THE GAP UNITING CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

The Gap
UNITING CHURCH

Growing Lifelong Disciples of Christ

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MINISTRY AND VISION

WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE WORK

The Gap Uniting Church is a community of people of all ages and stages of life and faith, committed to following Jesus, and growing as life-long disciples together. We are one expression of the many different congregations who make up the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA).

Together with other congregations and agencies in our region, we form part of the Moreton Rivers Presbytery - an area from the northside of the Brisbane River up as far as Caboolture. The Presbytery is responsible for the oversight and support of the mission and ministry within our region.

We are also part of the Queensland Synod, which is responsible for the provision and oversight of the governance and regulations across our state, to equip, support and enable the various expressions of the Uniting Church in their particular roles within the life of the wider church, including hospitals, schools, aged care, child care, chaplaincy, congregations, and more.

The Gap Uniting Church Council, together with our Ministry Team, provides leadership and oversight of our congregation, following the guidelines approved and endorsed by our community of faith, guidelines which guide and support the structure and operations of the Council.

The Gap Uniting Church, the Moreton Rivers Presbytery, and the Queensland Synod, work together to undertake the call and mission of God in our local community and beyond.

We give thanks for the many people who are, and have been, involved in leading and serving within our local and wider church, not only throughout 2024 and 2025, but all of those whose faithful service has brought us to this point.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2025

As we approach the end of 2025, it is good to reflect on our year of "Growing Lifelong Disciples of Christ." This purpose has been embedded into the congregation and has been held as a central driving force for the last few years. As the period of our current strategic plan comes to a close, it continues to challenge us all to grow in our own faith, and also to think about how we can help others grow in their faith as well.

MINISTRY TEAM

LEAD MINISTER
REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION
SILVIA LOPES
JEAN KNAGGS
HARRISON SCHUTZ

MINISTERS IN ASSOCIATION
REV. MIKE FOLLAND
REV. JOHN RUHLE
REV. DR RAY REDDICLIFFE
REV. YVONNE SUTHERLAND

LAY PREACHERS
MALCOLM CAMPBELL
VICKI MACPHERSON

CHURCH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON
GEOFF BATKIN

SECRETARY
SHERYL MCLENNAN

TREASURER
SCOTT MCDONALD

MEMBERS
LODE DE BRABANDER
BERYL EDWARDS
EMMA HOLMES
ROSS MCDONALD
GLENDA WHITTRED
MERRILYN WILLIAMS

OUR STRENGTHS & PRIORITIES

Below are the top four responses/results for these areas from our 2021 NCLS (national church life survey):

Core Strengths

- Service
- Vision
- Leadership
- Culture

What People Value About This Church

- Wider community care and emphasis on justice
- Sermons, preaching or teaching
- Small groups: prayer, discussion & Bible Study
- Practical care in times of need

Future Priorities

- Worship services that are nurturing
- Sense of community
- Ensuring new people are included
- Ministry to children and youth

OUR VISION & GOALS

Below are our six main goals and priority areas from our Strategic Plan 2023-2025:

Engaging Worship
Our gathered worship services are welcoming, inclusive, and engaging for all ages and stages.

Nurturing Faith
Supporting activities and growth pathways that help grow us in our discipleship, connection, and care.

Valuing Generations
All ages and stages of life and faith are valued, interacting, and learning together across the life of our church.

Building Community
Our focus on our wider community leads us into 'Fresh Expressions' of being and doing 'Church'.

Sustaining Growth
Every member is empowered to make meaningful and significant contributions to the life and growth of our church through their serving and giving.

Strengthening Leadership
Equipping, mentoring, and training people to lead and serve in the local and wider church.

MINISTRY REPORT

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report. As with many other changes this year, the timing of this report comes, for the first time, at the end of the calendar year. This report covers a period which stretches back into 2024 and covers a period of significant challenges and changes for the congregation.

Approximately 12 months ago, the Joint Nomination Committee brought Peter's name to the congregation for discernment. During the process of conversation with the congregation, the congregation was operating without a Lead Minister and was being guided by Hannah Staines (YAYA Pastor), Katy Jones (Families Pastor), and Michelle McDonald (Intergenerational Pastor).

Hannah accepted a call to a placement in another Synod in October, which left Katy and Michelle leading the congregation until Peter's arrival in January 2025. The commitment of Hannah, Katy, and Michelle to sustain the congregation through the second half of 2024 needs to be acknowledged as a great gift.

With Hannah no longer part of the team, Katy increased from three days per week to full-time and began to provide leadership for Night Church alongside her responsibilities as the Families Pastor.

After a lengthy period without a Lead Minister and with the departure of Hannah, the formation of the new team and the direction of the congregation were in a period of flux at the beginning of 2025. The induction service for Peter was a highlight at the beginning of the year and created a sense of hope and momentum.

The Day of Mourning Service was shifted from 19 January to the same day as Australia Day, which did not necessarily resonate with everyone. However, recognising and reflecting on our past as a nation, as well as celebrating the gift of the common future we share, is something important for us to be engaged in.

The celebration and recognition of students returning to school was a great opportunity to reconnect with families and was well led. With the new team establishing its relationships, the congregation began the school year with considerable energy.

Peter shared the leadership of Night Church alongside Katy. Together with the Night Church planning team, a monthly shared meal was instigated and has been a real highlight this year. The sense of community and the sharing of in-depth conversations have been great.

The Lenten period included a study focused on different forms of prayer and was well received by those who were able to attend. The depth of feeling around the Easter services was significant, with many noting the contribution of congregation members in the reflections on Good Friday.

Synod came and went and inspired Glenda to begin a prayer group focused on the renewal of our congregation. This prayer for renewal is imperative for us as we contemplate the road ahead. We are grateful for this dedicated group praying for our renewal.

Following Easter, Katy shared her news with Church Council that her husband, Paul, had been appointed to a role overseas and that she would be finishing up at The Gap. Katy's leadership of Playgroup, GROW, and Night Church was deeply valued. Whilst we celebrated with Katy the new opportunity for Paul, it was with sadness that we accepted her resignation.

As we moved towards Katy's conclusion, the Church Council responded to a request from the Ministry Team to consider shifting our Sunday morning service from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. This prompted a consultation process which has seen this well-received change of time take effect from July. Katy was able to hand over the management of Playgroup to Jean Knaggs, whilst Faye Holmes, Emma Holmes, and Fi Harris committed to the continuation of GROW. Peter took on responsibility for Night Church.

Shortly after Katy's announcement, Michelle also resigned after three years of serving as Intergenerational Pastor. The Church Council is grateful to Michelle for the contribution and commitment that she gave to developing Intergenerational Ministry at The Gap.

As these changes in our Ministry Team unfolded, the congregation was also engaged in a consultation with the Moreton Rivers Presbytery. There was a strong response to the survey. The Church Council has received a report from Jamie Smith from the Presbytery, which has provided some rich data about the life of the congregation and which the Church Council has begun discussing.

By the second half of 2025, the shape of the Ministry Team had dramatically changed over the 12 months, and rather than a potential team of four ministry agents, we were reduced to one Lead Minister. The Church Council entered a process of discerning how the team might take shape moving ahead. The decision to seek a second ministry agent focused on Youth and Families was taken. This process is still underway. At this point, there is no person for us to consider.

The Church Council advertised for a Communications and Engagement Coordinator and were able to appoint Harrison Schutz to this supporting role for eight hours per week. We are pleased to have Harrison on our team and sharing his gifts with us.

The Church Camp took place in August following a series focused on Belonging. The camp was well coordinated by Cynthia and Paul Marnane. Whilst the numbers were small, the engagement and enjoyment of those who went were strong. We are grateful to Paul and Cynthia for their leadership!

Peter was able to take a month of Long Service Leave in August–September, and the congregation was supported in his absence by lay leaders and ministers within the congregation.

As we enter the final term of the school year and begin our approach to Christmas, there is much left ahead of us to plan and engage with. We will be embarking on the series "Giving Our Gifts," which will culminate in Investment Sunday. We are now in the midst of developing plans for Advent and Christmas, as well as beginning our planning for 2026.

After less than 12 months in placement as Lead Minister, I give thanks to God for the Ministry Team, Administrative Team, Church Council, and all the supportive leadership within the congregation. There have been significant changes and challenges this year, but many joys as well. The vision of the congregation, "Growing Lifelong Disciples of Christ," has acted as both an invitation and a challenge for me as the Lead Minister. As we contemplate where God is calling us now in our ministry as a congregation, we continue to have a responsibility to consider how to reach out so that others might share in God's love alongside us at The Gap Uniting Church.

REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART
LEAD MINISTER

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

On behalf of the Church Council, it is my privilege to share this report outlining the role, activities, decisions, opportunities, and challenges that the Church Council has embraced during the period of July 2024 to June 2025.

At the Gap Uniting Church (TGUC), we are a part of the wider mission and ministry of the Moreton Rivers Presbytery, the Queensland Synod, and the national Uniting Church in Australia and some of our members participate/contribute across the different Councils of the Church.

In June 25, our congregation engaged in a Health and Vitality review process with the assistance of the Mission Development Officer of the Moreton Rivers Presbytery. We thank the many members of the Congregation who contributed to a detailed feedback survey about the life and witness of congregation and this feedback will be very helpful in our future planning processes.

As a Congregation, we are blessed to have an incredible group of faithful committed people engaged across the life of our Church's worship, witness and service both within the Congregation and across the local community. For many of our members they have been an active part of our Church family for 40+ years.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility of the Church Council is to give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. We seek to fulfill this responsibility through our prayer, discernment, planning, oversight and supporting a shared leadership and participation model across the life and witness of the Congregation.

The Council works with Mission Teams (Reach-out, Resource, Engage-in and Worship) and through our Ministry Team (including our Office Support team) to lead and support our Purpose of 'Growing Life-Long Disciples of Christ'.

ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS

Some of the main areas of focus for the Church Council during the July 24 to June financial year included:

1. **Discernment, Prayer, and Planning**

As mentioned later, there has been significant change in our Ministry team over the last twelve months.

This has necessitated a continual focus on prayer, discernment and planning process as we contemplated the implications of our ministry staff changes, as well as hearing God's voice as we called our new Lead Minister, the Rev. Dr Peter Lockhart.

The Council continued to focus on progressing our Purpose, Vision, Priorities and Goals as outlined in our Strategic Plan (2023-2025). These Goals are: Engaging Worship; Nurturing Faith; Valuing Generations; Building Community; Sustaining Growth and Strengthening Leadership.

2. Oversight and Support of the Ministry Team

One of the Council's most important roles is about guiding and supporting our Ministry Team and members of the Office team.

As a Congregation we are blessed to have worked alongside members of our Ministry team who are gifted in their Christian leadership and committed to our purpose of 'growing life-long disciples of Christ'.

However, it has been a year of significant challenge and renewal as we have:

- Farewelled our Lead Minister (the Rev. Rod Fisher) in May 24 after 8 years in his role. We celebrated Rod's leadership, support, commitment, and significant ministry amongst us as we farewelled Rod, Jen, Will, and Tom and prayed for Rod in his new ministry role in Brisbane West.
- Farewelled our Youth and Young Adults Pastor (Hannah Staines) in November 24 after almost 2 years in her role.
- Farewelled our Families Pastor (Katy Jones) in April 25 after 1 year in her role.
- Farewelled our Intergenerational Families Pastor (Michelle McDonald) in June 25 after almost 4 years in this role.
- Welcomed our new Lead Minister (the Rev. Dr Peter Lockhart) in January 25.

The Council and Congregation expressed our deep thanks and prayers as we farewelled Rod, Hannah, Katy, and Michelle at special Church services to celebrate their ministry amongst us. We especially recognised and thanked Katy for the extra leadership responsibilities she undertook after Rod Fisher left and while we were waiting for our new Lead Minister, Peter to commence in January 2025.

During this period of significant change, the Council has been discerning what should be the make-up of our Ministry staff team given our mission context and our Purpose, Vision and Priorities articulated in our Strategic Plan (2023-25). It has caused the Council and Congregation to carefully and prayerfully reflect and wait on who God is calling to take on the vital roles in our Ministry team. During this period of uncertainty, what mission activities should we as a Church continue with or change or discontinue? It has not been possible to 'keep doing' all our missional outreach in the same way. We have however, been wonderfully supported by many members of our Church who took on additional volunteer functions to sustain many of our mission activities.

After prayerful discernment, the Council agreed that our future Ministry Team would include our Lead Minister and another full-time ministry placement – Youth and Families Minister. As I write this report in October 25, we are waiting with hope of God's calling on the heart of this person to commit to this ministry.

The Council and members of the Congregation are so very thankful for the leadership, creativity and passion for ministry that Peter Lockhart has shared with us since his commencement in January 25 and especially for his leadership after Katy and Michelle concluded their ministry and while we await the appointment of our new Youth and Families Minister.

3. Financial, Property, and Resource Planning

As a Council, we prayerfully discern how we steward the financial property and other resources that God has entrusted to our Church for mission. We are so grateful for the generosity of so many people within our Congregation who regularly give of their time, their gifts, and talents as well as their financial contributions to support our mission.

We have a dedicated group of volunteers who contribute so much time to cleaning, organising, and maintaining our grounds and buildings and we thank the Resource Mission Team and their many helpers for their planning and oversight of these resources.

Over the last two years (with the approval of Presbytery and Synod) we have accessed part of our Mission Development Fund of $160,000 to contribute to the costs of our staffing model. This fund will also help partly balance our budget in 2025/26 but will be fully expended during this financial year.

Additionally, another significant challenge we face is the longer-term costs of building maintenance. We will need to increase our financial contribution/provision for this purpose over coming years. We will be undertaking a strategic property review during 2025-2026 to optimise the use and maintenance of all our property in the longer-term. We will therefore need to find new ways of increasing our income from different sources over the next two years to sustain our worship, witness, and service as a Congregation.

I specifically want to recognise the significant time and professional expertise that Scott McDonald, our Treasurer, gives in the financial planning and monitoring function for our Church. Thanks Scott and thanks also to Terry Edwinsmith, who has served as our Auditor of our annual financial statements and financial processes over more than 30 years.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

As with many Christian Churches in Australia and overseas, our Congregation is progressively 'ageing'. In the recent (June 25) Health and Vitality Survey undertaken at TGUC of which there were 58 contributions:

- Over 80% of those who responded were over 60 years old. In a Morning Worship service (during school holidays) in October 25 the average age of those in attendance was 82 years.
- We are blessed that 65% of our people have been part of our Church family for 20+ years.
- Many of our members expressed concern as to whether our volunteer and leadership base would be sustainable over the next five years.
- Our members also expressed a recognition that we need to renew and change some aspects of how we express our worship, witness and service as we respond to our calling of "making life-long disciples of Christ". We need to be more intentional about our inviting our friends, neighbours, and the wider community to consider the life, grace and witness of our Lord Jesus.

The Council will be engaging with the Congregation as we explore, pray and discern our next Strategic Plan for 2026 and beyond.

We are fortunate in the membership of our Church Council to have a balance of men and women with a variety of professional skills and ministry backgrounds. Over the last year we have farewelled Council members Penny Slater and Elise Pegg and the Council is extremely grateful for the significant contribution of both people. We have also welcomed two new members, Merrilyn Williams and Glenda Whittred, both of whom have been active members of our Church over many years.

The Council is also grateful for the commitment and support of the many people involved in the four Mission teams. In the next season, we will need to review the roles and membership of some of the Mission teams as we seek renewal in aspects of our mission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply appreciative of the many people who give of their time to serve and volunteer in so many roles across the life of our Church. We recognise that many of our Congregation have been undertaking volunteer roles for many decades – we thank you for your support which is the lifeblood of our mission and ministry.

As mentioned earlier we have indeed had much change in key leaders within our Ministry team over the last year as we farewelled Rod, Michelle, Katy and Hannah. We are so grateful for all your support and leadership in your leadership and ministry roles and particularly during the hand over and transition period while we waited for the commencement of our new Lead Minister. We are also thankful for the wonderful support of Silvia and Jean in our Church office (and also Jean in her role of coordination of Playgroup). On behalf of the Council and members of our Congregation thanks for your support, creativity, professionalism and hard work in the diverse roles that you have fulfilled as together we have engaged in God's mission in the world.

We celebrate that the Rev Dr Peter Lockhart has accepted God's call as our new Lead Minister from January 2025. As a Council and Congregation, we say thank you for who you are and how you have given so much of your wisdom, encouragement, pastoral support and creativity across the life and witness of our Congregation. Thanks also to Shelley Lockhart for all that you have given as a new member of our Congregation.

To all members of Council, I say thank you for your support, wisdom and perseverance during a season of change in the life of our Church.

Together we go forward, confident in the knowledge of God's calling of our mission together of 'Growing Life-Long Disciples of Christ'.

GEOFF BATKIN
CHURCH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

ENGAGE IN MISSION

The Engage In Mission Team has been in a process of renewal through 2025. Peter is now offering leadership to the group as we seek to encourage people to grow in their faith and as we seek to care for one another. Alongside Peter, the team consists of Jean Knaggs, Merrilyn Williams, Sue Rienecker, Jo Lockie, Fi Harris, and Karen Schutz.

With the help of the office, the team sought to understand where The Gap Uniting Church membership stands during our Belonging Series. This is a work in progress as we compare the membership details with the extended list of people that we have records for in our Church Community Builder database.

Jean, Merrilyn, and Sue have given their focus to pastoral care and are supported by a small group of people who offer pastoral prayer for members of the congregation. All understand the importance of confidentiality in this process of caring for members of the congregation. This group has also provided an opportunity for those who eat alone to gather.

Jo, Fi, and Karen give some focus to the life of small groups and formation, including working with the leaders of GROW. Since Katy has left, Fiona, Faye, and Emma have offered leadership to the GROW Sunday School. We are grateful for their efforts to support our families in this way.

There has been no religious instruction offered by our congregation in local schools. The landscape of engagement with schools has been changing.

As a team, we recognise that we need to provide more in terms of materials for formation and discipleship, as well as social and pastoral connection points, to assist people to grow as disciples of Christ and to grow together as a community.

REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART
LEAD MINISTER

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS & LIFE EVENTS

The Engage In Team has been reviewing the congregation rolls with the help of the Ministry Team and the Church Office. If you have questions about your membership within the congregation, please contact Peter or the Church Office.

Membership Type	Number of People Identifying
Confirmed Members	205
Members in Association	7
Baptised Members	24
Adherents	213

Life Event	Number of Occurrences	Number of People Identifying
Baptism	2	Bonnie Jenkinson, Leila Sani
Dedication	1	Shiloh Barham
Membership Transfer In	2	Sue and Mark Rienecker
Membership Transfer Out	1	David Nix
Weddings	1	Matthew Rea and Renata Gordon
Funerals	5	Peter Watson, Ian Hayes, Patricia Skippen, Janette Vicig, Betty Jessop
Interments	15	Gillian Simpson*, Edward & Patricia Green, Irene Warren*, Betty & Jack Hedges*, Rev. John Hooper*, Constance Carnegie*, Ligia & Jorge Teixeira*, Ian Hayes, Janette Vicig, Lorna Easton, Patricia Skippen, Alfred Chowns*

** No Service*

WORSHIP MISSION

The Worship Mission Team has not been operating in a functional way during 2025. Given the transition from three ministry agents to just one, adding an additional meeting in this space has been thought to be unnecessary for the moment. This is largely because the Morning Worship Planning Team and the Night Church Planning Team are both functioning very well. There is more work to do for us as a congregation to contemplate new directions in our worship. However, the vitality of worship in both services has been sustained at a reasonable level given the significant changes of 2025.

The morning service is ably supported by a large group of individuals who volunteer their time to provide a welcoming face at the door, an online option, quality music, reflective prayers, Bible readings, communion preparation, displays and flowers, morning tea, and a range of other tasks as requested. We are grateful for the contribution of every member of the team who seeks to make worship an engaging and meaningful event.

Night Church is less formal, and most evenings are more laid back. Participation and leadership are shared on some occasions. One of the highlights of the year has been the introduction of a shared meal each month. With the transition of leadership from Hannah to Katy, to Katy and Peter, to now Peter, there has been a more uneven trajectory, and as we approach 2026, there is a question of how best to support and grow the core of committed people who attend Night Church as we seek to invite others to join us in our following of Jesus.

REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART
LEAD MINISTER

REACH OUT MISSION

Emerging from our 150th anniversary celebrations in 2023, the Reach Out team spent 2024 reviewing our structure to better support groups, activities, and initiatives reaching our community and beyond.

Our key achievement was defining a "Focus Area Champions" model to enhance support across all Reach Out ministries. This structure improves support and communication with program facilitators and identifies new opportunities and gaps. While not fully implemented, mapping this framework provided significant clarity and scope.

We farewelled Hannah and Katy, creating gaps in families, youth, and young adults' spaces, but we are grateful for those who stepped in. In 2025, we welcomed new team members and made space to dream and explore, bringing fresh energy and momentum.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build intentional connection pathways, strengthen relationships with our local community (including chaplaincy and The Gap High School), and mobilise our team structure to better support programs.

Space doesn't permit sharing all highlights across our diverse ministries. Heartfelt gratitude to Amber as Reach Out secretary, our dedicated team Reach Out members, and everyone leading and facilitating the invaluable ministries serving our community and beyond.

EMMA HOLMES
REACH OUT TEAM LEADER

MEN'S GROUP

We held Christmas in July last year at the Church and attendees spoke of their Christmas' as remembered from the age of 7 or 8 years. Also, which gift was the most memorable and which one gave most pleased them. Malcolm Stirling prepared a Christmas brunch of pork, potatoes (baked), peas and gravy for consumption. We also had round table discussion on what to take to a retirement home, and a talk by Malcolm on items that you can recycle. During the latter part of 2024, we visited Roma Street Parklands for morning tea, Cafe 63 at Upper Kedron for the December breakup, where attendees were presented a gift pack.

We started 2025 talking about our hobbies – past and present – a trip down memory lane. In March Cyclone Alfred was in the news and round table talks centred around cyclones. Max Quanchie was our guest speaker in April - he gave us an insight into the work of Thomas McMahon, a photographer of Queensland's exotic places, and also Max's own travels to the South Pacific countries.

Finally, an excellent outing was taken by council bus (driven by Rob Griffiths) to Lang Park to see the Afghanistan War Memorial and then we returned to the Gap and had morning tea at Cafe Tara.

TERRY EDWINSMITH & MALCOLM STIRLING
MEN'S GROUP COORDINATORS

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We meet on the second Monday of most months, from 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM, in the church foyer. Our activities include outings to Walkabout Creek, guest speakers, gentle exercises, music, soup day, and games/quizzes. There are currently 37 members, many of whom are not members of our church, making the group a good connection with our suburb. We've been going for 43 years.

Homemade morning tea is served and much appreciated by our members. We regularly welcome new members and sadly, miss those who have died or gone into full-time care. Several members are over 90 and their willingness to enjoy outings and company is inspiring. There is a strong element of caring and friendship within the group.

Special thanks go to our team who help set up, prepare food and work in the kitchen, to our treasurer, and to those who take over when I'm away. I couldn't lead this lovely group without such support, and it is my great pleasure to have this role.

DESLEIGH BYRNE
SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP COORDINATOR

PLAYGROUP

Families' Pastor, Katy Jones, with her team of helpers (Sue Beavis, Helen Bowtell, Jean Knaggs, Alan Waltisbuhl and Barbara Waltisbuhl), ran Playgroup over this time. They were a true blessing to all who attended. Our themes during this period were carefully curated and designed to spark joy and learning for the little ones.

We were awarded a generous $1000 grant from Boomerang Bags in The Gap. We purchased some new toys and upgraded others. The addition of padded balancing equipment has been a hit among the children, fostering both play and physical development.

Thanks to the hard work of Gary Bowtell and Peter Rolls, our sandpit, which is a popular play area, underwent a makeover, enhancing its appeal and functionality.

Katy's passion for Playgroup shone through as she revived the Thursday sessions, which quickly gained momentum and attracted a growing number of participants.

Barbara Waltisbuhl coordinated with the Fit after Fifty exercise group to assist in moving toys from the kitchen in the Lower John Knox Hall to the main area of that same hall. This ensures that the toys are ready for the children to enjoy and shows the kindness and generosity within our community. We are grateful to all the helpers.

JEAN KNAGGS
PLAYGROUP COORDINATOR

FIT AFTER 50

This program provides functional fitness classes for mature age people in our community and is mostly attended by people not otherwise associated with our congregation. Classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 8am to 9am and numbers average around 12 persons per class.

Fit after 50 turned 20 years old this year and we'd like to thank all those who have contributed over the years to a program that continues to meet a need in our community.

At the end of 2024, Terri Kozak, our Wednesday morning instructor who had given close to 20 years' service, retired. At the same time, Caroline Graham, also retired from her relief instructor role. We thank both ladies for their long and faithful service.

We also thank Pinki Ko for agreeing to take on the Wednesday class, along with the Tuesday and Thursday classes from January 2025; as well as Danny Kingsley, who is happy to continue the role of casual relief instructor.

Many thanks also to all our faithful attendees; Beryl Edwards and Barbara Waltisbuhl (FAF committee); Jean & Silvia (Church Office); and any others who have provided guidance and support to the program throughout the year.

SALLY ALGATE
FIT AFTER 50 CHAIRPERSON

GUCCE CRAFT GROUP

Our group is very social and has increased in numbers since last year. The ladies enjoy needlework, scrapbooking, card making and working on their own projects. Milestone birthdays have been celebrated.

Vanessa always provides a lovely morning tea and we appreciate her expertise on the coffee machine. We are also very grateful for Simon Devine's assistance as he has kindly set up the tables for us when Terry was unable to do it.

This year we decided to support the Timor Children's Foundation by buying the coffee and then donating it to the church for those who like a coffee after the service on Sundays. We have also supported the flood appeal financially and helped with the costs of repairing the coffee machine.

JENNA EDWINSMITH
GUCCE COORDINATOR

UEL RELATIONSHIP

The relationship between UEL and the congregation is an important opportunity for us to develop. There is some conversation occurring between leadership to consider how this relationship could deepen.

REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART
LEAD MINISTER

KIDS HOPE AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

February 2025 was the official 15-year anniversary of the KH partnership between The Gap Uniting Church and The Gap State School - a magnificent milestone of love and commitment. Additionally, back in November 2024, Kids Hope Australia celebrated their own 20 years of operation, with events in each state. The Gap Uniting Church hosted the Queensland event.

2024/25 Mentoring Team: sincere thanks to these stars for their faithfulness. They are as follows:

Ongoing:	Jess Ruhle, Sheryl McLennan, John Algate, Claire Ballantyne, Fiona Preston, Caleb Preston, Jo Lockie, Val Jenkins, Margaret Graham, Jocelyn Hayes, Julie Price, Geoff Batkin, Judy Batkin, Colin Beavis, Kate Modderman, Jean Knaggs, Christine Jackson and Jenny McDonald.
Newly Trained Mentors:	Fi Harris, Shane Hunter, Valerie Green
Taking Leave / Retired:	Roy Ballantyne, John Ruhle, Elaine Zendler, Roger Beer, Katrina Arnold

I would also like to thank our Prayer Partners; the mentors see the results of your prayers.

Mentors and their students have continued to share in weekly outdoor activities, craft and board games. We've chatted, encouraged and guided, laughed, wondered and prayed. Each mentor has supported their mentee, according to the specific needs of that child.

KH not only scaffolds caring relationships between children and mentors, but it connects two community organisations, the primary school and the church, with the common goal of positively influencing each child's emotional development, enabling us to show Christ's love. Thanks to our mentors, prayer partners and all at The Gap UC who support our KH program.

JENNY MCDONALD
KIDS HOPE AUSTRALIA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

YOUTH PROGRAMS

With the change in ministry staff this year, the question of how high school age students can be supported and nurtured has been more challenging. Hannah had been seeking to make connections and provide opportunities, but with her departure, this focus has lessened. In 2025, Katy and Peter both sought to have some engagement with mixed success. GROW has continued to accommodate younger high school students within that group. In addition, we had several of our High Schoolers attend Day Camp as leaders. The Church Council has advertised a Youth and Families Minister position to help us in this area. However, it is important to continue to consider how we can best support families and develop opportunities with the current team.

REV. DR. PETER LOCKHART
LEAD MINISTER

RESOURCE MISSION

The Resource Mission Team has maintained an active and productive year, overseeing the stewardship of property, finances, staffing, and mission-related activities of The Gap Uniting Church. Across six meetings, from July 2024 to July 2025, the team (Ross Carseldine, Sally Algate Gary Bowtell, Trevor Anderson, Scott McDonald, and Lode de Brabander) continued to manage key operational, financial, and property functions, supporting both ministry programs and community engagement. Jenny McDonald has finished as Secretary after many years of leadership and Sally will take over the role.

PROPERTY AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

A major focus throughout the year was the maintenance and improvement of the church's facilities. The team completed a comprehensive Property Review in July 2024, with tasks progressively implemented through 2025. Key projects included gutter repairs, and roof maintenance. The manse refurbishment was successfully completed late in 2024, with leasing commencing in December under a new property manager. A new shared boundary fence with Walton Way was also constructed. Regular working bees and minor improvements such as cleaning, garden maintenance, and storage organisation continued, supported by dedicated volunteers.

VENUE HIRE AND COMMUNITY USE

The church continued to host a variety of activities and external users. AEC pre-polling again proved to be a valuable community service and reliable income source, bringing over $7,700 in revenue while fostering engagement with the broader community. Venue hire arrangements were updated, including a new UEL (Uniting Early Learning) agreement valued at $96,000 per annum.

ROSS MCDONALD
RESOURCE MISSION TEAM LEADER

CEMETERY TRUST

As the summary below shows, this financial year has been busy regarding the placement of ashes in the columbarium walls. I am incredibly grateful for Jeff Hilder's support, especially with the work involved in these placements. His willing and accommodating approach to carrying out the necessary work, both before and after the events, is truly commendable.

The cemetery's clean and tidy appearance is frequently complimented. This is thanks to the small but remarkable group of volunteers who consistently maintain the grounds, often in harsh conditions and always on their own time. Your efforts do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

The following is a summary of activities for this financial year:

Activity	Number of Occurrences
Burials	0
Niche Reservations	3
Blessing & Placement of Ashes in Niches	15
Placement/Replacement of Plaques Only	1
Number of Available Niches	128

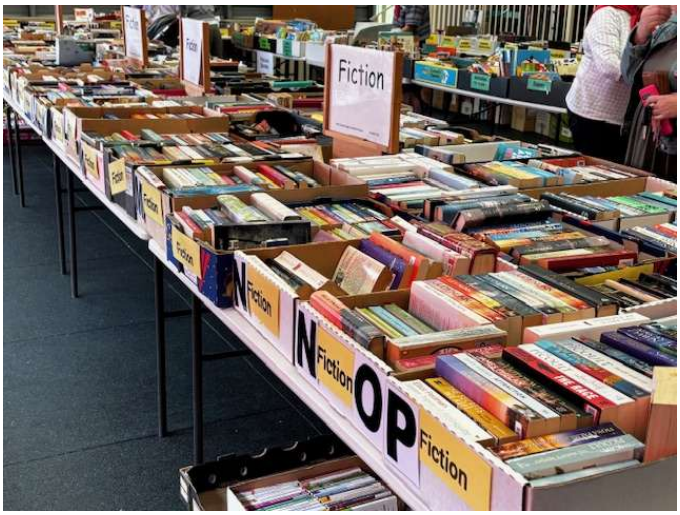
SILVIA LOPES
REGISTRAR – COLUMBARIUM WALLS

RISK AND SAFETY

The introduction of online risk and compliance program Protecht has strengthened risk reporting and management processes, while incident reporting for the year remained minimal. Regular safety considerations, such as volunteer lifting practices and site hazards, were discussed to ensure compliance and wellbeing across church operations.

FUNDING, GIVING, AND EVENTS

The team oversaw several successful community fundraising events, including the Plant and Book Sale and Garage Sale, which continue to provide both financial support and community connection. Generosity and Investment Sunday campaigns achieved strong engagement.



FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

Despite fluctuations in giving, the church's financial position remained stable due to careful management, grant income, and staff vacancy savings. The End-of-Financial-Year (EOFY) review indicated near break-even results. The search for a new auditor and continuing oversight of budgets and property expenses were priorities leading into the next financial cycle.

CONCLUSION

The past year demonstrated the Resource Mission Team's consistent commitment to practical stewardship, financial responsibility, and mission support. Ongoing projects, such as infrastructure upgrades, property management through Protecht, and community fundraising, reflect a strong, forward-looking approach to maintaining the facilities and resources that underpin the ministry of The Gap Uniting Church.

ROSS MCDONALD
RESOURCE MISSION TEAM LEADER

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FINANCE REPORTS

BALANCE SHEET

UCA – THE GAP
AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

ASSETS	
Bank	
F-1 MSS Benefit Acc INV008	33,901.62
F-2 The Gap Tithing Account	687.90
F-2 The Gap General Account	50,728.39
F-5 MDF Camp Constable	43,024.12
UCA Cemetery Trust	92,087.46
The Gap Parish Fair Committee	973.50
F-1 Fixed Investment Acc INV11950	106,340.81
Total Bank	**327,743.80**
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	550.00
Total Current Assets	**550.00**
Fixed Assets	
CP-2 Buildings at Cost	1,079,762.94
Total Fixed Assets	**1,079,762.94**
Total Assets	**1,408,056.74**
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	3,715.90
GST & PAYG	555.54
Rounding	1.26
Sub-Entities - Funds Held	
Sub-Entity - Friday Night Live	2,796.83
Total Sub-Entities - Funds Held	**2,796.83**

Sub-Entities - Operated by Congregation	
Cemetery Trust	91,537.46
Church Family Camp	2,847.59
Fair & Fundraising	973.50
Fit After Fifty	1,503.24
Playgroup	5,442.76
Total Sub-Entities - Operated by Congregation	**102,304.55**
Congregational Liabilities	
Grants/Donations Not Yet Paid	4,226.00
Provision - Staff Leave	17,945.67
Total Congregational Liabilities	**22,171.67**
Total Current Liabilities	**131,545.75**
Total Liabilities	**131,545.75**
NET ASSETS	**1,276,510.99**
EQUITY	
Asset Replacement Reserve	55,011.85
Current Year Earnings	2,030.94
Retained Earnings	1,219,468.20
Total Equity	**1,276,510.99**

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 21/08/25

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

UCA – THE GAP
01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

TRADING INCOME	
Donations & Grants	
From Church Groups	6,965.00
From Community/General	4,158.00
Retiring Appeals - Non-Congregational	1,654.01
Total Donations & Grants	**12,777.01**
Events & Fundraising	
Congregational Activities/Events	1,623.82
Book & Plant Sale + 150th Celebrations	8,500.00
Garage Sale	11,000.00
Total Events & Fundraising	**21,123.82**
Generosity & Giving	
Investment Sunday	40,405.00
Regular Giving	241,920.60
Total Generosity & Giving	**282,325.60**
Other Income	
Ministerial Service Reimbursement	454.55
UCIS MDF Account Interest	2,503.15
UCIS MSS Account Interest	6,648.06
Use of MDF Funds	39,050.43
Total Other Income	**48,656.19**
Property	
Child Care Centre Lease	72,000.00
General Property Hire	26,404.53
Lease of Manse	20,280.00
Total Property	**118,684.53**
Total Trading Income	**483,567.15**

OPERATING EXPENSES

Church Administration	
Advertising	349.81
Bank Charges	860.78
Copyright	1,782.42
Software Licenses	4,352.16
Training & Conferences	2,826.24
Website	1,844.89
Total Church Administration	**12,016.30**
Church Office	
Office Resourcing	6,147.35
Office Staffing	63,238.01
Total Church Office	**69,385.36**
Ministry Team	
Lead Minister	59,020.92
YAYA Pastor	30,396.26
Family Pastor	79,604.28
Worship Pastor	19,033.71
Total Ministry Team	**188,055.17**
Mission Team - Engage In	
Catering	27.27
Faith Activities & Resources	501.79
Family Ministries	43.11
Total Mission Team - Engage In	**572.17**
Mission Team - Reach Out	
Appeals & Outreach Donations	3,376.74
Catering	80.91
Local Outreach Support	6,950.00
Wider Church	59,798.15
Total Mission Team - Reach Out	**70,205.80**
Mission Team - Worship	
Equipment & Resourcing	4,100.04
Morning Worship	137.64
Night Church	196.91
Total Mission Team - Worship	**4,434.59**

Property	
Cleaning	15,360.80
Equipment & Assets	2,460.34
Grounds	9,659.76
Insurance	14,567.44
Property Maintenance & Management	88,407.97
Rates & Utilities	6,410.51
Total Property	**136,866.82**
Total Operating Expenses	**481,536.21**
NET PROFIT	**2,030.94**

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 21/08/25

FAIR COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/01/24 TO 30/06/25

Fair Income	
Plants and Books Sale Day (April)	16,538.13
Clothes and Garage sale (October)	11,476.15
Total Fair Income	**28,014.28**
Change	
April 24 Float	360.00
October Float	580.00
April 25 Float	360.00
Total Change	**1,300.00**
Gross Profit	**26,714.28**
Fair Expenses	
Plants and Books	432.57
Garage Sale	0.00
Total Fair Expenses	**432.57**
Operating Profit	**26,281.71**
Other Income	
Hire of Equipment	0.00
Total Other Income	**0.00**

Other Expenses	
Contribution to Parish	29,500.00
Total Other Expenses	**29,500.00**
Increase (Reduction) in Account Balance	**-3,218.29**

FINANCIAL POSITION - 30 JUNE 2025

Assets	
Bank	
Commonwealth Bank	973.50
Total Bank	973.50
Unpresented Cheques	0.00
Net Assets	**973.50**
Equity	
Retained Earnings (2023)	4,191.79
2024-25 Change in Account Balance	-3,218.29
Total Equity	**973.50**

PETER PRESTON
TREASURER

FIT AFTER 50

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**13,434.05**
Weekly Fees - FAF	13,434.05
Expenses	**8,941.86**
Instructor Fees & Wages	8,815.20
General Expenses	110.00
Bank Charges	16.66
Sub-Entity Balance 01/07/2024	3,611.05
Income Deposited	13,434.05
LESS Expenses & Payments Made	8,941.86
LESS Donation to Congregation	6,600.00
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	**1,503.24**

SCOTT MCDONALD
CHURCH TREASURER

GUCCE CRAFT GROUP

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**3,226.00**
GUCCE Fees	3,226.00
Expenses	**1,891.00**
Cheques for Petty Cash	600.00
Repair of Coffee Machine	150.00
Flood Appeal	1000.00
Coffee Timor Children's Foundation	141.00
Sub-Entity Balance 01/07/2024	1,092.94
Income Deposited	3,226.00
LESS Expenses & Payments Made	1,891.00
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	**2,427.94**

JENNA EDWINSMITH
TREASURER FOR GUCCE

BARRIE ROLLASON
HON. AUDITOR - AUDITED 19/07/25

PLAYGROUP

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**2,986.00**
Fees - The Gap UC Account	1,089.00
Fees - Deposits + Petty Cash	883.00
Boomerang Bags Grant	1,000.00
Accounting Adjustment	14.00
Expenses	**1,552.94**
Bank Charges	23.50
Equipment & Resources - TGUC Acc	1,396.59
Equipment & Resources - Petty Cash	102.85
Accounting Adjustments	30.00

Petty Cash Balance 01/02/2025	104.15
Sub-Entity Balance 01/07/2024	3,982.85
Income Deposited	2,986.00
LESS Expenses & Payments Made	1,552.94
Petty Cash Balance 30/06/2025	77.30
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	5,442.76
Playgroup Balance 30/06/2025	**5,520.06**

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 21/08/25

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP GROUP

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**1,479.00**
Monthly fees	988.00
BCC Seniors Donation	265.00
Bring & Buy Stall	226.00
Expenses	**1,327.60**
Morning Tea Costs	200.00
Entertainment	201.60
BCC Subsidy	308.00
Cards	18.00
Donations	400.00
Contribution to Church	200.00
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	**1,526.72**

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 15/10/25

CEMETERY TRUST

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**6,300.00**
Niche purchases	6,300.00
Expenses	**250.00**
Administration fees	250.00
Sub-Entity Balance 01/07/2024	86,037.46
Income Deposited	6,300.00
LESS Expenses & Payments Made	250.00
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	**92,087.46**

SILVIA LOPES
TREASURER/COLUMBARIUM REGISTRAR

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 26/08/25

CHURCH CAMP

FINANCIAL REPORT 01/07/24 TO 30/06/25

Income	**7,580.13**
2024 Registration Fees	1,420.00
2024 Donations	2,060.13
2025 Registration Fees	2,600.00
2025 Donations	1,500.00
Expenses	**8,848.99**
2024 Camp Fees	7,917.75
2025 Camp Deposit & Fees	902.40
Bank Charges	28.84
Sub-Entity Balance 01/07/2024	4,116.45
Income Deposited	7,580.13
LESS Expenses & Payments Made	8,848.99
Sub-Entity Balance 30/06/2025	**2,847.59**

TERRY EDWINSMITH
CPA AUDITOR - AUDITED 21/08/25

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The Gap
UNITING CHURCH

Growing Lifelong Disciples of Christ