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# Annual Report

A report on all the ways  
God has been at work  
in our church in 2019.

VINE CHURCH

## OUR VISION

We dream of seeing thousands of Christians gathering in the inner city that are passionately devoted to sharing their faith, serving others with joy, and growing in the knowledge and love of Jesus.

## OUR PURPOSES

**Magnification:** we exist to live in awe, dependence, and holiness as we magnify the greatness of Jesus Christ.

**Maturity:** we exist to grow to become fully mature disciples of Jesus by bringing every part of our life under His word.

**Ministry:** we exist to serve others with a glad and joyful heart because our God gladly served us.

**Mission:** we exist to do something about the millions of people in our city who don't know Jesus by urgently speaking the gospel to our friends and family.

**Membership:** we exist to join God's family, gather with His people and care deeply for each other.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to connect 1,000 people to the life, love and freedom Jesus offers.

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# Letter from the Lead Pastor

Dear friends,

I'm thrilled to report on the ways we've seen God at work among us over the past year.

When Liz and I started Vine Church 9 years ago we were burdened with the trend of young people walking away from their faith seeking life, love and freedom away from Jesus. Our city seemed to be getting less and less religious and more and more hostile to Christianity. Over the past 9 years we've been privileged to see Jesus transform people's lives and give them life to the full, true freedom and the deep love we're desperate for. It really is a privilege leading a community so passionate about connecting people to Jesus by proclaiming the gospel.

But starting Vine Church involved change for us. We had to take a risk, start something new, get out of our comfort zone and pursue the mission God has called us to.

As I look forward to what God has in store for Vine Church over the next couple of years, I'm excited and daunted because it's going to involve the kind of change that was required when we started 9 years ago.

By the end of 2020 we expect to have begun construction on our Connect Building Renewal. This will bring so many benefits to the ministry but will require we all move from our comfort zone in pursuing the mission God has called us to.

It seems to me the older you get both in life and in your Christian life, the greater potential to be resistant to change. It is why church plants grow and reach new people, while existing churches stagnate and become a club for Christians only.

It's easy to forget that when we each joined Vine Church, the church grew and changed to welcome us. We need to keep changing to welcome others. We need to get out of our comfort zone and pursue the mission God has called us to.

By God's grace we saw that happen in 2019. We took the risk of launching the Connect Building Renewal, a project that would ask of us real generosity to the future of our church. Your response blew my mind away. We saw over 100 family units pledge \$1.4 million. I am humbled by this and am thankful for every single pledge.

This was the vote of confidence the Parish Council needed to commit to the architectural plans that had been prepared and submit them as a Development Application with the City of Sydney council.

Jesus teaches that you can judge the spiritual health of a Christian by the generosity of their wallet (Matthew 6:21). During Connect we saw disciples who treasure Jesus above all and were willing to give their treasures that others might know of the life, love and freedom he gives.

While Connect was the biggest initiative we undertook in 2019, there were a bunch of other ways in which we evolved and grew.

- **We brought on Kate Stace as Director of Ministry Operations.** Kate has a degree in Business (UTS) and a degree in theology (Moore College) and has been key in growing our church.
- **Vine Kids grew in 2019 to 55 children.** This is the largest number of kids we have had in the church for many decades. We also started The Jungle to help connect kids in the local area to Jesus. There wasn't a single week where a new kid wasn't brought along.
- **We saw Benji Vaytet and Sarah Chang join us as ministry interns** to be trained for a lifetime of ministry. Benji and Sarah were not born in Australia and are part of our strategy to reach people from every tribe and culture in our city. They've both been integral to our outreach at Christianity Explored and together we've seen people come to know Jesus for the first time.

The following report seeks to capture more of what God did amongst us in 2019 that you might give praise to him for his grace. For me the highlight is not the statistics, photos or reports. It's the testimonials that you will see scattered throughout of people who are enjoying the life, love and freedom Jesus has brought them into. Go and read them and be encouraged to give and pray and love and serve others as we stay connected to Jesus.

Let's spend 2020 trusting God with our future and giving thanks for the amazing things he has done and is doing in our city by saving people.

For Jesus' fame,



Pastor Toby Neal

# Leadership Team

## Staff Team



**Toby Neal**  
Lead Pastor



**Kate Stace**  
Director of Ministry  
Operations



**Andrew Bryan**  
Maturity Pastor



**Bruce Linton**  
Families Pastor



**Nate Singh**  
Director of Gatherings

## Ministry Interns & Student Ministers



**Benji Vaytet**  
Ministry Intern



**Sarah Chang**  
Ministry Intern



**Ben Harris**  
Student Minister



**Vanessa Ong**  
Student Minister

## Parish Council & Wardens



**Tom Schell**  
Parish Council



**Naomi Tasic**  
Parish Council



**Scott Sanders**  
Treasurer & Warden



**Noel Nallaiah**  
Warden



**Tim Gardiner**  
Warden



## Mission

### 2019 Highlights

- We saw 12 people investigate Jesus at Christianity Explored.
- We launched The Jungle and have seen new kids come along each week.
- Al Stewart preached an evangelistic series on Ecclesiastes which we saw many people come to explore faith.
- We engaged hundreds of people new to church at our Easter and Christmas services.
- Made With Love concluded 3 years of valuable ministry to women in sex work in our community.
- Bread of Life continued the great work of offering hospitality, friendship and God's word to those on the fringes of society.
- At the Mardi Gras outreach we saw around 2,000 people enter our property and many had conversations about Jesus over a free BBQ, pancakes and chai.
- On top of this, hundreds of gospel opportunities took place every day as we took Jesus into our workplaces, families and social circles.

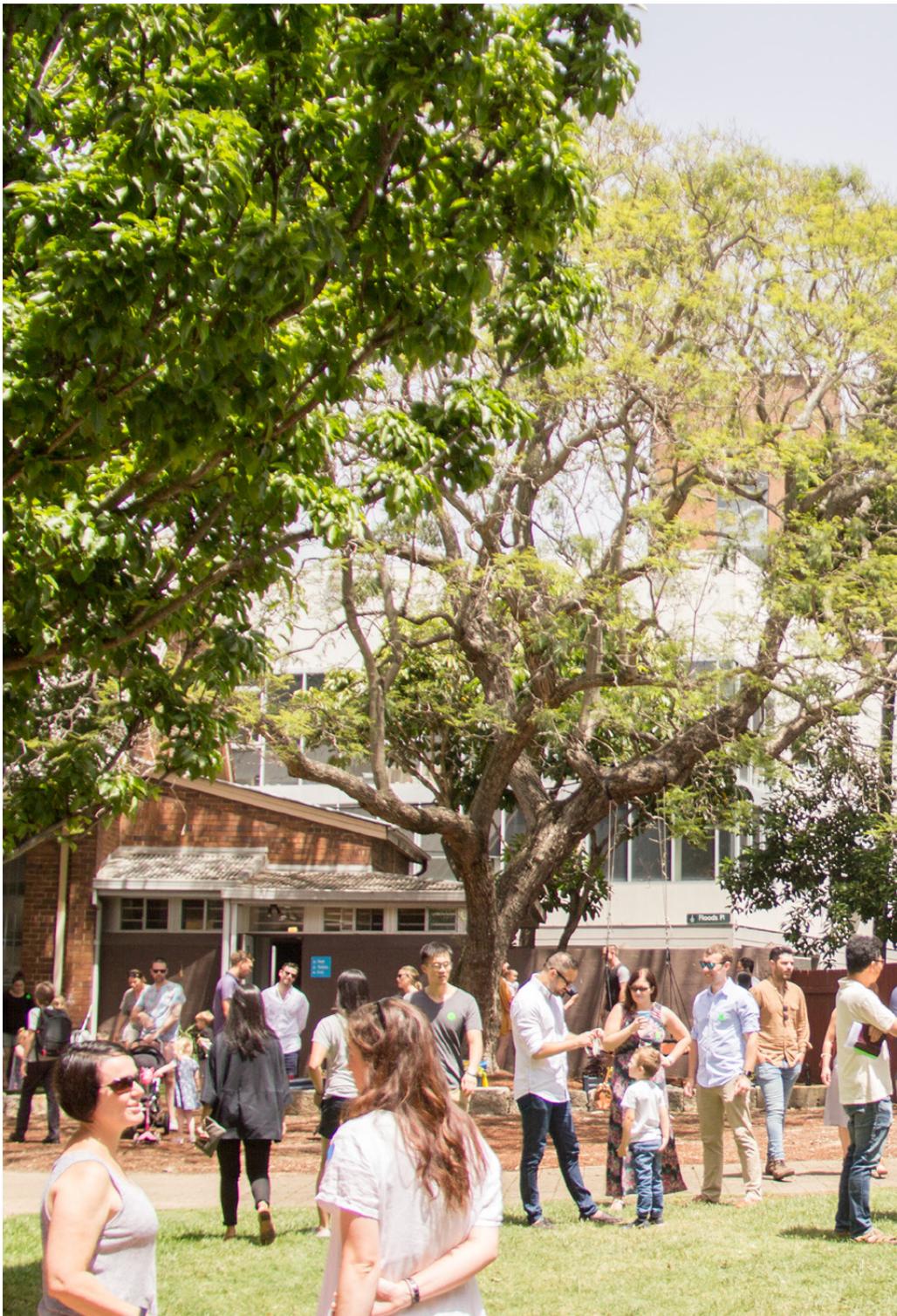
### Challenges

- We have not had a Mission Pastor for a couple of years, and this area has fallen to our Lead Pastor Toby Neal to lead. With him being stretched in many directions, we have not been able to expand our missional presence in Surry Hills.
- We wrapped up our Made with Love ministry due to no lay leaders being able or willing to run the ministry.

### Looking forward

- Steve Gibbins will take over from Toby Neal as Mission Pastor and bring with him greater capacity and energy to lead this area.

- We want to see 40 people go through Christianity Explored in 2020.
- We want to develop a new evangelistic course that is more accessible for people to invite their friends to.
- We want to reinvigorate a culture of missional living among our members. May our prayer be the same as Charles Spurgeon's: "Lord, arouse us to a deep concern for all with whom we come in contact from day to day. Make us all missionaries at home or in the street, or in our workshop, wherever providence has cast our lot, may we there shine as lights in the world."



## Steph's story

I grew up in the Catholic Church and went through all the sacraments but over time those rituals began to feel like roadblocks. I believed in God, but felt a disconnect because of my inability to directly access Christ. I felt like there were all these hoops to jump through, there was fear and judgement and it became too hard to find spiritual fulfillment. Some of the big questions I had were 'Can I get back to God? How do I do that? Is there more to life? Is there something deeply satisfying that I have just completely missed?'

In 2019 I went to Christianity Explored at Vine Church. Through the course and Toby's leadership I understood that Christianity is relational. God is real. My view of God changed when I learnt that God wants a direct relationship with me, and wants me to know him in return. Understanding that felt like a welcome home. I felt like God was saying to me, 'Whatever you've done, whatever you've become it doesn't matter. Just come home'.

I knew that I wanted to commit and connect more to God, and learned that I do have direct access to God! I have been given an 'access all areas' pass in Jesus and it's offered to me as a gift. All I have to do is accept it. No PayPal, no Afterpay. It's already mine!

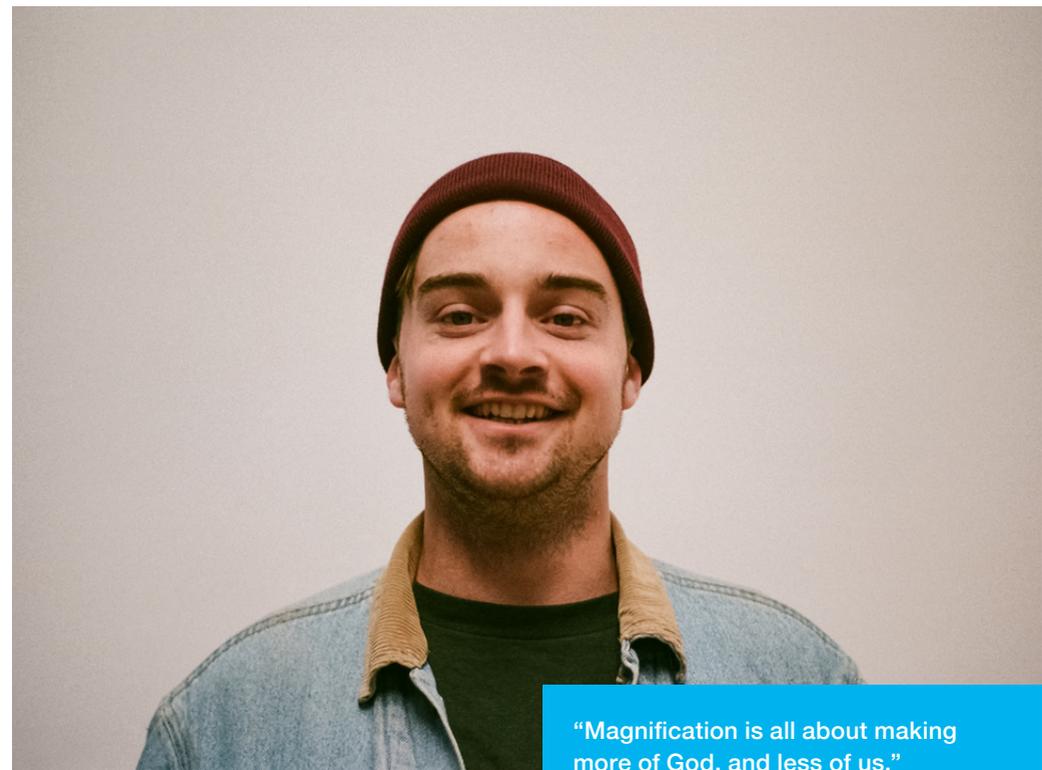


**"My view of God changed when I learnt that God wants a direct relationship with me, and wants me to know him in return. Understanding that felt like a welcome home."**

**– Steph**

Christianity Explored has shown me that I should truly aspire to live a life like Jesus. Something that resonated with me was Chance the Rapper's lyric which says 'God is better than the best thing the world has to offer'. It's so true. Everything pales in comparison when we come to know the forgiveness and unconditional love of our one true King and Saviour.

I am definitely excited to continue to know God. Belonging to a Vine Community Group, sharing a weekly meal in Christian fellowship and delving into the Bible pushes me closer to my spiritual goals. Christianity Explored really paved the way for me to continually grow in the presence of the Lord amongst a supportive church family.



“Magnification is all about making more of God, and less of us.”  
– Glenn

## Magnification

### 2019 Highlights

- Over the past 12 months it's been encouraging to see people give glory to God and grow in their love for him!
- Last year we saw an increase in engagement within our services – there was a good sense of togetherness, joy and more personal stories helping us to share church life together.
- 4.30pm has seen incredible growth in the past 12 months! We have had amazing energy in our music teams, crafting excellent songs full of energy and thoughtful biblical truths.
- Christmas 2019 was a highlight as God brought along lots of new families! We had many visitors at 5pm and Vine Kids did a funny play.

- Our music and production teams had many new volunteers join us in 2019 and finished the year in a really strong position.

### Challenges

- Our current church space is difficult for our gatherings – our 10am service is starting to outgrow the space, and it is hard to feel like a connected family when the pews can result in a very disconnected feeling.

### Looking forward

- This year we want people to bring glory to God and focus on him as the centre of all things in life.
- As we move offsite as part of our Connect Building Renewal, magnification teams will look very different.

### Glenn's story

In 2019 I joined Vine Church and the magnification team at 4.30pm. I moved with two close friends, but joining a serving team helped me find my place.

Magnification is about bringing God all the glory. Magnification is all about making more of God, and less of us. John says this in his gospel:

“He must become greater; I must become less.”  
(John 3:30)

Even over a small amount of time, leading the church in singing each week shaped me as I learnt to help break down barriers that people might have towards worshipping God in song. This vision that the magnification team holds hasn't changed over the past year, but the team has definitely grown and evolved.

When I came in, our 4.30pm gathering was trying to form multiple different teams after there had been transition. We moved from being on a roster to being a team that played together. Serving together with the same team each month has created collegiality and has deepened my relationship with my sisters and brothers on the magnification team.

At 4.30pm magnification has grown heaps as we are learning how to better help people recognise the truths about God. Our main goal isn't to have the most polished team in Sydney, it's laying all of our gifts down before the Lord and helping others at Vine to do the same thing.

# Membership

## 2019 Highlights

- We saw 57 new people join our Community Groups in 2019. Many of these people had attended our Newish dinners and were welcomed warmly by the Newish team.
- Our 10am service grew from an average of 110 people (Jan 2019) to 143 (Dec 2019). This was a huge amount of growth in a year and we are thankful to God for this.
- Over the Christmas period, 30% of people that attended were visitors. Most were friends and family who had been invited along to join us.
- We handed out 800 invitations to our local area in the lead up to the Easter weekend.

## Challenges

- We have many people visiting who are exploring who Jesus is, or who are looking for a new church. We struggled to welcome people well because our welcoming teams are very small, and we struggle to recruit people to our teams. In 2020 we hope that we will be able to have more people serving in our welcoming teams.

- The 10am service began to stretch how many people we could fit in the building – this was a great challenge to have! It was difficult to fit everyone in and be welcoming to the newcomer who was looking for a seat.
- Our 4.30pm service went through a period of transition and change as the natural life cycle and needs of church members meant people moved to 10am.

## Looking forward

- In 2020, Andy and Nate will be taking pastoral responsibility for our 10am and 4.30pm congregations respectively, acting as congregational focus pastors.
- The growth of our services meant that we will launch a dedicated 10am Newish and 4.30pm Newish, so that newcomers can connect better with people they will see on Sundays.
- Launching our Onboard course will be an exciting step to give new members a clear pathway into the life of Vine Church members a clear pathway into the life of Vine Church.



## Isaac's story

When I came to Vine Church two years ago, I joined a welcoming team early on as I felt it would be a great opportunity to meet and get to know others.

Welcoming is important, as my own experience tells me that if I go to a new place and don't feel welcome and included I'm not likely to want to join. Having someone introduce themselves, ask a few questions and as why I'm there makes a world of difference.

All of us have people in mind that made us feel welcome when we first joined Vine Church, and it played an important role in why we continued and made Vine our home church.

Leading the welcoming team, I want to create an inclusive environment at each service from our team. However, effective welcoming needs everyone in the church to get involved. Each person (regardless of age, gifts and experience) can participate in welcoming and including others into our community. I sometimes find this hard, I don't love the awkwardness of talking to new

people but I have never regretted it. I've got to know some great people through welcoming.

If you ask any church if they are hospitable and inviting to visitors, they'll probably say 'of course we are!' I often wonder, what do visitors think? I think we do a good job, but we can always do better. This year we have struggled as our welcoming teams haven't had enough people to welcome everyone well. As Vine continues to grow, we need to have an attitude of looking out for and welcoming anyone we notice is new or on the side.



## Ministry

### 2019 Highlights

- Over the last 12 months, lots of our members have started serving in multiple areas – hosting a Community Group, serving on a Sunday team or serving in the office during the week. These people are serving in a high capacity and have been sacrificial in their time and gifts.
- We had 25 people start serving for the first time in 2019 going through our new ministry recruitment process.
- One of the steps of this new recruitment process was an online survey. This helped people identify lots of different ministries opportunities within our church, and realistic places for them to step into ministry.
- We had two new people start serving as ministry representatives who helped coordinate – they were involved in ministry conversations and communication.

### Challenges

- As our church has grown, two areas have struggled because there is a lack of volunteers – these are the welcoming teams and Vine Kids. These two teams are crucial to the ongoing health of our church and need more people to serve in this ministry.

### Looking forward

- This year we are looking to implement Ministry Grid, an online tool to help upskill and train ministry team members and leaders. We are excited about Ministry Grid because it will help us adapt and change the way that teams serve and meet.

## Vianna's story

Two years ago my husband and I packed our bags to move from our hometown Chicago to Sydney. A few weeks into our Aussie life, we visited Vine and found a church that was desperate for people to know Jesus. It's been our home ever since.

Over the past year Peter and I have been setting up for the 10am gathering, and I coordinate our church communications alongside Kate Stace. I serve at Christianity Explored on Thursday nights and once a year I serve up pancakes with a smile at our Mardi Gras outreach. Occasionally you might see Peter and I up a ladder on Albion St

changing the sign out the front of our church!

I serve in a few ways, but I do none of it perfect, if I'm honest. Between working long hours at an advertising agency and fighting the temptation to push God further and further down my list of priorities – it's a miracle that God trusts me even with setting out chairs on a Sunday morning!

But I'm often reminded of God's people over the years who have poured out their time, love, money and prayers for me, so I could be encouraged to take a step toward God rather than walking away. I know it's because Christ poured out his life for us first, that I've been so blessed. Remembering the sacrifice

“Remembering the sacrifice of Jesus and his people pushes me to look beyond myself and see how I can encourage others in the same way.”  
– Vianna

of Jesus and his people pushes me to look beyond myself and see how I can encourage others in the same way.

In 2019 I've witnessed God do amazing things through serving at Vine. He's brought people to our doorstep for Christianity Explored and into the life of the church. Visitors have come in off the street on a Sunday just because they read the church sign outside. He brought hundreds of people to our church grounds on Mardi Gras and some even read the Bible with us and shared what they thought about Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:58 keeps ringing true:

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.”

Thank God that He never quits on me or the church. Each day He uses humble offerings of time and effort to build His kingdom.

# Maturity

## 2019 Highlights

- We saw our total number of Community Groups reach 20 for the first time in the history of Vine Church.
- The total number of people in our groups topped 190 which is the most we have ever had in our groups at Vine Church.
- Many people went through Bible Overview at the beginning of 2019 to grow their ability to read the Bible as one big book.
- Last year we started 5 completely new community groups to expand our capacity for discipling people at our church.
- 65 women attended our Nourish women's conference, where Steph Leung spoke.
- We saw 57 new people added to our Community Groups in 2019.
- Through our bookstall, we were able to sell 50+ books throughout the year. This helped people engage theologically.
- In our Sunday services we utilised sli.do and saw a great number of insightful questions asked of our Sunday sermons.
- We have had 2 interns training to serve God in ministry in 2019. Sarah Chang has been training with Bruce to develop her skill in teaching children the Bible. Benji Vaytet joined halfway through the year and has been working with Andy to develop his skill in a number of ministry areas.

## Challenges

- Our leadership production hasn't kept pace with the growth of our groups. In 2019, we had several groups that were bursting and ready to help start new groups but we didn't have enough leaders to plant the new groups we required.
- We struggle each year to find suitable locations to host groups. In 2019, we didn't have enough locations and therefore enough options to make the process of joining a group quick, simple, and comfortable.
- We don't have a developed or intentional culture of 121 Bible reading. There are small pockets of this happening at church but it is not a major part of our DNA as a church community.

## Looking forward

- This year, God willing, we will be able to surpass 200 people in our groups.
- We will be raising up area leaders to help to look after and grow our Community Group leaders as they serve their groups.
- We will be doing regular book reviews to spur us on in our growth in knowing God through high quality resources.
- In 2020 our Community Groups will be specifically linked to our 10am and 4.30pm services which will help us to develop deep friendships as we see each other multiple times throughout the week and it will aid us in quickly integrating new members into our congregation through our groups.

## Siqi's story

I have been at Vine Church for a year, before that I was in China but only went to church twice because my mum works at a military hospital under the government's control. Therefore, we cannot let people know of our faith because in China people

who work for the government and military are not allowed to have faith. I heard from my Dad that most of the Chinese Christian churches are underground house churches.

God really knows me and he sent Sarah Chang (ministry intern) to take care of me. We have so many things in common, she is like my spiritual mum teaching me about God and caring for me. She is always there whenever I need help.

I learned to read the Bible and to receive God's word so that I know what to do, and I try to find answers in his word when I feel I am struggling. I have received energy and support from the Vine Church community, and direction in my life in different stages listening to the sermons.

Over the past year my faith has grown gradually and I began to learn the way to follow Jesus, to trust God in different situations, to praise and give thanks. I feel satisfied and joyful that I can serve, and I feel so involved and cared for at Vine Church. I feel we are building and caring for this home together.

Our God is a living God and he is the living hope. He is always caring and loving us. Remembering his identity and nature means I can find my identity and home in him. I am no longer a lost child wandering in darkness, I am in the light waiting for his kingdom.



# Vine Kids

## 2019 Highlights

- We started the Jungle as an opportunity to connect local kids to Jesus and have seen new kids attend each week.
- We've seen a group of leaders commit to the Jungle every week.
- We've continued to run scripture in local schools.
- We've seen a number of new families join us in 2019 and integrate well. The numbers in Vine Kids has grown to 55.
- We saw the family of a young guys doing Christianity Explored bring his young brothers to church and also come to the Jungle each week.
- Sarah Chang started a ministry internship under Bruce Linton and is being trained in school scripture and kids ministry.
- We've seen Jan Abbas start leading the Creche team and Deborah Apriani start leading the admin for Vine Kids.
- We trained Vanessa Ong as a Student Minister who will be returning to do kids ministry in Malaysia in the coming years.

## Challenges

- We currently do not have enough teachers to be running Sunday Vine Kids. We have struggled to see new leaders join and there seems to be a reluctance from people at 4.30pm to serve on the Vine Kids team at 10am.
- Our facilities make it difficult for all our kids ministries and we are looking forward to the building renewal.



- The move to the Whitehouse Institute during the building renewal will be a challenge for our kids ministry as the facilities there will have limitations.

## Looking forward

- Run quality kid friendly Christmas and Easter services which engage the local community.
- Keep building the Jungle to connect local kids to Jesus and the Vine Church.
- We are starting Vine Youth in term 1 to disciple the growing number of teenagers at church.



## Adele's story

I'm Adele Sanders, I am 10 years old and I am in year 6 at Arncliffe public school. I have been coming to Vine Church for 4 years and I love it! I come to the Jungle kids club on Friday afternoons and church on Sunday. My favourite thing about the Jungle is having fun and learning about Jesus, the saviour of the world. I love bringing my friends.

One thing I have learnt this year is all about different people from the Bible. It's been great seeing people from Vine Church dress up and act on stories from when they met Jesus and started following him.

# Ministry Operations

## 2019 Highlights

- Ministry operations was blessed to have an amazing office team serving during the week – Meg Chatterton, Sophie Harris, Vianna Kim, Emma Waterhouse, Steph Leung and Deb Apriani. These team members increased the amount of ministries that we were able to do and helped personalise our Sunday follow up.
- The Connect Building Renewal showed the generosity of our community as we received more pledges and exceeded our giving target – this is encouraging to see people get behind our desire to reach more people in Surry Hills and create a home for the gospel in the future. We raised \$1.4 million from 119 pledges.
- God provided an incredible venue for our church family to move into during Connect at the Whitehouse Institute of Design. We did not expect such a local venue to be available and Whitehouse has been extremely generous to us. This will give us a ‘home base’ and stability during the construction works.
- Many people came to Vine because of the graphic design, advertising and work done by our wonderful graphic designers and communications team. They have used their professional skills for the kingdom and done amazing work in the last year.

## Challenges

- We are desperately keen for Vine Church to have a new website that’s mobile friendly, has greater functionality and is more up to date. This didn’t happen last year but is a priority in 2020.

## Looking forward

- Vine Church has grown significantly in the last year and it’s exciting to see us continue to make our ministry as effective as possible by investing in new systems and longer term planning.

## Deb’s story

I have always wanted to be more involved in Vine Church but I found it challenging to find an area to serve that uses my specific skills. A year ago I met Kate just as she had started at Vine as the Director of Ministry Operations, and we got talking about how

to match church members serving in ministries that are not the typical Sunday teams. After this I joined the operations team to serve during the week. There are about five of us that serve behind the scenes in different areas of ministry operations.

I serve each Thursday morning before work, helping with operationals for Vine Kids. I make sure all the sign-in forms are signed to ensure Vine Kids is compliant, create new sign-in sheets, schedule

leaders for Sundays, plan holiday roster for parents, brainstorm with Kate and Bruce on ways to improve our processes, and generally help coordinate our kids ministry.

The tasks are quite simple but my weekly volunteering time has created space for Bruce and Kate to focus on things they excel at. After a year of volunteering, I feel honoured in knowing that I’m helping Vine Church run smoothly and it gives me meaning as a servant of Christ.





## Connect Building Renewal

Over three years ago the Parish Council commenced a journey to assess the long-term viability of our church facilities and plan for our future. Every indication is that in 2020 we will see the physical works of this plan take shape.

However, it is first important to highlight why we are doing this. Ultimately our goal is to continue to provide a place for fellowship and worship, and to communicate the openness and life to our surrounding Surry Hills community.

Following the issuance of our Development Application (DA) to the City of Sydney Council, we had two core objectives we hoped to accomplish in 2019:

- Work with the City of Sydney Council on the DA and ultimately achieve their acceptance for us to proceed with further works on the site.

- Engage the Vine Church congregation on the build initiative and achieve a financial commitment of \$1M in pledges to supplement the budgeted funds we have in our endowment and savings for construction.

It is with great joy that we confirm that not only did we achieve the above objectives, but regarding the fundraising initiative, the congregations exceeded our hopes by raising nearly \$1.4M. These additional funds will help to reduce the debt requirement that we had expected to undertake as part of our funding model.

As we move towards construction in later 2020, there are three major outstanding items we hope to close out in the first half of 2020:

- Receive final authorisation from the Anglican Diocese to proceed with the build.
- Finalise our funding model, considering our endowment, saving, pledges, and loan.
- Achieve final design approval with the City of Sydney and select a builder.

Please pray for guidance and discernment as Parish Councils takes the final steps required to commence this build project.

The Parish Council is excited to proceed with this project and looks forward to further engagement with the congregations around this initiative.

For more information and to give check out: [www.vineconnect.com.au](http://www.vineconnect.com.au)

**Ultimately our goal is to continue to provide a place for fellowship and worship, and to communicate the openness and life to our surrounding Surry Hills community.**

# Finances

**For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)**

It's an absolute privilege for our Church to prayerfully and financially partner in the work of promoting the name of Jesus across the world. In the act of being generous we express our confidence that God will provide all our needs.

At last year's AGM Parish Council put forward the challenge to our church to 'reduce our reliance on property income.' As a church family we wanted to be challenged to fund Vine Church's ministry primarily through church member giving – encouraging both wise stewardship and generosity. This was a big aim. The intent was to prepare our church to resource ongoing ministry needs in Surry Hills and beyond and the anticipated Connect building campaign (a \$4m capital project to improve our Church property to better reach people with the good news). You responded and our giving increased 12.9% from \$509,102 (2018) to \$575,125 (2019). Importantly, we continued to give to mission (\$41k) and as a community pledged \$1.4 million to the Connect campaign (\$295k received in 2019).

Paul encourages the Corinthian Church to be generous – reminding them of the generosity of the Macedonian Church (2 Cor 8:1-5) and the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ. The above verse is a great reminder of the grace we each share because of God's rich generosity towards us. And a great encouragement for us to continue to give.

In 2019, your financial gifts were stewarded by the Parish Council, Wardens and Treasurer (see 2019 financial statements attached). I want to personally thank Kate Stace for the work she regularly does to ensure bills are paid and your giving receipted. This was a huge task with the Connect campaign. Also, the work of Toby Neal as part of the Finance team ensuring we keep our church's vision central as we steward the resources from our current and past church members.

The costs associated with getting the property development to DA (\$134,690) were not as high as anticipated. As a result, the overall budget is showing a surplus of \$39,083.

In 2019, our budget will be in significant deficit as we begin the building project. The Parish Council will be communicating to the whole church the financial impact of the building project in the coming months. Can I encourage you to continue to be generous – there are many people yet to know the life, love and freedom found in Jesus!

## Net Surplus

Total net surplus for the year was \$39,083 (previous year deficit of \$77,661). This surplus was primarily due to the recording lower than anticipated costs involved in preparing for the DA Submission to Sydney Council which had not been budgeted (\$134,690) and tighter management of our expenses.



## Income

Total income for the year was \$1,018,032 (2018: \$968,600), which was an increase of \$49,432 above previous year.

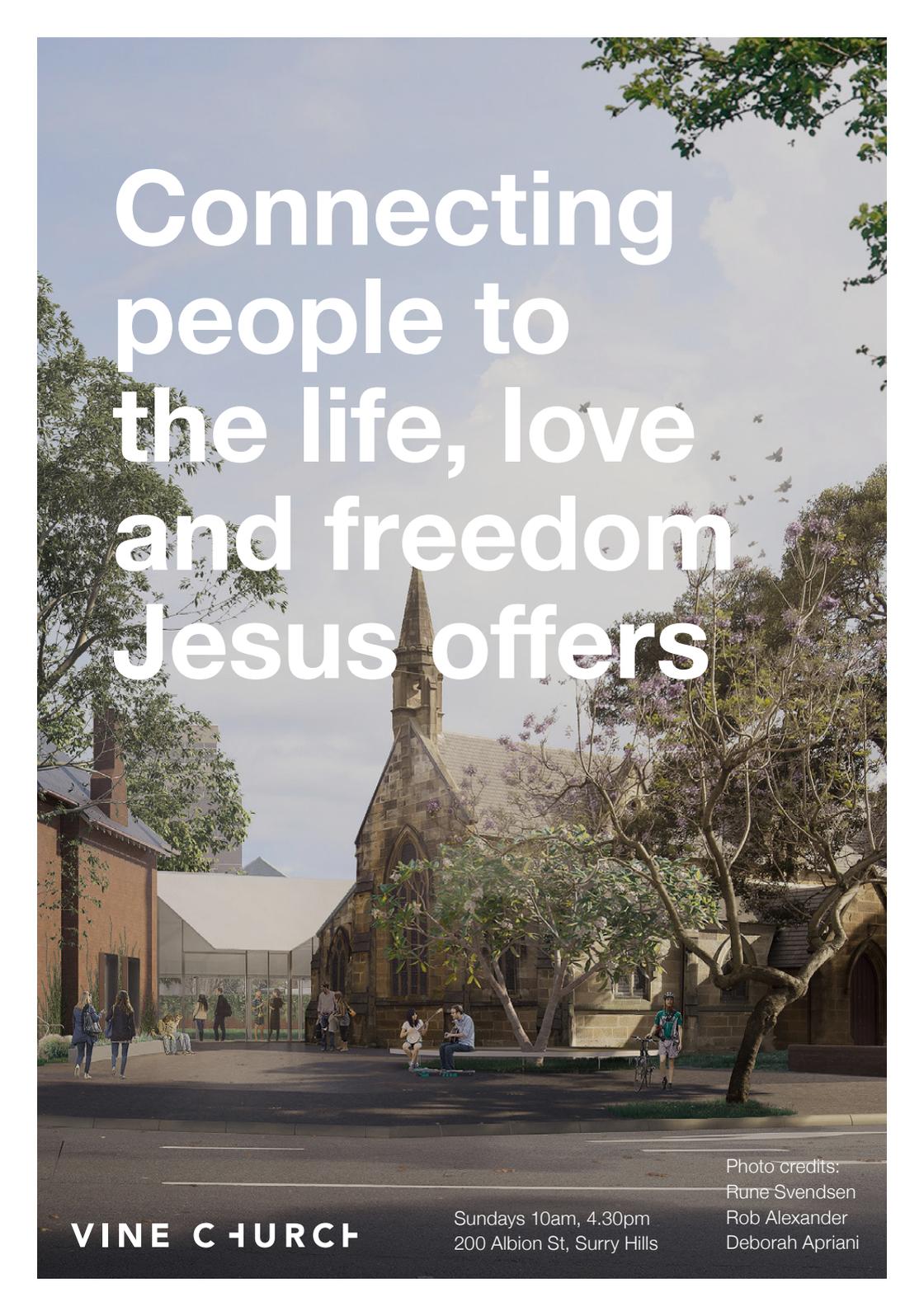
This result was driven by: +12.9% growth in Donations and Offerings versus previous year.

## Expenses

Total expenditure for the year was \$978,949 (2018: \$1,047,900).

This result was mainly driven by:

- Utilities and repairs & maintenance costs across leased and parish properties have been managed well by staff and wardens in 2019. I want to thank Kate for the work she has done day to day and Noel for his role leading this responsibility on Parish Council.
- Parish Council is committed to keeping ministry costs down and managing our expenses.



# Connecting people to the life, love and freedom Jesus offers

**VINE CHURCH**

Sundays 10am, 4.30pm  
200 Albion St, Surry Hills

Photo credits:  
Rune Svendsen  
Rob Alexander  
Deborah Apriani