

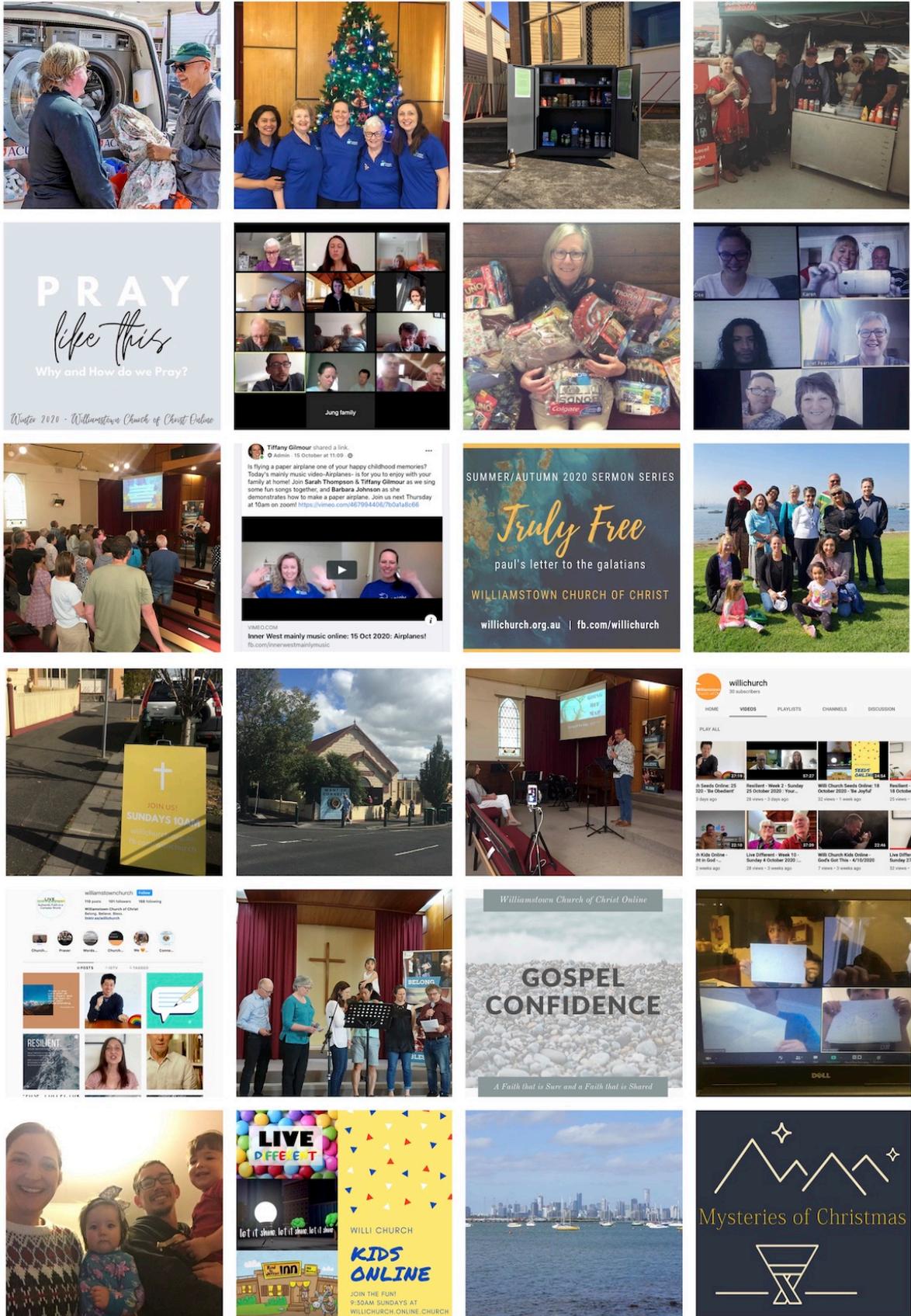
Church Profile

Williamstown Church of Christ



November 2020

Some Photos of the Life of Our Church in 2020: See next page for captions



Captions of photo collage

Top row

Robert Adams pictured with one of our Helping Hand community members and the Orange Sky Laundry van

Rosina, Patti, Tiff, Sue and Megan at mainly music

Our new Community Pantry opened in May

Our Wonderful Helping Hand Team at the Bunnings Fundraiser BBQ

Second row

Pray Like This Church Online Series on The Lord's Prayer

Our Prayer Live gatherings every Sunday morning have been a highlight of church life this year

Sue Wood knitted blankets, beanies and scarves for our Helping Hand Hampers community

Our new Connect Groups launched in March and we now have 6 Groups meeting across the week

Third row

Sunday morning Worship

Mainly Music went online in Term 2 to Term 4

Our Summer/Autumn Sermon Series, Truly Free on Galatians

Some of our Church community enjoying fellowship on the Strand

Fourth row

Our new A-Frame board looking bright on our front footpath

Our Helping Hand Hampers ministry open on a Tuesday

Michael Vanderree from Churches of Christ Vic-Tas sharing at our Growing Churches weekend in March

Since we launched Church Online our services have been available on-demand on our YouTube channel

Fifth row

At the beginning of the Pandemic, we launched our Instagram channel which now has more than 100 followers

Megan's Recommissioning for Ministry after Maternity Leave in February

Our Gospel Confidence series in Church Online from April to May 2020, grew our confidence in sharing what Jesus has done in our lives with others

One of our Zoom Youth Games nights

Bottom row

We were blessed and enriched by Jono's ministry to us and the Prince family being in our church fellowship this year

We launched Seeds Online early in our season of church online

Beautiful Williamstown

Our Mysteries of Christmas Advent 2019 Series

Find Willi Church Online

Our Website: www.willichurch.org.au

Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/willichurch

Our Instagram: www.instagram.com/williamstownchurch

Our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpacFj0yJFmUEFrJnLuDTYw?view_as=subscriber

Our Podcast: www.williamstownchurchofchrist.podbean.com or iTunes 'Williamstown Church of Christ'

Who We Are

We are a small, multi-generational, vibrant community church in the inner west of Melbourne. Each of us has been transformed by the good news of Jesus and we believe God has called us together to be a community that is witnessing to Jesus in our neighbourhood, families, friendships, workplaces and community.

Our Beginnings

The Williamstown Church of Christ came into being as a congregation on 13 June 1886 when a group of believers gathered for communion in the North Williamstown State School. The congregation moved into the current church building (formerly a meeting place for the Williamstown Baptists) on the corner of Douglas Parade and John Street in 1888. We were formally affiliated with CCVT in the same year.

Where We Are at

There is a fantastic energy and momentum in our church family in this current season, even having navigated the challenges and change that 2020 has brought. 2020 has been a year of growth and being the church in new ways, and a year when God has brought us deeper into mission, prayer, and discipleship, a time when God has grown us closer to one another as the body of Christ and a time when God has been at work for His purposes, even through the challenges of the Pandemic. In recent times new people have been joining, people have been getting involved in serving, people are pastorally caring for one another, prayer is a vital part of the fabric of our church, our Seeds children's and young families ministry is poised for further growth, and we are feeling excited for the future and all God is yet to do in us and through us as His church. We are also in a transition time, with our Associate Pastor Jono having concluded his ministry with us recently, and as a community we are praying for, and looking forward to a new Associate Pastor to join us, to work alongside our Lead Pastor

Megan Jung. As a church leadership in 2020 we have also been on a journey with God of inviting God to clarify and confirm our unique calling as a church community, which started with our Supporting Growing Churches process guided by Michael Vanderree from Churches of Christ Vic-Tas in mid March (in fact, the weekend when we decided to postpone our Sunday gatherings due to Covid, so the last Sunday we met in person for worship in 2020). Out of this, we identified 7 Key Pathways for us to work at and focus on this year, which has provided a great scaffolding and focus for us for this year, and beyond this year. By God's grace, over recent years in the life of our Church we have seen healthy change and new growth. To hear some of the early storytelling of the current renewal we are seeing in our Church, you may wish to watch a talk Megan gave at our Churches of Christ Victoria/Tasmania Summit in May 2015, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBZEhNffePo>. We give thanks to God that our church is in a healthy, vital season, ready and poised for continued growth as we seek to be faithful to who God has called us to be as Williamstown Church of Christ.

Our Culture

We have a healthy church culture, where people are welcomed and loved, given opportunities to serve and use their gifts and grow in their discipleship to Jesus. We have a healthy and very functional leadership team – the Church Executive – who are working together effectively and readily to oversee all facets of the church including vision, finances, property, HR and compliance. We have a culture of welcome, where newcomers are welcomed and integrated and given opportunities to get to know others in our church community and connect in with our events and ministries eg. Connect Groups, Inner West mainly music, Alpha, Helping Hand Café/Hampers, etc. We have a culture of high participation and mobilisation, where every person in our church community is invited to serve our church and play an active part in our life together. For example, when we meet together in person, typically 12-15 people are involved each Sunday either up-front or behind the scenes in our worship gatherings, and we have a lay home communion team of 10 men and women who visit some of our members who not physically able to get to our worship gatherings on Sundays – this team goes out in pairs to celebrate communion with these members every fortnight. We are committed to being a safe church, and all our our leaders are committed to living out our Community Covenant, which affirms our commitment to be a safe, healthy church. We have a culture of loving people who are on the margins – this is very much part of the DNA of our church and who we are. Since 2005, our Helping Hand Café ministry has been one way our church has lived out its commitment to loving our neighbours and providing a place of community, meeting the practical and relational needs of our neighbours.

What We Believe

God	God is creator and ruler of the universe, our Heavenly Father.
Jesus Christ	Son of God, who came to earth, obeyed His Father. John 3:16
Holy Spirit	Promised by Jesus after His crucifixion and resurrection and given to the Church on Pentecost (Acts 2). The Holy Spirit is powerful and active today.
The Bible and its use	The Bible is the Word of God, through which God speaks to us.
Baptism	Baptism is an act of immersion in water that represents Christ's death and resurrection and the death of our old life and our commitment to follow Jesus. For more, see www.willichurch.org.au/who-are-we and click on 'About Baptism'
The basis for welcoming people into church membership	Becoming a member is open to any person who has been baptised as a believer and who is committed to being an active servant in the life of our church, and who desires in turn to be shaped and transformed by the teaching and fellowship of our church. We also welcome into membership individuals who may have been infant baptised or christened, on the basis of their re-affirmation of their commitment to Christ.
Lord's Supper	Celebrated every Sunday, Communion is regarded as an essential part of our weekly worship gathering. All those who love the Lord Jesus are invited to participate.
The human condition	Every person has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 6:23) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).
The purpose, place and mission of the church in today's society	We are called to be a sign, witness and foretaste of the Kingdom of God in our local community of Williamstown and Hobsons Bay. We gather to celebrate who Jesus is, grow in our discipleship to Jesus and be equipped to follow Jesus day to day as we meet together on a Sunday. We then are sent out to live like Jesus in our homes, workplaces, neighbourhoods and communities Sunday to Sunday.
The role of the laity	Priesthood of all believers, can take part in all areas of the worship service. Men and women are equal.
The role of the Pastors	Appointed by Church Executive. The Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor provide pastoral leadership, support and oversight, of the life and witness of the church. The responsibility of the Pastors is to be leaders of leaders, a champion and an overseer of the ministries and ministry leaders of the church including preaching and Sunday Worship, Connect Groups, and Pastoral Care.

Your commitment to support of the Churches of Christ movement in Victoria and Tasmania	We are keenly committed to being part of the CCVT Movement. We appoint delegates from our Ministry Team and Church Executive to attend the annual Summit.
Your relationship to the ecumenical witness	We have worked together with a group of local churches in the Inner West over the past several years to partner together in Alpha, The Alpha Parenting Children Course and The Marriage Course. We also enjoy gathering together for combined services each year.
The place and importance of prayer	Prayer is central to our identity and ministry as a church community. We have an active Prayer 'Messenger' group and a trained Prayer Ministry Team which is a lay group who are equipped to pray for people during our Sunday gatherings. Our church community is deeply committed to praying for one another, praying for God's renewal and flourishing for our local community, and for God's Kingdom to come on earth as in heaven in our wider world.

Our Ministries

- Helping Hand Café - since 2005, this free weekly community lunch ministry has offered a warm welcome, a two-course meal and fresh and non-perishable grocery items to members of our local community.
- Inner West mainly music playgroup (launched in 2019)
- Connect Groups – currently there are six groups meeting across the week
- Bless Projects (seasonal, whole congregation projects to bless our local community) – eg food drive for Altona North Primary School food pantry
- Seeds and Little Seeds – Our children's ministry - Seeds (4 year old kinder to grade 6) and Little Seeds (play-based creche, for 18 months to 3 years) run each week during term time.

Our Vision and Mission

After a season of listening to God, discernment and planning as a church Ministry Team alongside our Church Executive, we launched our below Church Vision and Mission on Vision Sunday in February 2018. We are now in season of revisiting and seeking to clarify our Vision and Mission, and add to these some Church Values. We are also exploring a Name change to better reflect and communicate who we are as a Church, to our local community. So there are some exciting conversations we are having, and we see and anticipate more growth and change on the horizon for us as we move into 2021.

Our Vision (why we exist)

We believe Jesus is the hope of the world. We believe Jesus brings transformation, forgiveness, renewal, healing and hope and we want to be a church where people from all walks of life can come and encounter Jesus.

Our Mission (what we're called to do)

We are a spiritual community of apprentices to Jesus seeking to join with God in all He is doing to bring His blessing in our neighbourhood of Williamstown and Hobsons Bay. We are called to do this in three ways:

Belong // Seeking to be a community filled with God's love, grace and truth

Believe // Seeking to know Jesus and be His disciples. We become his disciples by: *Being* with Jesus. *Becoming* Like Jesus. *Doing* what Jesus did.

Bless // Seeking to bring the mission of God to our neighbourhood and beyond by sharing His love, service, message and blessing.

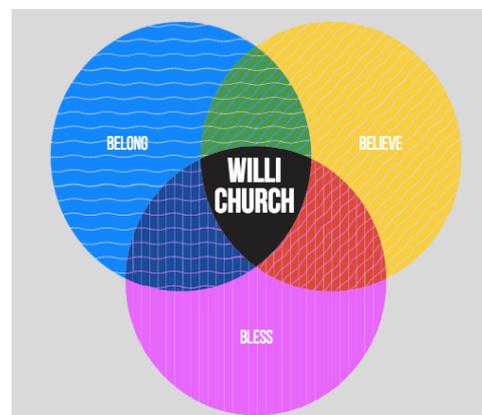
Our Strategy

How will we achieve this in 2021?

Belong

Community, Fun, Fellowship, Friendship, the Presence of God, Food

- Sunday worship celebrations
- Brunch Church once a quarter
- Christmas & Easter Celebrations
- Church Picnics
- Church Big Day Out (community day, like a mini church camp)
- Continue to grow and support Helping Hand Café
- Church hospitality lunches
- Newcomers lunches twice in 2021 (or more as needed)
- One or two Church Working Bees to build community and improve our church aesthetic (including painting hall foyer)
- Encourage and invite congregation into Church Membership
- Birthday cards for all our children



Believe

Scripture, Discipleship, Learning, Growing, Deepening, Abiding, Running after Jesus, Spiritual Practices, Seeing People Set Free, Spiritually Active

- Relaunch, simplify and refresh format of in person Sunday worship celebrations in term 1, 2021
- Sunday teaching
- Connect Groups
- Encourage people into baptism (2 baptism services and preparation cohorts in 2021)
- Grow our membership from 46 to 55
- Grow Prayer Ministry culture and team
- Relaunch of in person Seeds children's ministry in 2021
- Youth and Young Adults activities
- Grow and further equip, inspire and unify the Worship team
- People of all ages sharing weekly stories of how God is working and active in their lives
- Continue to invite our church to be engaging in spiritual practices/disciplines for spiritual formation

Bless

Evangelism, Giving, Teamwork, Shalom, Seeing our Neighbourhood Flourish, we are living out faith in everyday life

- Inner West Alpha
- Inner West Alpha Parenting Children Course/Parenting Teenagers Course
- Inner West Alpha Marriage Course
- Working closely with other local churches
- Combined service/s with other local churches
- Encourage Bless Projects such as the Christmas Food/Toy Drive
- Pop Up after school club/activities (such as an alternative Halloween party run in October)
- Foster Connections with Urban Neighbours of Hope Broadmeadows (Brad and Colleen Coath), Global Mission Partners, West Welcome Wagon
- Run fundraisers to raise money for church and its ministries
- Use cards and real estate boards to invite and advertise and get the word out about our Church and the Gospel

Our Church & Community

We are a 134-year old church, in an historic area 10km from city, with train transport to the city. It is a traditional working-class dockland area with community housing but with transition to an increasingly elite area with recreational boating and expensive waterfront properties. We describe ourselves as part of a culturally and economically transitional urban neighbourhood. Our average Sunday Worship attendance is 50 (40 adults, 10 children).

Please note the following data was collected in mid-2018.

Age profile

Age Category	Male	Female	Total	%	% population in this age segment in City of Hobsons Bay (2016 Census)
0-5 (Babies, Toddler, Preschool)	3	4	7	8%	8%
6-12 (Primary School)	5	5	10	12%	*
13-18 (Secondary School)	0	2	2	2%	*
19-25	4	1	5	6%	6%
26-40	4	7	11	13%	22.5%
41-50	7	11	18	21%	15%
51-60	5	4	9	11%	13.5%
61-70	5	9	14	17%	9.5%
71-80	3	3	6	7%	6%
81+	0	2	2	2%	4.5%
Totals	36	48	84	100%	100%

**Statistic not available for this exact age segment*

Cultural backgrounds The approximate number of persons in our church community born in:

69	Anglo origin
12	Asian origin
3	South American origin
0	African origin
0	Other

Households profile

1	Single parent with 1 or more children at home
6	Married with no children at home
13	Married with 1 or more children at home
6	Separated/divorced with no children at home
3	Single adult living with parent/s

6	Single adult not living with parent/s
3	Widowed living alone
0	Widowed with 1 or more child at home
2	Living in an Aged Care Community/Supported Accommodation for People with Disabilities
11	Defacto couple

Economic profile

20	Employed full time
13	Employed part time
4	Homemaker full time
18	Retired
3/13	Student: Adults/children
1	Unemployed
4	Not working (person with a disability)
0	Engaged in shift work at weekends

Employment profile (of those employed full and part time)

1	Unemployed (ie. seeking work, not including those on health benefits etc)
9	Technical/Trades/Childcare/Hospitality/Retail
23	Professional
	Other

Our assessment is that the above profiles of the congregation reflect the general community in which we serve.

Location of our People

Our congregation is local, with the following table showing the proximity of each family unit (individual/couple/family) in our church community to the church location:

16	35%	Within 1km
10	22%	Within 1-2kms
6	13%	Within 2-5kms
14	30%	Beyond 5kms

Church Life

Our Church Executive (leadership group) governs the church, with sub-committees or task groups formed as needed. We have an Annual General Meeting each year, with special meetings as required.

Financial status

Current weekly budget of the church is:	\$1,730
Average total weekly offering over July to September '20:	\$1,700
Current annual missionary giving:	\$500

Current property (or other) debt:	\$0
Annual cost of servicing the debt:	\$0
Funds the church have invested	\$20,000

Ministry Team

To read our ministry team profiles, please visit <http://www.willichurch.org.au/who-are-we> and click on 'Our Ministry Team'.

We have a part time (0.4 EFT, 15 hours a week) Lead Pastor, Megan Jung. Megan has been our Lead Pastor since November 2012 and in that time, has taken two periods of maternity leave as her and her husband Charlie have grown their young family. Megan returned from her second maternity leave in February 2020. The Lead Pastor provides pastoral leadership, support and oversight of the staff and lay ministry team, and of the life and witness of the church. The responsibility of the Lead Pastor is to be a leader of leaders, a champion and an overseer of the ministries and ministry leaders of the church including preaching and Sunday Worship, Discipleship, and Pastoral Care. We have a Ministry & Playgroup Facilitator, Tiffany Gilmour (0.4 EFT, 15 hours a week) who has been on our ministry team since 2015, and an Administrative Assistant (0.2 EFT, 7.5 hours a week), Sarah Thompson who joined us in July 2020 and is an active member of Newport Baptist Church, along with her family.

Over the past 30 years, the following Pastors/Ministers have served at the church;

- Jonathan Prince (May 2019-October 2020) – Associate Pastor
- Lachy Zammit (2016-2018) – Assistant Pastor
- Kaye Reid (2016-2017) – Lead Pastor [12 month Maternity Leave position for Megan Jung]
- Graham Francis (2011-2012)
- Lynette Leach (2004-2012)
- Cheryl Johnson (1986-2005)

What is our discipleship pathway?

Each person's discipleship pathway will look slightly different. But we want to invite people into a discipleship pathway, or journey, which may look something like:

Coming along to an event, group or ministry we run such as inner west Mainly Music, Helping Hand Hampers/Café, Alpha, Connect Groups, Christmas service, parenting course



Coming along to church or Connect Group or both



Become a follower of Jesus & be invited to consider baptism



Get involved in serving in our church and in the community



Be invited to consider membership



Make disciples of others

What is our newcomers integration pathway?

Each person's integration into the church will look slightly different. But we want to invite people into a discipleship pathway, or journey, which may look something like:

Coming along to church



Receive a prompt follow up call/SMS/email from Ministry Team Member welcoming them to church and connecting



1-3 weeks after their visit, Ministry Team Member invite them to an event at the church such as Connect Group, Alpha, parenting event, Helping Hand Hampers/Café etc



Between 3 weeks and 2 months after their first visit, Ministry Team Member to invite them to get involved in some way in the church community such as serving on Sunday with welcoming, Bible reading, morning tea, Seeds etc

Sometime after they begin attending, Ministry Team Member to invite them to a newcomers' lunch. Also, the individual/couple/family is added to our weekly Willi Church E-News email list so they can stay informed about events and discipleship opportunities at the church.



Become a follower of Jesus & be invited to consider baptism



Be invited to consider membership



Make disciples of others