

Toorak Uniting Church Annual Report 2023



TOORAK
UNITING
CHURCH

Table of Contents

Minister's Report	3
Church Council Report	4
Treasurer's Report	7
Annual Financial Report – Income	9
Annual Financial Report – Expenditure.....	10
All Funds.....	11
Accompanying Notes	12
Archives	25
Congregational / Pastoral Care Committee.....	25
Sunday Fellowship.....	26
Toorak Ecumenical Opportunity Shop	26
Music Report.....	27
Outreach Projects – Congregational.....	29
Property Committee	30
Memorial Garden Subcommittee	31
Roach Committee	32
Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Class	32
Uniting AgeWell John Macrae Centre	33
Kinross Arts Centre	34
Uniting Arts Toorak Committee.....	38
Toorak Ecumenical Council.....	39
Church Council.....	40
Church Membership.....	41
Rites Celebrated at TUC.....	41

Minister's Report

At the end of 2023 I had completed 102 weeks of ministry, which means that relationships have developed, and ministry has taken a longer perspective. I hope rewarding for TUC, certainly for me.

We have come along way over the past few years, and Toorak Uniting Church is in a stronger position with more focused ministry directions developing under the leadership of our chairperson, staff, and lay leadership. There has been a lot of change with new positions filled and Café.603 under new management that complements the general ministry of Toorak Uniting Church.

Ministerial Partnerships

I have focussed more on a pulpit and worship ministry, some general leadership and management matters, and a focus on our ministry beyond the worship centre. As the lead-minister I have represented TUC on the St Catherine's Board, attended the Toorak Op Shop's committee meetings, and Toorak Ecumenical Council's activities.

Preaching and Worship Services

It has been good for me to share the pulpit and worship ministry with Reverends John Edwards and Gillian Crozier. Our Music Director, Dylan Quinlan-Baskett has maintained and expanded our liturgical music. Jonathan Lancaster provides an excellent ministry in live streaming the services, so that our ministry extends way beyond our regional boundaries with individuals and a couple of churches using our streamed services.

Christian Education and Discipleship

The weekly Zoom Discussion Groups, though small, continues to be a place of spiritual nurture and fellowship.

Pastoral Care

Forms a small part of my ministry here and has increased during the year.

Travelling with my wife is very much part of our retirement life, and Gillian and I have completed a tour of the Alaskan western coastline and a short tour into the heart of Alaska. We also spent nine weeks in the UK, based in London.

Rev. Peter Whitaker
Supply Minister



Church Council Report

The congregation has continued to thrive under the leadership of our part-time supply minister, Rev. Peter Whitaker, who is ably assisted by Rev. John Edwards and Rev. Gillian Crozier. We are thankful that Rev. Crozier was able to take on the role previously filled by Rev. Wal Baker, leading worship on the second Sunday of most months. We are also very grateful for the work of the Joint Nominating Committee, including Presbytery minister Rev. Ray Gorman, who continues to search for a suitable candidate to fill our vacancy. We are privileged to have Rev. Dr Robert Johnston as Chair after Rev. Duncan Macleod left the Presbytery to take up a new position with Synod.

We were sorry to bid farewell in February to our outstanding Director of Music, Jennifer Chou, who in her eleven years with us, lifted the choir to new heights, built up the Pamela Brown Handbell Choir and contributed a continuous stream of wonderful musical items to our worship services. However, we have been blessed to have been able to appoint Dylan Quinlan-Baskett, whose skills as a choral director and early music specialist have enabled him to build on Jennifer's legacy to further enrich the music worship ministry.

TUC remains an active community, despite the challenges faced by a number of long-time members as they age. We continue to have both a 9:00am and 10:15am worship service and have maintained a significant online congregation, thanks to the commitment and reliability of Jonathan Lancaster, assisted by Thomas Man, in delivering the livestream. There are regularly more than 80 views of the service and more than 20 views of the extracted sermon. The weekly Tuesday evening Zoom discussion group is an important fellowship opportunity for all. Coffee Club on the first Friday of the month is a welcome initiative led by Leonie Dillon. Special morning teas following the bimonthly combined worship services are warm and joyful occasions. Our members support our services by participating in the reading, coffee, flower, counting and welcoming rosters at the 9:00am and 10:15am services, and serving on our communications, pastoral care, property, Roach, outreach, worship, fellowship, Uniting Arts Toorak and archive committees, volunteering at Kinross Arts Centre, and Dancing class and strongly support our Outreach program. TUC is a strong supporter of the activities of the Toorak Ecumenical Movement and is represented on the Toorak Ecumenical Movement Council. The congregation has been delighted to welcome the new café operator in Kinross House – Angela Natoli. Angela has worked extremely hard to establish Café.603 and has provided a warm haven for our community from day one.

Two particular high points in the life of the congregation in 2023 were the annual Roach Lecture given by Rev. Peter Whitaker, a personal perspective on apartheid in South Africa and the Election Day mini market on October 14, which included a book stall, managed by Stan Laughner and cake stall, overseen by Jenny Stewardson, as well as stalls from Café.603 and Fleur Creative. In addition to raising significant funds, it was an occasion demonstrating a solid community spirit and cross-campus cooperation.

In September 2022, Church Council received an important draft report from the Futures Working Group "A Bridge to Church" drafted by Jon Sennitt and Michael Kenihan with input from then Treasurer, Craig Simonson, which included a significant number of recommendations for consideration encompassing the full gamut of TUC activities: worship services, outreach, day-to-day operations, governance, and marketing. The summary of resolutions passed by Church Council in response to the report was shared with the congregation at the AGM in June.

Changes that have been implemented include the reinvigoration of TUC committees to better support the ability of Church Council to carry out its responsibilities. The worship and communications committees have been reinstated, drawing upon members of the wider church community. The communications committee, in consultation with the property committee, has been focussing on wayfinding on the TUC campus, installing electronic signage on Toorak Road and updating the website.

Work has also been done on enhancing our relationships with our community partners. Rev. Peter Whitaker has represented TUC on the board of St Catherine's and Chris Begg and Barbara McKinnon have been meeting biannually with Uniting AgeWell. Uniting AgeWell, who generously invited the congregation to morning tea in the John Macrae centre following the Combined Worship Service on April 30th, are keen to enable greater participation from TUC members both as attendees in the social connections program and as volunteers.

Consistent with the desire to improve the attractiveness of our facilities to the wider community, significant maintenance has been undertaken of the hall complex of our buildings, as well as re-concreting and garden landscaping. In December 2023, Church Council approved a significant capital expenditure on repainting and refurbishing the hall. The seeds for redevelopment of the site were sown at the congregational meeting on November 19 at which the key questions of what was valued at TUC and the community would like to see as an outcome of future redevelopment were considered. The Renew 603 committee was formed to carry this work forward.

The appointment of Richard De Vere as our inaugural Campus Manager has been a significant development in the management of TUC. It had become clear that TUC was struggling to manage the administrative and compliance workload accompanying the range of activities coexisting on our site, let alone working towards improving systems so that the use of the campus could be maximised. A key recommendation of the Futures Working Group was the appointment of a part-time Campus Manager for three years, with the goal of the position working towards being self-funding. Richard has become an invaluable linchpin of our operations, and we are very grateful for his professionalism, dedication, and care of our extended community. His patience, availability and insight are great strengths. A further change in the office was the retirement of Bronwen Duckett at the end of June. Bronwen and Richard had been sharing the office manager role. With Richard's elevation to Campus Manager, Bronwen felt that she could, with good conscience, bow out and devote more time to her family. TUC then advertised for a 5 day per week administrator and, after initially appointing two excellent candidates who regrettably withdrew for personal reasons, found Jayfel Tulabing-Lee, who has proven a marvellous addition to the team.

Throughout 2023, TUC has been grateful for the work of our team of employees. James Widdowson, our Church Officer, pays meticulous attention to the TUC campus as evident in our beautiful, well-maintained grounds. James has been working closely with the Property Committee and has been ably assisted by casual church officers Sam, Arky, and Karsten. Mary Arho, the director of Uniting Arts Kinross, has been steadily rebuilding our program after the difficult covid years. In addition to being supported by the committee, Mary regularly calls on Thomson Sennitt to assist with hanging the exhibitions. Our indefatigable Dancing Class coordinator, Lin Cooper, maintains a beloved community institution and succeeds in keeping it fresh and engaging for today's teenagers, helped by her team of instructors and assistants at the Dancing Class formals. A key contributor to the smooth functioning of the many activities at TUC is bookkeeper Catriona De Vere who, in addition to her painstaking work managing payments and receipts, is a generous source of invaluable knowledge and support to our administrative team.

Church Council works hard on behalf of the congregation and includes a number of members who have given extraordinary service over many years. The congregation is most grateful to outgoing councillors Garry Brown and the late Isobel Negri for their many years of dedication. Garry's many responsibilities included serving as Chair of Church Council. We are grateful that Garry has agreed to continue, along with Chris Begg, to represent TUC at Presbytery. Isobel was passionate about maintaining an outwardly focussed community, open to contemporary theological understandings. Jonathan Lancaster continues to shoulder the responsibility of being the Safe Church Officer.

We have been saddened by the passing of June De Vere, Isobel Negri, Alison Simon, Jennifer Lee, Alastair Alexander, Kathleen Dudley, and Richard Throsby during 2023. June and Isobel were long-time members of the pastoral care committee with wonderful zest for life, and their warmth and humour is much missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families. We are also very grateful for the generous bequests from Margaret Tuohy and Graham Menzies that will provide ongoing support for the work of TUC. Another joy has been the participation of new faces in our worship life, and we warmly welcome them into our community.

Finally, I would like to thank our Chair of Congregation, Alison Legge, for her wise and steady counsel and leadership of the congregation over 2023, assisted by Secretary, James Barber.

Barbara McKinnon
Chair of Church Council
September 2022- present

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL

At the end of 2023, TUC Operational Account had a gross deficit of \$65, 818 which was slightly worse than the budgeted deficit of \$57,000. The net result was an operational profit of \$18,663 due to the recovery in the value of our U-Ethical investments (\$83,144). The distribution from the Warren Clark Bequest was \$274,059, 12.5.% of which went to the Capital Fund. This was significantly less than 2022 (\$530, 407) and less than the budget (\$354,000). In addition to the normal operation of the congregation, \$120,135 of the Capital Fund was spent on major site improvements.

TUC assets at the end of the year were \$2,272,793 which is \$6,177 less than they were at the end of 2022, which is a healthy position.

BOTTOM LINE

	2023	2022
Operational Account	\$18,663	\$9,542
Capital Fund	(\$52,496)	\$17,131
Dame Hilda Stevensons/Bequests Fund	\$27,656	(\$26,591)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$6,177)	\$82

U-ETHICAL

Because there was a good distribution from the Warren Clark Bequest in 2022, the cash flow did not have to be supported by drawing down from our U-Ethical investments. However, no action was taken to return the overdrawn \$112,690 as at the end of 2022. Consequently, the General Investments are still overdrawn to the extent of \$110,982.

U-Ethical performance, like the rest of the investment market, was positive in 2023.

- Growth: All U-Ethical Growth accounts are unit based. These growth units are revalued daily based on the market performance of the fund's underlying investment portfolio. During the 2023 calendar year, growth units increased from \$6.0833 each at 1st January 2023 to \$6.6624 each at 31st December 2023. (9.5% increase). Consistent with previous years, this unrealised gain/loss in growth unit values has been brought to account in these financial statements.
- Cash: The U-Ethical Enhanced Cash account also has a floating value. These floating cash units are revalued daily which means every single transaction passing through this account contains a realised gain (or loss) depending on the underlying fund value on the day in question. During the 2023 calendar year, cash units increased from \$0.9902 each as at 1st January 2023 to \$1.0145 each as at 31st December 2023, a rise of 2.5%.

WARREN CLARK BEQUEST

The Warren Clark Bequest is managed by Equity Trustees. As mentioned in this report every year, the quarterly distributions received from Warren Clark largely fund the Church's monthly payroll as well as Missions & Service contributions. Without Warren Clark, the Church simply would not be able to support the current model which it has now operated on for many years. As mentioned earlier, Warren Clark distributions were significantly lower than last year, distributions received totalled \$274,059 (2022, \$530, 407) during the 2023 calendar year – representing a 48% decrease. Predicting Warren Clark distributions is like forecasting the weather. The Warren Clark Bequest's performance is inextricably linked to ASX and global stock market performance, geopolitical factors, investment strategies, dividend yields, the timing of franking credit refunds and all manner of fund management issues beyond the Church's control. At the time of writing, upward inflationary pressures and higher interest rates are fuelling a volatile stock price environment so it'd be a brave person to predict Warren Clark distributions in the months ahead.

SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

In 2022 the management of U-Ethical accounts that could only be used for a specific purpose was taken over by the Synod office. As a consequence of this we have to apply for use of the funds within the terms of the bequest.

INSURANCE

Insurance is the Church's fourth biggest outgoing after payroll, Mission and Service and property related expenses. Insurance premiums paid totalled \$45,647 (2022, \$50,096) during the 2023 calendar year. Synod negotiates the Church's annual insurance policy on our behalf. We have no input into these negotiations. This is a welcome reduction but future increases must be expected.

BUDGETING

As mentioned in this report last year, the Church adopted a "worst-case" scenario budget for the year ending 31st December 2023. Consistent with recent years, the 2022 Budget includes a \$20,000 Contingency to safeguard against unexpected expenses that may arise during the year. The 2023 budget approved by the congregation in 2022 was the first of three years having a deficit in order to support the necessary changes in staffing required by the expanding activities with the TUC facilities.

Chris Begg
Treasurer

Annual Financial Report – Income

2022 Actual (\$)	Operational Income	2023 Budget (\$)	2023 Actual (\$)	2024 Budget (\$)
26,426	Open Plate Offerings ²	25,000	34,428	37,000
46,996	Planned Giving- Envelope & Direct Debit ²	48,000	36,961	39,000
8,169	Planned Giving – Deposit Interest Scheme ³	4,000	5,305	5,000
15,459	Retiring Offering for Outreach Projects ^{2 & 4}	16,000	9,298	12,000
16,447	Donations to Church ²	5,000	17,841	5,000
113,498	Total Offerings and Donations	98,000	103,834	98,000
8,000	John Macrae Centre ¹⁸	8,000	8,000	8,000
32,684	John Mackenzie Kindergarten	34,000	35,233	36,000
49,688	Other Organisations	52,000	73,473	70,000
90,372	Total Use of Facilities	94,000	116,706	114,000
464,106	Warren Clark Bequest General (87.5%) ⁵	315,000	239,951	315,000
57,627	General Investments	40,000	26,065	26,000
	Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests (Retain) ¹²	3,000	10,660	35,000
0	Elsbeth White Bequest (via Synod) ¹⁰	6,000	0	0
521,733	Total Investment and Bequests	364,000	276,676	376,000
81,209	Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Classes) ⁶	93,000	80,140	88,000
65,847	Uniting Arts Toorak - Kinross (excluding transfers for bills) ⁷	81,000	71,401	80,000
27,869	Weddings and Funerals (including Virginia Davey Contribution)	36,000	35,845	46,000
771	Fundraising by Congregation		2,505	5,000
	Virginia Davey Music (Concerts, Interest, Gifts) ¹³	1,000	8,779	9,000
184	Other Income	1,000	427	1,000
175,881	Total Engagement and Activities	212,000	199,097	229,000
-	Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Trust ¹⁷	3,000	2,719	1,500
2,600	Memorial Garden ¹⁴	1,000	17,708	8,000
	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁵	3,000	3,294	3,000
	Organ Development Fund ¹⁶		761	1,000
2,600	Total Special Purposes	7,000	24,481	13,500
904,083	Total Income	775,000	720,794	830,500

Annual Financial Report – Expenditure

2022 Actual (\$)	Operational Expenditure	2023 Budget (\$)	2023 Actual (\$)	2024 Budget (\$)
55,870	Ministerial and Pastoral Care	98,000	72,841	103,000
136,012	Salaries - Office & Caretaker	142,000	158,195	217,000
62,896	Salaries - Ministry of Music	57,000	58,489	62,000
4,178	WorkCover	7,000	9,681	7,000
5,885	Synod Payroll Processing	6,000	5,968	6,000
264,841	Total Ministerial, Salaries and Oncosts	310,000	305,175	395,000
93,252	UCA Mission & Service ⁸	96,000	95,112	100,000
8,000	John Macrae Centre ¹⁸	8,000	16,000	8,000
25,309	Outreach Projects and Special Appeals ^{4&8}	26,000	19,298	22,000
	Elspeth White Bequest (via synod) ^{8&10}	6,000	0	0
126,561	Total External Giving and Mission	136,000	130,410	130,000
51,915	Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Class) ⁶	60,000	63,732	58,000
59,669	Uniting Arts Toorak - Kinross (excluding transfer for bills) ⁷	91,000	95,085	94,000
11,832	Weddings and Funerals	11,000	15,252	14,000
3,000	Virginia Davey Music (Concerts & Scholarships) ¹³	2,000	3,500	2,000
126,416	Total Engagement and Activities	164,000	177,570	168,000
704	Communication and Publicity	8,000	1,075	6,000
19	Education & Learning	1,000	0	1,000
723	Total Congregational Growth	9,000	1,075	7,000
49,610	General Maintenance	70,000	51,931	70,000
50,096	Insurance and Fire Service Levy	52,000	45,647	50,000
99,706	Total Property	122,000	97,578	120,000
37,024	Utilities	43,000	23,018	43,000
3,987	Office Expenses (postage, stationery and photocopying)	5,000	14,636	5,000
9,035	General Expenses	7,000	6,656	7,000
7,780	Audit and Legal Fees	7,000	6,500	7,000
2,120	Bookkeeping Fees		16,884	16,000
57	Bank Charges		97	100
	Contingency ²⁰	20,000	0	20,000
60,003	Total Services, Administration and Other	82,000	67,790	98,100
-	Roach Family Ministerial Exchange Trust ¹⁷	2,000	2,444	1,500
400	Memorial Garden ¹⁴	1,000	2,603	3,000
-	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁵	6,000	1,968	5,000
400	Total Special Purposes	9,000	7,015	9,500
678,650	Total Expenditure	832,000	786,612	927,600
225,433	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)	(57,000)	(65,818)	(97,100)
(62,307)	Market Value Adjustment	-	84,481	-
(153,584)	Transfer Trust funds to Synod			
9,542	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	57,000	18,663	97,100

All Funds

2022 (\$)	All Funds	2023 (\$)
2,278,888	Funds as at 1st January	2,278,970
(9,542)	Operational Surplus/(Deficit)	18,663
(9,460)	Capital and Bequests Surplus/(Deficit)	(24,840)
2,278,970	Funds as at 31st December^{3&5}	2,272,793
	Represented by:	
43,091	Westpac - TUC Church Council	12,139
2,000	Westpac - Toorak Uniting Church (Debit Card)	3,000
275,942	U-Ethical - Warren Clark Bequest	234,828
223,845	U-Ethical - Planned Giving	106,394
100	Petty Cash	100
336,026	U-Ethical - TUC, Cash (see A below)	354,236
1,435,329	U-Ethical - TUC, Growth - 237,814 units (see B below)	1,584,410
3,683	U-Ethical - Parishioner's Deposit ³	12,043
0	Sundry debtors	
(36,000)	Provision for Annual Leave & Long Service Leave ⁹	(24,861)
0	Sundry creditors	
0	Monies received in 2023 for use in 2024	(2,516)
(1426)	Key deposits	(1,370)
(3,619)	ATO GST refund due/(payable)	(5,610)
0	Kinross - Art Sales	
2,278,970	Grand Total	2,272,793
	A: U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash	
75,021	Virginia Davey Music Fund ¹³	83,600
25,024	Memorial Garden Fund ¹⁴	42,913
11,246	Minister's Discretionary Fund ¹⁵	11,228
1,727	Organ Development Fund ¹⁶	1,880
(112,690)	General	(111,521)
328	Total Operational	28,099
159,912	Capital ¹¹	138,260
175,786	Stevenson/Bequests ¹²	187,877
335,698	Total Capital and Bequests	326,137
336,026	Total - U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash	354,236
	B: U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth	
508,917	Capital ¹¹ - 71,757 units	478,073
425,149	Stevenson/Bequests ¹² - 66,149 units	440,714
501,263	General - 99,907 units	665,623
1,435,329	Total - U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth	1,584,410

Accompanying Notes

This is a Special Purpose Financial Report. Toorak Uniting Church's "Financial Policy and Procedures", adopted by Church Council in 2015, documents the Church's financial controls and procedures as well as details the delegations responsible for each area of the Church's income and expenditure. Church Council is ultimately responsible for the general administration and financial affairs of the Congregation. This responsibility includes the preparation, presentation and approval of the Church's budgets, financial statements and accompanying reports, as well as arranging for the year-end audit of the Church's accounting records. The 2023 financial statements and accompanying notes contained in this Annual Report have been prepared consistently with the presentation adopted in recent years. In the interest of transparency, the accounting information disclosed in this Annual Report is comprehensive and detailed for all areas of the Church's many and varied activities. Please note the various funds, bequests, committees, trusts and organisations mentioned in these financial statements and accompanying notes all have their own underlying constitutional documents. These documents are in a variety of forms. The comments below are not intended to substitute or replace a complete understanding of the relevant original documentation. Consistent with last year, the attached ALL FUNDS page lists all the Church's bank and externally managed accounts as of 31st December 2023:

- The Westpac current account is used for almost all the Church's day-to-day operational receipts and payments.
- The Westpac Debit Card account is only used for small incidental Church outgoings. This account is typically maintained with a credit balance and was "topped-up" to \$3,000 for the purposes of these year-end financial statements.
- The U-Ethical Warren Clark Bequest account receives the Church's Warren Clark Bequest distributions from Equity Trustees on a quarterly basis. The Warren Clark Bequest account was used to "top-up" the above-mentioned Westpac account, so sufficient funds were on hand to cover the operational expenses of the congregation.
- The U-Ethical Enhanced Cash Trust – Wholesale account and the U-Ethical Growth Portfolio account contain the balances from the Church's previously separate UCA Funds accounts.

1. Cash Accounting

The Church's accounts are prepared on a cash accounting basis. The only exception to this rule applies to interest income generated by the Church's various U-Ethical accounts. The second half interest from these U-Ethical accounts has been brought to account as at 31st December 2022, although the interest was not actually credited to the Church's statements until 5th January 2023.

2. Accounting Control

All bequests, donations, giving, and offerings received by the Church are banked and brought to account on the soonest available business day after receipt.

3. Parishioner Deposit Scheme

Members of the Congregation have deposited with the Church \$156,000 (2022, \$156,000) not otherwise disclosed in these accounts. These deposits are invested in the U-Ethical – Church Parishioner's Deposit Account and the interest earned is included in the Church's Offerings & Donations income. The change in value of the U-Ethical units in this account during 2023 are taken to account in these statements, \$5,305.

4. Outreach Projects

The Outreach Projects Committee receives retiring offerings, individual donations and an annual budgeted Church contribution. The Committee decides on recipients of the money donated, and the Chair of the Committee authorises final expenditure. Recipients meet the criteria set by the Church Council.

2022 (\$)	Outreach Projects	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
10,000	General Funds	10,000
15,459	Retiring Offering	9,298
25,459	Total	19,298
	EXPENDITURE	
5,852	Cranbourne Regional Uniting Church - Food Truck	4,879
2,000	Officer Pakenham Mission Area	4,662
5,852	Robinvale Secondary College	
5,852	Skills, Opportunity and Survival in Kenya	4,879
5,852	Boroondara Community Outreach	4,879
25,409	Total	19,298

5. Warren Clark Bequest

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

(ii)2023: The financial markets experienced a “recovery” during the 2023 calendar year. Despite this, the Church was still suffered from the previous “bear” run, with the Warren Clark Bequest providing reduced distributions during the 2023 year. Total Warren Clark distributions received were \$274, 059 (2022, \$530,407). As always, it’s notoriously difficult to budget Warren Clark Bequest distributions going forward, although at the time of writing, it’s fair to say world financial markets are predicting uncertainty for the rest of the 2024 calendar year.

6. Alan Watson Centre (Dancing Class)

Dancing Class functioned well in 2023 and was well supported by parents and students earning \$80, 140. The 2023 accounts include \$15, 876 (2022, \$16,754) prepaid Dance Class fees, as these are typically paid in advance for the semester ahead.

7. Uniting Arts Toorak (UAT)

At the end of 2022 Church Council decided to integrate the operation of Uniting Arts Toorak (Kinross) into the daily functioning of the congregation, with the expectation that it's management committee would assist the Director in making decisions that created the best financial result whilst achieving outreach into the community.

The operating loss of \$23,684 was \$12,000 more than budget and was primarily caused through loss of rentals when the café and studios were unoccupied. It should also be noted that costs of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 are paid on behalf of Uniting Arts Toorak that are not included in these statements as they cannot all be quantified. These cover items such as insurance, gas, water, and some maintenance. Refer to the Kinross section of the Annual Report for a comprehensive summary of all Kinross activities during the year.

8. External Giving and Mission

Total External Giving and Mission was \$130, 410 (2022, \$126, 561). Members of the Congregation also made independent donations to other seasonal appeals, including Food for Friends and the Christmas Bowl Appeal during the year.

9. Annual Leave & Long Service Leave

Synod maintains the Church's payroll records on an ongoing basis. The previous liability and deductions for departures were relied upon to calculate the Provision for Annual Leave & Long Service Leave totalling \$24, 861 (2022, \$36, 000), as at 31st December 2023.

10. Elspeth White Bequest (via Synod)

Lady White left a substantial bequest to the Uniting Church. The Board of Mission and Resources ("BOMAR") of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania resolved in August 2012 that the annual income from the Margaret Elspeth Maxwell White Bequest be divided equally from 2013 to 2022 and "that half be granted to the Toorak Uniting Church to be used only for mission." This agreement has now expired so no monies were received in 2022 or 2023.



Lady Elspeth White

11. Capital Fund

Originally created to accept 25% of all Warren Clark Bequest distributions (subsequently reduced to 12.5% by Congregation decision in April 2009) into a dedicated capital fund to provide for capital projects on the Church property at 603 Toorak Road. Interest earned on this account is reinvested in the fund to support future works. In 2023, \$120,135 was spent on improving the gardens and the interior and exterior of the hall complex.

2022 (\$)	Capital Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
46,250	12.5% Warren Clark Bequest	34,108
20,290	Interest and distributions	35,568
66,540	Total	69,676
	EXPENDITURE	
10,660	Church Office - refurbishment / new locking system / computer upgrade	4,456
	Garden refurbishment	34,351
	Church Hall Complex - painting	68,096
	Kinross House maintenance	13,232
10,660	Total	120,135
55,880	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)¹⁷	(50,458)
(38,749)	Market Value Adjustment	(2,038)
17,131	Net Surplus/(Deficit)¹⁷	(52,496)
651,698	Funds as at 1st January	668,829
17,131	Surplus/(Deficit)	(52,496)
668,829	Funds as at 31st December	616,333
	Represented by:	
159,912	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Capital	138,260
508,917	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Capital	478,073
668,829	Total	616,333

12. Dame Hilda Stevenson Bequest Fund

Seeded by an original contribution from the Estate of Dame Hilda Stevenson, this fund has since been used as a general fund for untied bequests received by Toorak Uniting Church. Substantial additions in 2011 and 2012 came from the Estates of Mimi Chisholm and Louise Deravin, respectively. In 2009, the Congregation approved a recommendation from the Funding Review Committee that “the capital of untied bequests should not be used for recurrent expenditure” and that “half the income of untied bequests be retained and reinvested in the fund and half be available for normal recurrent expenditure.” There was no expenditure in 2023.



Dame Hilda Stevenson, 1971

2022 (\$)	Dame Hilda Stevenson/Bequests Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
19,315	Interest and distributions	26,955
19,315	Total	26,955
	EXPENDITURE	
19,315	Gross Surplus/(Deficit)	26,955
(45,906)	Market Value Adjustment	701
(26,591)	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	27,656
627,526	Funds as at 1st January	600,935
(26,591)	Surplus/(Deficit)	27,656
600,935	Funds as at 31st December	628,591
	Represented by:	
175,786	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Cash, Bequests	187,877
425,149	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Growth, Bequests	440,714
600,935	Total	628,591

13. Virginia Davey Music Fund

The VDMF fund was initiated in 2008, when donations of \$15,000 were received. The purpose of the fund is to support music in worship at Toorak Uniting Church. To build the corpus of the fund, Church Council decided in 2008 that \$200 from each wedding and funeral conducted at Toorak Uniting Church would be contributed into the fund. This contribution was subsequently increased to \$350 for each wedding and funeral, effective from 1st August 2019. Church Council has decided to cease this arrangement in 2024. Interest earned by the fund is reinvested.

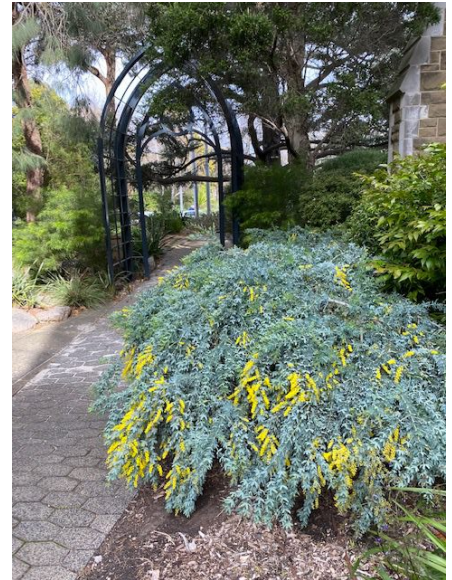


Virginia Davey, 1996

2022 (\$)	Virginia Davey Music Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
2,400	Transfer from weddings and funerals	3,300
2,311	Interest	8,779
	Realised gain/(loss) on underlying units	
4,711	Total	12,079
	EXPENDITURE	
3,000	Scholarships	1,100
	Concerts	2,400
3,000	Total	3,500
1,711	Surplus/(Deficit)	8,579
73,310	Funds as at 1st January	75,021
1,711	Surplus/(Deficit)	8,579
75,021	Funds as at 31st December	83,600
	Represented by	
75,021	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Virginia Davey Music Fund	83,600

14. Memorial Garden Fund

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



2022 (\$)	Memorial Garden Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
2,600	Interments & calligraphy	5,200
521	Interest	2,508
	Margaret Tuohy Bequest	10,000
3,121	Total	17,708
	EXPENDITURE	
-	Maintenance and refurbishment	1,253
400	Interments & calligraphy	1,350
400	Total	2,603
2,721	Surplus/(Deficit)	15,105
25,087	Funds as at 1st January	27,808
2,721	Surplus/(Deficit)	15,105
27,808	Funds as at 31st December	42,913
	Represented by:	
27,808	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Memorial Garden Fund	42,913

15. Minister's Discretionary Fund

This fund allows the Minister to provide financial support to deserving recipients without approval from Church committees or Church delegates. The fund is increased through an annual donation from the profits of the Toorak Opportunity Shop. The Toorak Opportunity Shop constitution stipulates that payments from the fund cannot be used for the Minister's benefit.

2022 (\$)	Minister's Discretionary Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
-	Distribution from Toorak Opportunity Shop	2,000
257	Interest	1,294
257	Total	3,294
	EXPENDITURE	
-		1,968
257	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,326
9,685	Funds as at 1st January	9,942
257	Surplus/(Deficit)	1,326
9,942	Funds as at 31st December	11,268
	Represented by:	
9,942	U-Ethical - Toorak Uniting Church, Minister's Discretionary Fund	11,268

16. Organ Development Fund

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

2022 (\$)	Organ Development Fund	2023 (\$)
	INCOME	
50	Donations	
38	Interest	761
	Realised gain/(loss) on underlying units	
88	Total	761
	EXPENDITURE	
-		-
88	Surplus/(Deficit)	761
1,031	Funds as at 1st January	1,119
88	Surplus/(Deficit)	761
1,119	Funds as at 31st December	1,880
	Represented by:	
1,119	U-Ethical -Toorak Uniting Church, Organ Development Fund	1,880

17. Specific purpose funds retained by Synod

In 2021 all bequests with a specific purpose were transferred to Synod to ensure that any disbursement was in line with the terms of the bequest. Consequently they are no longer included in our financial statements. TUC can apply to use the funds in line with the intended purpose.

These funds consist of:

Balance as at December 31	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial Fund)	\$16, 907	\$15,718
Roach Family Ministerial Exchange	\$114, 326	\$108,297
Annie Wallis Bequest	\$1, 394	\$1, 344
David Scott Bequest	\$697	\$672
Janet Torry MacKenzie Endowment	\$6, 945	\$6, 720
J.A. Campbell Memorial	\$21, 231	\$20, 833
Total	\$161, 500	\$153, 584

Elsbeth White (James Bruce Fletcher Memorial Fund)

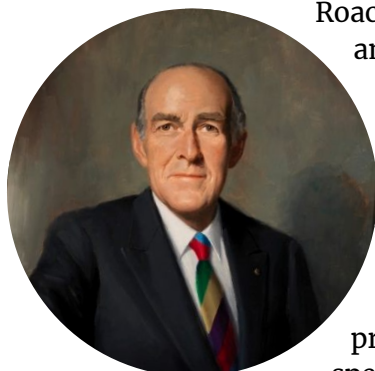
This fund was established by Lady White in 1989 with a \$10,00 donation. Lady White specified the fund was “to assist with the maintenance and development of Toorak Uniting Church property”. Lady White further documented, “It is my wish that 25% of the annual income of the Trust Fund be added to the capital of the fund and the balance be paid to a property reserve fund at the Toorak Uniting Church for the above purpose.”



James Fletcher

Roach Family Ministerial Fund

This fund was created in 1980 with a \$20,000 donation from the Roach Charitable Fund “to enable the Minister of Toorak Uniting Church and his wife to visit in 1981 a church in the United States of America and the fares for the Minister of that Church and his spouse to visit Toorak Uniting Church.” The establishing memorandum then required Toorak Uniting Church “to apply the income of the Fund towards the provision of exchange tours similar to the 1981 visit but to such places and at such times and on such conditions as the Parish Council of Toorak Uniting Church and the Minister shall decide.” In 2013, Church Council agreed that in addition to continuing to provide for the professional development of our Minister and/or to bring distinguished speakers to Toorak Uniting Church. In 2023, TUC used monies from this fund to present a special lecture.



Ian Roach

Janet Torry MacKenzie Endowment

Janet Torry MacKenzie was the wife of the Reverend John Mackenzie, Minister of Toorak Uniting Church from 1914 to 1944, and the mother of Lady Elspeth White. Friends established the Janet Torry MacKenzie Memorial Fund. Interest from the fund is used to support Deaconesses who Janet MacKenzie worked with and assisted during her life. Authority for expenditure remains with the Chair of the Janet Torry MacKenzie Memorial Fund Committee.

18. John Macrae Centre

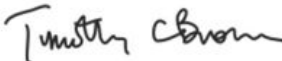
During 2022, the control of John Macrae Centre passed from Uniting to Uniting AgeWell. In 2023, TUC inadvertently paid our donation to Uniting Age Well twice. TUC has agreed with Uniting AgeWell that no contribution will be made in 2024.

19. Comparative Figures

The unreconciled balance as of 31st December 2022 as reported in the 2022 Annual Report has now been reconciled, consequently the comparative figures as at 31st December 2022 have been adjusted.

20. Contingency

Consistent with recent years, the Church's 2023 Budget contained a Contingency of \$20,000 to provide for any unexpected declines in income and/or unexpected increases in expenditure during the year. It is important to point out that this Contingency is used for budgetary purposes only and is not included in the Church's accounts as at 31st December 2023.

 28 May 2024
For Chris Begg
Treasurer

 28 May 2024
Barbara McKinnon
Chair, Church Council

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

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the special purpose financial report of Toorak Uniting Church (TUC) which comprises the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2023, Statement of All Funds at 31 December, 2023 and Accompanying Notes.

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

Basis of Qualified Opinion

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

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

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

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

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

The Church Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the financial report for the year ended 31 December, 2023, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Church Council for the Financial Report

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

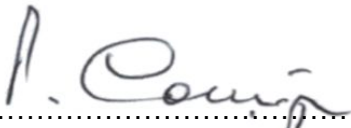
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Church Council.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Church Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Dated at Melbourne on the 28th day of May, 2024


.....
Peter B Corrigan FCA

Archives

In 2023, the Archives resources were again accessed to provide background for various memorials. On Anzac Day, 2023, we continued our remembrance of the men who sacrificed their lives in World War 2. In 1943, 11 men died, the majority in the Pacific theatres of war, in defence of Australia.

We also welcomed a regular visit of members of Korean Presbyterian churches, who come to pay respect and thanks for our third minister, Rev. John Ewing, 1886-1890. His support greatly encouraged members of his church and Henry Davies, founder of Caulfield Grammar School and his sister Mary, to become Christian missionaries to Korea. The Young Men's Fellowship helped raise funds for their journeys. In 1890 the Toorak church also formed a women's committee which became the PWMU and encouraged women to become involved in supporting the new missionary work in Korea, some following Belle Menzies who went as a missionary in 1905. In 2005 our Minister, Rev. Ian Brown and Chair of Church Council, were invited to Korea for the Centenary Services of Busan Presbyterian Church; later that year a return visit was made to Toorak by Suan Church members and families. We welcome these visitations from ministers and congregation members of present day thriving Korean churches.

During 2023, Kinross Arts Centre also sponsored an Open House, which included a popular display of original architectural drawings of the Toorak Presbyterian Manse, built in 1892 in the Arts and Craft style, to replace the small one-story manse of 1876.

Pamela Wilson

Archives Committee

Congregational / Pastoral Care Committee

A Pastoral Care report is submitted for each meeting of Church Council.

For their great support, care, encouragement and empathy extended to members and adherents of our congregation, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Rev. John Edwards and Rev. Peter Whitaker. Their commitment is exemplary.

For their commitment to providing ongoing additional care to the congregation, our team of Pastoral Care Group Leaders meets regularly to maintain current records of the congregants and best facilitate contact with all, in the spirit of caring, friendship and hospitality. Caring is a Christian responsibility, and we need each other. As one of our former clergymen reminded us once in a children's address, it is easy to break one stick, but when many sticks are tied together, it becomes much harder to break the bundle.

A number of faithful members have moved into situations of Care within the last year and their regular Sunday attendance is sorely missed. Bus transport to TUC for them has been investigated but is not possible to account of the travel-time needed to circle their many suburbs and on account of Uniting AgeWell transport regulations and the costs involved.

Other members have died. Their memorial services, to celebrate their lives with thanksgiving, have been reminders of earthly life's finite span but have offered uplifting personal memories of each person and given new or reinforced knowledge of their lives, purposes, accomplishments, and generous contributions. We are richer for having known them.

Christine Brown

Team Leader

Sunday Fellowship

Our congregation continues to enjoy warm fellowship following the 9:00 am and 10:15 am services, as well as morning teas and lunches after Whole Church Family services and other special occasions, coordinated by Jenny Stewardson. Christine Brown has ensured the smooth running of coffee and tea after the 10:15 am service, while Nina Mumford has organised the 9:00 am group. The 9:00 am group have also been lucky enough to enjoy some baking, often homemade, to accompany a post-service coffee and tea.

Barbara McKinnon

Toorak Ecumenical Opportunity Shop

During the 2023 year, the opening hours of the Op Shop have been 12pm to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

The year has been successful with financial distributions to charities twice in the year. The three churches, St John's, St Peter's and Toorak Uniting Church each gave to their several nominated charities \$35,000 in June and \$35,000 in November. Thus, donations to grass roots charities totalled \$210,000.

I wish to thank Richard Summersgill for his tireless contribution to the Toorak Op Shop Committee in helping to represent TUC, and for the background support of our ministers. The charities that TUC supported were Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre; BalzeAid Inc; A Path to Follow Inc; Frontier Services; United Housing Co-Operative; Melbourne City Mission; and the TUC clergy Discretionary Fund.

We are always looking for good, saleable clothes to be brought to the shop during opening hours, at 2A Carters Avenue, Toorak. A pick-up service can be arranged where someone has many bags of clothing to donate.

On behalf of the Committee, I offer my heartfelt thanks to all volunteers for their diligent hard work over the past year. The Committee is always grateful to those who support the Op Shop by making donations and by purchasing goods throughout the year.

Thank you.

Carrlo Jack
Committee member

Music Report

Well, as of Palm Sunday, I will have been Director of Music at TUC for a year. For me, this has been a year of listening and learning how TUC works. And I have loved every minute of it; everyone has been so kind, welcoming and supportive.

TUC Choir

The choir participated in most services throughout the year, though the Christmas services were somewhat of a treat. Our Nine Lessons and Carols followed the traditional Kings College Cambridge service, full of wonderful carols and choral music. A Particular highlight for me was hearing Catriona sing the solo from Kenneth Leighton's *Lully, Lulla, Thou Little Tiny Child*. Just stunning! For Christmas Eve, we presented Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit* on period instruments and at baroque pitch (a semitone lower) with the help of Progetto Correlli, a Melbourne-based baroque ensemble.

After a break in January, we were quickly into Lent. For the five Lenten services this year, I decided to try singing from the front of the church using the chamber organ. This, I hope, has brought a subdued tone and contrast to the regular services.



It has been a pleasure working with the choir. They are a very talented bunch of singers. In the short time I've been here, we've gained a few extra members, bringing our full number up to twenty-two!

For the 51 services the choir sang at from Easter Sunday 2023 to Easter Sunday 2024, we sang an Introit, Anthem, and Offertory (and sometimes an extra piece as the postlude), a total of 143 pieces.

Of these, 111 were sung in English. The works are drawn from the long tradition of Christian choral worship, with the breakdown by century being as follows:

- 29 – 16th century
- 5 – 17th century
- 8 – 18th century
- 20 – 19th century
- 50 – 20th century
- 31 – 21st century

Pamela Brown Handbell Choir

The Pamela Brown Handbell Choir has been rehearsing every Wednesday during the school terms, though only seen at the services a handful of times. Our first involvement in the 10:15am service was on the 10th of September 2023. We rang one of the hymns, *Finlandia*, and were accompanied by the choir to great success! We also rang the postlude, a beautiful piece specially written for handbells called *Cherry Blossoms*. This featured striking the bells with mallets as well as regular ringing. I think this small contribution was well received by the congregation.



Our second service was the Nine Lessons and Carols, where we rang *Silent Night*, also accompanied by the choir, and again in the postlude, a very quick rendition of *Carol of the Bells* by Mykola Leontovych. The ringers had worked so hard to get this tricky piece up to performance standard. A brilliant performance, and a great end to our carols service, snappy bowties and all!

Music Library

One major accomplishment (for me anyway...), was the relocation and reorganisation of the music library. This took months. But after a lot of hours (and chaos), the music is now located in the Director of Music's office, in five filing cabinets, and several shelves, all nicely labelled and in alphabetical order easily accessible to everyone. A huge thank you to Colin for helping catalogue everything after I messed with his system!

Organ Scholar

Jennifer Chou reports that TUC organ scholar, Elizabeth Buttery, is taking regular organ lessons and has learnt a number of pieces suitable for services, to continue her development, she will be taking the Grade 6 exam this year.

Instruments at TUC

The organ is still being serviced by Hargrave's Pipe Organs, and pianos tuned by Paul Smith.

Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Director of Music

Outreach Projects – Congregational

The Congregation approved a 2023 budget that included an allocation from Church Council of \$10,000, this being the same as in 2022.

This approved amount of \$10,000 together with the retiring offerings following Communion at the 9:00am and 10:15am services enabled us to distribute \$10,000 from the first half of 2023 and \$9,514 for the second half of 2023. Thus, totalling a distribution of \$4,878.50 to each project.

We are continuing to support the Cranbourne Food Truck, the Pakenham Homework Hub, SOSK (Skills, Opportunity, and Survival in Kenya), and the Boroondara Community Outreach. Mid-year, we distributed \$2,500 to each project.

SOSK (Skills, Opportunity, and Survival in Kenya) \$4,878.50

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

The Food Truck, Cranbourne Uniting Church \$4,878.50

Cranbourne Uniting Church has converted an old 'Fire Truck' into a mobile cafeteria. It delivers food to two locations in the Cranbourne area four times a week and feeds homeless people in each of the areas. They also provide counselling support to people who use the 'Food Truck.'

The Homework Hub – Officer/Pakenham Mission Area \$4,878.50

This is for continuing support to the Pakenham Uniting Church to provide the running costs of a homework supervision program once a week after school for three hours. The tutors involved are members of the Pakenham Uniting Church and local high school students who have also volunteered their time. The primary school-age children in this program are often families who have little or no English spoken at home.

Boroondara Community Outreach \$4,878.50

This is a mental health ministry established in 1993 by the Uniting Church under the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra. They are an inclusive and welcoming community for those looking for a place to belong and to contribute. They are about creating a community of hospitality with people, a safe place where each person is valued as a member and contributes to creating the community that is BCO. They value compassion and respect, nurture hope and encourage creativity. They provide food relief; crisis support and homeless support.

These TUC Outreach Projects would not be able to continue as they do without the generous support of the people of our church. Our Outreach Committee is most grateful for the extraordinary love and support shown by our congregation for these programs.

Anna Field, Chair
Chris Begg, Secretary

Lucinda Kenihan
Leonie Dillon

Property Committee

The primary role of the committee, subject to direction from Church Council, is to assist in the repair and maintenance of the various church buildings and grounds at 603 Toorak Road. The committee has delegated authority for expenditure on any one item, as set by Church Council (currently \$10,000).

The more significant items of repair and maintenance during 2023 included:

- Reconstruction in concrete of the paths adjacent to the lawn in front of the Mackie Room and the kindergarten and between the church and the courtyard, and inclusion of an irrigation system and landscaping by way of a rockery.
- Painting of the exterior of the meeting rooms and hall.
- Internal painting of the hall, corridor, meeting rooms, and office.
- Repair of the hall roof.
- Renovation of the kitchenette on the first floor of Kinross House, used mainly by occupants of the artists' studios.
- Repainting of the interior of studio #2 and studio #6 in Kinross House.
- Repair of the persistent in-ground water leak in the plumbing beneath the garden adjacent to the kindergarten.
- Resurfacing of part of the car parking area, mainly at the rear of the church and adjacent to Kinross House.
- Reconstruction of the steps at the rear of Kinross House leading to/from the back of Café 603.
- Preparation of an emergency management plan.

During the year, we changed firms operating our alarm system, moving from Signal Security to ART Security.

The committee monitors reports related to such matters as OH&S, asbestos audit, fire safety and risk management, and oversees regular tasks such as gutter clearing, and tree pruning.

Other matters approved for next year or looming for attention include electrical and audio cabling in the church; signage - improvement of direction signs, safety signs and room identification signs; and expensive maintenance items at Kinross House.

The Property Committee throughout 2023 comprised: Chris Begg, Malcolm Jack, Stan Laughler, and Pamela Wilson. The committee is appreciative of the assistance throughout the year of James Widdowson, Church Officer, and Richard De Vere, Campus Manager.

Malcolm Jack
Chair, Property Committee

Memorial Garden Subcommittee

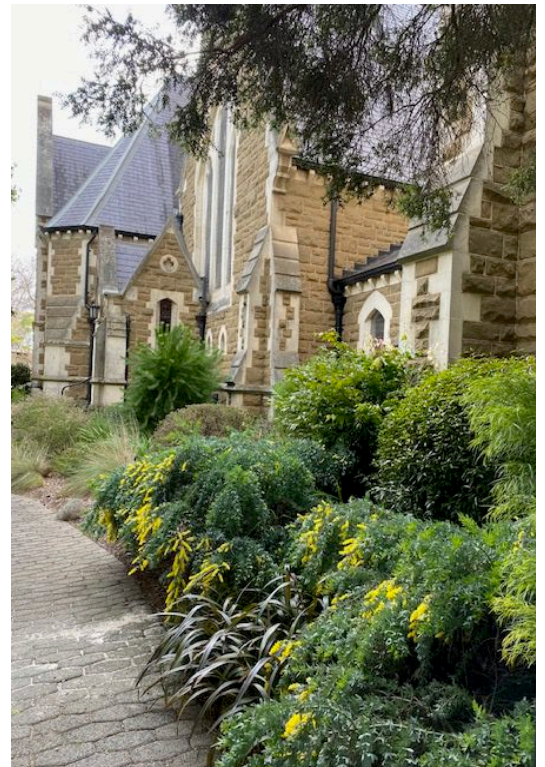


The Memorial Garden continues to be a leafy garden retreat for families and visitors to enjoy as they remember their loved ones. Interments in 2023 included Glenda Benness, Margaret Tuohy, Shirley Jean Tickner, Elizabeth Linay Charlton, Katherine Jane Mactier, and John Sutherland Gordon.

The names of all those interred are also recorded in the two Memorial Books in the church. In 2023 additional names were recorded from Isobel Negri's family, who were interred in 2008 – Rev. Robert Hutchinson, Dorothy Oxer Reid and Mary Elizabeth Oxer.

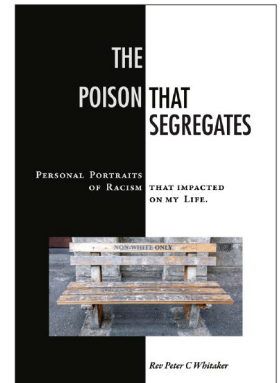
We thank James Widdowson for his special preparation for the interments and care of this Memorial Garden.

Pamela Wilson
Convener



Roach Committee

The Roach Committee met several times throughout 2023 under the chairmanship of Anna Field. Whilst ministerial exchanges were not under active consideration, the committee considered a variety of speakers who might headline a Roach Lecture for both our congregation and the wider community. Pleasingly, Rev. Peter Whitaker accepted the committee's request to deliver the Roach Lecture for 2023. Peter spoke at a luncheon in the church hall, held after Sunday Worship on 20th August. A wonderful, boxed lunch was catered for by Café.603, and we are grateful to Angela and her team for their care in providing for attendees. Peter then delivered a thoughtful and thought-provoking lecture in which he shared some personal experiences as a Minister in South Africa during the Apartheid era. We thank Peter for his preparation and delivery of the lecture and subsequent production of a booklet containing an expanded version of his remarks titled "The Poison that Segregates - Personal Portraits of Racism that Impacted on My Life".



We thank Anna for guiding the Committee and the annual Roach Lecture as Chair throughout the year. Anna has relinquished the Chair but happily remains a part of the Committee, together with Christine Brown, Mather Mason, and James St. John.

Chris Legge
Chair, Roach Committee

Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Class

The three Semester 1 classes and one Semester 2 class had relatively good numbers and regular attendance throughout the program. Semester 1 classes finished with 2 formals. We had one class in Semester 2 on Thursday nights and one formal to finish the Semester 2 program. All formals were well attended as well.

Rhonda Tellis continued to lead our teaching team and we thank Rhonda for her expertise and enthusiasm. Due to health reasons, John Druzynski could only dance with us for a short while at the beginning of the year. Lizzy Pipers joined the team, Sylvia Strenzke returned and together with Sinead Reading we had a successful year of dance classes.

Alex Kinsella holidayed overseas in Semester 2 and Jayden Grey returned to join Karsten Top in the attendant's role.

Our appreciation and gratitude to Toorak Uniting Church for enabling this unique event. This is reflected in the feedback from both parents and students. We are continuing to have students dance with us whose parents danced with us and students whose parents met at dance class.

We are grateful to our volunteers who assist at the formals. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you again to everyone associated with dance class for your assistance and ongoing support.

Thank you to the Dance Class team. Your combined effort ensures the smooth running of the classes.

Lin Cooper
Dance Class Coordinator

Uniting AgeWell John Macrae Centre

As part of the Uniting AgeWell vision, our goal is to ensure the experience of ageing is one of choice, control, independence and wellbeing.

Our social connections programs are designed to help members of the community continue to do the things they love. Explore new passions and build new connections in their local community.

Ensuring this service is offered to locals in Toorak, activities delivered at the John Macrae Centre offer a great opportunity to connect and enjoy life.

A regular calendar of activities enables people to stay socially connected in support of their continued independence and engagement in the community. Along with a home-cooked meal, participants stay active and healthy, to build strength. A choice of popular activities include exercise, games, trivia, information talks, art & craft, music, entertainment and walking groups. Other highlights throughout the year have included regular weekly outings to parks, museums and Morning Melodies.

The Uniting AgeWell partnership with the Toorak Parish and the Kinross Arts Centre also extended to regular visits to the art gallery on site and participation in the Music For David concert "I Heard a Voice from Heaven" which was joyfully received by all who attended.

Social Support Groups are delivered with funding received through the Government's Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP), with assessment and referrals received through My Aged Care. Centres operate across 7 locations within the South-East Melbourne metropolitan region.

Working in partnership with the Toorak Uniting Church community, the John Macrae Centre continues to grow since transitioning from Uniting Vic Tas to Uniting AgeWell back in October 2022. The increase in numbers followed a renewed and coordinated promotional approach in the local community and through referring networks

This year, a new Centre Coordinator Shubra Shah was appointed. This followed the retirement of Jane Searle. The program has expanded to operate five days per week with a team who continue to be integral to its success. They consist of Ryan, Val and Janet as Activity Workers, a new cook, Irene and a dedicated team of volunteers.

Uniting AgeWell looks forward to carrying on the legacy of the John Macrae Centre and working in partnership with the Toorak Uniting Church community to continue to develop a welcoming place for people to connect. We acknowledge the multitude of committed and passionate workers who have supported the John Macrae Centre social group activities over the decades, enabling people to enjoy positive wellbeing and good health.

Please feel welcome to drop in and say hello, we would be delighted to see you.

Penel Anderson

Uniting AgeWell Team Leader, Social Connections

Kinross Arts Centre

As detailed in this annual report, Kinross Arts Centre has devoted the year 2023 to a distinctive commitment – placing a prominent focus on serving and representing our community through a series of exhibitions and programs. These included exhibitions centred around art for healing, emerging artists, students, individuals pursuing artistic endeavours later in life, and opportunities for international and new migrant artists. These initiatives aimed to provide diverse communities with platforms for expression and opportunities to expand their audiences.



Watercolour artist Patricia Mirabile during the opening celebration of her exhibition "Ebb & Flow."



Guests enjoy the exhibition opening

Exhibitions

Beauty, Love and Reflection by Sorelli

February 20 – March 10

A women's painting collective from Melbourne and regional Victoria, reflecting their surrounds.

Lamentations: On Sorrow and Solace by Anne Riggs

May 8 – 26

An exhibition examining how artists can help those dealing with trauma and life-changing events process grief through mindful art.

Kinross Insiders

June 13 – July 14

An exhibition turning the lens on the talents of our Kinross community: our very own volunteers, studio artists, and staff.

Kairos – Perfect Timing

August 21- September 8

A sculpture and 2D exhibition featuring four Australian and international artists, meditations on God's perfect timing.

Melbourne Polytechnic Glass Pop-Up Exhibition

September 18 – 24

Providing a platform for glass students from Stonnington, many of whom were exhibiting for the first time, and in partnership with GLAAS Inc.

Ebb & Flow, Watercolours by Patricia Mirabile

October 2 – 20

A watercolour exhibition of landscapes, en plein air, and botanical art by former botanist Patricia Mirabile.

Kinross Christmas Craft Market 2023

November 8 – 21

Featuring the curated works of twelve artisans, international and local, exploring diverse mediums.

We express our gratitude to Thomson Sennitt for his steadfast commitment in meticulously overseeing the installation of all of our exhibitions throughout the year.

Public Programs and Fundraisers

Kinross organised a variety of artist talks and workshops associated with exhibitions, aiming to offer visitors contextual insights and educational experiences, and to heighten interest in the showcased artworks. This provided artists with the platform to deliver comprehensive art discussions, enabling audiences to engage at a deeper level with the creative content. We also held 3 fundraisers: a Tongan Faiva, “*The Roaring Twenties*” (Music For David) concert and the annual *Kinross Christmas Craft Market*.

Our community outreach was our most impactful accomplishment for this year, benefitting various sectors of the community:

- We partnered with Duldig Studios to host a day of gallery exploration and inclusion for the Seniors’ Festival.
- We partnered with the Tongan community and families in a collaborative concert and Faiva (Tongan Uniting Church in Australia Canterbury). This day of inter-cultural sharing through Pacific Island traditional and religious expression, was a way of witnessing the gifts of the Tongan community and building connection through fellow churches.
- We hosted an exhibition and workshop focused on using art as a form of expression and a means of healing for individuals dealing with trauma, grief, and emotional scars.
- We held a Roaring Twenties themed fundraising concert to benefit our Centre as well as *Music For David*, a music therapy program that provides people with dementia and their carers with short-term relief through music.
- We highlighted the art and entrepreneurship of refugee women and recent migrants with our Kinross Christmas Craft Fair.



Performers from the Tongan Uniting Church in Australia, during the Tongan Faiva



Women's Painting collective Sorelli present an artist talk

Kinross Open House

During the winter season, Kinross organised an exciting Open House, welcoming the general public to explore the gallery, artists' café, and grounds. This event underscored Kinross' pivotal role as an arts sanctuary hosting a flourishing creative community. Our dedicated volunteer invested significant effort in preparing the manse, showcasing an exhibition of their remarkable artwork, and orchestrating a day for the public to engage with studio artists, explore the grounds, and partake in a historical tour led by UAT Archivist Pamela Wilson.



Oil painter Robin Stewart gives guests a tour of his studio during the Open House



Robin's art on display at Kinross

New Café

After the closure of the Manse Café mid-year, the commercial space was reinvigorated and re-established as *Café.603*. Angela Natoli and Chris Ferdinands re-opened the café as a newly welcoming space, serving the locals. The new proprietors enforced a high level of warmth and hospitality in their welcoming manner. The Café offered a select all-day menu, including fresh Asian-inspired hot dishes and freshly baked offerings. They served as the preferred caterer for clients organising church events and hosting several groups, lunches, and parties on-site, as well as providing High Tea and Devonshire Tea services. A highlight was the school holiday cookie and cake decorating classes for children aged seven and up. The new business was extremely well-received by the local and church communities.

Uniting Arts Toorak (UAT) Committee

In 2023, Kinross Arts Centre, bolstered by our dedicated Uniting Arts Toorak Committee, provided significant leadership and strategic contributions to propel our mission forward. Meeting every two months, the Committee assumes a guiding role under the auspices of Kinross Arts Centre. The Committee works closely in collaboration with the Church Council and provides support to the Director and all Kinross initiatives. A special thank you goes to Filitsa Giannopoulos, who stepped down after serving on the Committee in various capacities since 2013, and she will be missed.

With thanks to

Chairperson: Nina Mumford (law/contracts, strategic planning), Pamela Wilson (Church Council, heritage management, archives), Christopher Begg (Treasurer and Finance), Sarah-Jane Watson (Education, public programs), Angela Abbott (Artist, Arts Marketing), Jenny Stewardson (Church Council), Filitsa Giannopoulos (Events, Arts Marketing) and Mary Arho (Director, curator Ex Officio)

Director

In her second year as Kinross Director, Mary Arho upheld her role with a commitment to a diverse and inclusive exhibition program, highlighting the significant role of art in facilitating spiritual growth and connection. We achieved success in our exhibition and public programs, welcomed new volunteers with diverse backgrounds and skills, and saw an expansion in our fundraising initiatives. The year saw us shine a spotlight on all those who contribute to making Kinross a vibrant community Arts Centre, fostering a space for creative individuals to connect, gather, and inspire cultural enrichment.

Volunteers

We convey a huge thanks to our ever-enthusiastic volunteers, who made our exhibitions, events and public program run smoothly. They dedicated their time, talents, and resources, for which we are very grateful for. We took great pride in featuring their artwork in our July exhibition, 'Kinross Insiders,' highlighting the exceptional artistic talent of individuals who typically advocate for the art of others.

This year we welcomed several new additions to our roster of volunteers – people of various age groups and backgrounds, which added to the rich tapestry that makes up our creative community. It is through the generosity of spirit the volunteers provide that enables Kinross to operate and serve the public.

Kinross Studios

In 2023, the artists' studios at Kinross sustained occupancy, undergoing a few transitions while hosting a diverse range of artists. The TUC Property Committee efficiently managed the installation of a new, contemporary kitchenette, enhancing convenience for the licensees. Artists continued to operate within their dedicated spaces, their ongoing presence and artistic development played a vital role in shaping Kinross as an environment that cultivates creative expression.

Studio 1: Angela Sach (Art Therapist)

Studio 2: Tali Lavi (Writer/critic)

Studio 3: Fran Haarsma (Writer)

Studio 4: Robin Stewart (Artist/oil painter)

Studio 5: Fleur D'Alterra (Floral designer)

Studio 6: Louise Wilcox (Abstract artist)

Studio 7: Alexander Schoeffel (Landscape gardener/designer)

Café space: Café.603 (Angela Natoli)

Finance

*See Treasurer's Report and Annual Finance Report 2023.

Thank You

We extend our sincere appreciation to Nina Mumford, our Chair, for her exceptional dedication and commitment, Treasurer Chris Begg for overseeing our finances, and Archivist Pamela Wilson. Jon Sennitt deserves special recognition for his continual efforts in ensuring the success of our events. Thanks to Campus Manager Richard De Vere for supporting Kinross' efforts. Angela Natoli's vibrant transformation of the café has brought a renewed energy and a welcoming ambience. Thank you to all our volunteers who have served Kinross Arts Centre with joy and purpose all year, enabling us to have broad outreach and flourish as a space of creative inspiration. We are profoundly grateful for the continued support from our patrons and friends as we manifest Kinross' distinctive place in the intersection of art and spirituality.

Mary Arho
Director

Uniting Arts Toorak Committee

Over the years, Kinross has been blessed with Directors willing to work with limited resources to make Kinross a destination in our community. Our current Directory, Mary, is no exception. The committee is constantly amazed with the quality of the events Mary delivers as a staff of one. Kinross is often called a gallery. It is much more than that. As we enter our 20th year, it's time to reflect on and celebrate Kinross as an acknowledged contributor to the community experience of the arts in a spiritual and socially aware context.

Nina Mumford, Chair

On behalf of the Uniting Arts Toorak Committee



Patrons enjoying the “Kairos – Perfect Timing” exhibition A sculpture and 2D exhibition featuring four Australian and international artists, meditations on God’s perfect timing.



Guests enjoy an artist panel discussion during “Beauty, Love and Reflection.”



Patrons having morning coffee in Café.603

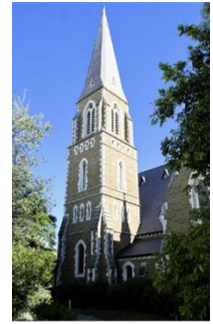
Toorak Ecumenical Council

The TEC, established over 30 years ago, consists of clergy members and two to three lay representatives from the four churches involved: St John's Anglican Church, St Peter's Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and the Swedish Church. It meets quarterly, and the clergy meet periodically to discuss combined services.

The Council is involved in the community with the Op Shop and Food for Friends (now reliant on monetary donations) – with monies raised going to those in need. The TEC is also responsible for our combined evening church services at Pentecost and Advent, our annual shared Lenten Studies and the Way of the Cross Walk on Good Friday. The Walk, attracting 100-150 participants, takes in all the churches and ends up at TUC for hot cross buns, coffee and fellowship. In addition, there are monthly prayers for Christian Unity, which rotate amongst the churches, with about 12 participants.

There is also a World Day of Prayer, which is centred around a different country each year. An annual celebration for all four churches' volunteers (such as readers and committee members) is held at St Peter's Parish Centre during Volunteers' Week.

Anna Field, Anne Smith and Jenny Stewardson
TUC Representatives



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

Church Council

Minister of the Parish
Associate Ministers
Chairperson
Secretary
Treasurer

Rev. Peter Whitaker (Supply)
Rev. John Edwards
Barbara McKinnon
Catriona De Vere
Christopher Begg

Pamela Wilson (Deputy Chair)
Christine Brown
Tim Brown
Jonathan Lancaster
Nina Mumford
Isobel Negri (dec.)
Jenny Stewardson

James Barber
Garry Brown
Michael Kenihan
Doug Lee
Jon Sennitt
Thomson Sennitt

Elders

Christopher Begg
Christine Brown
Jonathan Lancaster
Doug Lee
Pamela Wilson

Church Congregation

Congregation Chair
Congregation Secretary

Alison Legge
James Barber

Parish Administration

Campus Manager
Office Administrator
Toorak Uniting Church Dancing Classes
Church Officer / Caretaker
Uniting Arts Toorak Director
Music Director
Church Organists

Accounts

Richard De Vere
Bronwen Duckett, Jayfel Tulabing-Lee
Lin Cooper
James Widdowson
Mary Arho
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett, Jonathan Lancaster
Elizabeth Buttery
Catriona De Vere

Committee and Activity Convenors

Archives
Choir and Music
Communications Committee
Congregational/Pastoral Care
Counting Roster
Dancing Class
Fellowship Committee
Finance
Flower Roster
Memorial Garden
Outreach Projects
Property
Readers Roster
Roach Committee
Toorak Ecumenical Movement
Toorak Ecumenical Op Shop

Uniting Arts Toorak
Welcome
Worship

John Macrae Centre
John Mackenzie Kindergarten

Pamela Wilson
Dylan Quinlan-Baskett
Michael Kenihan
Christine Brown
Chris Legge
Lin Cooper
Jenny Stewardson
Christopher Begg
Annette Baldwin / Anne Smith
Pamela Wilson
Anna Field
Malcolm Jack
Anne Smith
Anna Field
Anna Field / Anne Smith
Carrlo Jack, Bronwyn Davis-Jones,
Richard Summersgill
Nina Mumford
Fiona Thomas
Rev. Peter Whitaker

Shubra Shah, Team Leader
Amelia Holmes

Church Membership

Currently, TUC has 262 members.

Rites Celebrated at TUC

Baptisms	Confirmations	Weddings	Funerals	Interments
1	0	12	8	6





603 Toorak Road
Toorak VIC 3142
03 9829 0300
office@toorakuc.org.au
www.toorakuc.org.au