

# St John's

**AGM 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**We seek to be a growing community of disciples,  
centered in Jesus, extending His hope  
to all of Glebe and beyond.**



*We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and in particular  
the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, as the first and traditional custodians  
of the land on which this church and its buildings now stand;  
and we acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today,  
our sorrow for the costs of that sharing,  
and our hope that we can move towards a place of justice  
and partnership together.*

## Rector's Report 2022

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.  
(1 Corinthians 1:4)

I thank God:

- for bringing us safely through the pandemic. We have had a number of infections, but no deaths of regular members
- for sustaining our gatherings, mostly in person, but at times on zoom and live streamed
- for your prayers for our church, staff and ministries
- for our staff, who have kept most of our ministries going, despite the challenges and restrictions, and, for Angie and Jacque, the demands of home schooling
- for the ministry of Steph Kelly with our children and youth and for bringing Colin Watego to us to take over and lead these ministries
- for our wardens who, again, have been across a broad range of issues, including the redevelopment of our terraces in Derwent Street, live streaming and technology upgrades, the church roof, electrics in the church and much else
- for Andrew Burns, who has obtained a DA for the redevelopment of our terraces in Derwent Street, and for skillfully managing council and our neighbours
- for the twelve years of heroic work of Angie in the church office, and more recently with Playgroup. Her patience and godliness have been an example to us all
- for our Scarred Tree ministries, and in particular Uncle Ray's work on the vaccination rollout in indigenous communities, his work with reconciliation and for his voice on climate change
- for our volunteers at GAPP and everyone who serves on our rosters
- for Viv, who has continued to serve as our treasurer despite being stuck in China for two years because of Covid restrictions
- for everyone who has shown me the way God is working in their lives, particularly in the growth of spiritual maturity through our Bible studies
- for the many acts of kindness you have shown each other, and your neighbours during this difficult time
- for our new CMS worker, Jess, and her willingness to serve God among Muslim women
- for Kay and Dale helping us support Bush Church Aid, Sandy helping us support Tearfund and Katrina helping us support Compassion Australia
- for our Parish Council for their thoughtful administration of our church an finances and the advice I have received
- for you continuing to support our ministries financially, and that we are in reasonable shape financially
- for the love and support of Kah Lin.

I hope in the year ahead we can get by without more lockdowns and the disruption and uncertainty they bring.

I pray that this will be a year of good fellowship, and that our heavenly Father will continue to bless our ministries, our meetings and our people.

**God bless**  
**Mark Wormell**  
***Rector***

## Wardens' Report 2022

From the admittedly limited perspective of a warden, this year will be memorable above all as the year that Goodstart finally actually started. We are now in receipt of full rent from their childcare facility over the road.

While having a stable income is always better than not, it brings its own complexity. A queue of long-postponed needs and opportunities must now be considered.

Right near the top of that queue is the renovation of the Derwent Street Terraces. Conrad has continued running straight from the finishing line of the Goodstart marathon to the hard part of that challenge. Preparations will continue through 2022. This includes construction drawings and builder's quotes. Work will most likely commence in 2023.

Some thank-you's are in order here.

Firstly, our tenants, particularly our beloved Colin and Te. It's been a year where a childcare centre was constructed just through their shared wall, and unseasonable rain kept coming into their ceiling, among numerous other issues. We are so thankful for their gracious and understanding approach to living in accommodation with many flaws.

Secondly, we must record our profound ongoing appreciation of Andrew Burns for the architectural work he does for us. He continues to give his time freely to work on the terrace plans, even as professionally he has become one of Sydney's most in-demand architects. The council approval process was much easier than we anticipated, which is totally down to the quality of Andrew's design, his problem solving skills and his reputation. **We** thank you so much Andrew.

This year we have completed upgrades to

- Church access /ramps
- Electrical board
- Sound system
- Play area

The upgrade that literally hangs over us most is the renovation of the roof. We thank a benefactor who has bought us time by giving tens of thousands for urgent repairs during the year. May we use that time wisely to fundraise and plan effectively in the coming year.

Actually having more finances has meant financial management has been a theme this year. We have looked at:

- Wider use of the tax deductible Benevolent fund
- Reviewing arrangements with Scarred Tree to optimise that ministry, and generally updating accounts and bookkeeping.
- Reviewing salaries and remuneration of staff.

Special thanks are due to Vivian Liu our treasurer who has been operating from China this whole time, Carol Athavle our bookkeeper and helpful adviser on these matters, and Te Raina Watego, who provided a scholarly and helpful analysis of our unique relationship with Scarred Tree during the year, which encourages us not to settle, but to push on and continue to reconcile with our Indigenous history and present.

The past year has of course had a lot to do with continuing to deal with pandemic, though

hopefully that is over with now...?

However it plays out, we will continue to handle a diverse range of Diocesan administrative requirements regarding the pandemic, asbestos strategy, insurance, safety and other matters.

Two more thank-you's: we've really appreciated Mal Hiley for providing wise counsel to us during the year, and for his willingness to continue to do so. There are many others we could mention, but we are always grateful to be working with Mark, who had years of warden experience in his life before full time ministry, and is patient, and manages to gently guide us in the right direction but be somehow be the opposite of a micro manager at the same time.

Pray for wisdom, energy and focus for the Wardens in 2022-3.

**Conrad Kerin, Paul Knight, Caroline Skelley**  
***Your Wardens***

## Treasurer's Report 2022

This past year has been fruitful again, and our finances show us one of the many ways that God has been so gracious.

In 2021, St John's had a surplus of \$118,324 without any JobKeeper Payments from the government, which is a great result to be thankful for. And our givings went up to \$225,952, increased from last year by \$9,814, and landed very close to budget. Praise God and many thanks to our generous people!

In 2021, the Goodstart Early Learning Centre commenced operation, and we've been receiving the full fee from Goodstart since Oct for \$13,317 per month, which is doubled the previous monthly rentals.

Some important facts/assumptions and figures regarding our 2022 budget:

- The budgeted congregational giving for 2022 is \$210,716 (inclusive of Benevolent Fund, general congregational giving, and the support to CMS), which equates to \$17,560 per month
- Goodstart will keep providing the steady rental income stream \$13,317 monthly.
- Budgeted expenses include \$120,000 to for property improvement projects, for Church repair and the works on residential terraces.
- We will pay the Property Receipts Levy installments for \$9,322 in 2022.

An overall surplus of \$75,869 has been budgeted for.

Please pray for God's continued blessing of St John's finances. We give thanks for the fruitful contract with Goodstart and the hard work behind this which brings it to reality, and we give thanks to the Benevolent Fund giving, general congregational giving, Scarred tree donations and all other generous givings!

Thanks to Judith Murray, Angie Collier, Carol Athavle (our book keeper), and wardens, who have all contributed to the work of keeping on top of the St John's finances over the last year: your work is much appreciated.

**Vivian Liu**  
**Treasurer**

*And To Dear Vivian,*

*Thank YOU again for continuing to keep up with Church accounts from China this year!*

*Much Appreciation*

## Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries Report 2022

*Vision: To create a place that Aboriginal, Torres Strait and Australian South Sea Islanders can call home at St John's Anglican Church, Glebe.*

Although we have all persevered and made huge adjustments to our plans over the past few years because of the Global Pandemic, we can report that only one family contacted and survived the virus at the beginning of the 2022. For this mercy, we thank our Lord.

### Weekly Gatherings

- Our Scarred Tree physical gatherings have been suspended in 2021. We are considering a new start on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.
- We continue to encourage our community to come and have fellowship each Sunday at our 9.30am service, including our online church.
- Our Message Stick online church has continued with a steady and committed group from QLD; NSW; SA; NSW and South Africa. It is such a Jesus loving group of young people who support, encourage, and challenge each other each week. Over the year, we have written prayers, told our personal stories and sang new songs to each other.
- This year, we will begin a series that will focus on the Sermon on The Mount, Matthew 5 – 7.
- Friday Youth Warriors. Friday afternoon youth group was suspended for 2021. Col keeps in contact regularly by phone and text.
- We are starting a series of podcasts, with funds from Tear Australia.
- Col has started Sunday School again for 2022. Please pray for him and our children.

### Sharon Supports Families to Thrive

- Work at GAPP continued through the pandemic, much of which was done remotely, 2days per week. In 2022, Sharon has returned to face to face meetings with clients
- Sharon continues her work at St Andrews – Gawura 1day/week as needed.
- TRYP program was suspended for 2021, and has started operating in Bourke in February and March 2022.
- Support our Aboriginal Cultural Space at Glebe Town Hall was suspended during the pandemic, and has started again on Fridays.
- Sharon graduates with a Diploma in Theology on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

### Employment

- Ray is still trying to renew his consultancy contract.
- Colin continues to conduct music lessons for two schools and develops TRYP with his father and has commenced SRE in 2022.

### Community Engagement Events

- Continue to support Gawura students and parents as needed.
- Around 7 funerals conducted over past year.
- NAIITS is working on a strategy for Australia and the Asia Pacific region.
- Yama telephone ministry is still ongoing and very much needed.
- ADM and TEAR are planning and partnering with Sharon in conducting Grief Loss and Trauma workshops.



- Ray, Colin Snr and Jnr have been working with Government and NACCHO and other National Aboriginal Pastors, to develop and support a national Covid 19 vaccination strategy.
- Ray continues working tirelessly with IPO and other national executives on our national Climate Change document for COP 26 and Human Rights issues.
- Ray conducted a Zoom discussion with a Pastor from Ukraine who works for Operation Mobilization. He lived in Queensland.
- Ray has invited the Aboriginal Pastors in Sydney to come to SJH on Friday for discussion about ministry, supporting each other, and prayer.

#### Prayer Points:

1. Pray that our people will come to know Jesus and learn to follow Jesus.
2. Pray for our leadership team.
3. Pray for our Aboriginal Pastors in Sydney, who are working beyond their capacity every week.
4. Pray for His wisdom in designing a comprehensive Discussion Paper for STIM's strategic directions.
5. Pray for the finance necessary to implement and operate our plans.
6. Pray that our young people will take the opportunity to study God's Word and take up the challenge to become Minister of His Word.
7. Pray for Col and team who organize our youth and Sunday School ministry.
8. Pray for our Message Stick online ministry.
9. Pray that our new prayer eBook will lead people to healing and restoration in Jesus.
10. Pray for all our families that we are in relationship with that they may experience the love of God and the sweet fellowship of His Holy Spirit during this harrowing time in lockdowns throughout this year.
11. Pray that our people will achieve 100% vaccination rates as soon as possible.
12. Pray that we will achieve our Climate Change goals on time.
13. Pray for the war-torn Afghanistan refugee crisis, the Bali earthquake crisis, Climate change crisis, Middle East crisis, Covid 19 crisis. Deaths in Custody crisis. Family violence crisis.

**Pastor Ray Minnecon**  
**Scarred Tree Indigenous Ministries**

## Kids & Youth Report

With gratitude and reverence I accepted the position of Children's Minister at St. Johns Anglican Glebe in August 2021, taking over from our beloved predecessor Steph Kelly.

During this time Sydney was in lockdown and St. Johns were not meeting as a congregation. For 2 months I prepared a 3-5m kids spot during Zoom church including making video clips. It was frustrating starting as Children's Minister and not being able to meet. Occasionally we had a break out room, which heavily relied on parents already over-burdened with a home schooling. Kid's numbers varied between 2-8.

I kept in contact with all the Deadly Warrior families during lockdown, sending the occasional video prepared by myself, Paul Knight and Aunty Pat.

At the end of lockdown I arranged a fishing day at Black Wattle Bay. 9 children attended, many catching fish. This was a successful post Lockdown activity.

After Lockdown Kids Church was held in St. Johns House. This gave me an opportunity to build rapport in a clean fresh venue and set routine away from distraction. I was able to get some routine going and 2-8 children over the remaining 6-8 weeks.

I arranged a number of appropriate kids volunteers with WWC and had this put on the roster. Deadly Warriors resumed immediately. Numbers started to grow to be consistently 6-10 boys. Paul Knight and Aunty Pat Robertson were regular helpers along with Billy Leask and Wil Kerin. Most days were fishing at Black Wattle Bay and then preparing an item for Christmas Carols Service.

Christmas Carols Service was a success. I appreciated the opportunity to preach in the main service about the gift of children. I hope to do the same this year.

St. Johns Kids sang a medley of carols supported by Kah Lin Wormell and Fiona Kerin on vocals and the band, Paul Knight, Wil Kerin and Craig Collier. The kids had fun and were confident to be on stage due to good preparation with after church rehearsals prior to the day. A stage was hired and donated by GAS Staging.

The Deadly Warriors also performed a written rap and played to drums to the item, "The Little Deadly Drummer Boy" supported by band, Paul Knight and Wil Kerin. It was great to see all the parents of the Deadly Warriors in church. We pray to get parents in the house more regularly.

After the Christmas break I could not immediately be at church face-to-face for February. Jacqueline Collins graciously stepping in to run Kid's church.

During this time I have consulted with Paul and Kelly Knight over updating the kid's room. At present it is dark and musty and often smells pungent. We have purchase a new TV and sound bar for delivering videos and songs in which the whole church can use.

SRE has begun at Forest Lodge Public School and will begin at Glebe Public School in May.

Funding has successfully been acquired for 3 years of TRYP Camps for Deadly Warriors. We are hoping to run a camp for our girls. With God's grace and the help of a great team I hope to continue to build the St. Johns Kids Ministries in 2022.

Some of my plans are:

- Continue to build rapport with the current cohort of St Kids and Deadly Warriors
- Present the love of Jesus with through worship, teaching, fun, and other activities
- Minister to our kids and develop their potential in Christ



- Develop a strong and consistent routine in delivering kids program
- Clear up, paint, and remodel the Kid's Room
- Build the numbers of kids at St. Johns.
- Develop volunteers and leadership in Kids Ministry
- Organise other kid's church events like fishing days.
- Produce an amazing Christmas Carols Service.
- Build the Deadly Warriors Friday Youth Group as above.
- Bring our Deadly Warriors families into the house at St Johns.
- Deliver and coordinate SRE at Forest Primary Schools.

God Bless

**Colin Watego**

***Kid's and Youth Minister***

## Playgroup Report

After 12 years running playgroup, Angie has gone on well deserved Long Service Leave! I am attempting to fill her shoes in the playgroup space as part of the Communications & Property Coordinator role. There was a lovely farewell with flowers and cake on Angie's last day (and my Playgroup handover day). She will be missed - not only because of the long-standing friendships she has formed, but her wonderful musical skills with the children.

I am starting to get to know the lovely group of parents and children that attend. We have managed to meet one week without the main lights in the church working due to the heavy rains, but thankfully it was a sunny day and we mainly used the outdoor playground. It's also lovely to have Ken each week from next door. He is great with the kids, and they love having him there.

I am looking forward to developing friendships with the parents and exploring ways to support the group. Hopefully we will be able to continue to meet with the uncertain Covid situation.

Katrina Knight  
*Playgroup Coordinator*



## Community Ministries Report

Our 'Glebe Assistance Partnership Program' (GAPP) is a safe, inclusive space for people to feel welcome and operates every Monday and Wednesday morning. Traditionally, our space had been more than a place for those to receive emergency relief but for many of our local Glebe friends they would come to be a part of the community...to be welcomed, receive hospitality and to partake in conversation.

With COVID strongly in play the last twelve months, GAPP has looked different than ordinary. Fear of Covid as well as the safety of our team and clients have played a part in reducing our regular community, hospitality, and capacity building offering.

Many of our Glebe friends unless they needed their immediate physical needs met, stayed at home and we refrained from offering our usual hot drinks, seating arrangements and food to play our part in reducing the spread. We also encouraged many of our invaluable team: our emergency relief staff, our Anglicare GAPP social worker and family worker to work remotely and our volunteers to stay at home and be safe. This often left me and Angie Collier holding the fort and GAPP offering at St John's house (...sometimes with the addition of our own children in tow...homeschooling from the front counselling room.)

Though our offering was limited, many of our Glebe friends still felt free to come to have their practical needs supported and at that time did receive brief face to face verbal encouragement in the face difficulty, isolation and trauma. Some came with the guise of emergency physical needs but really longed and craved for human connection. It was an intense, exhausting, ever changing, fragile, and undoing period but once again God honouring, strengthening and stretching time. Whenever Angie, I or the team thought we couldn't do it...we did. God strengthened our hands and completed our offering. For a while there, it felt that it was only a matter of time, until we were shut down due to a covid infection as many of the similar services closed around us closed, nonetheless GAPP continued to limp on. We kept our doors open and had the privilege of ministering to people in some of their rawest moments. I attribute the safety and protection over this time to our God and the many of you, such as Lay-Kum, who fervently prayed for us during that tumultuous time. Thankyou God, indeed heard your prayers.

As restrictions lightened towards the end of last year, some of our volunteers who were itching to be back, came back on the floor bringing back with them a camaraderie, partnership and team spirit that had been sorely missed. But while the team expanded, we still intentionally limited our GAPP offering for the remainder of 2021, with the understanding that many in our community had not yet been vaccinated or completed their vaccinations. However, we did set up tables again under the scarred tree to foster community relation and were able to host an end of year GAPP Christmas BBQ and give out the remainder of our 80 Anglicare Christmas hampers to locals.

At the beginning of the year, our GAPP team reflected that we needed to regain what we had lost over Covid and wanted to welcome our locals back into a safe space, offering hospitality and community. As the Covid numbers are still increasing, and our continued reservations to open St John's house up completely is in play, our vision is still yet to be realised. Community gathering during GAPP is still a rarity rather than a regularity. Prayer for this returned offering in the GAPP space would be welcomed.

With all that being said about the impact COVID has had on GAPP, our average overall engagement levels on a transaction level have remained the same as last year.

- Our two Community Workers, Stephen and Sharon, meet with up to 5 clients each per day. They often squeeze in extra as the needs arise. Their jobs became harder when communication was restricted to over the phone. Clients didn't always have the right reception, patience levels were low, and distraction free conversations was sometimes impossible in busy households. Inadequate Client paperwork for meetings also meant that Stephen and Sharon had to lean on their long experience and expertise in the job to assess and meet their clients needs.
- Our receptionist, Angie and now Katrina, speaks over the phone to over 15 clients a week. We found that generally over this period clients were more distressed with access issues and less services to support them in play. Client's paperwork was harder to obtain with an avoidance of Centrelink service centres and inability to manage technology being a real barrier for some. During this time Angie implemented different ways in which we as a team could share our resources, communicate well and overcome the extra barriers to supporting our clients.
- Twenty food Parcels, six frozen meals and about three toiletry packs go out into the community every week. Our general food parcels include a mixture of canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables from Foodbank, Anglicare, Church donations and purchases from Galuzzos fresh fruit store and are put together every week by our volunteers. Our frozen meals are freshly cooked and snap frozen by our church community, especially Kay and Dale need to be thanked for enabling us to offer these regular, alternative delicious meals. Toilet paper, Sanitiser, Cleaning products, baby and pet supplies are offered as requested or the needs arise.
- During Covid, it became obvious that there was also a gap in many of our clients' abilities to engage with services due to their lack of understanding, experience with technology. We partnered with UTS for approximately six months to offer our clients weekly mentoring and a drop in tech desk with Suyrah, a high performing UTS student. We also called on the church community to provide donations of used phones, computers and data to increase client access to technology. The needs were specific and broad. For instance, some needed help opening files and then saving it in a different format. Others needed help setting up an email address or getting training on how to use Centrelink or Services NSW website/apps. All clients that were engaged with the mentoring program were grateful for the experience but disappointed that we weren't able to offer it any longer. However, just recently, we have been able to offer a similar drop in service again for the month of March with Akin, who is a local and IT specialist.
- We sponsor people for Work and Development Orders, so they can participate in activities that are credited against their fines. We reduced our intake of WDOs over Covid last year but currently have 8 in progress. Some of our clients were unnecessarily targeted and fined for Covid breaches during this time and others found it tricky to participate in activities when opportunities and services had closed temporarily. This brought stress and difficulty to several of our clients.
- Both the Anglicare Family Worker, Lou and Anglicare counsellor, Fi, based at GAPP are regularly booked out and are an invaluable part of the wrap around service that we offer at GAPP. Every week, we do an average of 1-2 soft referrals to their services to better support our local friends in community. They have been faithfully working remotely but have recently returned in person earlier this month.
- We plan to regularly hold one off or regular events that build capacity into our clients' lives. Our most recent event was on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for International Women's Day. We invited GAPP women to come and be a part of a community of women to be nourished, and celebrated. We exchanged stories, enjoyed Thai lunch together, underwent a gentle yoga class together, yarned, prayed and offered take home pamper kits to

continue on the self compassion. Several attendees expressed how much they initially didn't think they could go because life was too hard at the moment but went and were truly blessed by the experience. It was a joyful, cup filling and enriching experience.

GAPP is an incredible, humble, service orientated ministry to be a part of. There is an unpredictability, rawness, creativity, and a regular awe of seeing what God does in this space, in us, through us and despite us. We've helped our neighbours with so many needs and found our own needs surprisingly met in this space as we draw strength outside ourselves and love on others. While some in our team, are yet to know God, we are in no doubt that we are able to intersect and invest in our neighbours' lives because of God.

GAPP and our dynamic, enthusiastic, richly experienced, and wise team is made up of both staff and volunteers.

Thanks to our incredible, resourceful and resilient staff team team: Angie, Stephen, Sharon and Fiona and Louise from Anglicare. They beautifully speak God's love in word and action. They remember the big and the little things going on in people's lives, affirming regularly to our clients they are loved and matter.

We are equally thankful for our committed volunteers, for showing up despite whatever chaos maybe going on in their own lives and the exceptional year that has been. They are truly Jesus to our neighbours and friends, enabling each to feel God's peace, love and care. Our core team members are: Carol, Katrina, Duckie, Nisren, Marion, Grant, Liz and Susan as well as a number of occasional helpers from the community and local university: Julie-Anne, Suyrash, Kahlin, Kylie, Karleen, Isabel, Tukere, and Akinsola.

## **Real Meal**

Once a month, On a Sunday afternoon members of the GAPP community, the wider Glebe community, Glebe Christian Life Community Church and St Johns have come together to do life, have a meal, engage with God's word and pray. Over these last twelve months, Covid has put this ministry on hold but we did manage to get one Real Meal in and on the very important topic of Real Love, Jesus way. Logisitcally, it was new ball game to ones we had previously had. We had a new premise a different bunch of volunteers, a new kitchen to resource and a restart of an old event. Thankyou to Kelly, Fiona, Lyn, Kerrie, Lyn, Laurie, Col, Tanji, and the community for helping make it happen and for the over 50 people from the community who attended and did life with.

## **Reflections and Prayer Points**

There were many moments this past year, where I did not think I had enough or we had enough as a team to keep on with GAPP but in those moments I had faithful partners in the ministry that prayed with me, supported me and reminded me of how big and great our God is.

I particularly, wanted to bring Angie Collier into the spotlight here. Not just for her partnership in the gospel in the broader context of our church but in the very invisible and indispensable role in which she plays in this ministry space. She is often the first point of contact people have with GAPP over the phone, and engaging with people who are often hurting, broken and in need, introducing the ministry and how we might be able to help and bless them. Over the phone, I have heard her, again and again, speak life, truth and hope into peoples' lives. She has gracefully and recklessly loved people in this space for many years and her impact is great. I

wish her the best rest and cup filling time in her long service leave and also want to thank Katrina for stepping into the gap in her absence.

### **Things to Pray**

- That God will direct us in this ministry to keep an outward focus of love and care of our neighbour despite the changed COVID circumstances.
- That our new 2022 team will move from storming to norming as a collective.
- That our team will be continually filled with the love and word of God to sustain them in this ministry and continue to have deep, far reaching impact into our community.
- That we will transition back into offering more at GAPP that creates and sustains God honouring community that builds capacity in our neighbours' lives

### **Looking Forward**

In the DNA of a Christian and indeed at the core of St Johns, is our heart for our neighbour. We formally express this in our community ministries. We are better as individuals and as the church as we partake in sharing God's abundant grace with our neighbour.

Our staff, volunteers and all who partner with us in these ministries. Thankyou dearly. Let's keep on living out together, what we've been created to do.

For those of you, who haven't had the chance yet to come, hear, see, serve, pray and partake in our community ministries...consider it a must if you are able. You will be changed by the experience for the better. I am.

**Jacqueline Collins**  
***Community Minister and Director of GAPP***