincy

Linda Cridland (seniors) and Kayleen O'Neil (juniors) are seeing a season of transition. Their ongoing presence amongst the changing club leadership and ongoing support and mentoring of players has seen many pastoral opportunities in the different challenges of footy club life. As Linda has retired this season, be praying for a new chaplain who can step into the juniors' position in 2024.

Alpha

Unfortunately, there were not enough registrations to run a full Alpha course this year, despite much promotion in Term One. The one person who registered has been welcomed into a Life Group instead. Given the low uptake this year, we are considering various evangelistic courses that might meet the community's needs in 2024, e.g. the Marriage Course, Parenting Toolbox.

Town Fair Team 2023

Under the leadership of Dianne Cheraghi and Phil Wadeson, the team again blessed the community with our hospitality tent. The signage and T-shirts communicated; We love Diamond Creek. On



a key day on the Diamond Creek calendar, the goal was to be a positive presence as we serve our community. This tent provided a space away from the busyness of the Fair to rest and connect and receive hospitality, face painting and kid's activities. The generous food contributions by our church went above and beyond. Overall, the number of volunteers serving on the day was down this year and so we may need to review what our engagement in the Town Fair looks like in 2024.

CFA Suppers

Linda Cridland and Robyn Gorfine have continued to bless and encourage the Diamond Creek CFA with suppers for over 13 years now. This ministry has led to much goodwill and strong relationships with the CFA. We are appreciative of their partnership with our Community Carols.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is our service providing for those in our community facing food insecurity. The self-service model provides for this need with discretion and dignity. The current economic

situation has caused increased traffic and demand. The need for restocking has significantly increased. I want to thank the work of Nikki Isaks and Deb Wadeson, who have coordinated with Carolyn Burns to manage stocking day to day.



The pantry will be reviewed in the next quarter, to see how we can improve it and consider new missional opportunities to serve those in greatest need in our community. St John's generous donations from our Harvest Festival on 15 October has restocked our stores to meet demand in the coming Christmas and new year period.

The Memory Care Café

In conjunction with Health Ability and the Nillumbik Carers Collective, St John's hosts a Memory Care Café in the foyer and hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The café supports carers of loved ones with memory loss, providing a welcoming space for them to share their stories and find help amongst others in similar circumstances. At the same time, those with memory loss enjoy activities and companionship together, giving them a break from routine in a happy supported environment. The numbers vary from week to week, but we have 13 regular attendees and often some visitors trying out the

program or seeking advice. Eight volunteers from St John's, plus two others from the local community, help at the café on a rostered basis, and many valuable relationships are being formed. Great thanks to Carolyn Fairweather who has initiated and led St John's involvement.

Prayer Walking in Diamond Creek's New Estates

From May until August, we launched our prayer walking team. Overseen by Margie Baxter, each week this team went out to systematically pray and cover all the streets in the developing newer estates off Herbert's Lane. The team will prayerfully consider possible next steps for missional engagement in this community on an ongoing basis.

Challenges to local mission in 2023:

- To have more gospel intentionality among the variety of LMTs, by having clearer 'next steps' to make Jesus known.
- To have more LMTs that have regular rhythms, which will enable relationships to grow with those in the community.
- As Life Groups are a key opportunity for local mission, there is a need to establish Life Groups in the surrounding northern growth areas (where church members currently live) to leverage new missional opportunities with a gospel presence there.

New opportunities for local mission 2023-2024:

The strategy includes having a variety of missional events that are accessible to non-churched people, creating bridges to our St. John's community, some with clearer gospel intentionality.

There are further opportunities for events with community engagement and a 'speaker,' which brings this gospel intentionality.

Gingerbread house making night

Launched in 2022, with over 90 in attendance, on 8 December Caitlyn Cox and team will again host this fun and assessable event aimed to welcome non-churched families and friends. In addition to the competition and fun, there will be a clear gospel message about the meaning Christmas, a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with non-churched within our community.



Diamond Creek Art expo

Our God is a creative God, the originator of all things beautiful.

Headed up by Janet Tiller, Jan Loughman, and Bel Fisher, our steering team are planning an Art Expo between 19-28 April 2024 at St John's. The vision is to partner with our community to display their creative works, in different media, to be celebrated and sold. The theme is "Together," kicking off with a launch exhibition on the Friday night and a Christian artist speaker, followed by staffed opening times during the week for our community to enjoy and purchase the displayed works.

We are exploring new local mission initiatives in 2024, creating bridges to our local community and opportunities to share and show Jesus.

Mission Partnerships

In the 2022-2023 budget cycle, we assigned 15% of our budgeted offertory income to missions. This budgeted total was \$75,574 and of this amount \$71,008 was allocated upfront, keeping a reserve in case the parish didn't meet its budget for offerings and also to be available for urgent mission needs. This initial allocation is found on page 31.

In June, the Missions Committee approved a donation of \$500 to Anglican Overseas Aid's Kenya Famine Appeal. We also made three payments of \$360 (total of \$1080) to Korus Connect to support the SRI Teacher Registrations for Nerida Fidock, Isobel Fisher & Deb Wadeson.

During the year, the Liem family made the decision to leave Kartidya, the Indonesian equivalent of Wycliffe. We determined that we would continue to support them through their home church in Jakarta, Gereja Kristen Kalam Kudus, and that this would ensure good governance and accountability while continuing to support this excellent translation work.

Also during the year, David Blackman (Wycliffe/AuSIL) moved into retirement and so no longer requires financial support for his translation work into the Alyawarr language. David will continue to do this work in Adelaide in his retirement but will not require financing for it. It has been a privilege to partner with David in his work for over 20 years.

With David Blackman's retirement, the Missions Committee investigated new partnerships that we might move this support to, in order to maintain a commitment to Indigenous bible translation and engagement. David Blackman recommended the Plain English Version (PEV) translation work and, after investigation, we have agreed to support Susanna Baldwin in this PEV translation work in

the new church financial year.

Missions are promoted in a variety of ways throughout the church. This year we have continued the Missions Blog which highlights a mission partner or explores an area of global mission. We have committed to publish a blog post at least once a month and have published more than this. There are currently 61 people subscribed to this blog. Mission Partners have also given video updates in services before reading the bible passage for the service. Again this has been well received and a good way to regularly hear from and to see our partners in mission.



Through the year we had services with Missions speakers doing the sermon and sharing about their work. We have heard from the following speakers this year:

7 May, Josh Bartlett from Wycliffe Australia

11 June, Chris Helm and Jack Joynson from Scripture Union

18 June, Jo Knight from Anglican Overseas Aid

25 June, Adrian Lane from Bush Church Aid

In each case our mission partners spoke at all three in-person services (8am, 10am and 6pm) as well as recording their talk for the digital service.

In April-May, Tim Johnson spent a week with

Langham Partnership, training pastors and preachers at Ukarumpa in the Eastern Highlands of PNG. This was an engagement with both Langham and Wycliffe/SIL as the training took place at the Wycliffe/SIL base.



There have been other opportunities to build our mission partnerships as well. Church members have attended missions conferences, organised and participated in fundraising activities for mission partners, and served as volunteers and board members for our mission partners. In many ways, big and small, we are working in partnership together for God's mission in the world.

Children's Ministry

St John's Kids

This year, St John's Kids has been led by Krissy Veerhuis, with Maddy Bialecki. St John's Kids has studied Matthew, 'God's Big Bible Story' (biblical theological overview), Exodus, and have begun Mark. We have been trialling some new material that so far has received a positive response from both leaders and children. This year we have been aiming to increase parents' connection with the program and recruit new leaders and assistants.

Some of our strategies to achieve this has been encouraging parents and youth to assist,

Andy making a promo video, termly newsletters, Generations Ministry updates, and regular St John's presentations at the 10am service. These presentations also aim to consolidate the children's learning through presenting it to others and encouraging the broader congregation.



The kids have loved presenting their learning and even the younger ones are keen for a role up front. We have also been greatly encouraged by new people volunteering at St John's Kids. We now have a good number of assistants however we continue to pray for more leaders. St John's kids have a regular core of kids that attend most weeks and we can see these kids forming strong friendships with others and actively engaging in the discussions. It would be great to find ways



of encouraging other families to attend services more regularly as this will assist their children to establish connections during the program and after the service.

Mainly Music

Mainly Music has been led by Sue Jetten every Wednesday morning during school terms this year. Our team consists of 6 regular volunteers who attend weekly, and 4 hospitality ladies who are rostered on 2-3 times a term to provide morning tea for the adults.



We currently have 23 families on our roll with a total of 32 children ranging in age from babes in arms to 5-year-olds. We never have everyone attend at once and would average about 22 children, and their caregiver, per week. Our waitlist continues to grow with our program well and truly at capacity.

During Terms 1 and 2 we have provided activities and craft, the half hour music session and morning tea each week, running from 10:00 – 11:30 am. We have celebrated Easter, giving each family the usual chocolate treats, and some promises for parents from the Bible. Mums and caregivers were recognised with a special sit down (mostly child-free) High Tea event during our usual session, and we visited Rare Bears Play Centre in Eltham. All of these events were very well attended and appreciated by the families.

A continued highlight is the relationships we have

been able to establish and invest in as we chat to mums, dads and grandparents who attend with their children. We offer opportunity to share any prayer needs, and occasionally individuals have asked for prayer sharing a crisis with us. Children are always eager to come along, and we are often told by parents that as they pass the church during the week, their little one will identify that this is where mainly music happens and can we go now! We have also been very encouraged by a parent who has been asking questions about faith, and whilst Alpha was unable to go ahead last term, we have been trying to provide a place for her to continue to investigate her faith.

Last year, we developed a relationship with Estia



Health Wattle Glen. Residents came to St John's to be a part of mainly music sessions on four occasions, joining in with the craft, music and enjoying morning tea. A proposed visit from them earlier this year was cancelled due to a Covid outbreak in the facility, but we hope to set another date in the future and will continue to work towards taking a small group of children to them for a music group.

We are constantly in need of more volunteer leaders, as having enough people to run the program, and also have time to talk and connect with families is a balance. We sense that with numbers steadily increasing (post Covid) that

there will soon be a need for a second group, and eagerly await God's provision in this area. We are enormously grateful for the very enthusiastic and happy group of families who attend each week and tell us that this is a weekly highlight for them and their little ones.

Playgroup

In Term 2, we launched a St John's Playgroup and it has been positively received by the Diamond Creek community. The group has been led by Adele Snibson and Andy Barras. Currently, 40 families are officially registered via the church website, with 29 families connected through the Facebook group.



Before the hard launch in Term 2, we soft launched with a group of local mums seeking community and connection, meeting casually in Term 1. It became evident that many parents were lonely and isolated, and after a relaxed environment where both parents and children could form meaningful connections. To address this, we made the structure of playgroup to try meet this need – a casual, relaxed, relational, parent-facilitated, unstructured session.

Throughout the term, we had an average of 8-12 families and approximately 8-14 children attending each week. Among them, 4 families are church members, and the rest are from the

Diamond Creek and surrounding community. A challenge we face is irregular attendance due to winter, illness, and other activities. Though 21 families have attended throughout the term, only have 7 families attend consistently.

A joy and highlight has been the faith-based discussions that have taken place during the playgroup, providing opportunities for us to hear the challenges others are facing and also share how our faith has helped us through different points in our lives. As a result, Adele Snibson meets fortnightly with two mums from the playgroup to further build this connection.

At the end of Term 3 we hosted an end of term morning tea with ham and cheese croissants and fruit and saw a really positive response and three new families connect based on the Facebook page!

This term so far has seen a drop in numbers with weather as well as both Andy and Adele unable to be as present, but we are encouraged by the continued engagement of some of our regular families and the difference playgroup is making in their lives and engagement with the gospel and our church. We hope to invite some of these families to programs in 2024 to build on these relationships and engage the partners often absent.

Going Bananas

The theme for this year's Going Bananas was Bush Trek, a trek through the Aussie bush to discover more about our amazing country and a trek through the bible to discover more about our amazing God and his character. A combination of interactive teaching, skits, small group discussions, games, science activities and craft kept the kids engaged throughout the program.

Key passages and teaching covered:

God's Power

– God speaks Creation into being – Genesis 1:1-2:3

God's Plan

– God's rescue plan for sin – Genesis 2:8-3:24

God's Protection

– Crossing the Red Sea – Exodus 14:5-31

God's Provision

– Jesus Feeds the 5000 – John 6:1-13

God's Presence

– Jesus is God with us – Matthew 1:1-25, John 1

God's Promises



Each of our small groups was led by one adult and two youth. We also had youth running the tech desk and assisting with other aspects of the program. 31 of the 60 team members (involved in upfront teaching and drama, small group leaders and assistants, craft/science/games leaders, tech and first aid) were aged 12-17yrs, with the remainder being adults aged 18-70+. This highlights the importance of this program not only as an opportunity to teach participants, but as a mentoring and training opportunity of our youth by more mature leaders.

In addition to the team mentioned above, we were well supported by at least another 30 volunteers who helped with artwork, props and decorations, maintenance, welcoming families to the program each morning, providing lunches for the team, and vacuuming the facilities each day.

Whilst every volunteer contribution is valued when putting together a program like this, special mention needs to be made to acknowledge the planning of the core team, Kylie Pilkington, Sue Jetten and Tania Grinton. The writing of teaching and drama elements was undertaken by Sue, Tania put time and creative flair into developing the craft/science/games components of the program, and Kylie coordinated the volunteer team, and managed participant registrations and other administrative tasks.



– Forgiveness & the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:1-12, 31-42

Last year, we capped the program at 96 kids (eight groups of twelve), anticipating the possibility of volunteers having to pull out without much notice due to illness. This year, we initially did the same, however as our volunteer submissions increased, we lifted the participant cap to 120 (twelve groups of ten).

Kids Hope

We are excited to be celebrating 10 years of partnership with Kids Hope in 2023!

Thank you to the many faithful volunteers we have had over this period and the leadership of Robyn Burke, Barry Gunning, and Carolyn Fairweather just to name a few who have led in this ministry. We've had so many good news stories of how this ministry has positively impacted the lives of the children our mentors have gotten to know and supported. Currently, we have one mentor in Diamond Creek Primary School with a need for many more, and the new Principal, Jacqui Abrahams, is deeply invested in continuing our partnership!

If you have one hour free, once a week, during school hours and want to make a profound difference in the life of one young person and their family and community, please get in contact with Maddy Bialecki.



Special Religious Instruction (SRI)

SRI at Kangaroo Ground Primary School continues to be a wonderful ministry to promote the gospel in a local school. Please pray for our leaders, Nerida Fidock, Bel Fisher and Deb Wadeson and the school as they manage some challenges in location and in the current cohort of students attending. It is simply fabulous that we still have an open door to minister with God's Word in a school and we

pray for the protection and continued building of this space! We are praying for stability, strong relationship with the school, perseverance for our leaders, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of these students engaging with Christ and his Church.

Youth Ministry

Three months have already passed since Maddy Bialecki started the new role of Generations Minister. These first months have been dedicated to meeting key leaders and getting a sense of what God is doing in each space.

Youth Life Groups

Our program at St John's continues with our primary focus and attention on the Youth Life Groups that meet weekly on Sunday afternoons during school term. We currently have two Life Groups consisting of the younger year levels from Years 7-9 and the seniors from Years 10-12. Around 8-10 regularly attend the junior Life Group, and six our senior Life Group. There is a further group of around 6-8 youth of various ages who regularly attend our 6pm congregation but don't have time or capacity to attend Life Groups. Three of our youth were Confirmed in September for which we praise God for his gospel of grace in their lives!

It's also worth noting that with the coming year's transition between our year 12s graduating out and our year 6s being welcomed in, a distinct change will occur to both Life Groups numbers and 'identity'. We've just celebrated our years 6 & 7 Dinner, we welcomed our incoming year 7s into Youth Ministry at St John's in both Life Groups' and Friday night events.

There has been a lot of flexibility this year with all the changes in terms of the content studied in Life Groups led faithfully by our leadership team:

Megan Street and Adrian Pain for 7s-9s (with Jason Bialecki joining) and Ella Tregale and Scott Pilkington for 10s-12s. Our Years 7-9 are currently in the beginning of Luke's Gospel, and our 10s-12s have been looking at themes of different parts of the Bible and are looking to end this term well, to help our Year 12s consolidate their time in youth and celebrate all that has been as they transition to young adulthood!



We give thanks for our four youth leaders as they have loved and discipled our young people! They have invested much of their time, love and affection in our youth and the fruit of that spiritual parenting is clear from their relationships with them. Please continue to support, encourage, and pray for these wonderful servants of Christ.

There is a clear need for leadership recruitment and training within the coming 6-12 months and this will be one of Maddy's key foci. We have multiple young adults who are called on to assist in leading when our regular leaders are unable to attend, but there is a need for more committed leaders going forward. Some of our graduating Year 12s have also been extended an invitation to serve in children's and youth ministry from next year as we seek to provide this option as a regular space to help them continue being formed in Christ and to make Christ known.

We are planning to establish a combined training day for all our leaders in generational ministry

to under 18s, which will provide gathered input/ learning and allows for visioning and prayer in ministry specific groups early next year.

Combined Youth Events

The other part of our program this year has included attending two events each term that are hosted by NCYE (Northern Churches Youth Events) and NEW (North Eastern Worship) Collective.



The main event of our year is the NCYC Camp, on the Labour Day weekend in March, and was a great success this year! Many thanks go to Cam Berndt and Ella Tregale in their roles directing this event on behalf of all four churches involved. We saw a continuation of the growing fellowship between the four churches and great teaching and discussion on understanding the outworking of the gospel for their lives and communities.

Strategic Directions

The spiritual and relational formation of our young people in the areas of worship (UP) and fellowship (IN) have been a resounding strength and model of ministry. One of the areas we haven't invested as much attention though has been in the missional identity (OUT) and practice of our youth. Going forward we aim to give one in every four Sundays to local mission within our core youth, to help them practice service and evangelism to the local community.

Adding to this, a model of a Friday night drop in style event, open to the community, is currently being planned to provide a space for our youth to invite their friends and engage in mission. We are excited to announce that we have received a grant of \$2,000 to kickstart a program (working title is 'Thank God it's Friday') at the start of next year that aims to run twice a term, and we will be working hard to recruit for this amazing missional space. It's clear over the past year how much this community of Diamond Creek needs the investment of key relationships, spaces, time and resources into



our young people, to help them flourish and (we pray!) to encounter the good news of Jesus Christ. We again ask for your partnership in prayer to discern how best to respond to this need in a way that augments and strengthens the discipleship pathways of St John's for Christ's glory.

Child Safety

As a Christian community, meeting together to worship God in the name of Jesus Christ, we affirm our commitment to the safety of each child and young person who interacts with our community. God's word makes it clear that all people are created equal and that any position of power is to

be accepted humbly and with the intent of serving others, never to harm them. Our faith motivates us to love everyone and never to discriminate against anyone, especially based on age, race, gender, language, sexual orientation, disability or family/social background. Therefore, we seek to protect the safety of all young people without exception. We take a zero tolerance approach to child abuse. We want our church to be a place where young people can come to know and experience the love of Jesus and his followers.

All Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities to children are required to ensure that they comply with compulsory Child Safe Standards. New Child Safe Standards came into effect on 1 July 2022 and Action Plans have been implemented to ensure that our church is following these standards. This year we have undertaken a Parish Self-Assessment to ensure that we are fulfilling our obligations as part of the Diocesan Action Plan for Meeting the New 11 Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Child Safety is embedded into our practices at St John's including in the following ways:

- Parish Council has a standing item on Child-



Safety as part of each meeting

- All people working with under 18s at St John's must obtain an Clearance for Service which includes a Working With Children Check,

Police Check, and screening by Kooyoora (the Professional Standards body used by the Diocese of Melbourne).

- Training for all people working with children and youth to ensure awareness and compliance with safe ministry practice.
- We communicate regularly about child safety through posters around our church building, upfront notices, slides at the start of each service, and age appropriate conversations about safety within our programs.
- The keeping and updating of a child safe register. This register will be sent to the diocese as part of our annual returns and accompanied by a declaration by the Senior Minister that we are following all child safety requirements.



The level of compliance required for child safety is very high and it changes regularly. I am thankful for the hard work that we are all doing as a church to ensure that everyone is safe. My thanks especially to Carolyn Burns, who serves as our child-safety officer, and to Maddy Bialecki who as Generations Minister has particular responsibilities in this area. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who

undertake the compliance requirements in order to serve our beautiful children and young people. As we respond to these requirements, we are encouraged to know that each step is an intentional part of our love, care and protection of the vulnerable in our midst. It is a ministry of self-giving service and displays a positive fragrance of the gospel to all families who engage with our ministries to children and youth.

As a church which is intergenerational and has thriving ministry to children, youth and families we know how important it is to do this safely and well. Thank you for your part in this, because it is a church-wide and every church member responsibility. For more detailed information about our screening processes or reporting procedures for Child Safety at St John's please see our website at stjohnsdc.org.au/safe

Digital Ministry

Digital Services

Our Digital Service has continued to be a helpful option for many regulars and visitors, for those sick and those travelling, to both remain connected and to get a sense of what our church is like before attending in-person.



Since May 2022, the digital service has been shaped specifically for an online audience, rather than trying to replicate an in-person experience. This has meant a shorter service, focused more on the talk, with a very brief introduction to the passage before launching into the teaching.

Our average watch percentage has increased from 30% to 40% - meaning on average people are watching 10% more of the service than this time last year. In YouTube data, there's always a big drop off in viewers after the first 3-10 seconds, and what we've observed since making these changes is that after that drop, the numbers are stable through the rest of the service.

The biggest challenge of the digital service remains keeping track of who is watching. While there are some committed viewers who will always comment "Good morning!", the vast majority of those watching are anonymous. Despite providing numerous opportunities to connect within each service, those who do connect usually choose informal conversations to let us know they're watching online.

Digital Outreach

Through our YouTube, Facebook and Instagram accounts, we have continued to produce content aimed at a non-churched audience. The main source of this content has been snippets from sermons, posted as 1-2 minute clips. With the rise of Tik Tok, the legacy platforms we're active on have prioritised these pieces of short form video content, so they can be quite effective at reaching a new audience. Of course, our aim is not to "go viral", but to reach Diamond Creek and the surrounding areas for Jesus.

At the Town Fair, we engaged online with some local trivia – posting "One Question. One Cookie"



videos asking locals trivia questions about Diamond Creek. The engagement was great both online and off, showing off how we love Diamond Creek.

The Tech Team

Our tech team has continued to develop their skills in facilitating worship during our in-person services, and I'm thankful to each member for their commitment to this ministry. At both 10am and 6pm, it's been great to see more kids and youth serving in these roles.

Welcoming New People

As part of our Vision 2025, a special focus for Andy Barras has been systematically welcoming new people, and helping them connect and integrate into the life of St John's.

In the lead up to Easter, we implemented a newly designed Connect Card, specifically for new people to connect for the first time, as well as redesigning the welcome table space in the foyer. This included the purchase of two new screens for mission partners and news, a tap-to-give kiosk, and a slimmed down welcome

table - all designed to focus on information new people might need.

Respecting the history of the 'Welcome Table' we repurposed it to create a "History of St John's" display in the foyer, where old photos and the history of our parish, "Light on the Hill" by Roy Gwyther-Jones, are displayed.

Rebranding

Late last year, we developed some new branding for St John's, including a new logo. Our new logo was been developed with a small team of St John's people, representing a broad cross section of our community, working alongside a graphic designer, Derek Pritchard, who offered us his services pro bono.



The logo represents our church on the hill, with a stream of living water flowing out from the cross, an image that has been shared on multiple occasions by multiple people. Jesus describes himself as living water in John 7:38, "Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." The colours going through the logo match the red of our bricks and roofing, together with the sky on beautiful Diamond Creek days.

With the help of Michael Ellis, we rolled out new name badges at no cost – thanks to his laser engraver. We also acknowledge the help and support from our volunteer team for their work on this: Janet Tiller, Emily Jetten and Jarrod Graetz- thank you. And to Derek, thank you for your professional oversight and assistance.

Looking to the Future

Over the ten years that I have been at John's our mission has been unchanged: *Know Jesus. Make Jesus Known.* Jesus is our central focus, the basis of all that we do, the foundation of our faith, the one into whom we grow in maturity, and the wonderful gift of grace that we share with our community. Whatever else the future holds we must always keep our eyes on Jesus.



In 2022 our church set a new vision until 2025: *Reconnect and build a multiethnic and intergenerational network of congregations, Life Groups and mission initiatives for Diamond Creek and the northern suburbs.* As already noted we have been successfully working on reconnecting and seen remarkable growth this past year. The renewed energy and focus post-Covid has been exciting and in many ways

exceeded what we would have hoped for this time last year. We now need to continue building up our ministries, strengthening our outward focus, finding new ways to connect with those outside our church, and also thinking about strategic ways that we can partner with other churches in north-eastern Melbourne.

Intergenerational ministry has long been a focus of our ministries at St John's and we need to continue to invest in ministries to children and youth and finding ways to strengthen relationships across the many different generations that make up our church. St John's and Diamond Creek itself has traditionally not been multiethnic but this is changing as new people from different ethnic backgrounds move into the area. It is helpful and important to seek to grow in our ethnic diversity to better reflect the reality of Jesus' people who are made up of different languages, cultures and ethnicities. This means being intentional in our welcome of those who are different to us, continuing to build the partnership with the Persian Resurrection Church who share our facilities, and praying for and expecting new people to join us from other cultural backgrounds.

Undergirding our vision are our values:

- Pray expectantly,
- Apply the Bible to every part of life,
- Serve God and one another,
- Share Jesus in word and action, locally and globally, and
- Equip leaders from all generations.

These represent our core commitments and must remain at the heart of all that we do. As noted a number of times above there is the need to continue to encourage new people to serve and to keep equipping people to exercise their gifts in a range of ways.

Under God we have grown and been strengthened over this past year. Let's keep praying and working to build God's Kingdom together as we keep our eyes on Jesus.

Thank you

I'm grateful for our godly and passionate staff team. Thank you to the current staff team of Joel Snibson, Maddy Bialecki, Andy Barras, Delle Matthews, and Carolyn Burns. Over the past year we have said farewell to and thanked Kirk Mackenzie, Kylie Pilkington and Cam Berndt for their faithful ministry and service.

I'm grateful for faithful and wise Wardens: Mick Fisher, Nat Coleman and Alan Fairweather. David Woods, as Treasurer, keeps an eagle eye on our finances and also attends our Wardens' meetings to help with financial matters and other relevant decisions. I'm grateful for our prayerful, pastoral and strategically-minded Parish Council: Vicki Miller, Chloe Manson, Graham Batcheler, Dushi Arulanantham and Leah Rudd. Vicki and Chloe are both finishing in their role on Parish Council and we are very thankful for them both.

I am now in 'rare air' as only the third Senior Minister in St John's long history to have reached the 10-year mark. I continue to consider it both a joy and a privilege to serve as your Senior Minister and look forward to God's leading of us all as we journey onwards together, to know Jesus and to make Jesus known.

In Christ,



TIM JOHNSON
Senior Minister

WARDENS' REPORT

*Nat Coleman
Alan Fairweather
Mick Fisher*

The Churchwardens during 2022/2023 were Nat Coleman, Alan Fairweather and Mick Fisher. We have worked well as a team with Nat focusing on finances, Mick concentrating on staff matters and Alan working tirelessly on property issues.

We are pleased to present the Wardens' report for the 2022/2023 church year, and as we have seen, there has been a lot happening through the year.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the members of Parish Council: Dushi Arulanantham, Graham Batcheler, Chloe Manson, Vicki Miller, Leah Rudd and David Woods. It has once again been a challenging year, as we continue to come to terms with the effects of the pandemic and look to the future with confidence.

We thank the Council for their prayerful support, encouragement and collective wisdom. Their guidance has been invaluable as we have considered our path, all the while seeking to know Jesus, make Jesus known.



Staff

Once again, our staff have been a great blessing to us. Despite the difficulties and extra workload during an extended period of being short-handed following Kirk Mackenzie's move to Plentylife to take up the role of Priest in Charge there, our staff have been cheerful, encouraging and resourceful, and have adapted to every situation with good humour and grace.

The parish has been blessed by God through their dedication and ability to work together, supporting one another as they care for each of us as well as reaching out to the wider community.

Our staff team has included:



Ven Dr Tim Johnson

Having celebrated 10 years of service as the Senior Minister at St John's on 17 September this year, we continue to thank God for the wisdom, integrity and purpose shown by Tim, who, as well as being our Senior Minister, is also the Archdeacon of the Yarra. We have been blessed by his talents, amply demonstrated in searching sermons and the clarity of his mind in maintaining the focus and direction of the parish.

We are also grateful for the pastoral care he shows to all who attend St John's or reach out to us in other ways. We look forward to the coming years, confident that God will bless Tim and all who are touched by his ministry in Diamond Creek and far beyond.



Revd Joel Snibson

We welcomed Joel and his family to St John's early in 2022 when he joined the staff team. Since then, we've seen Joel preaching, leading services, and deeply involved in the life of the church. He is widely respected for his character and abilities, and we thank God for bringing Joel to St John's as our Associate Minister.

Joel has taken on the responsibility of overseeing the 6pm service, its core team, and all its goings on. He has provided support and empowerment to the youth and particularly the young adults as neither had an official staff leader for the best part of the year. His willingness to step in and the humility he has shown in his leadership has been a great inspiration to us all.



Maddy Bialecki

Following an exhaustive search, Maddy joined the St John's staff team as our Generations Minister late in July this year and hit the road running. Right from day one we saw her energy and joy for the role as she threw herself into the job. She is rapidly getting to know people and is setting about spreading her enthusiasm and keenness among all who meet her. We look forward to the great things that will come through her ministry at St John's.



Delle Matthews

Delle has been overseeing Life Groups in an honorary capacity for two years now, and they continue to run smoothly under her charge. We thank God for her gifts of pastoral care, guidance and wisdom in this role, and for the support she gives to Life Group leaders.

We also occasionally see her leading services or delivering challenging sermons, sharing her vast wealth of knowledge, experience and wisdom with us. We thank Delle for taking on the position with such dedication.



Andy Barras

Andy's position as Digital Minister continues to be important to us as our online presence reaches out to so many people. He is continually finding new ways and improvements in the church's communications, and this is key to how we can all feel part of the St John's family – informed, connected and with a sense of belonging. His tech knowledge and passion to share his expertise have been instrumental as his growing team of volunteers continue to provide filming, sound production, lighting, computing and editing skills that have been invaluable to the parish.



Carolyn Burns

Carolyn is often the first contact people have with our church, and her gentle and caring nature is invaluable in this position. CB also does a lot of the planning and rostering that is so necessary in our church. Many of us rarely see how well she handles all kinds of events and occurrences, whether planned or unplanned. It is a credit to her and a great benefit to us all that Carolyn continues in the role of Covid Safety Officer this year as well (as if she didn't have enough to do!).

Revd Kirk Mackenzie

This time last year it was a happy and sad moment when we learnt that Kirk was to become the Senior Minister at Plentylife Church in Mernda in December 2022 after nearly 10 years spent at St John's. We were happy for Kirk and the ministry he would bring to Plentylife, and sad that we were losing a valued long-time member of staff and dear friend.

Kirk's gifts in leading services, presenting engaging and challenging sermons, and caring for and supporting members of the 6pm congregation have been wonderful through the years, and we thank God for all the great work Kirk has done at St John's.

Kylie Pilkington

After many years of service to St John's in a range of positions, Kylie announced she was stepping down from her role at the end of 2022. We thank God for the loving, caring and gifted woman Kylie is, and the blessings she has brought to His people here in our parish. Kylie and her family continue to worship at St John's.

Cam Berndt

Cam finished in his role as youth minister in April this year after 12 months on staff. His dedication to care for the youth of our parish has been a great blessing to us all and we thank him for all he has done. Cam and his family continue to worship at St John's.

Behind the scenes

Henrike Brussaard-Kerr works one day a week taking care of the back-office paperwork, entering transactions as well as looking after the office from time to time. Belinda Grinton and Kylie Pilkington also stood in during periods when CB was on leave.

Dianne Cheraghi works in the "back office", performing the important role of financial bookkeeper with a gentle blend of helpfulness and guidance, making sure that the books are kept accurately and up to date.

We thank all the staff for the grace and patience shown under the endless rigours of daily life in a parish office. We also acknowledge the extra



load they each have carried again this year as we continue to get back to "Covid normal". Each member of staff has borne the extra load with understanding and grace, and we sincerely thank them for their efforts, their forbearance, and their willingness to be servants of God, whatever the circumstance.

The dedication of each staff member has been a blessing to us corporately and individually. We praise God for the provision of a team with such a wide range of skills, capabilities and passions. Together, with the support of their families, all our staff members have played significant roles in doing God's work in Diamond Creek and we gladly take this opportunity to thank them.

Finance

We started 2023 with a challenge to our finances again. Going into the year with another deficit budget, the Wardens were determined to keep a close eye on our finances to continue being careful stewards of our resources, and ensure we were still meeting our obligations. We again started the year with a strong response to our Thanksgiving Appeal, which gave us a good foundation to begin 2022/2023.

We necessarily budgeted for a full year of costs associated with employing a Generations Minister, not knowing at the time how long it would actually take to fill the position. This, along with other rising costs including staff salaries & stipends, utilities and insurances meant we brought a deficit budget to Parish Council for ratification. The Wardens made quarterly presentations to the congregations to keep the parishioners informed so all would clearly understand our financial position.

Though we started with a deficit budget, the long

delay in filling the Generations Minister role, strong offertory receipts and higher hall hire and other donations meant that by God's grace we have been able to end the 2022/23 financial year with a surplus. Nonetheless, we still face the prospect of another deficit budget as some of the factors that brought us the surplus are not expected to occur again this year. This decision was not taken lightly, but in consultation with Tim and our wonderful Treasurer, David Woods.



2023/2024 is presenting as another challenging year in many ways but we are confident that with continued prayer and support from God and the congregation, we will make it through.

Once again, we are grateful for the tireless efforts of Treasurer David Woods and our able bookkeeper Dianne Cheraghi in their continued management of the complex financial matters that continue to arise as we recover from the pandemic. The work

they do goes above and beyond the titles of the positions they hold. What they do is invaluable to the parish and we are thankful for their knowledge, tenacity and support.

Property

Throughout this year, as in the past, there have been many people who volunteer of their time and skills to assist in maintaining and improving the buildings and gardens of the church.

White lines marking carpark spaces were repainted.

Three productive working bees have been conducted with many gardening needs addressed. Thank you to all those who have attended. A special thanks to Philip Wadeson for his commitment to caring for the lawns and gardens on a regular basis at St John's and to Bruce Harman for attending to the lawns and gardens at St Katherine's and St Michael's.



The Wardens and all members of the church take this opportunity to thank those people. Their support, in so many ways, is greatly appreciated.

Minor maintenance work has continued throughout the year, with repairs to and painting of the external woodwork done in conjunction with the Persian Resurrection Church members. Repair work has also been done where some of parts of the rendering on external brickwork was starting to show signs of deterioration.

A shipping container has been placed in the lower carpark area and is affording an excellent storage area for some of the more bulky items we need to store for various programs and events that occur from time to time.

Some termite damage has been found in part of the building at St Michael's. Eradication of the termites is underway at present.

The shade sail over the children's play area was repaired during the year.

Every month, an Essential Safety Measures inspection and report is undertaken on all physical aspects of the church buildings, the processes involved, the testing and tagging regimes etc, all designed to keep the area, as well as the people using the facilities safe. St Katherine's and St Michael's buildings are included in these inspections and reports. Appropriate work or processes are then put in place to rectify any areas needing attention.

As in 2022, again this year the Diocese conducted an Occupational Health and Safety Inspection throughout the three church complexes as well as an audit of all our Essential Safety Measures (policies and procedures). The inspector was very satisfied and complimentary of the way these areas were documented and issues addressed.

We have been blessed with wonderful facilities in which to meet and to share with the community. It is an ongoing commitment to maintain them, which we can all be involved in.

××××

It has been an honour to work together with so many wonderful people in this church and this community. Now let us continue to trust in God and strive on to the praise and glory of His name, as we seek to be more and more involved in the life of our local community, showing God's love to all.

NAT COLEMAN
ALAN FAIRWEATHER
MICK FISHER.
Wardens



Mission Partner: Amount Given:

CMS (Deans & Snibsons) \$15,690

Wycliffe \$12,290

*(Fidocks, Blackman, Liems,
Bartletts, and Nayudo PNG)*

Open House \$10,300

Ridley College \$5,980

Breakaway Youth \$5,490

Diocese of Morogoro \$4,498

Bush Church Aid (Edwards) \$2,940

Nungalinya College \$2,350

Anglican Overseas Aid \$2,350

Scripture Union \$2,350

Mustard \$2,350

Prison Fellowship \$2,350

Langham Partnership \$1,080

Kids Hope \$990

Parish Statistics

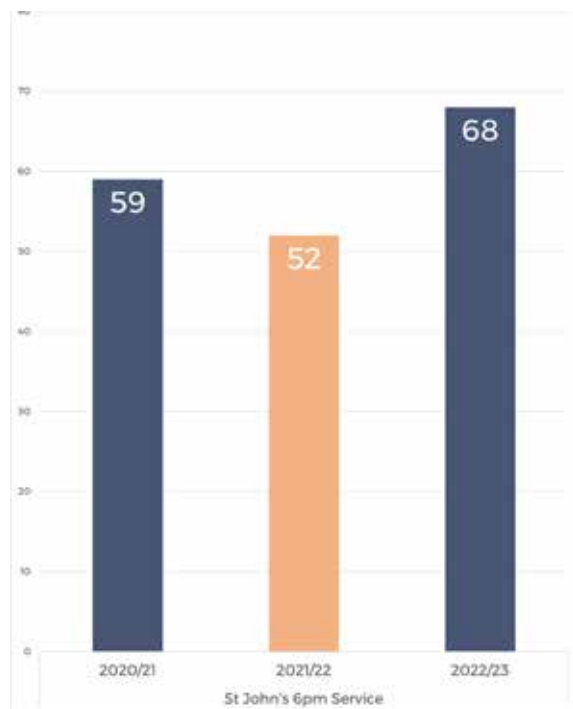
Numbers never tell the whole story, but here are some statistics about our attendances at church, in-person and online. It is encouraging to see such positive growth in the last year.

Through the pandemic, in-person services were suspended from time to time, so 2020 and 2021 include fewer Sundays in these statistics.

2020/21 includes 23 Sundays,

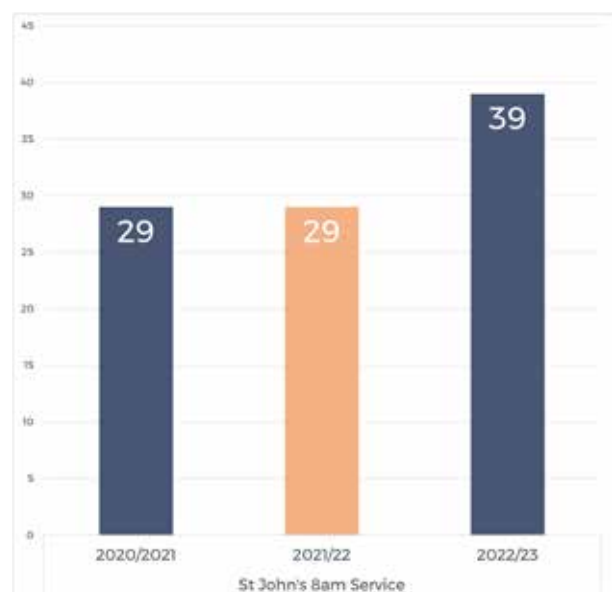
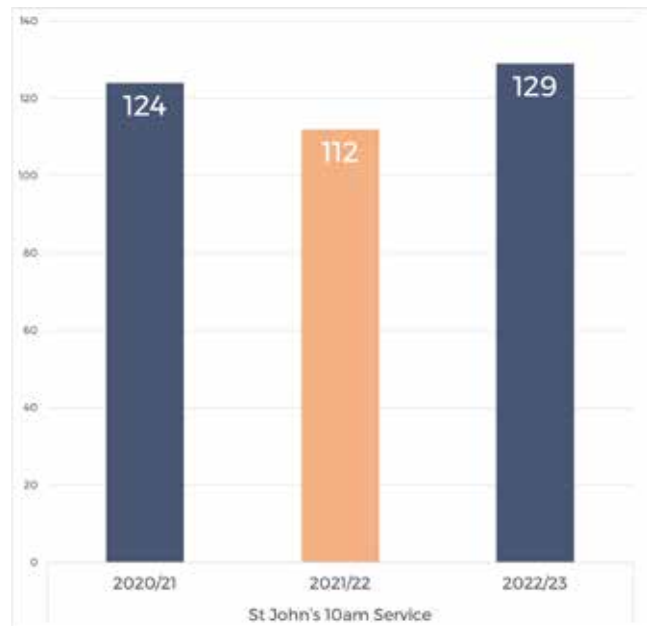
2021/22 includes 45 Sundays.

2022/23 includes 52 Sundays



The 8am service started in June 2021, so the 2020/21 stats include 5 services, while 2021/22 includes 43.

Many of the attendees now at the 8am service have moved from the 10am service and branch churches, contributing to the drop at 10am between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

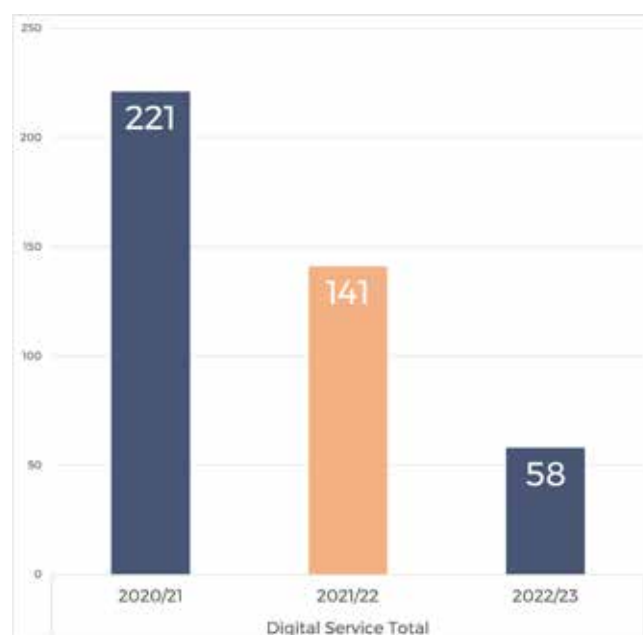
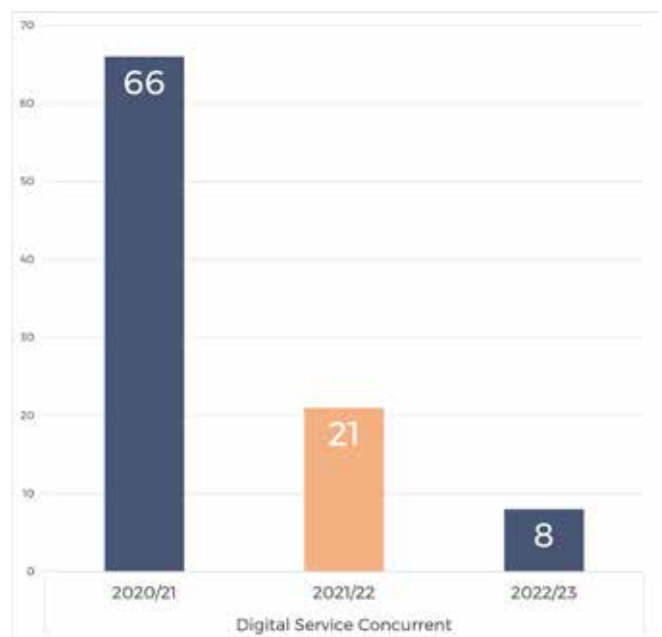
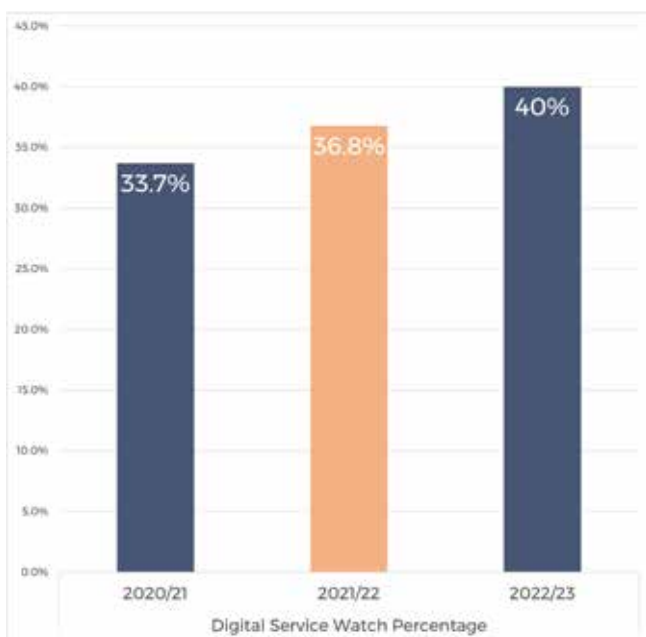


Tracking digital attendees remains a challenge, but we've focused on two main metrics: Watch Percentage and Concurrent Views.

Watch Percentage tracks how long, on average, a viewer watches for. So the more of a service someone engages with, the higher the average percent.

Concurrent Views looks at how many people are tuning in 'live'. We also track how many views a service gets in total, with a number of people watching through the week. This number will continue to grow the longer a service is available, as people can go back and watch any previous services at any time.

The concurrent viewership has continued to reduce, as we move further away from lockdowns, while watch percentages have continued to grow as people engage with the service for longer.





2022
2023



**ST JOHN'S
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