



MINISTRY & MISSION REPORTS 2023-2024

wellspring
ANGELICAN CHURCH

Wellspring Anglican Church

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Senior Pastor

with Rob Imberger

This is my final annual report as your Pastor, and the time for goodbyes is still to come, but naturally it prompts deep reflection. How much God has done, and how far we have all come, over almost 10 years together. For now, we thank God and I honour you for many signs of the Jesus-life in our midst over the past 12 months.

You'll remember in 2022 that I announced four key priorities for our church, to help focus and provide goals for our LIFE WITH JESUS over coming years. There are many things a church can be about and do, but prioritising helps us discern the 'best' among the 'good' for our community in this time and place. On behalf of our amazing staff team, it is wonderful to report on more progress in these priorities, some of which includes:



Thriving Generations Ministry (all ages and stages growing)

- Alongside her team, Anna Davy continues to lead our various **Under 18 ministries** with passion and focus. Children and teenagers have learnt to love God's big story as told in the bible and throughout church history. The amount of work involved in coordinating and facilitating just one Friday or Sunday - it's epic!
- Outreach to **Queenborough Rise** retirement village and nursing home continues to bear fruit, with former 8am members and others being blessed by Noel's pastoral care and Word ministry.
- Our commitment to **sharing meals together** have provided for new introductions and deep conversations. Whether in homes or following services, there has been increased energy given to fostering spaces where we can linger and connect beyond normal age or stage boundaries.
- The launch of our new **4pm congregation** was a strong step in the right direction of 'church as family', rather than age-specific congregations. In a relatively short space of time, a community is being developed attracting newcomers and cementing stronger Wellspring connections. See Sam's report for more.



Discipleship Pathway (moving people on in maturity)

- How great to see **Women's Ministry** relaunched, under George Humphrey and Millie Freckelton's leadership. With one event already under their belt and two more planned soon, this revitalised effort is hitting the mark, with its combination of relationship and faith-building.
- Noel has led two **Seminars**, digging deeper into complex issues in the Christian life. According to the bible, we've wrestled and reflected on how believers are to make sense of Israel and creation care. We look forward to more!
- The **Multicultural Conversations** group has promoted deep engagement with each other and faith matters over the past year. Not just for non-English speakers, these folk (ably led by Tim & Emma Wherrett) have regularly drawn aside to intentionally cross cultures in the name of Christ.

Leadership Empowerment (equipping the saints)

- Our church has continued to fund and value **ministry trainees** of different sorts. Josh Lattimore concludes his two-year MTS Apprenticeship at the end of 2024, and his maturity and competence as a growing disciple and leader has increased significantly in that time. George Humphrey has recently joined the staff team for a Wellspring ministry placement, on her way to ordination as a priest in Christ's church, and her impact is already being felt. Next year, under God, we will see a new part-time Trainee appointed, funded by the Wellspring Ministry trust.
- It's been fantastic to identify, train, and release **new volunteer leaders** for various ministry areas, including Springkids, 10am services, Burst Camp, and Energised. This is about more than filling rosters: when someone's gifts are seen and valued, that new leader grows in their dependence on God and maturity in Christlikeness, all because they have stepped up by faith.
- Our church continues to support **Deeply Formed**, the mentoring ministry led by Ellie Firth, with office and meeting spaces. Ellie has blessed our church this year by leading her inaugural MEQ - Mentoring Equipping Course, training up new mentors for our community.



Local Outreach (sharing life with Jesus)

- What existed as a vision 12 months ago has formed into full-colour reality, as our first **refugee family** arrived in May. Overseen and trained by the Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia organisation, Wellspring members partnered with other local Anglican churches to pray for and plan the resettlement of two families from the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Our second family has been chosen but is awaiting its travel date; the first has enjoyed an extraordinarily successful three months in Hobart, by God's grace. We are thankful for this opportunity to partner with God, who "raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap" (Psalm 113:7).



- Through strategic decisions and faithful relationship-building, Wellspring has been able to form and sustain connections with **Collegiate & Hutchins** schools. Anna Davy continues to co-lead lunchtime groups across different year levels of Collegiate, working alongside chaplains Beck Gough and Kate Boughton. On Friday afternoons, you'll find Grades 3-4 Hutchins students welcome in our building, meeting Anna, and getting tasters of our Energised programme. What a privilege this is and something to pray that God prospers.



- Our church continues to provide **Fostering Hope** with office and meeting spaces, as we support their vital work raising awareness of the increasing needs of children in out-of-home care. We honour and are inspired by Mary Blake for her strong advocacy.

In the coming year, our staff team is committed to furthering much of what has been outlined above. Here are a few more plans that, under God, will progress our key priorities:

- More **intergenerational ministry!** We have begun well and want to see more integration of ages and stages, receiving and exercising the gifts of God for the blessing of our whole church family. Eg. how great would it be for more under-18s to discover and use their spiritual gifts to lead?
- If vision answers 'Why?', and our priorities/strategies answer 'What?' and 'How?', let's clarify our **mission**, which answers 'Who?' and 'Where?'. Since He has blessed us with this time, place, and space, whom specifically has God called Wellspring to love? We have work to do here, to clarify our target and reach.
- A pause was put on **Men's Ministry** in the second half of last year - we see it as important that this restarts in the next year, to bless our men with opportunities to cultivate their discipleship increasingly.
- It will be a significant goal to help **settle in a new Rector well**. There will be much for this person to learn and acclimatise to, bringing their own mix of passions and skills. I have confidence in the team I leave behind, to foster life with Jesus for our church and support my successor in the same.

Two final matters I wished to write about:

- I honour Lara Nairn for serving as our **Safe Church Communities Coordinator**, in sync with her role as our Parish Administrator. When this work is being done well, it is largely unnoticed: when it is being neglected, there are risks to young and vulnerable people. So if you have (eg.) seen one of our six U18s programmes underway, served on a roster, or even just participated in a Sunday service, you've been touched by our faithful SCC protocols. Thanks to the 85 of you who have undertaken training and screening to ensure we lead and care for young and vulnerable people!
- I am quite excited about our brand new **Handy 5 Mission Support Partnerships** policy (read all about it on the next page!) This is a great step in Wellspring's long-standing commitment to love the nations and our neighbours. From now on, every dollar given to the church will reach overseas, cross-culturally, nationally, and locally, sharing LIFE WITH JESUS.

Both now and beyond our family's departure from Wellspring, there's such promise and potential for richer, deeper, and more expansive life with Jesus for this church. Amidst the difficulties of change and sadness of farewells, I encourage us to keep close to Him. This will be good for us individually and corporately, and will help us bear the fruit that Jesus promised (John 15:9-17).

Your brother in Christ, *Rob Imberger*



Handy 5

Wellspring believes the *LIFE WITH JESUS* we enjoy is to be shared, so it is exciting to launch our new Handy 5 Mission Support Partnerships policy. This was developed by a **subcommittee of Parish Council** (Lara Nairn, Rob Imberger, Sam Gough, Wendy Falloon), with much prayer and discussion leading to its recent approval. Read on for more details!

Why?

God loves both our neighbours and the nations! This is something Wellspring has always believed and practiced over its history: now **we have an opportunity to make this clear and achievable for the next season**. We praise God for generous financial giving over many generations, which provide for Wellspring's operation costs, sustaining the ministry and mission of our local church. Historically, we have encouraged members to individually support mission partners separately, as well giving some financial and prayerful support to a small number of organisations. This new **approach commits 2% of all income to investing in our 'Handy 5 partners'** (one finger each to make a hand).

The balance of these five partners/organisations ensures that every dollar given will reach overseas, cross-culturally, nationally, and locally, sharing LIFE WITH JESUS.

How?

Each year, 2% of all income will be distributed amongst the five mission partners. Our office will communicate monthly to the parish about these partners between Feb-Nov each year. Each partner will be given a significant profile twice in a year; once up the front in a Sunday service, and once in the newsletter, as well as receiving regular prayer support.

Who?

Bush Church Aid: Southern Beaches, Horne Family

The Bush Church Aid (BCA) Society has a heart for people living in rural, regional and remote Australia. They are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ. Wellspring's key partner through BCA will be **the Southern Beaches church plant led by David & Lauren Horne** (children: Elka, Posy and Lenny). 2024 marks the fourth year for the Hornes in the Southern Beaches. Dave continues to serve as Minister of a growing church of about 60 people, the only church in a community of 7000 people.



Cambodia, Abraham Hang

Education, particularly English, is one of the greatest needs in Cambodia and is probably the most significant factor for people to gain sustainable employment. The cost of public schools, let alone private, is beyond the means of the poor in Cambodia, so **the primary school is a strategic way for the church to serve the community**. Wellspring has had a long relationship supporting Abraham Hang's school and church ministry (Development for the People of Cambodia) in his home country, since 2008.



Abraham models **a holistic ministry, loving in actions and words, caring for people's spiritual and physical needs, Christian and non-Christian alike**. To enable us to best support Abraham, we partner with Global Development Group, an Australian-founded non-government overseas humanitarian development organisation, which facilitates tax-deductible giving.



Church Missionary Society, Tasmania

The Church Missionary Society (CMS) Tasmania is a fellowship of Christian people and churches **committed to global mission**. Birthed out of the Church of England in 1799, they work with churches to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. CMS Tasmania exists to **make Jesus known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ** in all the world. Wellspring has a long history with CMS. More recently, partnering with link missionaries, Tim & Emma and Ellie; providing office space for the current State Director; and supporting and encouraging parishioners to attend the summer missions conference.



Engaging with Islam, Samuel Green

When we read the book of Acts, we see the Apostles of Jesus evangelise different religious groups: there are Jews, Samaritans, magicians, followers of Zeus, Artemis, and John the Baptist, but we never read of any Apostle evangelising Muslims. The reason for this is of course that Muhammad, the founder of Islam, was born around 550 years after Jesus. This may sound like an obvious observation to make, but **the absence of Islam in the Bible has an effect on Christians**. The Engaging with Islam ministry provides research, training, tools for evangelism, answers to common questions, and advice, so that the **Christian can be prepared to share and defend the Gospel**.



Subbies is for international students from South Asia - including India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. (The word "Subbies" is short for "Subcontinent"). Everyone is at Subbies - no matter what your religious or ethnic background. Each week at Wellspring, they enjoy food, fun, friends, faith and festivals. **Subbies is designed to be a home away from home for international students.** It is a safe place for everyone to meet others from their home country, as well as connect with friendly local Australians.



FAQs

<i>Will this affect my personal giving to missions or other organisations I'm passionate about?</i>	You're encouraged to continue whatever giving arrangements are already in place. By committing to Wellspring offertory giving, you'll now automatically be partnering (even in a small way) with how God is working overseas, cross-culturally, nationally, and locally.
<i>Can I get an organisation I'm involved with added to this list?</i>	You can contact Parish Council via our church office, as it reviews its policy annually in the lead-up to August's Annual General Meeting.
<i>I give money in the plate directly to one of the above five mission partners: will this money still go directly to them?</i>	A small number of Wellspring members make this their practice, and yes that money will still be directed to the nominated mission partner
<i>What about the money we already give to Cambodia? Will that continue? Is this in addition?</i>	Wellspring will continue its commitment of paying 750USD a month towards teacher salaries in Cambodia until such time that the Parish Council decides to review. The financial donation mentioned in this document is over and above the teacher salary commitment.
<i>Why do we need a 'rigid' approach to only profiling some mission partners? Can't we promote any and all causes that come our way?</i>	The Handy 5 were chosen because of their alignment with Wellspring's vision, existing links with our community, and (in the case of Bush Church Aid) the opportunity to balance our partners with something regional. Whilst it sounds ideal to allow promotion for every good cause, our focus would become confused and our impact diluted.

8am

with Noel Bowditch

The 8am service is an **important part of the diverse** Wellspring community, one that is united by a **shared life in Jesus** and the desire to see him glorified as we **seek to grow in him and share his love** with others.

Our 8am worship gatherings are grounded in Anglican liturgy from A Prayer Book for Australia and include both contemporary and traditional songs and hymns. While most of our congregation are significantly older than the average Wellspring member, our **style of worship is one that we believe can be enriching to many**. A few of us might even be thought of as 'dual citizens', as we also value participating in the 10am service most weeks. If you've not already done so, come and join us some time.

At parish level, '8am-ers' are on the preaching roster and among the members of Parish Council. We are well represented at prayer meetings and give generously. I presented **two seminars** for the wider Wellspring community – 'Jesus, Israel and the Jews' and 'Christians and the Environment'. These provided an **opportunity to engage with some contemporary issues in the light of what the Bible teaches**.

During the year, in addition to our weekly celebrations of the Lord's Supper, there was a Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas and a special Good Friday service. A special morning tea was held for Elaine Dufty's significant birthday who has so faithfully served among us for many years.

The ministry at **Queenborough Rise** has continued to develop during the year. While the monthly services were initially for those in independent living units, we are now being joined by a small but growing number of nursing home residents. **Staff are now beginning to contact me in cases of special pastoral need**, to visit new residents and lead events such as Anzac Day or Remembrance Day.

The **age profile** of our 8am community continues to present us with significant **pastoral challenges related to health issues**. While some of these can be responded to through Growth Groups, we have begun to develop a much **more intentional pattern of pastoral care** to ensure people's needs are not being overlooked.

In May this year two of our members, Derek Walter and Helen Green, passed away. **We give thanks to God for their fellowship and service**, continue to pray for their families and take comfort in the knowledge they are now with the Lord forever.

As our Senior Minister, Rob Imberger, concludes his ministry at Wellspring in October this year, we wish to acknowledge our **thankfulness to God for his ministry to us for almost ten years**.

The appointment of a new Senior Minister (hopefully early next year) will be a significant transition in the life of Wellspring. We look forward to working with that person as we look to the future that God has in store for us.



10am

with Rob Imberger

Our 10am family has enjoyed another fruitful year. I've been especially pleased to see that emphasis on 'family' increase, as we've worked on helping **different ages and stages belong, believe, grow, and share**. Each one has something of value to receive and contribute, as was so awesomely on display at our recent **Intergenerational service**.

(Keen readers may remember this was a prayer request and open question at the conclusion of my 2023 report - praise God!)

The new 4pm congregation launch has seen some of our members make a transition, which has made all the more important our times of **community-building**. Long Table Lunches have been a welcome reintroduction; Newcomer Afternoon Teas at the Imbergers' have helped welcome and integrate new faces.

Between Sundays, our **Growth Groups** ensure that LIFE WITH JESUS is sustained. It was a joy to offer 10 groups for our Sign-Up Sunday back in February. It is no small thing to commit together to be shaped by prayer, love, Scripture, and vulnerability. Over the years, our groups have immersed themselves in topics and focus areas such as the Psalms, "The Chosen", Hebrews, "Discipleship Explored", unanswered prayer, and more.

Thank you to our key **volunteer leaders** who contribute to this part of the Wellspring family. I particularly appreciate Kirrilee Waterhouse, our 10am Music Coordinator, for her enthusiasm and encouragement. All those who serve on rosters are fantastic servants.



4pm

with Sam Gough

This new year saw a new direction for Wellspring's third congregation. By God's grace, the new 4pm congregation has experienced a fresh and healthy start.

The new congregation hasn't merely consisted of all-ages, but is **an intentional expression of inter-generational ministry**. No matter what age or what stage each person is at, their **active participation and contribution is valued**.



So, even **children have offered prayers to God and been involved in the public reading of the Scriptures**. While adults have joined in singing favourite Colin Buchanan and Dan Warlow songs, with all the actions to boot. The Sunday services have combined the best of our rich Anglican tradition, with a relaxed and contemporary style.

Hospitality has been a key expression of our emphasis on building relationships. The new congregation has been formed from a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds. Some have come from the 10am congregation. Some have come from Resonate. Some have moved from other churches. Some have returned to church after an absence. **Others have found a home and family in the local church for the first time**. The weekly dinners have enabled us all to get to know one another better, so that we embody the loving community God calls His people to be.

And **God has provided every good gift for us as a congregation to flourish**. Core members have stepped up. There hasn't been any shortage of volunteers willing to sacrificially serve in the food team or teach the children.



Those with creative gifts have decorated the building, and organised life-giving events and activities. Each week, every member is involved in cleaning up, whether it be rearranging chairs and tables, wiping down the kitchen benches, or emptying the trash.

And last, but not least, the Word of God has been preached to build everyone up into maturity in Christ. George Humphrey, has joined the team of preachers as part of a ministry placement. **Wellspring remains committed to providing pathways for women and men in the leadership pipeline**.

Resonate

with Sam Gough

With much sadness, the Resonate Service came to an end in April 2024.

The attendance had reached its peak in April 2023, but **in the second semester, two-thirds of the congregation moved to the next season of life** - jobs interstate, Bible College, transferring to different universities around Australia and so forth. Losing forty members in a very short space of time made it unsustainable to continue.



However, there is much to thank God for over the previous years.

- hundreds of university students were taught the Bible
- four members began at Bible College in four years
- Resonate saw the first ever full-time Ministry Apprentices in the Tas Anglican Church
- dozens were **trained to be leaders** in the church's future
- dozens were challenged by the Bishop at Resonate's Kingdom Camps to consider how they will serve God in the church or their chosen vocation
- dozens were **discipled** one-to-one
- dozens served as leaders in Wellspring's Kids and Youth Ministries
- young adults were stretched with Theological Intensives
- young adults were **trained and sent to preach** at seven under-resourced parishes around the state
- the congregation became increasingly multicultural in it's demographic as we aimed to **make disciples of all nations**
- a partnership with Uni Fellowship of Christians, FOCUS and Subbies was developed
- Resonate formed the backbone of the volunteer force at the Will Graham Celebration
- young leaders were trained to **lead evangelistic courses**
- **many friendships for (eternal) life were made**

We can praise God for His work among us. Along with the Apostle Paul, I can say that "in all my prayers for all of [the brothers and sisters of Resonate], I always pray with joy because of [their] **partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will **carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus." Phil 1:4-6

Under 18s

with Anna Davy





There are **so many stories of God's faithfulness** in Wellspring's children's and youth ministries over the last year. I hope that as you read these stories you too will give thanks to God, and feel encouraged to be a part of such amazing ministries, including **intergenerational ministry** as different ages and stages connect and minister to and with each other.

The past year **God has answered a regular prayer** I pray over our children's and youth ministries: 'please grow this ministry; grow each young person in their love, knowledge, faith, and obedience of you, and please grow us in number'. At the end of 2023 Energised (our Friday afternoon program for kids in grades 3-6) averaged eight kids a week - not a bad effort! At the end of term 2 2024 we have 15 kids consistently attending!

Last term, **CrossEyed** (our Friday night youth group for young people in grades 7-12), had a night called *Who Runs the Night?* ~~Leaders~~ **Youth!** Where **the young people planned and executed the night** for the youth leaders to participate in. The youth were excited to invite more than just the regular leaders, but also adults with whom they have connected, to participate in the night they'd planned. It was a blast!

After our 10am Service **I often hear kids asking teens to help them run games** in the hall. Fun for a variety of ages!

I am so encouraged when kids run up to me after the 4pm Service to tell me **all about what they did and learnt in 4pm Kids**. They're so excited to share!

After our recent Intergenerational Service at 10am during the school holidays, an adult came up to me, with **tears of joy, so encouraged to have spent an hour learning, sharing, and worshipping together as a family of all ages and stages**. What a joy it was to see different faces up the front of 10am using their gifts for the benefit of the body.

Each week a **grade 3 or 4 Hutchins class** visits Wellspring as part of their Christian studies class. During our time together they ask me questions like, 'Why do you believe in God?', 'Do miracles still happen?', 'Is God on earth?' It's lots of fun to answer!

I've been building relationships with various Collegiate students as I attend their Christian lunch time groups, and the girls share with me their desire to go to church or youth group but also the difficulties they experience to do so. **What a privilege to help and encourage them in such important decisions.** Being an adult who chooses to spend time with them is a big deal. They often ask why I come along as I'm not Collegiate staff, 'Because I love hanging out with you all!' Sometimes they can't believe it.

Not long ago, there was a Sunday I couldn't finish my planned SpringKids lesson with the **grade 3-6s because we were having such a fantastic conversation as they asked questions about the Bible**, 'Who wrote it?', 'When did they write it?', 'Really?! The Bible times span across thousands of years?!' I've also been deeply encouraged to hear the reflection of other SpringKids leaders who enjoy seeing the growth in each of the children.

There is so much more to children's and youth ministry than programs. Yes, our programs are important because they facilitate relationship and growth for children, youth, and leaders. But **the spiritual formation that happens outside of these programs is just as important.** Including when a caring adult, who isn't the young person's parent, remembers their name and asks them how their week was; when different ages and life stages share what they learnt from the sermon, or Bible study. Why not volunteer to be part of the group who discuss the sermon with our youth during 10am? **These forms of mutual connection help to spiritually form each of us as we seek to live life with Jesus.**

I encourage you to read the [Diocesan Strategy for Ministry to Children and Young People](#). It includes **a pathway which explicitly states the importance of a whole church effort to minister to children and young people.**

Lastly, **thank you to each volunteer who serves so faithfully** in SpringKids, 4pm Kids, Energised, CrossEyed, Loft, and any mentor who meets with our youth. Thank you to those of you who cannot give your time but give financially to these ministries. **Together, we participate in and experience ministry for, with, and by children and youth.**

Ministry Trainee

with Josh Lattimore

There's been much change for me!

Rather than leading a Growth Group at Wellspring, I've started assisting with the **East Coast Triabunna youth group** on Friday nights.

After completing Clinical Pastoral Education, I also decided to experience chaplaincy in a different context. As such, I've begun **volunteering at the Hobart Magistrates Court**. Finally, I've taken on the responsibility of **leading the set-up for the 4pm service**.

I've engaged in **lay preaching** on the following dates since AGM 2023:

December 3rd: Wellspring 8am, 10am and Resonate

April 7th: Edge Anglican Claremont

April 21st: East Coast Anglican

April 28th: East Coast Anglican

May 5th: Edge Anglican Claremont

August 4th: Edge Anglican Claremont

Throughout the last 12 to 18 months, I've witnessed my own **personal growth as a ministry leader** through being sent out to various fields to bless people often marginalised in our community. The relationship I've built with East Coast Anglican has been mutually beneficial. My regular assistance provides Ben and Jess Allen an extra pair of hands and gives me **a taste of youth ministry in a rural parish**. More than that, I've also been reminded of the **power of presence**. A significant number of the youth come from low socioeconomic backgrounds with youth group becoming a source of stability in their lives. Each week, they're fed both physically and spiritually. Whilst I mostly help serve dinner or kick around a soccer ball, I can see **the Lord's been using me to be a good role model in their lives**.

Given my previous studies in law, working as a court chaplain feels like I've come full circle. **My work at the court could be summarised with the phrase "loitering with intent".** Each day at the court, I allow myself to be **led by the Holy Spirit** to whomever he desires me to encounter. Most of **my interactions with people will be brief but powerful**, such as giving directions or offering a cup of water. Yet, the appreciation for these simple acts of kindness is profound because they are life-giving. **This is a powerful demonstration of Christ's love in an environment where people are too often defined by their acts.**

I feel the conclusion of my traineeship in December marks the end of a chapter. As such, I've been reflecting and praying about what the next year will look like. I'll be continuing with my **plans to apply to study a Master of Divinity at Ridley College**, commencing in Semester 1. While I originally intended to move to Melbourne early next year to study on-campus, I hadn't anticipated starting a new relationship this year, which has led me to reconsider. As my girlfriend and I look ahead to marriage, we've also considered some personal circumstances and feel it's best that I stay in Hobart next year. Because of my experience at East Coast Anglican, I've **developed an interest in rural church ministry**. As such, I will also apply for **a Bush Church Aid bursary**, which will pay towards my tuition in exchange for **preparing me to serve in a rural parish**.

To conclude this report, I thank Sam for mentoring me over the past two years. He's been a dedicated mentor who's taught me so much about faithful ministry and has invested a lot of time, energy and resources into my training. As well as Sam, all of Wellspring's ministry team have nurtured me and made me feel welcome in all your own ways. Finally, I'd like to thank the parish broadly, who've been generous in encouragement, affirmation and wisdom towards me.

Our Ministries





Bushwalking

with Richard Lord

Most Public Holidays see a smaller (or larger!) group with a wide range of ages and fitnesses heading off from Wellspring to **visit some of the amazing places that reveal God's handiwork in Creation.**

This year's trips included walking the Organ Pipes track on Mt Wellington to enjoy the waratah in flower, watching a platypus playing in the stream below Horseshoe Falls at Mt Field National Park, picnicking on Mary Ann Bay beach at North Arm, and exploring wobbly bridges and sandstone caves at Chauncy Vale Nature Reserve.

Nic Pepper has taken Subbies students to visit the Styx Forest giants, and Eddie Kim has led 4pm'ers along the sheer sea cliffs of Cape Raoul.

Believe, Belong, Grow and Share all come together when you are out on the bush tracks together - join a walk and see what happens...

Multicultural Conversations

with Tim & Emma Wherrett

The multicultural conversations group continues to meet about monthly after the 10am Sunday service. **It's an open group aimed at facilitating good conversation between people of all ages whether they grew up in Australia or didn't.** It always proves to be a mutually encouraging and enjoyable opportunity to **share about life, faith and culture.**

The end of 2023 saw us discuss topics from our past, present and future lives. In 2024 we've been delving deeper into issues of calling, gifts, suffering and even death. We've **heard amazing testimonies of God answering prayers during times of suffering and had deep questions from people from different faith backgrounds.**

One exciting development this year has been working in pairs to facilitate the discussion with one of our EALD brothers or sisters leading the group with one of our native English speakers. **Working and sharing together in this way feels like a taste of heaven.**

In term 3 we hope to discuss different worldviews including the currently popular 'pleasure-pain' worldview. In term 4 we'll be discussing health. We'd love to see new faces even if it's only as a once off visit so grab your cuppa and head into the loft on one of the advertised Sundays!

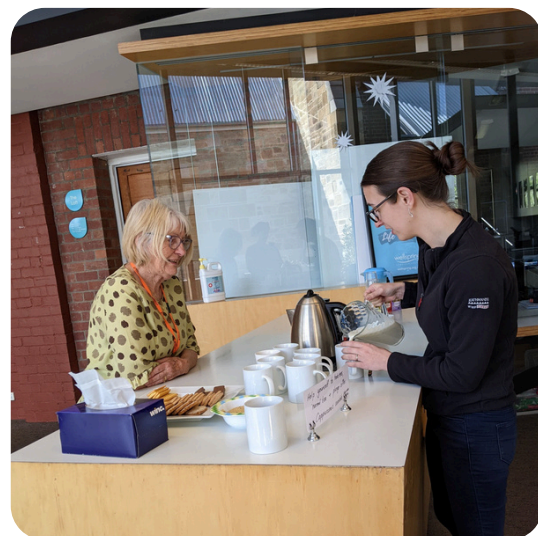
*EALD = English as an additional language or dialect



Playgroup

with Millie Freckelton

Over the past 12 months, our community playgroup ministry has continued to grow and develop. We have seen **new leaders** emerge and are thankful for their commitment and passion they bring to playgroup. We have also said goodbye to families and friends as they move onto the next stage of life and wish them all the best.



We've **welcomed numerous families from the local community**, providing a safe and encouraging environment for young children to learn, play, and build new relationships. Our playgroup sessions have been filled with laughter, exploration and friendships that have **enriched the lives of both children and parent alike**.

We have seen Jesus at work in our playgroup this year as we endeavour to **show the wider community our lives with Christ** incorporated in what we do and believe.

We have witnessed **families and volunteers deepening their faith** through incorporating **regular prayer circles** before playgroup and integrating more **bible-stories** into our activities, **fostering God's presence** in our weekly playgroup.

The playgroup has become a place where **families feel a strong sense of belonging**. New friendships have blossomed among parents and children. **Relationships have formed** that encompass our church community and **beyond our playgroup sessions**. It has been beautiful to witness God's handiwork create a **supportive network that enables families to share in their joys and challenges together**.



Spiritual growth has been evident as parents and volunteers engage in **discussions about faith and parenting** during our playgroup sessions. Many have expressed a desire to deepen their understanding of God's word, it's been a privilege to have the opportunity to encourage families both parents and children in their faith journeys and **invite them to join us at church services**, such as our **Good Friday service and Christmas in July**.



Our ministry has actively **shared God's love** through building up a **supportive community** that's enriched by Christ's teaching, evident in the **generosity of our leaders and volunteers**. Families have been inspired to serve others, demonstrating compassion and kindness in opening their homes to one another. It's been a joy to observe Christ at work in the hearts of our members, witnessing families coming to know Christ and families attending church and making Wellspring their home.

We have plans to further implement positive changes to our playgroup community over the coming year. We will continue to implement **more bible-based stories** into our weekly activities together with **Christian kids' music**. We are starting up a **children's library** with our surplus books which will include a range of children's bibles and Christian stories, to encourage God's presence and share the love of Jesus in the homes of our members. We are looking to create opportunities to **invite and encourage playgroup members into our greater church community**.



In summary, the past year has been a testament to the transformative power of community and faith in action. We look forward to continuing our mission of nurturing young hearts, strengthening families, and spreading God's love in the year ahead.



Wednesdays at Wellspring

with Helen Lord and Kathy McQuillan

On Wednesday mornings during the school term between 10am and midday, a cup of coffee or tea and a snack is offered to anyone who turns up at Wellspring. There is no charge for this. The inspiration for this was to provide a venue for **discussing matters of faith in a safe environment for everyone**, especially those who belong to Wellspring. It is a **connecting and belonging ministry across congregations and generations**.

There is the opportunity to chat with others, to listen to relaxing café music in a warm and cheerful environment. In Summer the café-like atmosphere extends outside with shade from umbrellas. The Autumn grapevine colours have provided good cheer as the weather has cooled. The winter sun warms on colder days.

The usual attendance averages 25 per week and starts with prayer and committing the time to the Lord as we share time and a cuppa. This is a good opportunity to meet up and find out what is happening at Wellspring.

The plans for next year are to **continue to grow under God's grace and to encourage each other in sharing our faith**.

Prayer

with Rob Imberger

Brothers and sisters pausing together post-service. Weekly intercessions. Early Sunday morning gatherings. Quarterly events. Quiet words of comfort offered beside hospital beds. Interconnected relays activated in a crisis. Deep relationships formed in Growth Groups.

There are and have been multiple forms of prayer ministry spread and active throughout the life of Wellspring, but they share a common rhythm of **breathing**. We breathe IN God's words to us, and breathe OUT our words to Him. Both elements are as essential to each other as our dual biological motions. Holding our breath (listening to God only) does us damage, but constant speaking (praying without listening) makes us breathless.

We can be thankful that, over these 12 months, there are many signs of God's faithfulness in response to our prayers. In the coming year, **let's honour the hidden and quiet intercessors**, whose work behind the scenes sustains our LIFE WITH JESUS. Let's stop to say 'thank you' to that person who prepared intercessions to lead on a given Sunday. Let's ask God to lengthen our memories of the past so we call on Him confidently for future needs.

