

Glebe Road Ipswich Uniting Church



Annual Report 2017

**Prepared for the
Annual General Meeting
of the Congregation
on
Sunday 11th March 2018**

Growing

built on Faith, immersed in Love, empowered for Action

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MINISTER'S REPORT

What a wonderful year of ministry, mission, life and faith, we have experienced together in 2017. A year of significant challenges, great joys and particular sadness. Our sadness has come in the death of a number of longstanding members of our church family and Rev Dr Norma Spear, the much-loved and respected former Minister who brought the three previous congregations of Newtown Methodist, St John's Presbyterian and Silkstone Methodist, together here on this site.

The joys and challenges we have shared together emanate from our day-to-day engagement in ministry and mission with our local community of Ipswich, as well as our partnership with our brothers and sisters of the Ekaristi Congregation in Dili. What an incredible privilege it is to be engaged with children and families, young people and adults of all ages, as we share God's love in simple, creative and profound ways.

In the middle of the year we farewelled the Tipple family as they relocated to Dalby for Adam to commence his ordained ministry with the people of the Dalby and Jandowae communities. We continue to pray for God's blessings upon Adam and Jane, Jackson, Joel and Rose.

On the Friday before Christmas the Associate Pastor Task Group interviewed Mike McMillan for the position of Associate Pastor – Youth & Young Adults. The new year began with Mike's appointment and we welcome Mike and Jackie, their daughter Kaylie, and all the members of their family.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to each member of the Church Council, the members and convenors of each Ministry Team and Task Group, all who serve as committee members, co-ordinators, leaders, teachers, and helpers within our groups and activities, as well as our musicians, leaders, singers, technical support teams, welcomers, stewards, hospitality teams, and all who serve to make our experiences of worship inclusive, creative, inspiring and encouraging.

How awesome, faithful and loving is our God?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Peter Arnett, Lead Minister

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Presbytery consists of very diverse congregations that include affluent suburbs close to Brisbane, multi-cultural and socially disadvantaged communities in the south and west of Brisbane with growth areas at Forest lake, Springfield and Ripley as well as developments around Ipswich and the rural communities south and west of Ipswich. Presbytery is bounded by the Great Dividing Range in the west, and includes the Brisbane, Bremer, Lockyer, and Teviot Valleys. It includes the West Moreton District of South East Queensland, the regional city of Ipswich, and the western suburbs of Brisbane. It is experiencing strong growth. Most of this growth is in urban, dormitory suburbs. Towns in the West Moreton area are experiencing significant social change as population growth occurs. Ipswich city is being rejuvenated; socially disadvantaged populations are transferring to places in Ipswich and towns in the West Moreton as costs of living in Brisbane increase. The western suburbs of Brisbane are still attractive places for professional and business people. The Presbytery includes significant educational and corrective services facilities. Priority Directions There is a strong correlation between the Presbytery's strategic plan, and the Synod's discerned priorities. As such it is helpful to reflect upon the Presbyteries efforts and achievements in terms of those priority directions.

All Presbytery Meetings begin with Worship at 9.00am and are held four times per year. This past year saw the introduction of two Saturday meetings along with two mid-week meetings. In some of the rural areas, a brief history is given about that particular area. For example, in Harrisville, which is located in the scenic rim was established in 1863 and cotton was grown to aid the American Civil War. With the closing of the Kalbar U.C. some members relocated to Harrisville.

Many reports relating to our Presbytery are discussed such as, ongoing work for Valley Church in Ripley, progress on expansion of the Church at Forest Lake, relocating buildings and restoration of existing buildings. Candidates for ministry are encouraged for a yearlong "Period of Discernment" and share their story at Presbytery and should they be accepted and complete the training then recommended for Ordination. There are currently 10 POD participants within the Bremer Presbytery. Other topics can be discussed including Child Safe Church and National Church Life Survey for Example.

Reports are usually presented to the Glebe Road congregation after each meeting through the Newsletter.

Paul de Sauty, Janet White, GRUC Presbytery Representatives

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Once again throughout 2017, the Church Council has endeavoured to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit's direction for the Council and for the church. It is with a sense of deep gratitude and praise to our loving Lord, that we can report Glebe Road is a congregation greatly blessed by his love, grace and presence.

Vision/Future: In November Church Council heard a call to deeper prayer and intercession. We responded by inviting the congregation to join us in praying every week (Sunday afternoons at 5pm) to hear God's plan for our church community and the people of Ipswich.

- We feel that this is a significant and crucial time in the life of our church and the Uniting Churches in Ipswich. We sense a call to prayer, a call to wait on the Holy Spirit and a call to see the future vision for our community.
- For the past three years we have been engaged in a journey called Imagine Ipswich. This has been a process of conversation and discernment with the other Uniting Churches in Ipswich to explore how we can be most effective in our mission to the wider community. This journey will continue with greater intent over the next three years and be called Ipswich 2020.
- In the latter half of the year the Council started on a quest called 'Spirited Generosity'. Hand in hand with revelation is the need for finance to implement the vision and journey that God is calling us to.

Mission Partners & Outreach: Glebe Road Church rejoices in a very successful and busy year of outreach, both overseas and to the local community.

- Timor Leste (East Timor) – we continued our partnership with our friends at Ekaristi Church in Timor Leste with two teams from Glebe Road visiting there and two of their members visiting us. We commenced a new initiative with the launch of the dental program within the Marcelo 2 School.
- Local Schools: The Kid's Hope program has been operating as well as School Chaplaincy. Bremer and Bundamba State High School have been supported through the Bremer Meals program.
- The launch of the new Glebe Road Website occurred with a relevant and dynamic new look. (Thanks to Greg Seymour for the many hours to accomplish this).
- Carols in the Park: Was successfully presented as a gift to the community again in December
- Silkstone Eisteddfod: Continued to serve the Ipswich community by offering a chance for children and adults to perform in a safe environment.

Staffing: A resounding huge thanks must go to all of our amazing volunteers without whom the everyday running, ministry and maintenance of the church could not be achieved.

- In June, we farewelled our Associate Pastor, Adam Tipple, who took up a placement in Dalby.
- It is with heartfelt thanks that we farewelled Noela Rothery, who served with grace and proficiency in the Office Administrator's role.
- We also welcomed Marilyn Scott into this administrative role.

Let us together be inspired by the Holy Spirit to dream and Imagine God's great possibilities for

Growing Community - A community

built on Faith, immersed in Love, empowered for Action

In His limitless love

Bev Bruce, Church Council Secretary

RESOURCE MINISTRIES

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is again with much pleasure that I bring to you the Treasurer's report for 2017. This was, again, an extremely challenging year financially for us but God remained faithful to us as a church and has always met our needs. A profit and loss statement as well as a financial statement for the year is included in the financial report section, as is the Budget for 2018.

The following is a summary:

- Average offerings for the year were \$3,626 which resulted in the overall offerings being \$27,254 under budget for the year. Direct debits now account for 61.16% of offerings.
- Balance in Parish trading account at end of 31/12/17 to carry forward into 2018 is credit \$17,053.47. The cheques not presented amounted to \$432.95.
- There was a trading profit of \$4,724.67 for the full year. This was mainly due to savings in Pastor salary for almost 7 months and reimbursement of over \$8,000 to finalise the supply ministry expenses for Gwen during 2016.
- We have commitments of the following:

Timor Appeal	\$573
Mainly Music	\$2,229
Carols in the Park	\$436
Bremer Meals	\$347
Resurrection	\$141
Hive	\$254
Collision	\$160
Timor Dental Project	\$1,684
Youth Ministry	\$1,483
Roof Appeal	\$5

There will be calls on these funds during 2018.

- Manse continued to be rented by Tony and Lydia Shaw for \$330 per week throughout 2017.
- Donations for the Church roof of \$989, \$984 of which was from the cake stall at the Garden Expo.
- Generous donations to assist the finances of the Church of \$1,000 from Mainly Music, and \$1,000 from the Glebe Garden Club and some from the members of the congregations through additional offerings and donations
- Donations to the purchase of the new data projector in the Church of \$3,000 from the Silkstone Eisteddfod, \$2,000 from the Women's Fellowship and another \$5,600 from anonymous donations.
- Donations of \$600 towards the purchase of the new Church mixer installed in early 2018. Total cost approx.\$3,500.
- Ipswich City Council grants of \$500 for Silkstone Eisteddfod and \$960 for the Carols in the Park.
- Transferred \$984 to the Roof Project Fund from the Church operating account.
- Transferred \$3,994 to the Timor Dental Project from the Church operating account.
- Transferred \$3,183 to the Timor Leste appeal from the Church operating account.
- Spent around \$5,000 on building maintenance.
- Solar systems have generated \$4,582 in credits during the year.
- Payments to the Mutual Support Scheme loan amounted to \$28,632 with the December payment of \$2,386 for 2016 was not taken out until January 2017 and the December 2017 payment not taken out until January 2018.
- Associate Pastor, Adam Tipple continued working 16 hours per week until his departure in June 2017.
- Office Administrator at 10 hours per week.
- Mission and Service Fund supported at \$29,612.
- An amount of \$5,000 had been budgeted to transfer to the Building project account for long term maintenance but due to financial issues this was not able to be effected.

The 2018 Budget was again framed around having to make some very realistic and difficult decisions. All expenditure was examined and reviewed and much of it was on-going expenses, and all were reduced to the absolute minimum. The Budget is showing an overall deficit of \$9,813. Offerings were set at \$215,800 which is the same as the 2017 Budget figure. In 2017 we averaged \$3,626 which resulted in being \$27,254 under budget so to meet the budget figure there will need to be an increase of approximately \$524 per week. There are still a number of major maintenance items on the church buildings that need to be addressed as the buildings are ageing. \$6,000 has again been allocated for building maintenance. Presbytery has increased our Mission and Service Fund by \$1,844 to \$31,457 which further strains our finances.

There will be fund raising opportunities throughout the year to support specific projects such as Carols in the Park as well as for our Mission partner Timor Leste.

The Bremer Brisbane Presbytery vacated the Neighbourhood Centre at the end of 2017, but we were very pleased to welcome the University of the Third Age to utilise our complex for their administration, computing and other classes. They will be based in the Neighbourhood Centre for administration and computer lab but will also utilise Shalom for most classes with some also using the Fellowship Centre and the Church overflow at times.

The main items in the budget are as follows:

- Offerings to stay at an average of \$4,150 per week
- Office Administration at 10 hrs per week
- Associate Pastor at 2 days a week.
- \$6,000 for maintenance of buildings and grounds.
- \$31,457 Mission and Service Fund (an increase of \$1,844).
- Rental of manse should generate \$17,160, with water usage to be paid by tenants.

The Mutual Support Scheme (MSS) Loan balance is \$19,180 which is supported with Depositors investing and supporting the loan with almost \$37,300 in the scheme. We managed to reduce overall debt by approximately \$27,658. This means that our loan will be fully paid this year with the balance of the MSS payments being transferred to our building fund for long term maintenance.

Thanks to all those people that assisted with treasury and property matters throughout the year, Mrs Nyleta Bruce as Assistant Treasurer, Colin Alexander, Rob Edwardson, Ken Fischer, Jim O'Grady, David Murphy, Marilyn Scott, Robyn Kunde, and all those that count the offerings each week. Thanks too to the Resource team that includes some of the above as well as Peter Arnett and Peter Case.

Offerings can be given in various ways including using envelopes, cash and by Direct Debit. Direct debiting will enable the church to have a more regular income and to budget more effectively and with some confidence. During 2017 direct debit offering accounted for 61.16% of offerings. A Direct debit facility is available through the ANZ Bank or alternatively you can arrange a direct deposit yourself through online banking with your own bank.

Generous donations from various groups and individuals were received during the year and are listed in the 2017 highlights. Thank you all very much for your generosity, I hope I haven't omitted anyone. Without these donations, we could not achieve what we set out to achieve and meet our financial commitments. Thanks too to all those that have responded to the spirited generosity program.

I commend to you the financial statements for 2017 and the Budget for 2018 and look forward to another challenging year ahead.

Derek Hirons, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR 1/1/2017 - 31/12/2017

Church Council Fund ANZ	
Opening Balance ANZ	12076.48
Income	296607.48
GST Reimbursed	6027.00
GST income	1257.16
Other Income	0.00
Total Expenditure	-291882.81
GST on Expenditure	-7031.45
Balance as at 31/12/17	17053.47
Mutual Support Scheme	
Opening Debit Balance	-46838.22
Repayment of Principal	28632.00
Interest credited	492.94
Interest debited	-1467.03
Balance as at 31/12/17	-19180.31
Invested by Depositors	\$ 37,282.84
Account	Project
Balance brought forward roof	14276.25
Income Timor Dental	3994.00
Income Timor appeal	3183.00
Income Roof appeal	984.00
Transfer to Council Fund	0.00
Interest	81.81
Balance as at 31/12/17	22519.06

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Credits			
Church Council Fund	17053.47		
GST owed from ATO (approx)	1820.00		
Owed from UC Insurance	0.00		
Manse water charges owed	321.02		
Debits			
Mutual Support Scheme	-19180.31		
Bremer Meals	-347.00		
Timor Leste Appeal	-573.27		
Mainly Music	-2229.89		
Appeals	-747.20		
Carols in the Park	-436.68		
Roof Appeal	-5.00		
Emergency relief (Lenten appeal)	-122.20		
Resurrection	-141.30		
Hive	-254.75		
Collision	-160.40		
Youth Ministry	1483.10		
Timor Dental Project	-1684.05		
Nett Debit Balance as at 31/12/17	-7926.26		
Cheques not presented to 31st December 2016	432.95		
Budget Cumulative position			
Average Offerings 1st Qtr	4024.36	415	\$1,638 under budget

2017		0	
Average Offerings 2nd Qtr 2017	3538.70	415	\$9,585 under budget
2017		0	
Average Offerings 3rd Qtr 2017	3380.00	415	\$19,595 under budget
2017		0	
Average Offerings 4th Qtr 2017	3560.82	415	\$27,254 under budget
2017		0	
Average Offerings 2010	4252.60	460	\$16,578 under budget
2011		0	
Average Offerings 2011	3598.41	455	\$49,483 under budget
2012		0	
Average Offerings 2012	3921.03	385	\$3,693 over budget
2013		0	
Average Offerings 2013	3880.82	419	\$19,918 under budget
2014		2	
Average Offerings 2014	3994.50	400	\$286 under budget
2015		0	
Average Offerings 2015	4064.00	415	\$4,472 under budget
2016		0	
Average Offerings 2016	4085.00	415	\$3,380 under budget
		0	

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT 1/1/2017 - 31/12/2017

Income			
Offerings			
Direct Debit Offerings		115,327.10	
Envelope Offering		47,503.05	
Loose Offering		25,725.75	
Total Offerings			188,555.90
Donations			
Roof Donations		989.00	
Church purposes		9,076.10	
Manse rental		18,829.38	
Solar rebates		4,582.80	
Ipswich City Council		500.00	
CD Sales		129.40	
Hive		139.25	
Collision		27.70	
Youth Ministry		2,733.10	
Use of complex			21,662.01
Exam supervision		5,697.62	
Total Donations			42,704.35
Timor Leste Appeal			4,111.75
Timor Dental Project			5,348.60
Church Office account			726.95
Glebe Garden Club reimburse			4,186.37
Women's F'ship donation			2,000.00
Mainly Music			2,313.95
Silkstone Eisteddfod donation			3,000.00
Glebe Garden Club donations			1,000.00
Silkstone Eisteddfod reimburse			5,533.25
Carols in the Park			3,676.85
Insurance refunds			3,832.69
Supply Ministry reimbursements			7,441.00
Miscellaneous income			1,513.81
Total Income			297,607.48
Total Cost of Sales			0.00
Gross Profit			297,607.48

Expenses			
Ministry expenses			
Stipend		56,616.00	
Supply Stipend		-1,159.75	
Vehicle - Mileage allowance		11,688.00	
Supply Travel Allowance		-243.50	
Beneficiary Fund		8,280.00	
Supply Beneficiary Fund		110.25	
Other Synod payments		1,812.00	
Supply other expenses		-37.50	
House allowance		15,804.00	
Supply House allowance		-329.25	

Church office salaries		12,069.60	
Church office salaries on cost		1,276.58	
Pastor salary		11,888.83	
Pastor salary on costs		1,200.78	
Other Ministry expenses			
Carols in the Park	3,518.54		
Emergency Relief	450.00		
Eisteddfod expenses	5,720.17		
Christian Education & RE	1,090.18		
Music Ministry	463.64		
Other expenses	599.31		
Bremer Meals	475.39		
Children's Ministry expenses	65.48		
Youth Ministry expenses	1,250.00		
Retreat & Conference expenses	640.00		
East Timor expenses	6,302.73		
Copyright expenses	852.17		
Kids Hope - World Vision	990.00		
Worship expenses	407.27		
Timor Dental Project	4,260.55		
Total Other Ministry expenses		27,085.43	
Total Ministry expenses			145,840.97
Mission & Service Fund			29,612.52
Gifts and donations			821.94
Mainly Music			3,081.60
Insurance			11,859.91
Insurance repairs			2,388.26
Legal and Accounting			80.00
Maintenance			
Sound equipment expenses		4,192.90	
Data equipment		6,989.00	
Church Building repairs		1,675.91	
Fellowship centre repairs		209.09	
Roof appeal		984.00	
General repairs		589.35	
Neighbourhood Centre repairs		181.96	
Grounds expenses		971.77	
Fire Equipment		1,503.96	
Furniture		270.91	
Total Maintenance			17,568.85
Office expenses			
Telephone		1,179.57	
Internet expenses		315.00	
Computing expenses		665.30	
Photocopier		1,334.89	
Stationery		748.07	
Printing expenses		24.43	
Postage expenses		171.81	
Advertising		889.26	
Church Office expenses		94.14	
Exam Supervision		2,295.00	
Total Office expenses			7,717.47
Manse expenses			1,006.36
Services			
ICC		4,304.10	
Water and sewerage expenses		11,284.90	
Electricity		6,812.65	
Cleaning expenses		18.09	
Cleaning supplies		1,558.48	
Pest Control expenses		470.00	
Mowing and Cleaning expenses		10,436.36	
Sanitary expenses		1,226.42	
Catering expenses		652.26	
Anzac Day Hospitality		38.00	
Tea and Coffee expenses		286.02	
Garden Club		4,184.85	

Security expenses		1,623.28		
Bond reimbursement use complex		388.00		
Total Services			43,283.41	
Loan expenses				
Mutual Support loan payment		28,632.00		
Total Loan repayments			28,632.00	
Miscellaneous expenses			989.52	
Total Expenses				292,882.81
Operating Profit				4,724.67
Total Other Income				0.00
Net Profit/Loss				

BUDGET 2018

Income	
Envelope, Direct Debit & Loose Offering (Av 4150/wk)	215,800.00
Mission Partner Income	3,000.00
Eisteddfod Donation	3,000.00
Use of Complex	20,000.00
Donations, sundries,	5,000.00
Manse Rental	17,160.00
Electricity Reimbursements	-
ATO Refund	-
Grant	3,000.00
Fundraising	2,500.00
Carols in the Park	3,000.00
Sales/Sundries	10,000.00
Insurance Claims	2,000.00
interest income	-
Solar Rebates	4,000.00
Total Income	288,460.00
Expenditure	
Stipend	57,636.00
Car & Mileage Allowance	11,688.00
Beneficiary Fund / Synod Levies	10,284.00
House allowance	16,200.00
Mission & Service Fund	31,457.00
Church office Admin Salary	13,146.00
Pastor Salary	31,000.00
Professional Development Staff	600.00
Project fund for long term maintenance	5,000.00
Catering	800.00
Electricity	7,500.00
Telephones/Internet	1,600.00
ICC Rates	4,300.00
Water & sewerage	11,640.00
Manse Expense	800.00
Christian Education / RE	300.00
Bremer Meals Project	500.00
Mission Partner expenses	3,000.00
Insurance	12,200.00
Insurance Claim	3,000.00
Security	1,500.00
Grant expenditure	3,000.00
Repairs & Maintenance	6,000.00
Grounds Care / mowing / cleaning	12,000.00
Sanitary & cleaning supplies	2,500.00
Stationary / photocopying / copyrights	3,000.00
Advertising	1,000.00
Youth leadership / conferences / retreats	1,000.00
Music Ministry	500.00
Sound Equipment	1,000.00
Computing	1,000.00
Carols in the Park	3,000.00
MSS repayments	28,632.00
Young Families Ministry	500.00
Kids Hope	990.00
Sundries	10,000.00
Total Expenditure	298,273.00
Net Profit / Loss	- 9,813

PROPERTY OFFICER'S REPORT

I will have served this position for 5 years as of May this year, and during this time, I am very appreciative of all the help and support that I continually receive from the church members, and especially those who have served in this position previously. It is a job that can be very demanding at times, yet gives me great satisfaction, and helps keep me active during my retirement years. The following outlines the main property issues that have been addressed this year:

Property Break-in

Storage Area Under Church Hall Stage: Damaged padlocks were found on the ground next to the under-stage storage doors of the church where the mowers and gardening equipment are stored. Further inspection revealed that the padlocks were cut by bolt cutters and all the gardening equipment had been stolen. Stronger pad bolts and pad locks were fitted to the doors and new equipment purchased under our insurance claim and were again placed in the storage areas. Two to three weeks later the same thing happened, with bolt cutters used on the pad locks to gain entry again. All the new gardening equipment purchased under insurance were stolen. Again; the strongest pad bolts and pad locks available were fitted to the doors and another claim was made against insurance for the replacement of this equipment. For the interim period, these replaced items have been stored in a different secure place to see if any further break-ins occur. So far, so good! This year was a good year for the church (so to speak) as these were the only break-ins the church had.

Church Property Maintenance Issues

1. **Shalom House:** Unlike last year, there were no break-ins in Shalom House. The only maintenance required was the repair of a faulty air conditioner. Unfortunately; the part turned out to be on the expensive side, however; the repair far outweighing the purchase of a new air conditioner. As most members are aware, Uni exams are conducted in Lower Shalom House and Garden Club tables were being taken back and forth from the Fellowship Centre for this purpose. To remove this burden, the Garden Club purchased another 8 tables and have stored them in Lower Shalom House for the Uni exams. Additionally; these tables are there for all church ministries to use, but they must be returned to this same storage area.
2. **Fellowship Centre:** As was the case with Shalom House, there were no break-ins in the Fellowship Centre. Due to water on the floor in the men's toilet, the only maintenance required was the repair and replacement of faulty plumbing.
3. **Manse:** Routine property inspections are carried out on the Manse every six months. It is good to have these inspections as it helps me monitor issues that need attention and/or repair work to be carried out. The only work carried out at the Manse this year was replacement of faulty taps in the bathroom and some minor plumbing issues at the front of the Manse. Due to deterioration from the sun over many years, the front wall and entrance walkway were repainted.
4. **Neighbourhood Centre:** Only minor maintenance issues were attended to this year in the Neighbourhood Centre. Unfortunately; in a very short space of time, many mice took up residence inside the Neighbourhood Centre through a hole in the wall which they chewed through. Their existence was very noticeable within the building because of their bodily functions. Professional exterminators stated they would only set traps. As I was going on a week's holiday at the time, Rob Edwardson took on the exterminator role while I was away. I believe Rob caught 8 mice and the situation was fully controlled by the time I returned from Holidays. Thank you, Rob. The hole in the wall was closed off and the situation continually monitored without any further mice sightings.

Most everybody knows by now that the Presbytery Office has moved out of the Neighbourhood Centre and U3A (University of the 3rd Age) have moved in. The U3A group is like TAFE whereby many different and varied courses are conducted for the older generation. These courses will be conducted at various times utilising all the Church buildings, but not at the same time. These courses are not expected to interfere with the normal operating plans of Church Ministries, however; the Church car parks are expected to get a good work out. With all the extra activities, I am expecting more maintenance issues this year.

5. **Storm Damage:** Resulting from strong winds from a severe storm, the centre of a tree located in the Neighbourhood Centre snapped, with the top hitting the ground. Using a chain saw, the remaining trunk was cut from the tree and the entire tree trunk disposed of. There was no property damage resulting from this incident.

6. **Air Conditioning:** Apart from Shalom House, the only Air Conditioning repair was carried out on the Air Conditioner above the sink in the Church office area.
7. **Help Needed:** In relation to the Synod Safety Audit carried out last year, there is a need for a working group (preferably the younger members) to clean the air filters of all Air Conditioners in all Church buildings. The reason why I ask for this group to be younger members is because of the need to use ladders (especially in the Church Auditorium) to access the filters. This task is deemed unsafe for the older members. As a directive in the Synod Safety report, this task must be carried out every 12 months. Accordingly; it is going to be more cost effective for the Church to have volunteers, rather than have a huge expense with contractors called in to carry out this task. If you are able to help, could you please let me know.
8. **Pest Control:** Due to inadequate treatment last year, a tender went out to Pest Control companies to service all Church buildings and surrounds for cockroaches and ants. Courtesy Pest Control was given the job and all Church buildings and surrounds were treated over the Christmas holidays. Members using any of the church kitchens need to be aware there is a combination of a fine white dust and jelly type globules around door hinges. This is not a safety issue, however; these substances need to be left there and not wiped away. If you are currently noticing cockroaches, dead or otherwise, don't worry, as the treatment is working.
9. **Other Maintenance Issues:** While I have listed the main issues above, many of them take quite some time to reach a conclusion. Additionally; there are many other maintenance issues carried out throughout the year, some of them as follows:
 - a. Compiling the "Ten Year Maintenance Plan" - now approved by Church Council and in operation.
 - b. Lopping of trees - especially the tree in the centre car park.
 - c. Replacing the sand in the sandpit in the Neighbourhood Centre.
 - d. Repair/replacement of Church lights be it internal or security.
 - e. Loss of building power. Partial building power was lost which was caused by a faulty wire on a power pole in Green Street. Energex were notified and fixed the problem.
 - f. Sound system - sound mixer replaced due to ongoing sound problems during services.
 - g. Inspecting for damage and cleaning up after severe storms.

Thank You

My thanks are extended to all members of the congregation for their support and/or assistance given to me during the year. I wish to thank all members involved with the beautification of the Church gardens this year, with a very special thank you to Bill Milward. The garden between the Church and Glebe Road is very noticeable through the Church windows. I invite members to take a walk though this area. You will not be disappointed. While many minor issues have been omitted from this report, this report spotlights the major issues that I have been involved with this year as Property Maintenance Manager. While the church properties belong to all members of this church, it is a huge complex and it is near impossible for me to know everything that requires repair or attention. Security of doors and windows in all church buildings is paramount. Should anyone come across something that requires repair and/or attention, please let me know, or write it in the maintenance log book situated in the front office and I will attend to it. I look forward to your continued support again this year.

David Murphy, Property Manager

SECURITY OFFICER'S REPORT

The security team consists of Jim O'Grady, Paul de Sauty and Rob Edwardson, reporting to Church Council via the Resource Ministry Team and operating under formal position descriptions. Jim, Paul and Rob are on alternate 2-week rosters to respond to alarms.

No new members joined the team in 2017.

Back-2-Base Monitoring Service continues to monitor our system from a Brisbane control room and calls our rostered team members in the event of an alarm activation. Records of all call-outs and other incidents are maintained and are available for inspection.

The records for past years give a picture of the alarm activations requiring attendance or phone follow-up by the team:

Year 2014	false alarms	38
Year 2015	false alarms	27
Year 2016	false alarms	15
Year 2016	false alarms	16

False alarms callouts continue due primarily to gecko activity on the sensors or system faults. Only two callouts were for key holder error.

Three incidents involved Police attendance for damage to doors and loss of portable property:

12/03/17	break-in at shed under the church hall - doors damaged and property stolen
05/05/17	break-in at shed under the church hall - doors damaged and property stolen
27/06/17	entry to Fellowship Centre - no damage and no property loss

A mop and bucket were stolen from the back of the hall. While it seems a trivial loss, it is not the first time it has happened, so this equipment is now kept in the store room.

Doors and windows are occasionally being left open or unlocked, the system not armed, or lights or appliances left running on exit. This is due to poor security management by groups and individuals. Key Holders are requested to re-read and apply the opening and closing procedures posted at all security keypads.

Thanks are due to all those Key Holders who play their part in maintaining a safe environment for our members, visitors and other venue users and the security of our buildings.

Rob Edwardson

FIRE SAFETY OFFICER'S REPORT

Fire & Evacuation Plan

A Fire & Evacuation Plan is being maintained in compliance with *Fire & Rescue Service Act 1990* and *Building Fire Safety Regulations 2008* and in consultation from time to time with Qld Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS) officers at Flinders View and Bundamba fire stations. Russell Kelso, a professional Certified Fire Safety Adviser, continues to be available for consultation.

The Fire & Evacuation Plan is the comprehensive fire safety regime that includes equipment installation, equipment maintenance, inspection and monitoring, appointment of wardens, programme of regular instruction for wardens and all group leaders, evacuation practices and prescribed records maintenance.

Copies of the written Plan tailored for each building are at the entrances to all buildings and a master copy is filed in the office safe. These are updated continually as necessary and are required to be available for inspection by a QFRS officer on request. Electronic copies are also kept in the church office and offsite.

A succession plan for management of the Fire & Evacuation Plan will continue to be developed as opportunities present.

Fire Safety Instruction

In June, annual refresher instruction was provided for all Glebe Rd ministry groups and regular building users such as playgroups martial arts, etc. by Rob Edwardson, except for youth group HIVE which was done by Cameron Kelso. Individual sessions were also conducted as required. Groups unable to attend June sessions were catered for on more convenient dates.

Occasional venue users continue to be given basic instruction before their events.

Emergency Evacuation Practice ("Fire Drill")

An Emergency Evacuation Practice was conducted during the 10.15 service on 20 July with a Qld Fire & Rescue crew in attendance. As in previous years, QFRS used the occasion for training their own crew members. The drill was commenced without prior notice to wardens. Service leaders only were prepared and wardens for specific roles were called from the congregation when the alert was announced.

Enquiries have been made to see if the fire alarm function in the security system could be used. It is slower than our present procedure of calling 000 direct but is being considered for use as an alert tone.

Equipment Inspection and Testing

All fire safety equipment is inspected monthly, including testing of the smoke sensors. Fire extinguishers and blankets are checked 6-monthly by qualified contractors.

In February 2017, Dave Murphy conducted the monthly inspection and tests while I was absent on leave. Since April 2017, Camillo has been conducting the monthly inspections and tests. My sincere appreciation to Dave and Camillo for providing a valuable service to spread responsibility for the Fire & Evacuation Plan.

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Discipleship Ministry Team seeks to give oversight and energy to the further development of cell groups, bible studies, educational and discipleship programs, as well as the training and equipping of leaders. Over the past year a program of teaching and preaching themes was introduced to provide focused learning for the congregation:

- Animate “Bible” began on Tuesday 25th October 2016 - the first in a series of open-invitation events exploring the Bible, Faith and Christian life in a study group.
- Animate “Faith” as group sessions was held 1st Semester, 2017
- “Fruit of the Spirit” preaching series was followed during Term 2, 2017
- “Growing in Prayerfulness” preaching series and Bible Study series was conducted in Term 3, 2017 and
- Group studies and preaching on “Spirited Generosity” was held in Term 4, 2017.

Further studies and preaching series have been planned for 2018, beginning with Lenten Studies leading up to Easter and a four week study, “Being, Belonging & Believing”.

In seeking to encourage members to be part of a small group/cell group the Discipleship Ministry Team undertook to establish new opportunities for group meetings and list existing groups in the church notices to encourage involvement. Three new groups met in Term 4 2017 and it is anticipated that four new groups will commence during Term 1 2018.

In order to support and empower group leaders, the Discipleship Ministry Team has prepared discipleship and study resources that are available for all the groups and meetings of group leaders are being held throughout 2018.

In partnership with the Prayer & Pastoral Care Ministry Team, the Discipleship team hopes to develop an effective process for enfolding people into new small groups.

Please contact Rev. Gwen Fisher 0418 789 870 if you are interested in participating in one of the cell/study groups in our congregation.

Rev. Gwen Fisher, Convenor

PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer continues to be a major focus of the church over all aspects of our lives and activities. Requests to Prayer Link this year have been related mainly to health problems of members of our congregation, their families or friends. Why do we request prayer? Because we have faith that our prayers will be answered. Each year we send out many messages from members thanking us for our prayers, be it for prayers answered directly or the comfort and knowledge of God’s presence in their lives and the lives of those they love.

Please note the report heading, we are now using the name “Prayer Ministry” rather than “Prayer Link”. The same people are doing the same thing, the only changes are to the team name and to the email address for prayer requests – this is now: prayermt@gleberd.com.au, which you have probably already noted.

Ken Fischer

PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Prayer & Pastoral Care Ministry Team has continued to develop, and provide oversight to, the Pastoral Care Network, Welcome Packs, Welcoming Afternoon Teas, Prayer Link, the Intercessory Prayer Group and Culinary Connexions. One of the new initiatives that the Team discussed was the commencement of a weekly prayer time. This came to fruition through a decision of the Church Council to establish the Prayer Gathering from 5 to 6pm each Sunday evening.

I wish to sincerely thank the members of the Team for their dedication and hard work: David Hunter, Anita Hunter, Jim O’Grady, Wendy Engler and Vi Beaumont. I am anticipating the appointment of a new convenor in 2018.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

2017 included two particularly exciting events for the Worship Ministry Team. In March we gathered together all those involved in Sunday services for a Worship Workshop training day. We invited members of the worship team from Newlife Uniting Church in Robina to share with us some of their experiences over the last few years and spent time honing skills in all our various areas of ministry.

In September we put together a Prayer & Praise night as part of the 24 hour prayer vigil. This was an amazing night of heartfelt worship and our team is grateful to the many people who contributed their time and creative energy to bring it about. We hope to have another evening of worship like this in 2018.

Our Ministry Team also helped to plan Celebration Services across the year. These services continue to be important for our congregation as we unite to worship at significant times. We also continued working through activities listed in the Strategic Plan including calling for expressions of interest for new Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Digital Arts teams; helping to choose teaching series themes for the year; and increasing the participation of our children and young people in Sunday worship.

We are looking forward to the opportunities for worship that God has in store for our congregation in 2018.

Hannah Jackson

10:15am WORSHIP TEAM

Our team of faithful worshippers are privileged and blessed to lead our congregation in song and to create a space where our congregation can meet with our Saviour and give Him glory, honour and praise. The living of our life is a constant act of worship - the way we speak, react, respond and interact with others. Our Sunday worship is an event which enables the construct of intentional corporate worship to be developed, fashioned and brought to life in such a way that it is genuine and pleasing to our Father.

Our team continue to come together every Wednesday night to practice and fellowship together and to spend time as a team in worship of our Lord. I am privileged to lead a team of faithful servants whose desire it is to worship God and create a space for those who come each Sunday to meet with Him.

We have been taking time to evaluate our services every month to examine what worked well, what could have improved and what the congregation are connecting with. This has been an invaluable time of team assessment and has helped us to become a stronger and more supportive group. We pray that God continues to challenge us to do and be better worshipers.

We have enjoyed connecting with the 8:15am worship team for our celebration service practices. It is a blessing to come together with those who have gone before us and to unite in the worship of our Lord.

We also enjoyed participating in our Worship Workshop which involved all aspects of our Sunday worship services. We were blessed by Craig Hindman and his small but passionate team from Newlife Uniting at Robina who shared with us and inspired us all.

We, as a team, are looking to encourage new members of our congregation to join us in any capacity that they feel able to contribute. Whether it is by playing an instrument, singing, doing data or sound - we want to encourage people that are passionate about worshipping our Lord through music to join our team so that they can use their gifts to bless God and our congregation. We have recently welcomed Dave Murphy onto the team as a guitarist and Ruth Wilkins is back singing on the team after her study break.

I pray that we continue to seek after God and offer ourselves fully to Him as we give ourselves to Him in worship, not only on Sunday but with our whole lives.

Praise God!!

Jeremy Bruce

FUN AND FRIENDSHIP MINISTRIES

RISKIES

The "Riskies" group comes under the Fun and Friendship Ministry Team. It is a self-motivated and self-organised social gathering of fun-loving adults (over 50ish adults) who plan a range of engaging activities and outings roughly on a monthly basis throughout the year. The premise for the group is that activities are planned to allow people to form and develop stronger friendships by doing fun stuff together. Activities are planned by the group at the beginning of each year to lock in the dates of these activities before the year gets too busy. The idea of, '**Come when you can - but don't worry if you can't**' allows this group to be fairly relaxed and stress free. The members attend as many outings as they feel they can. Numbers range from about 10 to 25 for most activities. Do you sit at home on the weekends and wish you could go out with some friends? If so, this is the sort of group that might appeal to you. Everyone is welcome to join this group so please see Jill Case or email her (riskies@gleberd.com.au) and your name will be added to the mailing list. You will receive an email each month with details of the upcoming event.

Activities for 2017 included:

- Planning evening, games, coffee and dessert night
- Wivenhoe Dam for breakfast and chilling by the water
- Redlands Museum and lunch at Wellington Point
- Planetarium Show followed by dinner at Jindalee
- Casserole and Games Night
- Cruise Boat on the Coomera River (Sanctuary Cove)
- Incinerator Theatre Night (Fundraiser for Carols in the Park)
- Cambrians Choir Theatre Restaurant
- Barefoot Bowls
- Christmas Breakfast at Journeys Restaurant, Springfield

Carpooling is done for most of the activities so those who do not like driving can usually hitch a ride with other people.

The group consists of people from the congregations of our church, some from other churches and other friends from all walks of life. Friendships have been strengthened and support structures built by being involved in this group..... and there are always plenty of laughs.

So, if Riskies is a group in which you might be interested, just send your email address to Jill Case at the Riskies Group (riskies@gleberd.com.au) and you will be added to the mailing list.

Jill Case

PAINTING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

We commenced the year on 17th January as planned. All went well until in early May, Mrs Hermann suffered a stroke which hospitalised her until she passed away on 20th October 2017. A great loss to us all as she was greatly loved and respected for her giftedness and teaching. Agnes, Jill and Margaret attended the celebration of her life at the service in SDA Church, Gatton.

Our group decided to continue as we enjoyed each other's company and paintings. Glenys had joined us in February and continued on to win two encouragement awards at Lowood Show and a 1st for "West Ruggary Beach" and 2nd for "Autumn, Rees Valley, Glenorchy" at Rosewood. Dorothy did us proud again with 1st prize for "Parrot" at Marburg. Judith gained 2nd prize at Ipswich Show for "Sunset over suburbs" and H.C. for Central Aust.Landscape" and "Cradle Mountain" at Lowood. Debbie showed her skill one morning by painting on plain material for curtains. Val paints beautiful scenes on gum leaves and gained H.C. at Lowood for them. She didn't enter her Aust. Cattle Country paintings as they are always spoken for.

New comers are always welcome and will be helped and encouraged to develop their art. Rob Edwardson as Fire Safety Officer, gave of his time and expertise and refreshed and advised us of safety procedures necessary in event of fire.

As has become our custom now at Christmas, we donate to hospice in place of gifts to each other. We had a special Christmas morning tea on 5th December and final day on 12th December, and planned to recommence on 16th January 2018.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This year has been a very interesting and busy one shared with a wonderful, caring group of ladies. The attendance at our meetings has averaged an attendance of 25 ladies and we welcomed 2 new ladies.

Each month our devotions were shared by Rev. Pete and several of our ladies and we thank them for taking the time to prepare and share these with us. Our caring and sharing segment kept us informed of ladies who were not well and of our Aged Care residents. Our ladies were each treated to a devotional book or a tatted cross for their birthday gift and we also shared with three of our ladies who celebrated special '0' birthdays together with their special guests.

We enjoyed a variety of programmes where we solved jumbled hymns, answered quizzes, sang favourite choruses and hymns, were well informed by a speaker on legal matters and also a speaker on Emergency Management, shared in an Easter service and relaxed by the river at Allawah with damper for morning tea and a barbecue lunch cooked by our menfolk.

Our fundraising Morning Tea was held in June where our guest speaker was Dr. Judith McEniery sharing her knowledge and passion for Palliative Care and the Pallium India programme. We were able to present Ipswich Hospice with a cheque for \$500 and also \$100 towards the Pallium India programme. We also supported two Ipswich schools with donations to purchase books for Anzac Day as well as attending the Anzac Day service in Cameron Park.

We were able to support the Church financially with a donation of \$2000 towards a new Data Projector and \$300 to the Eisteddfod awards. Our sponsorship with our Compassion child 'Regina' in India came to a close, but we were able to continue this support with a sponsor child, 'Mary Tei' in Ghana. Several of our ladies attended the World Day of Prayer at Trinity U.C. and also the Synod Adult Fellowship service at Rosewood. It is a wonderful opportunity to share in fellowship with other Christian folk.

We were delighted to have Rev. Gwen Fisher as the guest speaker at our Mother's Day Breakfast when we were all treated to a hearty breakfast by the menfolk. We were also privileged to have our two Timor Leste guests share the morning with us and we were able to donate \$300 towards the Timor Dental programme.

Several of our ladies helped with the catering at the Garden Expo and also provided biscuits and morning and afternoon teas at the Siltstone Eisteddfod. We also provided catering for several Funeral Services during the year. We were saddened at the passing of our dear friends and members, Silvey Earle and Florence Grobe both in July and our dear Rev Norma Spear in November.

The ladies collected used stamps to support the Missions of the Uniting Church in Australia and also supported the Red Bag Appeal for the Wesley Mission in Brisbane. We appreciated the help each month of the faithful menfolk of the Weeders and Waterers who set up the hall and the sound for our monthly meetings.

We all enjoyed our annual end of year luncheon at the Casa Mia Restaurant and concluded the year with our Christmas themed programme of carol singing and the presentation of a Play Reading titled "Shrillock Homes and the True Meaning of Christmas". We were also privileged to present this Play again during one Sunday morning service.

We have been blessed to share together in friendship and fellowship and shared God's love as we cared for each other. Our God has been faithful as He has sustained us through some sad times and the busy times and we thank God for his leading and enabling throughout the year.

Lola Milward, Coordinator

CATERING

Our Fellowship ladies were kept busy again with several funerals this year, including many of our older members and Norma Spear. A Timor lunch, our fundraiser morning tea in June, making sandwiches for Garden Expo in August, helping with the Eisteddfod and providing refreshments for "The stories of a growing Friendship with Timor Leste".

Once again, I sincerely thank my faithful cooks and anyone who has helped me in any way. It is much appreciated.

God Bless you all
Merle Setch, Catering Convenor

WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 31/12/2017

Balance B/Fwd		5,979.78
INCOME		
Catering	4,545.00	
Fellowship and Donations	883.00	
Bring and Buy Stall	146.20	
Mother's Day Breakfast	660.00	
Frontier Services Diaries	42.00	
Fundraiser Morning	690.00	
Hall Fund Raiser Morning	260.00	
Christmas Luncheon	460.00	
Frontier Services	353.40	
Interest	.02	8,039.82
		14,019.60
EXPENDITURE		
Expenses		
UCAF	57.00	
Catering	1,243.00	
Mother's Day Breakfast	354.49	
Birthday Gifts	60.87	
Casa Mia Christmas Luncheon	575.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	360.74	2,651.10
Donations		
Tivoli State School	60.00	
Karalee State School	60.00	
GRUC Data Projector	2,000.00	
5 Tables Church Hall	245.00	
GRUC Dental Account Timor Leste	300.00	
Ipswich Hospice Care	500.00	
Pallium India Trust	100.00	
Silkstone Eisteddfod	330.00	
Mugs for Church Office	28.62	
Given With Love	100.00	
GRUC Office Account	100.00	
Frontier Services	350.00	
Compassion Australia	778.00	4,931.62
Balance as at 31/12/2017		6,436.88

Barbara Holmes, Treasurer

CRAFT COFFEE AND CHAT

The Craft Coffee and Chat Group continues to meet in the Church Hall on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from February to November, between 9:30 and 11:30am. Attendance averages 8 with each person working on their own choice of craft. This ranges through colouring in, knitting, crocheting, embroidery and counted cross stitch.

Some days, there is more chat than craft but the crafters who attend enjoy the opportunity to have a dedicated craft time. We all rejoice in the joy of seeing long-term projects reach completion. The final meeting of the year is 'show and tell' time when we can see what has been achieved during the year.

Thank you to the Waterers and Weeders who set up the tables and chairs for the group. Anyone who would like a morning out in pleasant company, is welcome to come along with your craft or just to sit, enjoy morning tea and chat.

Faye Wright, Convenor

WEEDERS & WATERERS

Weeders and Waterers are a group that meets each Wednesday at 7:00 AM for a cleanup of the church grounds. This work takes around half an hour and is followed by an early morning tea which can last up to one and a half hours. Our numbers were recently boosted by two new members, however, we are always looking for additional new members, all are welcome.

Current numbers vary from week to week depending on appointments and health but on average we have four to six starters each week. A highlight of 2017 was the morning tea we hosted for our Timor Leste visitors

in May. They were treated to Aussie cuisine, meat pies, sausage rolls, cocktail frankfurts and a variety of cream cakes and biscuits. The pies (party pies) were very popular. New members are assured of a warm welcome.

Ken Fischer

SERVICE AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Service & Outreach Ministry Team

The Service & Outreach Ministry Team has continued to provide oversight and encouragement to the vast array of local, regional and internationally focussed groups that endeavour to provide a service, or reach out, to the wider community. They include: the Glebe Garden Club; the Silkstone Eiseddfod; Habitat for Humanity; Team Timor; Carols in the Park; Queensland Community Alliance; ANZAC Day Hospitality; and Emergency Relief. Most of these groups and activities have provided detailed reports of their ministry.

I wish to sincerely thank the members of the Team for their dedication and hard work: Esme Rae, Di Bos, Noel Rothery and Vanna McGreevy. We acknowledge Vanna's decision not to continue and I am also anticipating the appointment of a new convenor in 2018.

Grace and Peace,
Rev Peter J Arnett, Convenor

BRASSALL BIRTHDAY HIGH TEAS

Four ladies attended Brassall Village once a month from February to November to celebrate the residents' Birthdays. Special party food, fine bone china and handmade designer cloths graced the tables. Everyone was encouraged to participate in community singing and other activities. Stories were read, tall stories told and life experiences shared amidst laughter and sometimes tears. Residents thoroughly enjoy each Birthday morning tea and eagerly anticipate the next. The number of people feeling comfortable enough to contribute their thoughts, and share their stories continues to grow with each visit.

This year we were able to celebrate the 100th Birthday of a remarkable woman. She has been blessed throughout her life and still blesses others. She is very alert, a great cook and has a wicked sense of humour. She knows that a place has been prepared for her and is looking forward to heaven.

Our friends at Brassall Village are so appreciative of every small thing that we do. Yet, we are the ones blessed, enriched, encouraged and refreshed by the interaction with these amazing men and women who have faced a whole gamut of experiences throughout their lifetime.

This ministry was the brain child of Vi Beaumont and for a number of years she has been the team leader. She is now stepping down and we thank Vi for her generous and loving contribution. We're looking to increase the number of volunteers in 2018.

Would you like the opportunity to be involved in a ministry where you can give and receive a blessing? We would be delighted to have you join our team.

Carole Edwardson

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) Ipswich has been carrying out small projects, called "A Brush With Kindness", during 2017. This normally involves yard clean ups for people who are unable to do the work or afford the tools etc required for the job. As with all H4H work, the person must qualify to receive assistance and contribute to the project in some small way - Habitat provides a "hand up, not a handout. We have also been fundraising and during 2017 some of this money went towards a Habitat House for Cambodia being organised by Ipswich North Rotary, one of our major local partners.

House building in Queensland and Ipswich, in particular, is largely dependent on H4H Queensland who, during 2016 and 2017, have changed their strategic direction, engaging a CEO, a professional in Design and Construction with 25 years' experience and a wide range of contacts.

Kent Wilkins, Chairman

GLEBE GARDEN CLUB IPSWICH

Monthly Club Functions

The Glebe Garden Club has enjoyed another very successful year. The monthly functions have been well attended and we have enjoyed a range of speakers covering a wide variety of topics.

In February, Wendy Skelton spoke about geraniums and, in March, Mike Ferguson provided a presentation on behalf of Rocky Point Mulching. In April we welcomed Ross Pedley who spoke about Hoyas and, in May, Claire Bickle explained about ECO products. Terry from Grow spoke to us in June and the Panel of Gardening Experts returned in July to engage in an interesting Q&A session. In August we welcomed Paul Haines and his informative presentation on roses, followed by Mike Ferguson's return from Rocky Point Mulching in September. Melanie White provided a presentation on potted pleasure in October and, in November, Noel Prior - President of the Queensland Council of Garden Clubs was our guest speaker. The RSL Youth & Community Brass Band were back by popular demand for our Christmas Celebration and a wonderful time was experienced by all who attended.

Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo

The Ipswich Home Gardeners' Expo on Saturday 26th August was, once again, a huge success. The variety of stalls, wonderful atmosphere, great organisation, and excellent keynote speakers were significant factors in making this event one of the best ever. The speakers included Noel Burdette, Claire Bickle and Jerry Coleby-Williams. A huge thanks to David Murphy for the incredible amount of time and energy he invests in Co-ordinating this amazing event of several thousand people.

Bribie Island Coach Tour - 27th May

Leaving the church car park at 7:15 am, the coach tour headed to Bribie Island and surrounding areas. The first stop was a visit to "Garden Gems" Nursery for Morning Tea and to purchase plants. The tour then ventured to the Orchid Society's club room on the Island, where one of their members gave a Presentation Talk on growing and caring of orchids. The members accepted the tour with open arms and were very friendly in their hospitality towards the members. It was difficult to get the members on the bus as they did not want to leave. Lunch was a hot, sit-down lunch at the "Blue Pacific" Hotel, Woorim (Gluten Free and Vegetarian Meals available). The tour then departed for Deception Bay to visit "The Plant Shack" for more plant and gardening product purchasing before returning to the church at approximately 5:30 pm.

Toowoomba Coach Tour - 14th October

Leaving the church car park at 8:00 am, the coach tour headed to "Harrow House" at Cambooya for Morning Tea and a viewing of the "Homestead" and Gardens. Tour members were free to explore the House and Gardens, taking care to wear the supplied plastic shoe covers while walking through the house. A storm came in whilst at "Harrow Homestead" while the tour members enjoyed Morning Tea of Scones with Jam and Cream on the Veranda. It was nice to see the area getting much needed beneficial rain. A hot sit-down lunch was provided at the City Golf Club overlooking the fairways. The tour then travelled Highfields Nursery to purchase plants and other gardening requirements, before moving onto Spring Bluff Railway Station. While there, a large freight train passed through the station. The tour arrived back at the church at approximately 5:45 pm.

The Glasshouse

The Glasshouse Committee has continued its great work of maintaining the plants in the Queen's Park Glasshouse. We thank Mavis Wakefield for her longstanding service as the Co-ordinator of the Glasshouse Committee and express our appreciation to Faye Wright who has taken up the role since May. We are very appreciative of the assistance of the Ipswich City Council for maintaining the building and providing co-operative staff. Visitors to the Glasshouse often remark on the quality and diversity of the plants.

The Greenhouse

The Greenhouse has had a successful year with excellent results in maintaining and propagation of club plants. This year our Greenhouse has supplied door prizes for our monthly club functions and plants for the Garden Expo. We have also been able to supply plants to our Garden Club representatives who visit other garden clubs and associations on their special occasions. We will again be able to achieve the same result this year as the baskets are planted in readiness. We have trialled different products over the years, but last year the trial on "Rock Dust" distributed by Rocky Point Mulching proved the most successful of all. The roof replacement and extension to the Greenhouse in 2016 has proved a huge success, especially with the climatic conditions inside. The plants just seem to love this climate and thrive extremely well. We are always most grateful to our wonderful members who donate their pots, plants and cuttings, as this helps us to expand our variety and quality of plants for our members. Due to the size of the Greenhouse, the Garden Club is able to house and maintain many palms that continue to be used for church and community functions.

The Library

The Garden Club maintains a free Library for its members whereby they can take home books, bring them back the next month, and then take home other books out the next month. The Library consists of many varieties of magazines and hardcover books. Additionally; many books have been donated to the club, and the club also subscribes to a couple of different gardening magazines. Other books that have been added to the library this year is a book on roses by Paul Haines, and the book on Queensland Garden Clubs compiled by QCGC in recognition of their 50th anniversary year. The story of the Glebe Garden Club is in this book.

Newsletter & Website

The monthly Newsletter has continued to develop over this past year. It is a treasure trove of useful gardening information and a great way to catch up on the news and information from the previous Club Function, as well as a preview of what is coming up. The well maintained website is also a wonderful communication tool for connecting us to other garden clubs, interested people from across the local and global community, and prospective new members.

Community Donations

The Club is a generous donor to community organisations who are making a positive difference in the lives of others. A gift of \$1000 was presented to Sarah Styles at our June Club Function. Sarah is a gifted local singer/songwriter who suffers from Joint Hypermobility Syndrome. This donation enabled her to purchase a specially designed medical chair. From the Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo donations of \$500 were given to each of the following: Timor Dental Project; the Uniting Church in Australia Leichardt Patrol, Westside Community Care; Rosies – Friends on the Street; and Habitat for Humanity. Also, the door takings from our Christmas function were donated to Giving With Love, a local care and support program for foster children.

Special Thanks

I wish to express my personal thanks to each member of the Committee: David Murphy, Alan Addison, Ron Chan, Mavis Wakefield, John Harle, Del Harle, Judy McLaughlin and Faye Wright. I also want to take this opportunity to express special thanks to the dynamic team of Co-ordinators: Desleigh Murphy, David Murphy, Del Harle, John Harle, and Faye Wright.

Grace and Peace
Rev Peter Arnett, President

GLEBE GARDEN CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2017

OPENING CREDIT BALANCE 1 st January, 2017	Cheque A/c	\$8 028.10	
	Cash Reserve A/c	\$4 899.00	\$12 927.10
RECEIPTS:			
Membership Fees	665.00		
Donations at Door	1 497.10		
December Door Donations	180.00		
Plant Sales	811.90		
Fares – Bus Trips	3 954.85		
		7 108.85	
Garden Expo:			
Stall Fees	2 362.50		
Takings	9 007.35		
ICC Sponsorship	2 500.00		
Change re-banked	1 500.00		
		15 369.85	
Plant Creche – Ipswich Plant Expo		461.00	
Change re-banked		100.00	
Glasshouse Income		540.00	
Sale of Fertiliser & labels		49.50	
Donation		100.00	
Bank Interest – Cheque A/c		10.58	
Bank Interest – Cash Reserve A/c		16.34	
			23 756.12
			36 683.22
PAYMENTS:			

Meeting Expenses -		
Catering	102.06	
Contribution - GRUC	600.00	
Christmas Entertainment	300.00	
Christmas Gift Plants	350.00	
Change for Meetings	100.00	
Birthday Gifts	2 159.87	
Door Prizes	29.10	
Donation - Giving with Love	180.00	
Speakers Expenses	270.00	
		4 091.03
Petty Cash/Stationery		220.74
Glasshouse Expenses		310.20
Greenhouse Expenses		437.02
Garden Expo -		
General Expenses	1 451.30	
Advertising	2 172.49	
Expo Speakers	1 550.00	
Change	1 500.00	
ATM	400.00	
First Aid Services	410.00	
6th Ipswich Boys Brigade	400.00	
Hire of Bins	161.00	
Folding Tables	392.00	
Hire of Marquees	50.00	
		8 486.79
Donations Expo Proceeds -		
GRUC	1 000.00	
Fiddlers Inn	500.00	
Women's Fellowship	500.00	
Giving with Love	500.00	
Sarah Styles	1 000.00	
Ipswich Special School	1 000.00	
Habitat for Humanity	500.00	
Leichhardt Patrol	500.00	
Timor Dental Project	500.00	
Westside Community Care	500.00	
Rosies - Friends on the Street	500.00	
		7 000.00
Adopt-A-Hive Project	125.00	
Bus Trips	3 710.00	
Fertiliser for Sale	50.00	
Library Purchases	20.00	
Subscriptions/Members	64.95	
Sundries	424.07	
Computer Program	119.00	
Domain Name Renewal	99.00	
Photocopying	200.05	
Shredder	159.00	
Tank Stand Repairs	113.51	
		5 084.58
		25 630.36
	Cheque A/c	6 137.52
	Cash Reserve A/c	4 915.34
		11 052.86
	Mutual Support Scheme	3 000.00
		14 052.86
TOTAL CLUB FUNDS		

SILKSTONE EISTEDDFOD

After the excitement of the 90th year celebrations in 2016, it was a quieter, but still very successful and enjoyable year. The year began in February with the Annual General Meeting. This brought changes as Margaret Buchanan and Coral Myatt stood down from their long-term roles as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Both have left 'big shoes' to fill and we thank them for their invaluable contribution, commitment and continuing involvement. Faye Wright was elected Secretary and Anita Hunter, Treasurer.

Co- Convenors of The Piano and Instrumental Section, Coral and Kathy Myatt, reported that this Section, held in August, was a great success although a change of email address after the Schedule had been sent caused many problems which were eventually sorted out. The Piano entries were strong and the Strings entries very good. Woodwind entries were down, and the Band Section is slowly declining although there were still two primary school day sessions and a secondary school evening session. Many parents and teachers expressed their gratitude for the opportunity given to their children and students. Paula Melville-Clark and Brad Ruben shared Adjudication duties.

The Speech and Drama Section was held in October and Convenor, Chris Lloyd along with, Assistant Convenor, Di Johnston, reported that entries were up to 559 from 402 in 2016. A number of items for adults were included following the success of the special items the previous year, the Adjudicator, Mrs Roslyn McIvor from Toowoomba, was very impressed with the variety of items, the standard and friendliness of the Eisteddfod and, of course, 'our fabulous catering'.

Convenor, Merle Mensforth, reported that the Vocal Section which followed Speech and Drama, required 18 sessions to fit in all the competitors – 3 choir sessions and the remainder for solos and duets for all ages. The Primary Choirs were tremendous (29 entries for the Junior Choir item) and it was a special morning when local composer, Mr Kevin Hallewell, was present to hear 4 choirs perform his song as the set Sacred piece. Disappointing numbers and last-minute withdrawals in the Open Choirs, meant the Friday evening finished at only 8pm. Senior items were very popular, so more may be added in 2018.

Competitors over the three sections of the Eisteddfod ranged in age from under 5 to 85 years.

During Eisteddfod Sessions, minor and sometimes major incidents occur. Most of these could benefit from prayer for the competitor concerned, not with them. Incidents range from competitors who forget words to physical problems. While convenors and volunteers might offer a quick prayer, their duties do not allow much time for this. Some members of the congregation, simply sitting in the audience, would be able to pray more effectively for the situation. As an extra bonus, being in the audience for a session of the Eisteddfod, provides an inexpensive, entertaining few hours.

The year brought sadness with the death of five people who had close association with the Eisteddfod – Mr Keith Turner (donor and volunteer), Mr Graham Wright, (donor, former Committee Member and volunteer), Mrs Florence Grobe (former Committee Member, Canteen Convenor and Life Member), Mrs Isabel Larcombe (long-term, very faithful accompanist and Life Member) and Rev. Dr Norma Spear (former President, Life Member and great encourager). We express our gratitude to God for their faithful service and our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

A big Thank you to all Committee Members and the many volunteers who assist in so many ways with a special thank you to Catering Convenor, Lola Milward. Lola ensures that the Canteen runs smoothly, and the Adjudicators are well fed, whenever necessary, over the three sections of the Eisteddfod.

All who assist with the Eisteddfod in any way help to show the hands and face of Christ to the community. It is our aim to continue that into 2018.

Faye Wright, Secretary

SILKSTONE EISTEDDFOD ANNUAL STATEMENTS - 1/1/2017 - 31/12/2017

	2017	2016
Income		
Entry : Piano & Instrumental	\$1,542.00	\$1,602.00
Entry : Speech & Drama	\$2,389.00	\$1,843.00
Entry : Vocal	\$3,341.00	\$3,212.00
Less Refunds Given	\$0.00	(\$18.00)
Programmes	\$1,512.00	\$1,402.00
Total Entry Fees	\$8,784.00	\$8,041.00
Door: Piano & Instrumental	\$1,269.15	\$1,457.90
Door: Speech & Drama	\$971.40	\$795.60
Door: Vocal	\$2,771.95	\$2,669.55
Total Door Takings	\$5,012.50	\$4,923.05
Canteen: Piano & Instrumental	\$624.20	\$569.55
Canteen: Speech & Drama	\$851.90	\$616.70
Canteen: Vocal	\$1,783.85	\$1,693.75
Other Canteen	\$43.50	\$236.00
Total Canteen Takings	\$3,303.45	\$3,116.00
Donations	\$6,394.50	\$8,917.60
Ips City Council Grant	\$500.00	\$0.00
Interest Received	\$86.37	\$126.01
Donation from Book Sales	\$56.00	\$0.00
Door Takings at Presentation	\$433.85	\$0.00
Total Other Income	\$7,470.72	\$9,043.61
Total Income	\$24,570.67	\$25,123.66
Expenses		
Prize Money: Piano & Instr	\$518.00	\$566.00
Prize Money: Speech & Drama	\$398.00	\$334.00
Prize Money: Vocal	\$1,279.50	\$1,233.50
Awards & Bursaries	\$2,320.00	\$2,155.00
Trophies & Engraving	\$2,735.97	\$3,588.55
Total Prize Money	\$7,251.47	\$7,877.05
Adjudicator Piano & Instrument	\$1,665.00	\$1,700.00
Adjudicator Speech & Drama	\$1,870.00	\$1,520.00
Adjudicator Vocal	\$2,750.00	\$2,870.00
Total Adjudicators Fees	\$6,285.00	\$6,090.00
Printing Costs	\$719.58	\$209.10
Photocopying Costs	\$139.20	\$0.00
Stationery Costs	\$233.81	\$221.96
Telephone expenses	\$8.00	\$0.00
Postage Costs	\$505.80	\$436.70
Advertising Costs	\$0.00	\$355.50
Courier Costs	\$156.44	\$147.30
Canteen Expenses	\$1,278.47	\$1,504.12
Gifts	\$94.45	\$0.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$3,135.75	\$2,874.68
Presentation: Denmans Hire	\$0.00	\$89.60
Presentation: Petty Cash	\$0.00	\$100.00
Presentation: Reim Expenses	\$0.00	\$112.10
Total Presentation Evening Expenses	\$0.00	\$301.70
90th Celebration Expenses	\$0.00	\$80.00
Donation Glebe Road U/C	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
Donation Presbytery / Downs	\$350.00	\$0.00
Donation Queensland Eisteddfod	\$250.00	\$0.00
New Piano Wheels	\$2,009.09	\$0.00
Total Other Special Expenses	\$5,609.09	\$5,080.00
Total Expenses	\$22,281.31	\$22,223.43
Operating Profit	\$2,289.36	\$2,900.23

TEAM TIMOR

Visit by Rev Domingos Alves and Marita Gonsalves 10th to 22nd May 2017

The 5th annual visit by members of Ekaristi IPTL congregation was planned based on previous visits as well as activities particularly relevant to our guests, Rev Domingos Alves and Marita Gonsalves from 2017. Some of the highlights of the visit were meeting with our civic leaders, meeting with our Church Council, visiting Silkstone State School and Ipswich West Special School and Bundamba Primary School. They also visited the Ipswich Show, Trinity College and met with Qld Synod Moderator, Rev. David Baker. Members of the congregation had the opportunity to meet our visitors at the regular worship services, the Mothers' Day breakfast and at regular church groups and informal meals. These visits grow the partnership between the two churches we share our lives, and personal connections are established.

Dental Project Report

Following the initial dental survey at Marcelo 02 school in September 2016 conducted by dentists Dr Malcolm Campbell and Dr John Fisher, John and Malcolm enlisted Dr. Mark Tuffley and Bec Apps (nurse from Groodles program), Peter & Jill Case & Rev. Gwen Fisher to form a dental team for a visit in May/June 2017. Malcolm already had some portable dental equipment stored in Dili but more supplies were needed. Timor Children's Foundation generously donated funds raised from their "Groodles program", students and staff of Fahan school in Tasmania had heard of TCF's work and raised funds, members of Glebe Road UC also donated funds, and the staff at Boonah Dental offered to work for free and all fees raised one Saturday were donated to the Dental Project.

The Dental Team arrived in Dili loaded with dental supplies. A total of 116 students were treated at Marcelo 2 school during our visit (a total of 160 procedures) and the team also travelled to work in the UnitingWorld Fusona clinic in Lospalos, 250 km east of Dili. A total of 122 procedures were carried out on adult patients at Lospalos over two days, with a day of travel required each way.

With their extensive teaching experience, Peter & Jill Case taught and modelled oral health education lessons to each of the 21 classes in the school, as well as assisting with dental treatment. This was the first step in the ongoing prevention of tooth decay and the teachers at the school have been keen to continue these lessons. Rev. Gwen Fisher and Dr. Malcolm Campbell were invited to visit the First Secretary for Health at the Australian Embassy on June 5th to discuss the work being done in Timor Leste. This visit provided some very helpful information and connections for future visits.

Reports of the work of the Dental Project were featured in Journey magazine, The Fassifern Guardian newspaper, and the Salvation Army "Awake" magazine throughout the year. John was also invited to share news of the work of the Dental Project with the Salvation Army Fellowship Group in Boonah.

The Dental Project of Timor Children's Foundation in association with Glebe Road Uniting Church proved highly effective and two more visits are planned within the next twelve months: Malcolm will take a team of 3 dentists and 4 support staff to Lospalos Immanuel Health Clinic in May 2018 and our Glebe Road team will followup with a visit to Marcelo 2 School at Ekaristi church with 3 dentists and 5 support staff in June 2018.

We are thankful for those who have made generous donations to the Dental Project and the ongoing support we receive from the Glebe Rd congregation as this allows the team to purchase the necessary supplies for the treatment to continue.

Our 2017 visit was rewarding for the team, not only in relieving pain and improving the health of those who were treated, but in renewing friendships and supporting our partnership with Ekaristi congregation. The team attended worship and Rev. Gwen was invited to preach at the Sunday service. We look forward to renewing our partnership with the congregation, meeting up with our Timorese friends and assisting the school when we visit again in 2018.

Visit to Timor in September

The annual Exposure Visit took place in September 2017, with a group of 3 men, David Hunter, Paul de Sauty and Noel Rothery visiting for 10 days. Paul and Kayleen have opened their home to many of our friends at Ekaristi church, and they welcomed Paul with great joy on his first visit. The group was hosted by Rev. Domingos, assisted by Mr Soffian and Mr Petrus who provided transport. We were invited to share generous hospitality in the homes of the Minister and Elders and Deacons. We participated in the life of Ekaristi church by visiting Ekaristi worship services, Church Council, Youth Group and Men's Group. The Women's Group asked for support to obtain sewing machines and electric cooking tools and oven so that the women can learn skills, and make products to sell to raise funds. Glebe Road Ladies Fellowship intend to help raise funds to support the women of Ekaristi in 2018.

We also visited the Marcelo 02 kindergarten and school which is a mission of Ekaristi church, meeting with the teachers for a meal and sharing. The kindergarten has 7 teachers, 6 classes (133 students), and the school has 23 teachers, 587 students (up to 45 students per class). They reported to us recent success at an academic competition among the private schools (mainly Catholic), enthusiasm for the Dental Project, and that the

canteen has moved off the school grounds in an attempt by the school to encourage healthy eating. Teachers attend government funded teacher training for 3 weeks throughout the year.

The group was invited to a small rural community IPTL church at Alfa Bikiar, about an hour's drive from Dili. The church is the centre of this little village. On arrival they were met by a large group of church members, including lots of children. They joined with them in singing and they shared the stories of their church and community. The congregation of Loes invited us to share an evening meal with them, where they met with Mr Orasio, and his wife Rev Helena, who is the minister of this church. Life for them is simple with the children of these small villages having to walk a long way to the closest school. Seboath IPTL church in Becora, a suburb of Dili also invited us to morning tea, where they met with the congregation and visited the Marcelo 03 kindergarten, which is a mission of this church.

Paul, David and Noel were also invited to meet IPTL Synod members, and met with the Klasis (Dili) which is similar to our Presbytery. They learnt about the structure of the IPTL church, which consists of 1 Synod, 5 Klasis and 80 congregations. The main issues is raising finance to support their programs, e.g. training Sunday School teachers, teaching cooking skills to the women, Youth Bible Study activities, etc. They also visited the Credit Union, which is a micro finance project aiming to educate IPTL churches and members in managing money and providing small loans.

They also visited places of interest in Timor Leste, including Cristu Rei, Balibo and East/West Timorese (Indonesia) border, Chega, Tais Market. Words on a page cannot do justice to the experience of visiting our brothers and sisters in Timor, being welcomed and accepted in their church and homes. Glebe Road UC is very fortunate to have had 24 different people of varying age and experience visit since 2010.

Stories of a Growing Friendship – Saturday 28th October 2017

This event was presented to share insight into the growing friendship that is continuing to develop due to our partnership with Ekaristi IPTL Church. Invitations were extended to other Uniting Churches, local community groups and civic leaders as well as our congregation. The program included worship, short stories accompanied by photos, an interactive area, and sausage sizzle and morning tea. The story of the partnership was told its inception, and we were reminded of God's ever present leading in this project. Each speaker brought a different story, but all the stories complemented the others. We reflected on the difficulties faced by our friends in Timor Leste, and realised again the wonderful privilege that we have in sharing in their lives as we respond to God's call on our lives. Many were touched by the stories shared, and the morning helped to connect "people with people".

Tetun Language Course

Once again, Mr David Lyon conducted Tetun Language refresher classes. Our visitors from Timor Leste were present at one of these classes where we shared a meal with David's Timorese wife and their children. We are very appreciative of David's instruction, and the willingness to learn the language demonstrates Glebe Road's commitment to our Timorese friends and the partnership that we share.

Fund raising

In 2017 we conducted monthly BBQs at Harvey Norman at Booval, raising approximately \$3000 to finance the annual visit from our Ekaristi friends. All of the Glebe Road teams who visit Timor Leste pay their own travel expenses. Generous financial support has been given to support both the ongoing partnership expenses, as well as the Dental Project, and the team gratefully acknowledge this support.

Timor Gap

Our impoverished northern neighbour, Timor Leste, says it will be ready by early March 2018 to sign a new treaty with Australia on sharing more than \$30 billion of oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea. As well as the re-negotiated resource sharing agreement, the deal will include a permanent maritime boundary between the two countries for the first time. The precise details of the treaty are expected to be made public once Australia and East Timor have finished "consulting with private actors potentially affected by the new boundary." This represents a big climbdown on a centrepiece of Australian foreign policy in place since Australia sent troops to Timor Leste back in 1999. It provides a real opportunity for Timor Leste to establish long-lasting economic stability and self-reliance, as opposed to a dependence on receipt of foreign aid from donor countries.

Further visits

An invitation has been extended to Ekaristi Church to nominate two people to visit Glebe Road in 2018. A Dental Team of 3 dentists and 5 support staff will visit Marcelo 2 School in June 2018. Expressions of interest will be sought from anyone who wishes to join the September 2018 Exposure Trip.

Sincere thanks to the Team and to our congregation for your invaluable support and encouragement.

Noel Rothery, Convenor

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

Glebe Road Congregation has been participating in our partnership with Queensland Community Alliance with some members of our congregation involved in the Ipswich Core Team and in QCA initiatives. The Queensland Community Alliance is a coming together of faith groups, charities, unions, community organisations and ethnic associations to work together for the common good of our communities. The Ipswich group is made up of leaders from Glebe Rd & Ipswich City Uniting Churches, Church of Christ in Qld, Amnesty International, Booval & Ipswich Catholic Parishes, Together Union, United Voice Union, Qld Nurses & Midwives Union, Services Union and Ethnic community leaders supported by Multicultural Development Australia.

In Ipswich the QCA has been instrumental in forming a Mental Health Collective Impact project to bring together the various health and community groups servicing mental health issues to better support those facing these challenges. The QCA initiative has been successful in securing a grant of \$270,000 to fund a project worker for 2 years from the launch of the project in May 2017. This has been extremely successful and there is opportunity for future funding.

Despite promises to work with the Alliance, the former Mayor and Council had not been supportive of our projects or agreeing to meet with us. With an Mayoral Election scheduled, the Ipswich Core group decided to conduct a poll and invite the top polling four candidates to come to an Assembly and answer our call for commitment to work with the Alliance on identified issues should they be elected. This Assembly was held on Sunday 6th August at Ipswich City UCA and 103 people attended. There was a successful outcome with all Mayoral Candidates agreeing to work with the Alliance on the issues we identified. Our congregation was represented with 5 members attending.

Most recently, successful meetings have been held with the Mayor to further initiatives in our area.

The Queensland Community Alliance held a Founding Assembly in Brisbane City Hall on Wednesday, 30th August. Partner organisations joined together and gained assurances from the Premier to work with us on the issues of Care, Education and Employment – issues the community has identified through listening campaigns, table talks and assemblies. Uniting Churches throughout Ipswich and Brisbane joined together with over 1500 people at this event to demonstrate our commitment to work for the good of the community. Our Moderator, Rev. Dave Baker assisted in chairing the assembly and several Glebe Road members also attended. Negotiations continue to work for change in Aged Care, NDIS, and Employment and Training.

I have found involvement with the Alliance has provided excellent opportunities to develop relationships with community leaders and provides contacts for fresh engagement with our community. This Alliance of Churches, Community groups and Unions in Ipswich has also brought about change and improved services, especially for those who face Mental Health issues.

Rev. Gwen Fisher

CAROLS IN THE PARK

2017 was another successful year for the Carols in the Park. Not only did we have beautiful weather, but we were able to once again engage with the local community. This year we were fortunate enough to have the addition of a performance by the S-Troop as pre-carols entertainment which proved to be a real success with positive feedback from those attending. Once again, we were able to provide the community with a free event which was funded by the generous fundraising efforts and donations from our church community.

This year we also received a Christmas Events grant from the Ipswich City Council. A huge thank you must go out to all the volunteers who served the community in many different ways from cooking and serving at the BBQ, engaging with children in the craft area, being available to share about Glebe Road and God at the communications desk, delivering flyers, setting up stage and sound, and to those that were a part of the performance side of the Carols. Carols in the Park would not have been such a success without the support, encouragement and prayers of the church community.

We look forward to another year of sharing God's love with the community at this year's Carols in the Park. A special thank you must go to Peter Francis who again generously donated and arranged the production of the flyers. Also, a very special thanks to Paul Green and his sound team (including Tim Jackson) for all of the time they put in (the full day) and for the extremely low prices they were willing to give us to hire the sound and lighting gear.

Jeremy Bruce

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Ministry to our children at Glebe Road took on a variety of activities during 2017. Each of these Ministries, along with Mainly Music, come under the umbrella of our Children, Youth & Family ministry team.

Sunday morning programs in both the 8.15 and Xtreme during the 10.15 Services provided an opportunity for our children to grow in their faith whilst having fun and being creative. The opportunity to share their faith and pray for their family and friends has become an important part of their Sunday mornings. Dedicated leaders and helpers put together wonderful programs to cater to each age level, Creche, Kindy/PrePrep, Years 1 to 6 and a dedicated Cell group for those who are in Year 5 up through the High School years. It was great to be able to align those Sundays that the Preaching/Teaching series were being held in Church to what was being done within the Children's programs.

It has been quite exciting for the children to be involved in Church services during the year and particularly during Advent where the planning of the service was geared up to our children participating in every aspect of the service.

Family Fun day was held in early 2017 and was again a wonderful event in the life of our Church. Children and their parents enjoyed a morning of song, games and activities. Morning tea finished off the program and was a great time to fellowship with families from our Mainly Music program and families who had brought their little ones for Baptism along with our Church family. Nylie Bruce co-ordinated the planning and running of the day. Thank you Nylie for your heart for our Families and outreach at Glebe Rd. Thank you to all who helped out on the day your dedication to outreach is highly valued and very much appreciated.

Kids Hope continued during 2017 with 3 Mentors attending Silkstone State School for one hour each week of each of the Terms. It was most encouraging to hear the success stories from both the Mentors and Staff at the school. Whilst communication with the school remained an issue It was great and most encouraging to catch up with Claudian who is the school Chaplain, Rachel (Guidance Officer) & Kelly (Deputy Principal Junior School) at the end of the year to begin planning for 2018. The school is very supportive of the program and are very keen to see it continue. It is envisaged that our Mentors, Class Room Teachers and the Administration team will meet to ensure that Kids Hope remains an important outreach for our Church to be involved with.

Thank you to each of the leaders and helpers who so faithfully prepare themselves each week to plant and nurture the seeds of faith in our children. Without you our Children's programs simply would not exist. Your time and commitment is valued and appreciated as you follow the calling God has placed upon your heart in this ministry.

Judy Jackson, Coordinator

FAMILY CONNEXIONS

I became custodian of the former baptism records on 8 September 2014. I have been sending birthday cards to children baptized in Glebe Road Church from both services.

My first card was sent out on 20 September 2014. Three cards were sent out in 2014. Since then I have sent out 22 cards with another 5 birthday cards to send out which will take us into 2018. Fourteen families are Glebe Road families. This is done at no cost to the Church as the cards are handmade by Noela Rothery and her bunch of happy helpers. Postage is done through a donation from myself.

All of the families are contacted and invited to attend mainly music. They are also contacted when we have our Celebration days, Christmas inviting them to Carol's in the Park, Family Fun Days, Mother's Day, Father's Day, mainly music days and our Easter Services.

In 2017 we had 10 baptisms and 1 dedication.

Suffer the little children who come to me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of God - Mark 10: 13-16.

Margaret Coghlan

MAINLY MUSIC

Changes: Shirts and name badges featuring the new logo were purchased in February and have replaced the old uniform.

Team Training:

Fire Safety and Safe Ministry with children training was undertaken.

Saying Goodbye: We farewelled a number of families some after a long association. A few are moving out of the district, others have work commitments or children on the next stage of life's journey, looking forward with a mixture of excitement and trepidation to preschool or school.

It is so rewarding to see God at work in the warmth, the love, the connection which our families have with one another and with the team.

Easter Celebrations were well attended. Gifts were distributed and the good news of Easter with its message hope, its meaning life and its reason love proclaimed.

Family Fun Day: A number of our families attended this well-organized event.

Milestone: Ten years ago, mainly music was established at Glebe Rd.

What a privilege to be able to reach out to the community through the medium of music, fun and hospitality. Many lasting friendships have been initiated and nurtured over the years. We have been blessed by contact with and the participation of two hundred and seventy-two families during this period.

Our deep appreciation to our teams for their willingness to go the extra mile particularly when we are shorthanded. They routinely listen to, encourage and support our families on their faith journeys.

We are grateful to all of those from within our congregation and church leadership, who have invested their time, energy and talent to ensure the success of this ministry.

Moving Forward: We cannot do it without you.

We rely on your continued interest, encouragement, participation and prayer to propel us forward so that we, together, may be Christ's hands and feet, blessed to be a blessing to the families He brings to us in the future.

Carole Edwardson and Karen Madders for the mainly music team

SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM

In 2017 we cooked in February and July for both Bremer and Bundamba High Schools producing on average 140 good quality meals per cook for students at both of the schools and these were gladly accepted. We did have some left overs at the end of the year and these were given out for free at church to people in need. We cooked four different varieties trying to keep the cost as low as possible by doing simple meals which are frozen and stored in the Fellowship Centre freezers.

The chaplains from both schools contact the church office when they are getting low on meals and arrange to come to the church to collect them. They are appreciative of this service that we provide to students who need this support.

Thanks to the Cell Chicks for their time and effort, also to Greg Seymour for supplying the containers, and Karen Madders for organizing and printing the labels for us to place on the lids.

Maureen Paisley, Coordinator Bremer Meals Project

HIVE YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Hive program in 2017 saw established students continue to grow in their relationship with God as well as with the church. Hive was in 2017 a place in which many of our regular attendees, had a safe place, free from the judgement or pressure. We especially felt that this was important in 2017 with the ongoing turmoil for some of our students over political issues. The leadership team in 2017 endeavoured to provide an open environment focussed on maintaining a space where students, their parents, and God were priorities. It was the pleasure and honour of the leadership team to serve the church over our tenure and we are excited by the future of the group in new and capable hands.

Cameron Kelso

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

MINUTES - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 12TH MARCH 2017

Held at Glebe Road Uniting Church

Faith, Love, Action

- Welcome:** Meeting was opened at 10.50 a.m. by Adam Tipple who welcomed all to the meeting with a special welcome to new members of the congregation.
- Opening Prayer:** Peter Arnett opened the meeting in prayer.
- Attendance:** As per the Attendance Register circulated.
- Apologies:** As per the Attendance Register circulated.
- Correspondence:** Nil.
- Standing Orders:** The Congregation reminded that Consensus Voting will be used in Congregational meetings held at Glebe Road. Using either Orange or Blue card for your voting preference.

Chair reminded all in attendance that whilst anyone present today is very welcome to and indeed encouraged to contribute to the discussion and deliberations of this meeting, when it comes to the official voting process, only those who are confirmed members and members in association of the congregation are officially entitled to vote. For the purposes of this meeting your voting status will be taken entirely on trust.

Minutes of 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting:

The minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting as presented in the Annual Report 2016.

Moved, that the Minutes be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Approved by Consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Dave Hunter spoke to the Congregation about the progress of the Maritime Boundaries and Sea Justice - Timor

On 9 January 2017, Timor-Leste, Australia and the Conciliation Commission (The Hague) issued a [joint statement](#). The two countries agreed to terminate the [2006 CMATS Treaty](#) in its entirety. The termination will be effective on 10 April, three months after Timor-Leste legally notifies Australia that it is exercising its right to terminate under the treaty. The two governments also committed to negotiate permanent maritime boundaries, and the CMATS "gag rule," which Timor-Leste has been defying for the last three years, is no longer in effect.

La'o Hamutuk (partner campaign in Timor Leste) urges Australia to return to the binding dispute resolution mechanisms under the [International Court of Justice](#) and [UNCLOS](#), from which it withdrew two months before Timor-Leste became a sovereign nation (in order to reach a finalization of the maritime border dispute between the two countries).

On 24 January, with another [joint statement](#) that, on 20 January, Timor-Leste had written to the two international arbitration panels it had initiated against Australia (about spying and regarding pipeline payments) to withdraw its complaints. This was "the last step in the integrated package of confidence-building measures agreed ... in October 2016." The two countries "reaffirmed their commitment to work in good faith towards an agreement on maritime boundaries by the end of the conciliation process in September 2017."

On 13 February, the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCT) opened an inquiry into "Consequences of termination of the Treaty between Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea." (submissions now closed).

The Timor Sea Justice Campaign has welcomed the joint commitment of the governments of Australian and Timor Leste to negotiate a permanent maritime boundary.

The Timor Sea Justice Campaign has launched a new petition calling on Julie Bishop to finalise a permanent maritime border with Timor Leste halfway between the two coasts in accordance with international law.

The petition reads: "We call on the Australian Government to finalise a fair and permanent border with East Timor, halfway between our coasts, in accordance with international law." Dave encouraged the congregation to sign this petition which can be found on this site: <http://www.timorseajustice.com>

Annual Reports:

The 2016 Annual Reports have been available for the last few weeks, and these reports give us an in-depth view of the life of our Congregation and are a testament to the diversity and variety of activities in which our members have been involved over the last 12 months.

Peter Arnett expressed his thanks to Marilyn and those who assisted in the PowerPoint presentation presented to the Congregation outlining the life of our Church over the last 12 months.

Congregation given the opportunity for any questions or comments to these reports.

- Barbra Holmes – Women's Fellowship – Statement of Income and Expenditure in the Annual Report should read 31 December 2016, not 2015.
- Dave Murphy -10 year Maintenance Plan now complete and approved by Church Council.
- Col Alexander – Encouragement as a Church to say hello and develop a connection in our welcoming to newcomers.
- Lola – Record of member numbers. See Peter for details.

Peter moved that the 2016 Annual Reports (other than financial reports be received as tabled) seconded by Bev Bruce . Approved by Consensus.

Treasurers & Auditors Report:

Derek outlined that the Auditor's report prepared by R W Ramsey indicated that there were no concerns and that the financial reports presented fairly in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, the income and expenditure of the Glebe Road Uniting Church.

Derek presented the Financial Report to the Congregation

- Offerings – Breaking even for the year
- Fund supply Minister – process with Synod church pays upfront causes some concerns – synod does reimburse
- Office position 10 hrs per week, time banked up for Office closure

Congregation given the opportunity for any questions\comments on the financial report:

Thanks was expressed by Colin Alexander – debt down and good budget result
Manse – Rental payments – direct debit / fortnight

Derek also thanked Colin and others who assisted with the counting of the offerings.

Proposed 2017 Budget

Budget 2016 as shown in the Annual Report should read Budget 2017.
Derek commended the Auditor's Report, Treasurer's Report and proposed 2017 budget be approved by consensus.

Adam Tipple moved the motion that the Auditor's Report, Treasurer's Report and the Proposed 2017 budget be approved, seconded by Nyleta Bruce.
Approved by Consensus.

Fire Safety Report:

Presented by Rob Edwardson
91 Ministry leaders and other venue users participated in fire safety instruction
Good fire standards – fully compliant and recognized as one of the highest church fire standards in Qld Synod
Top Fire safety team and congregation co-operation
Problem identified that all organisation in the hands of one person –
Solution

- Fire Safety plan divided into several areas of responsibility
- Fire Safety Partners are invited to take on one or more
- Training, mentoring and oversight provided

Blue handouts list the opportunities for partners to be involved, take a handout and talk to either Rob or Peter for more details.

General Business:

No further business.

Election of Office Bearers and appointment of Auditor:

The following nominations and acceptance of positions:

Chairperson	Gwen Fisher nominated by Peter Arnett/2 nd David Murphy.
Secretary	Anita Hunter nominated by Adam Tipple/2 nd Kathy Hart
Auditor	R.W. Ramsey proposed by Derek Hirons/2 nd Carol Edwardson.

Approved by Consensus.

Peter Arnett expressed his thanks to Adam and Kathy for the outgoing positions held as Chairperson and Secretary.

Presbytery Representatives:

Janet White nominated by Dave Hunter/2nd Brad Case
Paul de Sauty nominated by Noel Rothery/2nd Colin Alexander.
Approved by Consensus.

Next Meeting:

To be advised

Closure:

Adam expressed his thanks for our engagement in this meeting and there being no further business at 11.40 a.m. Peter closed the meeting in prayer.

MINUTES - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 26th NOVEMBER 2017

Held at Glebe Road Uniting Church

Imagination, Courage, Faithfulness

Welcome & Opening Prayer

by Peter Arnett

Recording of those Present / Apologies

Apology from Gwen Fisher

Folders sent around for those present

Yes confirmed a quorum.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

These will be dealt with at next AGM - no business arising.

Inward / Outward Correspondence

No Inward or Outward Correspondence

Key Item of Business

Presentation of the Vision and Strategic Plan for Ministry and Mission

2016 - 2018 with integrated Action Plans 2017 - 2018

Thanks for the teams/individuals for the preparation of the Strategic Plan, including the Church Council for overseeing, and Hannah preparing the document and Marilyn for copying.

Under the leadership of Peter Case, we see GRUC growing from strength to strength, particularly thinking of the 5pm prayer gathering, showing where we are at, as a congregation.

The aim of these plans hinges on our prayerful relationship with God. To Discover Gods moving/Spirit in going forward. It is our blue print to 2019.

Some things have already been completed. Some will carry over to next year.

Invitation to comment or ask questions was offered.

Peter Case moved to accept Plan. David Murphy seconded.

Accepted by consensus

General Business

Special mention was given by Colin Alexander, in relation to the death and planned funeral of the Rev Norma Spears.

Announced church council elections on Sunday 11th March 2018

Next Meeting

AGM: Sunday 11th March 2018

Closing Prayer

Peter Arnett closed in prayer. Closed meeting 9.50am