

FRENCHS FOREST
ANGLICAN CHURCH

2020
CHURCH

R E P O R T



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WHAT GOD HAS BEEN DOING AMONGST US

There are two aspects of church life that give reasons for great rejoicing. One is when an individual comes to put their trust and hope in Jesus for the 1st time. This is celebrated in heaven and ought to be celebrated here.



The other is when members of our church grow deeper in their trust in Jesus, and long to help others do so also. Both these events come as the result of much prayer and effort. Of course, both are the work of a gracious and loving God.



For the past two years, the leadership team of our church have been working hard to understand how we can better make the good news of Jesus known to the community around us. And how we can do better at growing the body of Christ into deeper fellowship with God and each other. This is hard, ongoing work. Yet, we rejoice that it is a work in which we are seeing God bring fruit.



A clearer vision for our church helps guide the change we need in order to be effective in all we do, to help all to whom we minister, to move a step closer to Jesus.

Our Vision



Vision

Making Disciples who Live for the Gospel.



Purpose

We strive to **make** disciples of Jesus, through **sharing** the good news of Jesus, and **growing** those disciples to love, serve and honour God.

WHERE ARE WE HEADING IN 2020 ?

Throughout 2019 we have worked hard to enable the leadership of the 5 M's (Magnification; Maturity; Mission; Membership & Ministry) to reshape the way we do ministry at FFAC.



We have seen changes in the way Sunday Service are structured and run (Magnification); we are growing our support for Connect Group (Maturity); we have restructured Welcoming, held regular 'Newish' lunches and developed our processes for integrating people across the church (Membership) and have established Mission as the core feature and focus of our yearly church calendar.

It has been a very good beginning! As the M's team to grow and develop further, they will continue to be key drivers that enable us, under God, enable us to be more effective in enabling us to make known the gospel to the community around us and growing God's people to be mature in Christ.



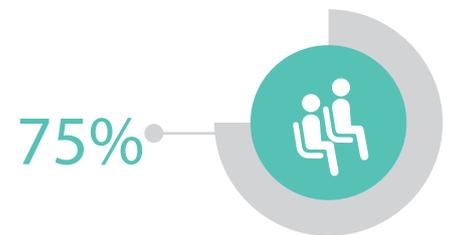
A CHALLENGE FOR THE FUTURE

We are so thankful to God for his wisdom and grace as we continue to reshape our ministry structures at church. We have seen fruit from this in many ways. Most significantly in our renewed focus on making the good news of Jesus known to the community around us.

At the same time, we have seen numeric growth at Morning Church and significant growth at Night Church. We have seen growth in the number of Connect Groups meeting each week and 2020 will see three Connect Groups encouraging the young adults from Night Church.



Naturally, this numeric growth presents a challenge to how we will accommodate more people in the year ahead. As we trust in God's ongoing goodness, we hope to see more people join us through our various ministry areas and in particular as a result of our new **Christianity Explored** courses. Already Morning Church is at a capacity that inhibits further growth having reached 75% seating capacity.



We know and have seen before, that when we exceed 75% seating capacity, it becomes a real inhibitor to growth. Over 75% capacity, new people, visitors and guests alike feel put-off because it is harder to find a place to sit, particularly one out of the way. This makes them less likely to return.

We are in the process of determining various steps that help us in the short term and longer term. We should all rejoice and praise God for his ongoing blessing across our church and seek His wisdom for the changes we will need to make.



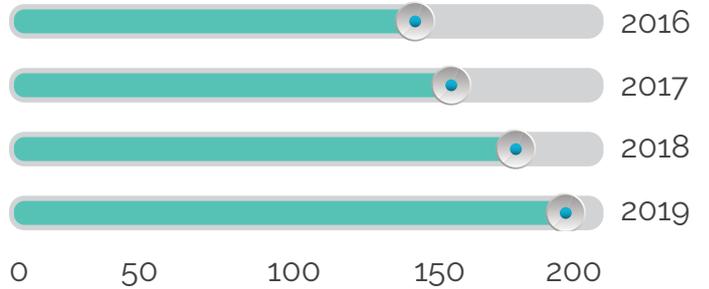
CHURCH GROWTH

At FFAC, we have set ourselves a goal for growth. Growth in the gospel. Growth in faith and maturity. Our desire is to see more from our local community, coming to a saving our knowledge of our God and then joining us to gathering to worship Him each week.



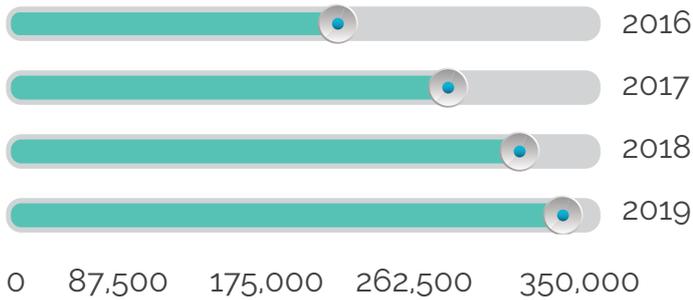
Increase increase from
2016-2019

Weekly Attendance



There is so much we have to praise God for in the past year. There is so much to look forward to, as God continues his work amongst us – to make disciples of Jesus and grow them in the knowledge of our good and loving God.

In particular, we ought to joyfully praise God for the areas of growth we have seen over the past few years.



40%

Annual Giving
growth from 2016-2019



MAGNIFICATION

In its first year, the magnification team focused on enhancing our corporate worship by tackling some of the big and obvious things that 'interrupted' the flow of services, and improving each of the elements of our meetings.

This past year, with the 'big and obvious' somewhat tamed, the focus has been instead on many small, incremental changes -- each of which may seem relatively unimportant but, when added together, have each brought enhancements to our gatherings.

Some of the obvious changes included:



Purchase of two more wireless mics



Improving foldback sound to the stage



Reducing clutter on the stage



Replacing a bass amp which buzzed constantly

Most of the changes, however, are not so obvious. One big change has been that we have instituted a weekly meeting (Tuesdays) to review and critique the previous Sunday's services and to finalise preparation for the upcoming Sunday services. One of our approaches at this meeting is to suggest 'small experiments' for Sunday services – ideas we can easily try – and then to review the results and continue, adjust, or discontinue.



The results have been incremental but significant, and include such things as:



Providing several ways for everyone to access the Bible readings, including publishing the passage in the bulletin and projecting it to the church screens



Making announcements after the children have left rather than before



Improving the content and fluency of announcements, and reducing the number or announcements



Splitting the sermon into two shorter messages when a passage warrants it

We have put together guides for those who lead prayer and Bible reading in our services as part of our effort to improve all aspects of our gatherings, and these will be rolled out soon. We will do the same for service MCs, and sound and data operators.



Mag is also deeply involved in the upcoming Christianity Explored (CE) course, working with Mission and Membership to deliver high quality content and meaningful engagement, and to enable guests to feel welcomed and relaxed as they investigate the claims of Jesus. CE will be a major focus for Mag resources.



So much for what we have done: what have we achieved? Our survey results show that, across the congregations, FFAC members are growing in their understanding of Christ, feeling inspired, and being challenged to act on their faith. We are pleased that our focus on enhancing our corporate worship is helping the members of FFAC, and that in turn their worship of our Lord and Saviour is being encouraged, so that He is being magnified.



MISSION

PURPOSE & PRIORITIES IN 2019:

We pray that God may work powerfully through each of us at French Forest Anglican church as we actively seek to reach out to the people of Frenchs Forest so that an ever-increasing number may hear the gospel and become disciples of Jesus Christ.

AREAS & INITIATIVES

Here are the areas we've focused on in 2018:



RAISING THE PROFILE OF FFAC	MOBILISING AS MISSIONARIES	CREATING PATHWAYS TO JESUS
<p>Over the past year we have sought to raise the profile of FFAC. Our "Big days" on the calendar have included; Christmas and Easter celebrations and particularly reaching the community in our Carols evening.</p>	<p>*Sermon series have focused on Mission, encouraging us to reach those around us with the good news of Jesus the Saviour. *A group of about 30 attended a talk by Sam Chan, which encouraged practical steps to connect with our neighbours, create opportunities and share the life we have been given in Jesus. *Prayer cards were used to remind members to pray for 2 friends to come to know Jesus</p>	<p>Consistent with our Vision to "Share Christ with Others" the M's have restructured the church calendar to prioritise Mission and create a "pathway" of activities to Contact and Connect with the community with a view to providing further pathways then to come to learn of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.</p>

HIGHLIGHTS

Some real encouragements last year:



PEOPLE PUTTING THEIR TRUST IN JESUS	OUTREACH ORIENTED EVENTS	CAROLS
<p>As a church we want to see more and more new disciples of Christ as people hear the gospel and put their trust in Jesus for the first time. Confirmation was celebrated in our Church with the families of two of our young adults. Some members are seriously investigating Jesus for themselves. We are overjoyed that at least 3 members have come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour in the past year.</p>	<p>Maximus, our Men's Ministry held a "Men and Meat" event attracting +30 "mates" who were challenged by a message that the Kingdom of God is like a Feast to which all are invited but many don't accept the invitation. 7 mates indicated they desired to learn more about Jesus and will be invited to hear more.</p>	<p>2019 Carols was a great evening. More than 350 people attended the evening and witnessed the celebration of the Saviour with clear gospel messages, including puppetry. 45 contacts were made and are being invited to further events including Christmas services and upcoming events.</p>

CHALLENGES

That we've faced over the past year



SEEING THE NEED	GETTING AND KEEPING PEOPLE IN THE MISSION PATHWAYS	THE MISSION TEAM
<p>Our challenge will always be to see that people's greatest need is the gospel. We need to constantly look out and see the thousands of people in our community who are yet to experience the love and salvation that is found in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>The average time for someone to become a Christian is around 2 to 3 years. The challenge of the mission pathway is to accommodate for and help people on this journey as they explore who Jesus is for themselves.</p>	<p>We are looking to grow our congregation as missionaries. We need people who will meet one to one and share the gospel one to one with those seeking to know Jesus (resources are available).</p>

TOP PRIORITIES IN 2020

Here's what we'll be focusing on in 2020:

#1	#2	#3
<p>That our members would continue to commit to pray that 2 of their friends may come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and that the members may encourage and be encouraged in this act of loving our neighbours and serving God.</p>	<p>Planning is well advanced in establishing the Christianity Explored course to be run in May and again in September. Initially this will be for 18 people to Explore Christianity. It is hoped that this can grow significantly to reach many in our community with the powerful message of Jesus.</p>	<p>Train FFAC members in evangelism so that they are equipped, confident and passionate to talk about Jesus, invite friends and family to church, the Christianity Explored Course and invite people to read the gospel with them.</p>



MAINLY MUSIC

mainly music is a fun music group for parents or primary care givers to enjoy together with their young child.

Throughout the session, children develop gross and fine motor skills, language, imagination, mathematical and pre-reading skills as well as socialize with others. Each mainly music is associated with and is run by volunteers from a local church.

Children are introduced to music, creativity and more. Plus families are given a chance to think about the God-part of life. Amazing to think that all this can be achieved in a loving, shared family environment.



One of the main focus areas of mainly music is engagement and connection. Each week we purposefully work towards



Helping carers connect with their young one



Helping connect with others who are at the same life stage



Helping the child to connect with the music



Helping those who come along connect with us – their local church.

We have a core group of 7 volunteers who execute the session each week.



Being – facilitators, Powerpoint operator, welcoming, and setup/serve morning tea/pack up.

All of the team strive to be relationship builders. Others through the main body of the church help with providing morning tea and re-setting the chairs in the main auditorium.



The program is term based and we had an average of 30 families registered each term.



Particularly towards the end of Term 4 in 2018 we were averaging quite low numbers – around 10-13 families



We had an average attendance of 50% any given week.



Of these families there would be around 80% non-church affiliated.

Throughout the year families were invited to participate in activities of the wider church family such as Days For Girls and Christmas Carols. We had 2 or 3 families take up these opportunities.

A core goal of mainly music is to show God's love in practical ways to the families who come along. Throughout 2018 this happened through dinner vouchers when babies were born, picking up older siblings, cards and gift, especially after operations.



MATURITY

PURPOSE & PRIORITIES IN 2018:

The maturity ministry area seeks to magnify God by supporting church members to reach maturity in Christ by growing in:



Their knowledge & love of God



Their moral discernment and practice of godliness in everyday life



Their skills and readiness to actively participate in the mission and ministry of the church

The purpose of the Maturity ministry is captured in the statement: Helping ordinary Christians know our extraordinary God.

AREAS & INITIATIVES

Here are the areas we've focused on in 2018:



THINKING THROUGH 'MATURITY'	RE-LAUNCH CONNECT GROUPS	PROMOTING PTC
A focus with the establishment of the five 'M's' was to develop a document outlining for 'Maturity' its theological basis; scope, structure and purpose; and goals and strategies.	Connect groups were re-launched in February and promoted through Sunday services, the Newish lunch (a Membership ministry) and personally.	FFAC member were encouraged to commence or continue in Moore College's Preliminary Theological Certificate.

HIGHLIGHTS

Some real encouragements last year:



CONNECT GROUPS	PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD	PRELIMINARY THEOLOGICAL CERTIFICATE
FFAC continues to have a large number of connect groups and bible study groups for people ranging from high school students to seniors. At present, about 60% of regular attendees at church are being supported in their growth towards maturity through Connect groups.	In the 'Pulse Check' survey, 75.2% of those who completed the survey reported that they spend time in prayer and bible reading a couple of times per week or more often. The majority of FFAC members are growing in maturity through personal time with God.	In response to the promotion of PTC, 15 members expressed interest in enrolling in a PTC unit and 8 of these enrolled. Through PTC, FFAC members grow deeper in their knowledge of God and his word and are equipped for service.

CHALLENGES

That we've faced over the past year



The busyness of life	Resourcing
<p>The widespread feeling of the busyness of life in our area can be a barrier to engaging with opportunities to develop in Christian maturity. We need to pray for wisdom for our church in discerning what's best when we're surrounded by opportunities and demands</p>	<p>It was a challenge to support and resource connect group leaders, especially while there was the ministry position to be filled.</p>

TOP PRIORITIES IN 2019

Here's what we'll be focusing on in 2019:



OPPORTUNITIES TO DIG DEEPER	SUPPORTING AND EQUIPPING	PRAYERFULNESS
<p>Introduce 'Going Deeper' nights to explore an aspect of theology or ministry in greater depth.</p>	<p>Provide training and resources for those in ministry roles at church to assist them in nurturing maturity among FFAC members.</p>	<p>Encourage attendance at FFAC prayer gatherings and make use of technologies to support FFAC members in being devoted in prayer.</p>



Membership

AREAS OF FOCUS



WELCOME TEAMS	NEWISH	LUNCH ON THE LAWN
<p>In the past year we have stepped up our welcoming and follow up as we seek to be wonderful hosts, connecting visitors to members and church life. Christmas saw the introduction of focused welcoming at all our events.</p>	<p>Newish is for Christians who are thinking about calling Forest Anglican home. Over lunch, guests are introduced to our church's vision, mission and key structures. Through Newish, attendees are able to connect more into the life of church such as joining a connect group and serving.</p>	<p>Lunch on the Lawn enables members across all services to come together on the church grounds. We hosted Lunch on the Lawn twice where 130 people came each time and enjoyed the food, jumping castles and community.</p>

HIGHLIGHTS



MINISTRY TEAMS	COMMUNITY GROWTH	NIGHT CHURCH
<p>We are thankful to God for our members who serve on and lead our Welcoming and Café Teams. Over Christmas our Welcome Team connected with over 70 visitors and our Café Team helped facilitate a warm and friendly environment.</p>	<p>The growth in our church community has been exciting to see. We have been blessed that through events like our Weekend Away and Lunch on the Lawn new friendships were formed and old friendships were deepened.</p>	<p>We have made changes at Night Church to help us better welcome and connect visitors to the life of church. God is working through mechanisms such as the Response Form, Info Desk and Follow-Up procedures to already bear fruit.</p>



CHALLENGES

That we've faced over the past year



INSUFFICIENT RESOURCING	FOLLOW UP
<p>God blesses us with lots of new visitors over summer and Easter. These times often coincide with holidays that our Welcome Team members have. This presents a resourcing challenge.</p>	<p>As new visitors come to FFAC each week, it can be a challenge to ensure that every newcomer is followed up in a timely manner to best welcome and guide them towards next steps.</p>

Goals/Priorities for 2020



IMPROVE FOLLOW UP AND NEWISH	FACILITIES
<p>To help welcome visitors into the life of church we will continue to refine and improve our follow up systems and Newish. We desire to provide everyone with the best possible opportunity to contribute and be blessed by FFAC.</p>	<p>In 2020 we aim to create an outside undercover space with an info desk to better welcome newcomers and promote community growth.</p>



NIGHT CHURCH

Night Church exists alongside the other services at FFAC under the wider FFAC Vision to grow transformed disciples who live for the gospel.

HIGHLIGHTS

Some real encouragements last year:



Growth In Number	A Desire to serve
Since September 2018 the numbers attending Night Church have increased from around 35-40 to 50-55. The Hydr8 reunion saw around 85 people come along.	During term 1, 15 people (30%) nominated a new or additional serving role at Night Church. We currently have over 80% of those who regularly attend serving in some way.





CHALLENGES

Looking back and forward:



Caring for the spiritual wellbeing of others	Growing Deeper Relationships
<p>Night Church could grow in its desire to look out for and engage those who are new or not quite integrated. The same could be said for following up people who stop coming. Both of these issues are a reality and particular challenge amongst a Young Adult demographic.</p>	<p>In such a time poor and social media culture, we are finding it harder to grow deeper, personal relationships with one another. Such relationships are however a key aspect of effective discipleship.</p>

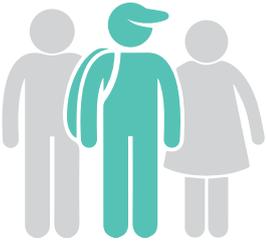
TOP PRIORITIES IN 2019

Some key areas of focus for 2019:



To grow a desire to see the lost won for Christ	To further equip people as disciple making disciples	To better honour God in our corporate worship
<p>Profiling mission once a month at Night Church and commissioning those involved in outreach.</p>	<p>Provide training on how to read the bible 1-1 and talking about Jesus with others.</p>	<p>Provide clear role descriptions for each area of service at Night Church.</p>

FIX



FIX exists under the wider FFAC Vision to grow transformed disciples who live for the gospel. Thus, the Vision of FIX is: 'for people in years 9-12 to be brought to life in Christ and grown as disciples who make other disciples'.

HIGHLIGHTS



Some real encouragements last year:



Transforming the FIX Space	Youth Coming For The First Time	Year 11-12 In The Bible
<p>Good progress made towards creating a space that the youth are enthusiastic to bring their friends to.</p>	<p>In term 1 2019 ten youth come to FIX for the first time to hear about Jesus (not including the new year 9 students from Alby's). Five first timers have returned at least once more.</p>	<p>The year 11 and 12 students from Covenant Christian School began meeting on Tuesday morning to read the Bible and pray. This is led by Naomi Peterson and has been a great encouragement for the youth and a positive witness in the school.</p>





KIDS STUFF

Two main purposes of Children's & Youth Ministry at Frenchs Forest are Mission & Maturity. Given that this about the growth and change in people and their trust in Jesus, it will be unusual for a program that we run to fit neatly into one of these categories. There will inevitably be cross over between Maturity & Mission within Youth and Children's ministry.

MATURITY



Youth & Children's Aim

To grow disciple making disciples! We are looking to develop followers of Christ who are visibly living out the Word of God in their lives.

We want to grow children and young people in their faith, encouraging them to develop a deeper personal commitment to Jesus through regular Bible reading & prayer.

A big part of the task is partnership with parents, to whom God has given the primary responsibility for the Spiritual growth of their children.

Youth & Kids Ministry

	Minnows: Pre-School-kindy	Sunday Morning 10am	D
	Jam: Yr 1-Yr5	Sunday Morning 10am	D
	Triple F: Yr 1-Yr5	Friday Afternoons 4-5.30pm	E D
	Alby's: Yr 6-Yr8	FridayNight 7-8.30pm	E D
	Smash: Yr 6-Yr8	Sunday Morning 10am	D
	Fix: Yr 9-12	Friday Nights 7-9.00pm	E D
OXYGEN	25-26 Yrs	2 nd Saturday each month 10-11.30am (mild-moderate intellectual disabilities)	E D
Confirmation	Yr 9+	Annually	E D
	Yr 3-6	October weekend/ annually	E D
	Yr 6-12	January / 1 week long camp / Annually	E D
KYCK	Yr 7-12	April weekend / annually	D E
	Yr 10 +	January / 1 week long / annually	D

E Evangelism or **reaching out:** The main focus is to clearly communicate the gospel & invite a response. The Bible is taught in short talks & small groups. Connecting friends with leaders & building relationships. There is a clear encouragement to invite friends.

D Disclipping or growing **establishing** faith . The main focus is to grow people in their faith & their understanding of God's word we encourage them to live out their faith. teaching them to serve God & his people

Triple f, Alby's, SRE & Kids' Church

Our mission aim to reach the community takes place each week in a number of ways. We are making regular connections as we teach SRE in our local Primary Schools & each term at Killarney High. It is great to have so many people seeing the importance of opening God's Word in our public schools, teaching Scripture from week to week. (Just to share one exciting story of reaching out to our community - Jill, from my yr 1 Scripture class started coming to Triple f last year & this year has brought along her friend!) It's really encouraging to see kids inviting their friends to Triple f & Alby's as well as kids being invited through Scripture coming to these groups. Please ask God to save many, both kids and whole families! If you have kids & young people in these age groups please bring them along so they might join in the mission. Parents also have great opportunities for connections at drop-offs & pick up.



I am often thankful to God for those who give of their time to prepare to teach the Bible & lead in numerous ways here at Frenchs Forest. One of the goals I have in the year ahead is to grow a culture of leaders preparing well & leading other leaders through their prayerful commitment & modelling to others. It's encouraging to have seen progress in this already in our Sunday morning kids ministries. One of the blessings of you sending your kids & young people regularly on Fridays & Sunday mornings is they will grow in friendship with one another, and with their leaders, helping them to grow with others in their faith.



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ANGLICAN CHURCH