

Glebe Road Ipswich Uniting Church



Annual Report 2018

**Prepared for the
Annual General Meeting
of the Congregation
on
Sunday 10th March 2019**

Growing

built on Faith, immersed in Love, empowered for Action

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MINISTER'S REPORT

It is with a grateful heart that I express my deep appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the life and ministry of Glebe Road Uniting Church during 2018. Thank you for your willingness to serve, to lead, to utilise your gifts and skills for the purpose of proclaiming the Good News of God's love for our community of Ipswich and, indeed, the whole world. To all who gather for worship; to all who are appointed as leaders, teachers, administrators, carers and helpers; to all who are elected as members of our Church Council; and to all who are appointed as representatives to the life of the wider church; thank you for your commitment to the fundamental tasks of each role and fulfilling your privilege of serving Christ. A special thanks to the members of ministry staff: Marilyn Scott (Office Administrator) and Mike McMillan (Associate Pastor - Youth & Young Adults).

One of the significant developments over the past twelve months has been the growing relationships between the leaders of our Ipswich Uniting Church Congregations under the visionary banner of Ipswich 2020. This has been marked by regular meetings of the Church Councils of Glebe Road UC, Ipswich City UC, Trinity Ipswich UC and Ipswich North UC. These gatherings have been facilitated by Rev Brian Hoole, Presbytery Minister of the Bremer Brisbane Presbytery, and myself. A formal independent consultation process began in the latter part of 2018 with the expectation that a number of proposals will be provided to the combined Church Councils to assist in the development of a clear vision for Ipswich 2020. This will be instrumental in shaping how each of the four congregations determine to move forward together in cohesion and strength, with greater effectiveness in shared ministry and mission.

Ultimately, the fruitfulness of our labour as a congregation, and as a part of Ipswich 2020, rests on our faithfulness to Jesus Christ. By God's grace we have achieved great things over this past year, and I commend to you the wide variety of reports contained within this document that bear testimony to our shared effectiveness in ministry and mission. We have faced significant financial challenges and continue to rejoice in God's faithfulness to us. So, I conclude with this word of exhortation to you:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."
Colossians 3:23-24.

Grace and Peace

Peter Arnett, Lead Minister

PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Presbytery Meetings are held at various locations throughout the Presbytery at four selected locations. This year the February meeting was at the Centenary U.C., June meeting at Oxley U.C., August meeting at Fassifern U.C. and the November meeting was held at the Forest Lake U.C.

Glebe Road Congregation is well represented by several people in other capacities at Presbytery meetings, however, Janet and I represent the congregation.

The February meeting was held at the Chapel Hill Uniting Church. The Rev Brian Hoole shared on the Greatest Commandment from Mark: 12:28-31. "Love God and Love your Neighbour". *We are challenged as church, congregations and individuals to love ourselves and share that love with others. Sharing that love not just with the lovely but showing love to those who are hard to love.* Monique Couglin spoke about POD (Period of Discernment). Seven people are currently engaged in a POD. Gemma Ward gave a presentation about her POD experience and how it has helped her to strengthen her faith. Pastor Scott Guyatt from Qld Synod Office gave a presentation on Qld synod Leadership Development Framework which aims to advance the church's mission through identifying, inviting, training, equipping and sustaining leaders. Rev. John Martin gave a Fair Trade presentation.

The May meeting was held at the Goodna Uniting Church. Discipleship report: Engaging with Generation Y & Z through workshops. Engaging with young adults through Community. Engaging with youth leaders through Renovators Dinner. Stretching Faith uses a panel to discuss topics such as Netflix, Sex, Faith & Theology. (It is live streamed on Facebook for those unable to attend). Unite Camp is a young adults retreat weekend

for 17+ age group. The Moderator spoke about the Governance Review undertaken at Synod Office. Other presentations were Strategic Planning for 2020-2025 for all of Queensland. What are the priorities and direction of Presbytery? There were four Task Groups - Discipleship, Community Engagement, Leadership and Sustainability.

The August meeting was held on the 25th. I was unable to attend due to overseas travel to attend my uncle's funeral in Toronto, Canada and Janet had another church commitment but was able to attend part of the meeting. At the meeting, there were discussions around Assembly decisions - motion to challenge on the decisions was lost. Synod initiatives were updated. Presbytery Report to Synod was discussed.

The November Meeting was held at the Goodna Uniting Church on Tuesday 29th at 6.00pm. It is worth noting here Presbytery Meetings have changed slightly. Presbytery meets four times per year. Twice on a Saturday at selected church venues and twice on Tuesday evenings which are held at the Goodna Uniting Church. This is due to the Presbytery office being located at Goodna. Approval was given for the purchase of a property in Ripley. A motion was raised and approved that after nine consecutive years of service on a Presbytery Committee elected members must step down for a period of at least one year. Lab 1 workshops in February/March 2019. Easter Madness in April 2019. First people's Working Group - request to support Day of Mourning - Sunday prior to 26th January 2019. Other presentations were Uniting Care and Prison & Kairos program. Table groups discuss how we might do Presbytery meetings differently.

Paul de Sauty and Janet White, GRUC Presbytery Representatives

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Once again throughout 2018, the Church Council has endeavoured to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit's direction for the Council and for the church. As a council we have spent time in prayer, devotion, conversation and openness seeking God's wisdom for Glebe Road. It is with excitement and anticipation that we look to continue this journey in 2019.

As a congregation 2018 saw us share in joys and sorrows with our church family and wider community. We had the privilege of welcoming several new families and new babies from within and outside our church family through baptism and membership into our church community. We also shared in the loss experienced by those in our church family as loved ones went to be with God. We pray that in both these experiences we as the church were able to share the love and grace of God with those celebrating new life or a life well lived as a good and faithful servant.

2018 saw new beginnings in the Church Council with elders' elections held in March. Ruth Wilkins, Daniel Francis & Nyleta Bruce were all newly elected to Church Council along with the existing returning elders. Bev Bruce and Noel Rothery finished up on Church Council at this time and it is with hearts full of gratitude that we thank both Bev and Noel for their many years of faithful, godly service to the congregation of Glebe Rd through Church Council. The congregation and Church Council are very blessed to have these, and many more faithful servants go before us and set a strong foundation on which we can build. We pray that God continues to bless both Bev and Noel as they continue to serve within the life of Glebe Rd. And finally, we welcomed Mike McMillian to the role of Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adult. This exciting appointment has helped us to re-engage with the youth and young adults in our congregation and wider community and we look forward to seeing the fruits of the work Mike and his team of volunteers are achieving with this age group.

Ipswich 2020 has been a focus and commitment of the Church Council throughout 2018 and we look forward to seeing what 2019 will bring us as a result of this relationship. Through the process of conversation; sharing of passions and hopes for our congregations; and prayer, we have seen the Ipswich Uniting Churches work together on projects such as the Frontier Services Bush Dance and Carols in the Park. As this relationship grows our prayer is that as Ipswich Uniting Churches, we can become more effective agents of God within the local community.

As a congregation we will continue to strive to be *a community 'built on Faith, immersed in Love and empowered for Action'*. These values are evident in the updated Strategic Plan, with action plans being prepared by our ministry teams for 2019. It is encouraging to see such passion and willingness to serve our congregation and community in differing

ways. Let our prayer be that God continues to challenge and inspire us to be more of the people of God that He is calling us to be and that we have the courage to step out in faith and show His love through our actions.

In His Limitless Love

Nyleta 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 2018. 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 2019.

The following is a summary:

- Offerings averaged \$3,789 per week for the full year which was below the budget of \$4,150 per week and resulted in being \$18,759 under budget. Direct debits account for 60% of offerings for the full year.
- Balance in Parish trading account at end of 31/12/18 is credit \$15,962.54. The cheques not presented amounted to \$0. The Offering for 30th December was not banked until January 2019 but included in the 2018 figures.
- Trading ANZ account for the full year was an overall loss of \$2,020.07.
- We have definite commitments of the following:
 - Timor Appeal \$1,184
 - Mainly Music \$2,116
 - Carols in the Park \$1,422
 - Resurrection \$141
 - Hive \$408
 - Collision \$160
 - Timor Dental Project -\$375
 - Youth Ministry \$1,483
 - Roof Appeal \$1,500

There will be further calls on these funds during 2019.

- ATO owes \$891.
- Balance in Project account for the roof appeal is \$11,645.25.
- Balance in Project account for Timor Leste appeal is \$4,049.23.
- Balance of Project account for Timor Dental appeal is \$8,156.27.
- Roof, Timor, and Timor Dental appeals are now transferred on a quarterly basis from the Church account to the Project account.
- Balance of the MSS loan account now \$14,921.26
- \$706.55 for water charges in 2018 paid in Jan 2019.
- Manse continued to be rented by Tony and Lydia Shaw for \$330 per week throughout 2018.
- Donations for the Church roof of \$2,600, \$1,100 which was from the cake stall at the Garden Expo and the other a \$1,500 donation from the Glebe Garden Club.
- Generous donations, to assist the finances of the Church, of \$3,000 from the Silkstone Eisteddfod, \$1,000 from the Glebe Garden Club, \$3,000 from the Women's Fellowship and other various donations from the members of the congregation through additional offerings and donations.
- Fund raising with a chocolate drive and theatre night.
- Spent around \$5,500 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 2017 was not taken out until January 2018 and the December 2018 payment not taken out until January 2019.
- Office Administrator at 10 hours per week.
- Mission and Service Fund supported at \$31,458.
- An amount of \$6,000 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 transferred.
- \$24,212 spent on repairs to Shalom House, namely the roof replaced, painting of the verandah and the outside upstairs cladding all round. More details in the Property Manger's report. This was funded by a drawdown on the MSS loan account.
- \$4,720 was spent out of the roof account to repair and paint the Neighbourhood Centre roof.

The 2019 Budget was again framed around having to make some very realistic and difficult decisions. All expenditure was examined and reviewed by the Resource team, and much of it was on-going expenses, and all were reduced to the absolute minimum. The Budget is showing an overall deficit of \$13,186. Offerings were set at \$200,000 which is the less than the 2018 Budget figure (\$215,000). In 2018 we averaged \$3,789 per week which resulted in being \$18,759 under budget so to meet the budget figure of \$3846 there will need to be an increase of approximately \$57 per week. There are still a number of 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 slightly reduced our Mission and Service Fund by \$1,800 to \$29,657 which is welcomed.

Synod have set up a Redress Fund to enable them to pay people who were sexually abused as children under Uniting Church care. All congregations have to contribute to this fund from 1st July 2019. Our commitment for the financial year 2019/2020 is expected to be \$3,259. Hence for the last 6 months of 2019 we have budgeted \$1,630 but we will not know the exact amount until 1st July 2019 as it is based on the payouts made during the 2018/2019 financial year.

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

We were pleased in January 2018 to welcome the University of the Third Age to utilise our complex for their administration, computing and other classes. They were based in the Neighbourhood Centre for administration and computer lab and some of their classes, but also utilised Shalom for many classes with some also using the Fellowship Centre and the Church overflow at times. This will continue during 2019.

The main items in the budget are as follows:

- Offerings set at an average of \$3,846 per week
- Office Administration at 10 hrs per week
- Associate Pastor at 2 days a week.
- \$6,000 for maintenance of buildings and grounds.
- \$29,657 Mission and Service Fund (a decrease of \$1,844).
- Rental of manse increased slightly and should generate \$17,472, with water usage to be paid by tenants.

The Mutual Support Scheme (MSS) Loan balance is \$14,921 which is supported with Depositors investing and supporting the loan with just over \$31,000 in the scheme. We drew down on the loan to allow us to pay for the repairs to Shalom House of \$24,212 but still managed to reduce overall debt by approximately \$4,259. This means that our loan will be fully paid by end of July this year with the balance of the MSS loan payments (approx.\$12,000) 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 as Property Manager, 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 has enabled the church to have a more regular income and to budget more effectively and with some confidence. During 2018 direct debit offering accounted for 60% 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 2018 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.

I commend to you the financial statements for 2018 and the Budget for 2019 and look forward to another challenging year ahead.

Derek Hirons, Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR 1/1/2018 - 31/12/2018

Church Council Fund ANZ	
Opening Balance ANZ	17,053.47
	321,994.5
Income	4
GST Reimbursed	7,856.00
GST income	812.76
Other Income	0.00
	-
Total Expenditure	324,014.6
GST on Expenditure	1
	-7,739.62
Balance as at 31/12/18	15,962.54
Mutual Support Scheme	
Opening Debit Balance	-19,180.31
Repayment of Principal	28,632.00
Draw down for Shalom repairs	-24,121.51
Interest credited	465.88
Interest debited	-717.32
Balance as at 31/12/18	-14,921.26
Invested by Depositors	31,282.84
Project account	
Balance brought forward roof	15,260.25
Balance brought forward Timor Dental	3,994.00
Balance brought forward Timor appeal	3,183.00
Income Timor Dental	4,162.27
Income Timor appeal	4,594.53
Income Roof appeal	1,105.00
Transfer to Council Fund Timor appeal	-3,728.30
Transfer to Council Fund Roof appeal	-4,720.00
Interest brought forward	81.81
Interest	94.87
Balance as at 31/12/18	24,027.43

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Credits	
Church Council Fund	15,962.54
GST owed from ATO (approx)	891.00
Manse water charges owed (paid Jan 2019)	706.55
Timor Dental Project	375.00
Debits	
Mutual Support Scheme	-14,921.26
Bremer Meals	-347.00
Timor Leste Appeal	-1,184.25
Mainly Music	-2,116.05
Appeals	0.00
Carols in the Park	-1,422.74

Roof Appeal	-1,500.00
Emergency relief	0.00
Resurrection	-141.30
Hive	-407.82
Collision	-160.40
Youth Ministry	-1,483.10
Timor Dental Project	0.00
Nett Debit Balance as at 31/12/18	-5,748.43
Cheques not presented to 31st December 2018	0.00
Offering for 30 December not banked until 2019	991.90

Cumulative Position	Budget		
Average Offerings 1st Qtr 2018	3595.00	4150	\$7,215 under budget
Average Offerings 2nd Qtr 2018	3695.00	4150	\$13,130 under budget
Average Offerings 3rd Qtr 2018	3773.00	4150	\$18,031 under budget
Average Offerings 4th Qtr 2018	4094.00	4150	\$18,759 under budget
Average Offerings 2015	4064.00	4150	\$4,472 under budget
Average Offerings 2016	4085.00	4150	\$3,380 under budget
Average Offerings 2017	3626.00	4150	\$27,254 under budget

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT 1/1/2018 - 31/12/2018

Income				
Offerings				
Direct Debit Offering	\$118,190.00			
Envelope offering	\$51,080.05			
Loose offering	\$27,769.81			
Total Offerings			\$197,039.86	
Donations				
Special purposes (External)	\$75.20			
Roof donations	\$2,600.00			
Bequests	\$3,000.00			
Church purposes	\$1,058.80			
Resources for cell groups	\$642.74			
Manse rental	\$17,160.00			
Solar rebates	\$4,073.31			
Loan income UCIS	\$24,121.51			
Transfer from project account	\$4,720.00			
CD Sales	\$48.00			
Hive	\$277.45			
Use of complex			\$25,418.02	
Exam Supervision	\$3,575.67			
Use of complex bond	\$1,100.00			
Total Donations			\$62,452.68	
RE Reimbursements			\$240.00	
Timor Leste Appeal			\$8,925.00	
Timor Dental Project			\$3,136.55	
Special Gift family			\$365.00	

Sound desk donation		\$350.00	
Library donation		\$275.00	
Church Office account		\$820.50	
Glebe Garden Club reimburse		\$2,559.70	
Market day/Garage/Fund Raising		\$60.00	
Chocolate drive		\$1,084.25	
Fund raising		\$1,236.00	
Women's F'ship Donation		\$3,000.00	
Mainly Music		\$2,081.80	
Sound Ministry		\$206.18	
Silkstone Eisteddfod donation		\$3,000.00	
Glebe Garden Club Donations		\$1,000.00	
Silkstone Eisteddfod reimburse		\$2,099.37	
Carols in the park		\$3,658.75	
First Aid reimbursements		\$115.00	
Neighbourhood Centre		\$583.20	
Manse water reimbursement		\$321.02	
Security reimbursements		\$117.05	
Miscellaneous Income		\$1,849.61	
Total Income			\$321,994.54
Total Cost of Sales			\$0.00
Gross Profit			\$321,994.54

Expenses				
Ministry Expenses				
Stipend		\$57,636.00		
Vehicle - Mileage allowance		\$11,688.00		
Beneficiary Fund		\$8,526.00		
Other Synod payments		\$1,848.00		
House allowance		\$16,200.00		
Church office salaries		\$13,193.51		
Church office salaries on cost		\$1,373.53		
Pastor Salary		\$25,605.12		
Pastor Salary on costs		\$2,586.00		
Other Ministry Expenses				
Carols in The Park	\$2,672.69			
Emergency Relief	\$550.00			
Special gift family	\$300.00			
Fund raising expenses	\$1,174.56			
Eisteddfod expenses	\$2,097.63			
Christian Education & RE	\$596.94			
Music Ministry	\$628.03			
Youth Ministry expenses	\$224.38			
East Timor expenses	\$8,313.75			
Copyright expenses	\$874.55			
Professional staff development	\$300.00			
Kids Hope - World Vision	\$499.10			
Cell resources	\$292.25			
Worship expenses	\$640.01			
Timor Dental Project	\$5,145.55			
Library resources	\$575.83			

Total Other Ministry expenses		\$24,885.27		
Total Ministry Expenses			\$163,541.43	
Mission & Service Fund			\$31,457.52	
Mainly Music			\$2,195.64	
Insurance			\$11,308.00	
Legal & Accounting			\$80.00	
Maintenance				
Sound equipment expenses		\$256.18		
Church building repairs		\$403.18		
Fellowship centre repairs		\$894.55		
Shalom House repairs		\$24,212.47		
Roof appeal		\$1,105.00		
General repairs		\$1,071.95		
Neighbourhood centre repairs		\$5,631.82		
Grounds expenses		\$1,275.26		
Fire Equipment		\$723.06		
Total Maintenance			\$35,573.47	

Office expenses				
Telephone		\$1,145.88		
Computing expenses		\$430.79		
Photocopier		\$1,090.62		
Stationery		\$704.48		
Printing expenses		\$118.40		
Postage expenses		\$151.81		
Advertising		\$257.72		
Church Office expenses		\$21.94		
Exam Supervision		\$1,800.00		
Total Office Expenses			\$5,721.64	
Services				
ICC Rates		\$4,419.20		
Water and sewerage expenses		\$11,697.46		
Electricity		\$8,361.93		
Cleaning expenses		\$830.41		
Cleaning supplies		\$637.45		
Pest Control expenses		\$509.09		
Mowing and Cleaning expenses		\$10,400.00		
Sanitary expenses		\$1,077.86		
Catering expenses		\$306.98		
Tea and Coffee expenses		\$450.53		
Garden Club		\$2,622.43		
Security expenses		\$1,708.94		
safety expenses		\$186.36		
Bond reimbursement use complex		\$520.00		
Total Services			\$43,728.64	
Loan repayments				
Mutual Support loan payment		\$28,632.00		
Total Loan repayments			\$28,632.00	
Miscellaneous expenses			\$1,776.27	
Total Expenses				\$324,014.61
Operating Profit				(\$2,020.07)
Total Other Income				\$0.00
Total Other Expenses				\$0.00
Net Profit/(Loss)				(\$2,020.07)

BUDGET 2019

Income	
Envelope, Direct Debit & Loose Offering (<i>Av 3846/wk</i>)	200,000.00
Mission Partner Income	3,000.00
Eisteddfod Donation	3,000.00
Use of Complex	25,000.00
Donations, sundries,	8,000.00
Manse Rental	17,472.00
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
Solar Rebates	4,000.00
Total Income	280,972.00
Expenditure	
Stipend	58,848.00
Car & Mileage Allowance	11,688.00
Beneficiary Fund / Synod Levies	10,464.00
House allowance	16,644.00
Mission & Service Fund	29,657.00
Redress Scheme	1,629.68
Church office Admin Salary	13,395.77
Pastor Salary	30,570.00
Professional Development Staff	600.00
Project fund for long term maintenance	12,000.00
Catering	500.00
Electricity	8,500.00
Telephones/Internet	1,200.00
ICC Rates	4,500.00
Water & sewerage	11,860.00
Manse Expense	500.00
Christian Education / RE	500.00
Mission Partner expenses	3,000.00
Insurance	11,500.00
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 and pest control	2,500.00
Stationary / photocopying / copyrights	3,900.00
Advertising	500.00
Youth leadership / conferences / retreats	500.00
Music Ministry	500.00
Sound Equipment	1,000.00
Computing	1,000.00
Carols in the Park	3,000.00
MSS repayments	16,702.00
Young Families Ministry	500.00
Kids Hope	1,000.00
Sundries	10,000.00
Total Expenditure	294,158.45
Net Profit / Loss	-13,186.00

PROPERTY OFFICER'S REPORT

I will have served in this position for 6 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. 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. This year has been exceptionally demanding, and while all the minor maintenance issues have been omitted, this report highlights the major issues that I have been involved with this year as Property Maintenance Manager as follows:

Property Break-ins:

The Glebe Road Uniting Church is a large complex that has resulted in many break-ins during the time I've been in this position. Unlike other years, I am pleased to announce, for the first time, there have been no reported break-ins during the last 12-month period. I pray this trend continues.

Church Property Maintenance Issues:

1. Church Building:

Roof Leaks: While the roof requires replacement, it continues to be a huge problem controlling water leaks. When looking from the ground, the roof does not appear to be as bad as I have been stating. However; when walking on the roof, the amount of rust and patchwork becomes apparent and amplifies the need to have the roof replaced. Because of the cost, it is the "patchwork" repair that has kept us going. This is very much apparent now in the ceiling of the entrance foyer of the church. Above the "Notices" table there is a large hole in the ceiling, and right above that, there are rust holes in the roof where water has been pouring in. Funds from the Garden Club were given to the church to have this problem fixed. The contractor has been and carried out "patchwork" repair, as the rust problem is worse than first thought when the roofing panels were lifted. We are hopeful the work will bide us through for a while, however; it is unknown how successful this work has been until the next torrential rain. If successful, the church foyer ceiling will then be repaired.

2. Neighbourhood Centre:

Low Water Pressure: Water pressure in the Neighbourhood Centre has been a problem for a few years. This year the water pressure diminished to such a level that there was only a trickle coming out of the taps, and time had come whereby the problem needed fixing. The low water pressure was being caused in the old galvanised piping, where internal rust was so bad, the pipe was completely blocked. All galvanised piping and associated faulty plumbing within the Neighbourhood Centre needed replacing. After receiving quotes from plumbers, all the galvanised piping was replaced. Unfortunately; while this was an expensive exercise, it needed to be done.

Painting of Roof: Most congregational members would have noticed the extensive surface rust on the roof of the Neighbourhood Centre which was starting to spread at a rapid rate. An inspection of the roof revealed the roof was in excellent condition, apart from the surface rust. Treatment of this rust was required, as it is believed the roof would quickly resemble the old roof on Shalom house within a few years. Quotes to treat the rust and paint the roof were received from painters. The work involved high-pressure cleaning, two coats of special rust preventing paint, finishing with normal coatings of paint. It is believed the life expectancy of this roof has now been extended for some decades.

3. Shalom House:

Roof Replacement and Repairs: As you are aware, Shalom House has undergone some major changes this year, and before this work was done, a lot of time and effort went on behind the scenes. Before any work was to be carried out, I was asked by Church Council to submit a report in relation to costs and benefits involved in either demolishing the building, or repair of the following maintenance issues:

- Roof replacement
- Sewerage and storm water maintenance issues, and
- Painting of the upstairs balcony area

The roof had deteriorated to a point where numerous rust holes allowed water to pour onto the upstairs carpet. The sewer line from the upstairs toilet consisted of

the old style “Cast Metal” and “Lead Pipe” which had a horizontal crack a good half meter long. During torrential rain, water would back up against the Green Street windows and pass through causing a lake of water on the vinyl floor. The final report submitted to Church Council revealed that demolishing Shalom House for extra car parking was an extremely costly exercise, compared to carrying out the replacement of the roof and other maintenance issues. Accordingly; the roof has been replaced, storm water drainage has been added along the Green Street windows to drain the water away, and the sewer pipe from the upstairs toilet has been replaced.

Painting of Upper Shalom House: The balcony on upper Shalom House was in an extremely bad state whereby virtually no paint existed on the main wooden beams, where the timber was about to start “wood rot”, unless something was done about the paint condition very soon. As a result of the maintenance approval from Church Council, this issue was also included to have the balcony repainted. Stephen De Sauty was given the task, and after some discussion, Stephen included the painting of the entire upper Shalom House for material costs only. Thank you, Stephen. This painting task also included the balcony floor to be cleaned by high pressure water and then stained. With the replacement of the roof and the painting, Shalom House has taken on a new face and looks great. Feel free to inspect this work carried out in upper Shalom House, which is now very acceptable for group/ministry use.

Car Damage: For those members not aware, a few months ago a car was travelling east along Glebe Road at high speed when it decided to turn into Green Street. Not being able to navigate the corner, the car passed untouched through a street sign and power pole before colliding with the brick wall of Shalom House. The momentum took the car along the wall smashing windows, colliding into an air conditioning compressor, before veering off and hitting a tree, snapping it off at the base. This issue is very involved, and because of the Christmas break, it is still in the hands of our insurers. I have been working closely with the Insurance Assessor, and work to repair the damage is expected to begin soon.

4. **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. A lot of work has been carried out in the Mezzanine whereby a lot of rubbish was disposed of in the dumpster, and the walls and carpet have been cleaned. Additionally; substantial shelving has been installed in the alcoves to cater for much needed storage space.

5. **Manse:**

Property Inspections: 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. As a result, minor maintenance issues have been resolved.

Toilet Blockage: Due to a toilet blockage, Urbane Utilities were called to the Manse to rectify the problem. Checks carried out revealed that the blockage was located just over the rear fence in the neighbour’s yard. A special Digger was called in to dig up the neighbour’s back garden to a depth of approximately 2 meters. It was revealed a crack had formed in the plastic pipe where it fed into the main sewer line. The pipe was completely blocked by roots from the trees in the neighbour’s garden. A new pipe was fitted, and the problem solved, with no cost to the church.

6. **Pest Control:**

Courtesy Pest Control have treated all church buildings and grounds 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. These substances are low toxicity and safe – unless you are a cockroach. However; to be effective, these substances need to be left there and not wiped away. This work has a 12-month warranty, and if any infestations still exist after a reasonable time, the contractor will return to address the situation.

7. **Air Conditioner Filters:**

In relation to the Synod Safety Audit, 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 every 12 months. This work was completed, and I thank all those able-bodied members for your help in cleaning the air conditioning filters, especially those situated high on the walls of the church auditorium. Thanks guys - same time, same place next year.....!

8. Fence Repair:

The church was approached by the real estate agents associated with the property next to the Fellowship Centre about fence repair. The fence is of a wood structure in black soil and has waves in it. If not repaired, the fence was in danger of falling apart in a short space of time. The church agreed to pay half the cost of repair.

9. Property Movement Register:

The use of church property relates to the following rationale:

- Church equipment/furniture is purchased and maintained primarily to be used at the church for the day to day activities operated/controlled by the church.
- Location and accessibility of such equipment/furniture is paramount for the ongoing activities management utilising church property.
- Church activities have absolute priority for the use of all equipment and furniture over and above any borrowing for private use.

A new Property Movement Register has been approved by Church Council and a copy of this document is kept in the Church Office. It outlines the movement and borrowing of church property, the procedures required, and the contact coordinators associated with the property. The Property Signing Out Register is located on top of the filing cabinets in the office. If unsure, or if you have any questions, please talk to me.

10. 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:

- Maintaining the "GRUC Maintenance Plan" ensuring all tasks are carried out.
- Lopping of trees - especially the tree in the centre car park.
- Repair/replacement of Church lights be it internal or security.
- Sound system - replacement of four (4) Fold-Back speakers - at no cost to the church.
- Extra power points in the Neighbourhood Centre.
- Bi-Annual inspection/testing of circuit breakers by electrician.
- 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. I have received numerous comments from people outside the church saying how good the gardens look. The garden between the Church and Glebe Road is very noticeable through the Church windows. Again, I invite members to take a walk though this area. You will not be disappointed. 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

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 2018.

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. False alarm callouts are significantly reduced owing to more confident operation of the system and careful entry to the buildings, and reduction of gecko activity. No unauthorised entries were recorded.

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. Keyholders are requested to re-read and apply the opening and closing procedures posted at all security keypads.

Appreciation

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

My sincere appreciation to Jim & Paul for their reliable and unflagging commitment in sharing responsibility for security monitoring and their availability for callouts at all hours of day or night, ensuring we maintain an effective service for protection of our GRUC property.

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.

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.

AS 3745 requires a Workplace to have an Emergency Planning Committee (EPC), appointed by the employer. Peter Arnett, Kent Wilkins and Rob Edwardson presently constitute the EPC by default. Church Council has referred the matter of a formal EPC to the Resource Ministry Team for consideration in 2019.

Fire Safety Instruction

In May, Kent Wilkins and Rob Edwardson completed a one-day certificated training course, Fire Extinguisher / Fire Warden / Chief Fire Warden with National Fire Safety Council in Brisbane. Kent is working closely with R.E. in all aspects of GRUC fire & emergency safety.

From May to August, 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/Lighthouse which was done by Mike McMillan. Occasional venue users continue to be given basic instruction before their events.

In June, Peter Arnett, Mike McMillan and Marilyn Scott met with Rob Edwardson to consider Staff / Administration team response to general emergencies. A new bomb threat checklist and emergency contacts list is now located beside phones in the offices, including the U3A office at the Neighbourhood Centre.

A Fire Safety Trainer Resource Book has been compiled for GRUC use and also provided to U3A to assist them to train their own volunteers. In December, Rob Edwardson conducted a Train the Trainer session with U3A leaders to introduce the material to them.

Emergency Evacuation Practice ("Fire Drill")

An Emergency Evacuation Practice was conducted during the 8.15 service on 21 October with a Qld Fire & Rescue crew in attendance afterwards.

The drill was commenced without prior notice to wardens. Preparation for the drill was lacking in some aspects, but it proved to be effective, providing some valuable insights for future reference.

Alarm System

Enquiries have been made to see if the fire alarm function in the security system could be used. This is impractical because it is slower than our present procedure of calling 000 direct and requires additional training on use of the keypad for activating the fire alarm.

Using the keypad sends a signal via the Back-2-Base security monitoring centre, who then call 000 and rostered security person, adding delay and potentially providing less details to identify the site or condition of the emergency. It also does not provide an open phone link to a person on site. We will continue to call 000 direct.

Communications

Improved means of communication between the emergency control point and evacuation assembly areas is reconsidered each year. Mobile phone and UHF 2-way radio have been

proposed but considered impractical on the basis of cost, maintenance, training, and operational effectiveness.

We will continue to rely on messages being carried between areas. The Neighbourhood Centre gates are to be kept unlocked at all times to provide a safe route from Eileen St to Green St (for a fire in the church building). Warden training will confirm this procedure.

Equipment Inspection and Testing

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

Appreciation

My sincere appreciation to Camillo and Kent for providing valuable assistance in sharing responsibility for the Fire & Evacuation Plan, and to Rev Peter Arnett for his ongoing support as part of the team, ensuring we maintain an effective Plan for the safety of the congregation and our guests.

Rob Edwardson

VENUE BOOKING REPORT

This report is to help you be aware of the popularity of our church premises with the wider community; and to understand why the venue you would prefer for your ministry group or event may not be available at the time you wish.

We try to accommodate as many users as possible; but there are occasions when we ask hirers and “our own people” to shift or cancel an event. Most users are flexible, and I thank you for your graciousness on those occasions. It helps greatly when users advise me of their dates and preferred venue; it’s not safe to assume availability.

The attached list may give you some idea of our “busy-ness”:-

U3A	Full time lessee of Neighbourhood Centre and Weekly hire of venues for classes	
Cancer Council	Annual	Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea
Ipswich Library	“	Children’s Pop-up Library
Ipswich Music Soc	“	Concert
Music Schools (2)	“	Concerts
Dance School	“	Concert
Child Care Centres (2)	“	Christmas Parties
Amnesty International	“	Information Night
Lions Club	“	Youth Awards
World Day of Prayer	“	Worship
Fashion Show	“	Support Timor Project
University	Bi-Annual	Exams (4 weeks)
Ipswich Multi Birth	“	Baby Bazaar
“	“	Parent Information Nights
“	Fortnightly	Playgroup
Ipswich Hospital Foundation	Weekly	2 Fitness Classes
Playgroups Queensland	“	Blue Jays Playgroup
Martial Art Schools (2)	“	4 nights/week
Uniting Care	“	Support Group
Painting for Pleasure	“	Pleasure Group
Queensland Community Alliance	“	Info/planning

The BIG events of Silkstone Eisteddfod and Gardeners’ Expo are “our own” and require much “juggling” to accommodate other users, and this usually works well.

During the year, we have many enquiries for events we cannot accommodate due to legal and insurance requirements and restrictions.

We know the hiring out of our venues brings helpful revenue, and it's gratifying to be recognised as a vibrant part of our general community.

My thanks go to Marilyn Scott, Derek Hirons, David Murphy and Rob Edwardson who help facilitate the smooth execution of this ministry.

Robyn Kunde, Convenor

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Team members: Rev. Peter Arnett, Xavier Camillo, John Fisher, Dan Francis, Rev. Gwen Fisher

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. It is hoped that all congregational members will be able to participate in a cell group.

In Term 1 of 2018, 4 new groups commenced:

- "Being, Belonging & Believing" (confirmation studies) led by Rev. Peter
- "Lent Studies" an evening group led by Rev. Peter
- "Lent Studies" a Thursday morning group led by Rev. Gerda Olafsen
- Camillo began a Friday evening group in his home

During 2018 the following groups have been meeting:

- ❖ Evening study group - led by Rev. Peter
- ❖ Cell Chicks - alternate Tuesday evenings - leader - Bev Bruce
- ❖ Camillo's home group - alternate Friday evenings
- ❖ Rothery's home group - alternate Friday evenings
- ❖ Ladies evening group - alternate Thursday evenings - led by Marg Coghlan & Judy Jackson
- ❖ Seasons group - led by Rev. Trevor Foote while he was in residence
- ❖ Daytime group - led by Rev. Gerda Olafsen

The Discipleship Ministry Team has prepared discipleship and study resources that are available for all the groups and meetings of group leaders were held in the past year for support and training.

Over the past year a program of teaching and preaching themes was introduced to provide focused learning for the congregation:

- Being, Belonging, Believing (Confirmation studies)
- Lenten Studies
- Discovering your Spiritual Gifts
- Emotionally Healthy Spirituality

In order to provide discipleship resources for the congregation, the Borrowing Library was launched on Sunday 29th April with special celebrations on the day. Balloons were given to children who borrowed a book, and adults who borrowed a book on launch day were treated with a barista coffee and cookie. Grahame Tainton generously volunteered to provide administration of the library and cataloguing of the books. A roster has been put in place to ensure that the Library is available following both services each week. Two mobile bookshelves hold the increasing number of books available in our Library. We now have over 300 books available.

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

Rev Gwen Fisher, Convenor

PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer requests in 2018 covered numerous situations from the start of life (four-week old baby) to end of life, and various problems in between, plus prayers of thanks for answered prayer. The Prayer Ministry Team are here to pray for those who seek the communal support of the congregation. God cherishes all prayer because it brings us closer to him. On communal prayer Matthew in 18:20 (The Message) writes "And when two or three are together because of me, you can be sure I will be there." The Team is praying on your behalf to complement your individual prayers.

If you have a prayer request, please email: prayermt@gleberd.com.au. This address is preferable to my personal account because it can be accessed by other members of the team should I be unavailable.

Ken Fischer

PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Prayer & Pastoral Care Ministry Team has continued to provide oversight and energy to the further development of prayer ministry and the pastoral care network across the congregation. The Team is comprised of Ruth Wilkins, David Hunter, Vi Beaumont, Wendy Engler, Jim O'Grady and Peter Arnett.

The Team has: prepared a new Welcome Pack for distribution to visitors and newcomers; hosted a 'getting to know you' afternoon tea; and overhauled the Pastoral Care Network to be launched early in 2019. We are also looking forward to Ruth Wilkins taking up the reins as Convenor in 2019.

Peter Arnett, Convenor

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

In 2018 the Worship Ministry Team continued to support the worshipping life of our community through planning for Celebration Services and supporting vibrant worship. The Congregation gathered for Celebration Services at significant times in the church calendar including Easter Services, a remembrance service and Advent & Christmas. These services are important for our congregation as we unite in worship.

The Team also continued to work through activities listed in the Strategic Plan, including discussions about new creative and performing arts teams, helping to identify teaching series for the year, and encouraging participation of our children and young people in Sunday worship.

We'd like to express our thank to everyone who contributes to worship in the life of the church and acknowledge the many people who give of their gifts and abilities each week. We're looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us all in 2019.

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, 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.

The team are also invested in continuing to contribute their gifts to the Carols in the Park. This is a great time of coming together of the church and wider community to celebrate the birth of Christ. We are thankful to the Garden Club for allowing us to run a BBQ at their Expo with funds going towards the expenses involved in running our Carols in the Park. A big thankyou to Greg Seymour and all of the team (and others) that helped with the BBQ. Also a big thankyou to all of those others, Kath Hart and Karen Madders come to mind, for their efforts in fundraising for the Carols in the Park.

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.

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 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 2018 included:

February	Planning evening, Coffee & Dessert night.
March	Incinerator Theatre Night (Fundraiser for Carols)
April	Games Night in Church Hall - Coffee and Dessert
May	Late Afternoon at Shorncliffe Pier - Fish and Chips for tea
June	Bushwalk at Simpson's Falls - followed by Lunch
July	Casserole Night
August	Ten Pin Bowling at Richlands
September	Brisbane Greeters Tour - CityCat from Guyatt Park
October	Visit Goma
November	Mt Gravatt Marketta
December	Christmas Breakfast at Dovetails

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.

PAINTING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

We commenced the year on 16th January as planned and welcomed June to our group. As Mrs Myrtle Hermann had passed away near the end of 2017, we missed her wise and helpful words contributing to our class. We each painted our choice of subject and medium to use and encouraged each other as usual. Then at the end of March, Mrs. Dorothy Veal joined us after her husband's passing to just make friends and paint. We were amazed at her talent. Quietly she also offered her comments and help with our paintings and we quickly realised with seeing her paintings, she was not only talented, but gifted and professional. What a treasure God has provided, and our paintings are improving. After discussion, we decided to ask her to be our tutor. She preferred to paint quietly using a trestle in her studio at home but loved our company and friendship. She has opened new areas for us to show us appreciation of the beauty around us, how to sketch and paint trees. Also, the light and shade of painting a portrait and other highlights.

We were invited to display our paintings in the church building at the annual Garden Expo and Rosemary arranged a roster of the ladies to hang and supervise their safety. It was quite lovely and appreciated by viewers. Rob Edwardson gave of his time and expertise to guide us through the fire safety drill and acquaint us with the whereabouts of the necessary equipment, a most necessary education. He answered all the queries too. Thanks Rob.

We had our Christmas Lunch and finished on 11th December. and decided to start 2019 on 15th January.

Margaret Johnson

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

This year has again been a very busy but enjoyable and rewarding year with an average attendance of 23 ladies together with guests and visitors.

We shared special '0' birthday celebrations with three of our ladies and their family and friends, with each lady receiving a beautifully iced birthday cake. Every month, each Fellowship lady selected a small gift from the birthday basket.

Devotions were given by several of our ladies and Rev. Pete and we thank them for their time in preparing these and giving us food for thought each month.

We endeavoured to keep in touch with the welfare of our shut-ins and members who were away or not well, and we were saddened by the passing in April of our dear friend and Fellowship member, Heather Turner.

Our programmes each month were varied as we participated in Trivia quizzes, enjoyed singing favourite hymns, competed in our version of the Commonwealth Games held at Allawah with the winners receiving their medals and everyone singing the Australian National Anthem. A Lenten Service conducted by Rev. Pete was held in March with several ladies participating.

Unfortunately, our Mother's Day Breakfast was cancelled due to some unforeseen circumstances, and in regard to the provision of books to schools to commemorate Anzac Day, it was decided to discontinue this as the response from the schools had waned over the years. In March this year, our Glebe Road church hosted the World Day of Prayer service which was organised by the country of Suriname.

In June we held our special Morning Tea when we raised funds for the Women's Group of the Ekaristi Church in Timor to enable them to purchase cooking and sewing items. Noela Rothery also shared about the hardships faced by these women. Our guest artists, The Esk Community Choir entertained us with a wonderful musical programme on the morning.

We welcomed guest speakers, Jane Ward from Giving with Love, Noel Rothery as a Volunteer at the Commonwealth Games and Jill Case on her visit to Timor and purchasing the items for the Timor women. Rev. Gerda Olafsen shared about her life and her various ministries.

Several of our ladies attended the UCAF services held at Yeronga U.C. in February and Aspley U.C. in September. It is great to keep in touch with members of other congregations within the Presbytery on these occasions.

Several of our ladies were kept quite busy throughout the year as we catered for a number of funerals, helped provide sandwiches and morning teas at the Garden Expo, baked biscuits and helped at the Silkstone Eisteddfod, and provided lunch for our Timor visitors and dignitaries.

Financially, we supported our Compassion child, Mary Tei, with our monthly subscriptions and Birthday and Christmas donations, the Frontier Services BBQ Outback Drought Appeal, Silkstone Eisteddfod Committee towards Awards, donations to Church Council and the Church Office, Ipswich Hospice, Compassion Project Health Bundle, U.C. Prison Chaplaincy, UCAF Project to Frontier Services Bottled Water (Outback Links), Frontier Services Qld Padre Patrols and Uniting World (Timor) Healthy Kids project.

Our annual end of year luncheon was held at the Racehorse Hotel which was enjoyed by all who attended and we concluded the year with a Christmas themed programme singing our favourite carols, answered Christmas quizzes, were entertained with items by Margaret and Coral, and participated in a craft activity guided by Noela Rothery, where each lady made a Christmas tree ornament of hearts with the theme 'The Heart of Christmas'.

We appreciated the help of our faithful menfolk from the Weeders & Waterers who set up the hall and sound for us each month.

We have a wonderful group of caring ladies as we have enjoyed Christian fellowship together and shared God's love as we journeyed together trusting in God's faithfulness to walk with us through each day.

Lola Milward, Convenor

WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 31/12/2018

INCOME	
Catering	8
	650.00
Fellowship Subs & Donations	991.4
	5
Special Morning Tea - Door	1
	120.90
Special Morning Tea - Stall	350.0
	0
Christmas Luncheon	500.0
	0
Empty Christmas Tree	72.0
	0
Christmas Stall	270.0
	0
Interest	0.2
	8
	\$11
	955.13
Balance B/fwd	6
	436.88
	\$18
	392.01
EXPENSES	
Catering	800.00
Reimbursement - Catering Ladies	300.00
UCAF - Affiliation Fee	57.00
World Day of Prayer & 2 Vases for Church	97.30
Christmas Luncheon	517.40
Transfer to UCIS A/c	2 000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	331.43
Donations:	
Compassion Aust & Birthday & Christmas Gifts	636.00
Esk Community Choir	100.00
GRUC Reimb - Cooking Equipment for Timor Leste Ladies	1 000.00
Frontier Services Outback Barbecue	500.00
Silkstone Eisteddfod	300.00
UCAF Qld Synod - Bottled Water for Outback Link Project	200.00
Uniting Care Prison Ministry	200.00
Ipswich Hospice Care	200.00
Compassion Aust - Health Bundle	125.00
GRUC Church Council - Youth Ministry	3 000.00
GRUC Church Office A/c	200.00
Uniting World - 5 x \$20 Gift Cards - Healthy Kids Timor Leste	100.00
Frontier Services - Empty Christmas Tree & Christmas Stall	300.00
	\$10
	984.13
Balance as at 31/12/2018	7 507.88
Less U/P Cheque 1401	100.0
	0
	\$ 7
	407.88

Fellowship A/c	7
	407.88
UCIS A/c	10
	476.76
	\$17
	884.64

Barbara Holmes, Treasurer

CATERING

The Women's Fellowship have been kept busy during 2018 catering for funerals and various functions throughout the year.

We started with The World Day of Prayer in early March, 8 funerals in all and a lunch in May to welcome the 2 new visitors from Timor Leste. In June, we had our main fundraiser where we give the proceeds to a charity or someone in need. Last year we gave it to the ladies of Timor Leste to buy some much needed equipment. Treadle sewing machines and some much-needed kitchen ware.

In August some of us made sandwiches and baked for morning and afternoon teas for the Garden Expo. August and October some of us baked biscuits for the eisteddfod and helped with morning and afternoon teas and suppers. We ended the year catering for 2 big funerals two days apart at the end of November.

I am very grateful to all my great cooks and helpers and anyone who helped me in any way. Your help is much appreciated. Many thanks and God bless you all.

Merle Setch

CRAFT COFFEE AND CHAT

An average of 11 ladies attended this group on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings of each month from February to November. Each person worked on their craft of choice - knitting, crochet, counted cross-stitch or embroidery. Many knee rugs were made and donated to 'Giving with Love' by two of the clever ladies who crochet. Thank you to everyone who donates wool, even small quantities, to enable this to happen.

Two of our regular attendees were unable to attend after the first half of the year. One, in her nineties, needed to move into aged care and the other was involved in a serious car accident. She is now well on the road to recovery and is hoping to return to the group in 2019.

Anyone who would like a very pleasant morning crafting, chatting and enjoying morning tea is welcome to join us at 9:30am on Wednesday, February 13th for our first get-together in 2019.

Faye Wright, Convenor

WEEDERS & WATERERS

Weeders and Waterers are a group that meets each Wednesday at 7:00 AM for a clean-up 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 are down this year due to the passing of three members, Rick and couple George and his wife Lorna who assisted him. We now have five regular attendees, listed in age order they are, Keith, Vic (foundation member), Ken, Phil and Peter. We also have five honorary members who do a lot of work in the grounds and around the church, Rob, Bill, Noel R, Noel K and Faye - who join us for morning tea from time to time. Our numbers are often down due to appointments and health so, as always, we are looking for new members, all are welcome and will be warmly accepted. Once again we hosted our Timor Leste visitors during their annual visit. As usual they were treated to Aussie cuisine.

Ken Fischer

SERVICE AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BRASSALL BIRTHDAY HIGH TEAS

Once again, our team of four has been richly blessed and privileged to be part of a ministry to residents of the Lodge at Brassall Village.

Celebratory birthday visits commence in February and finish in November. Our friends enjoy the party food, fine china and designer tablecloths. They appreciate the opportunity to contribute to discussions of current affairs and share interesting stories from their past.

Community singing is enthusiastically embraced and we are delighted that one of the residents has recently become a regular accompanist.

Heartfelt thanks to Robyn and Shirley for substituting on an occasion when we were short staffed. Their willingness to do so allowed the event to go ahead.

Easter and Christmas were each celebrated with a special program. Individual residents were invited to participate in leading. A small gift was given to each attendee.

Every opportunity is taken to demonstrate Christ's love and to remind these folks just how special they are to God.

We would be grateful for your prayer support for our team and the folk that we minister to; and from whom we receive so much.

A team of four is needed to adequately run the morning. We would be very happy to expand the team so that we could have people on standby to allow respite, as needed, for regular team members.

If you are interested and **any** of the following apply to you - have some spare time, are able to cook, serve morning tea, drive a car, wash up, enjoy a chat and would like to be blessed once a month - then please contact Carole Edwardson for more information.

Carole Edwardson

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) Ipswich has continued with its "Brush with Kindness" (BWK) work in 2018. We have also been fundraising during 2018 and as for 2017 some of this money went towards a Habitat House for Cambodia being organised by Ipswich North Rotary, one of our major local partners.

Significant events this year:

Ken Fischer has stepped down as Chair of the Ipswich Chapter, to date the position is still vacant but Habitat Queensland is working on this.

The lady storing our two work trailers passed away during the year, other suitable storage has been arranged.

Towards the end of the year Habitat Queensland merged with Habitat NSW, the new entity is called Habitat for Humanity (NSW Q) Limited. The NSW Brush With Kindness coordinator has so far arranged one BWK for Queensland, the interior painting of a vacant Kambu House. The first day was completed by QLD volunteers, the remainder of the work was completed by a corporate team (who paid for the privilege).

More recently a BWK (Volunteer) Coordinator for the QLD/Northern NSW area has been appointed. His first project for this year is to paint and repair a house in Tenterfield for a refugee family who wish to work in agriculture. The work will be carried out in partnership with the local community.

Ken Fischer
H4H Ipswich Chapter

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, well-known horticulturalist Paul Smith spoke on gardening hints and tips. Dale Arvidsson is the curator of Brisbane's two botanic Gardens and the Sherwood Arboretum. In March, he spoke on horticultural information for successful potted and greenhouse gardening in Southeast Queensland. In April, Mark Kidd from "BOSS" spoke on BOSS fertilisers, and in May, Kate Wall from "The Gardener's Wall", spoke on garden creation and subtropical plants. In June, David from Tara Valley Nursery spoke about the Tissue Culture Laboratory which produces huge quantities of Plants. In July, we had our horticultural Panel of Gardening Experts return and engage in an interesting Q&A session on gardening. In August, Robert Wilson spoke on everything about growing vegetables, and in September, Chris Healy from "Troforte" spoke on their product, while focusing on soil biology and plant health. In October, Warren Cheeseman from Searles spoke about the Searles products and how best to select the products that will give the best result in gardening. In November, Craig Jude spoke about Australian native plants and associated propagation. In December, the planned speaker became unavailable, and Kate Wall, who spoke in May, accepted our invitation to speak on gardening in a sub-tropical climate, which gave valuable information on the best plants to grow in our humid conditions.

Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo

The Ipswich Home Gardeners' Expo held on Saturday 25th 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 Garden Expos ever. The speakers included Noel Burdette, Claire Bickle and Jerry Coleby-Williams and Paul Hains. A huge thank you to the Garden Club members, and all volunteers for the incredible amount of time and energy graciously given to this amazing event involving two thousand plus people attending.

Beenleigh Coach Tour - 21st April

On Saturday 21st April, we enjoyed a Bus Tour to Beenleigh where we visited Viola's Patch. On arrival we were served Morning Tea and then Viola took us on a guided walk of her lush Garden set in two acres. We just loved the Tillandsia Usneoides (Spanish Moss or Old Man's Beard) hanging from the trees in her Rainforest Garden, along with some small Bromeliads. After a wander around the Garden we enjoyed Lunch of Sandwiches and a delightful Fruit Salad. Viola then gave a demonstration on how to take a cutting and plant it for propagation. Plants were available for purchase. It was an enjoyable day in a lush garden setting, and we are thankful for the hospitality extended to us from Viola and Neil. We then travelled to Nielsen's Native Nursery where there were plants aplenty. Their Plant of the month was "Acacia Limelight" - a dwarf form of Acacia Cognata. Our last stop on the Bus Trip was at Yatala Pies - a very busy venue, where everyone goes to buy a Pie. Members could do just that and enjoy a coffee before arriving back home at approximately 5:30 pm.

Ginger Factory Coach Tour - 31st October

On Saturday 13th October, for the first time ever, we set out on a rainy day for our tour to the North Coast with East Coast Coaches and we thank our Driver, Craig, for getting us there in the very rainy and slippery conditions. Our first stop was Morning Tea in the car park at the BP, Burpengary. As it was too wet for our Morning Tea, we were able to move indoors and have it on the table is located next to McDonald's. It was good to see the rain falling and we hoped the places that needed it most received some. The tour then travelled to the Tropical Ferns nursery, where the rain eased somewhat, and we were able to see the Greenhouse full of beautiful ferns and hear a talk about the propagation and care of different variety ferns. A pre-organised lunch was held at the Ginger Factory at Yandina and some of us also enjoyed a Ginger Ice-cream. It was raining hard at our last stop, but we still enjoyed looking at the Plants and Garden Items that "Manawee" Nursery had on display and for sale, before arriving home at approximately 5:30 pm.

The Glasshouse

The Glasshouse Committee has continued its great work of maintaining the plants in the Queen's Park Glasshouse. We are also very appreciative of the assistance of the Ipswich City Council for maintaining the building and providing co-operative staff. A lot of effort goes into the watering, and plant presentation, for the many visitors and buses that come to the Glasshouse with many remarking on the quality and diversity of the plants that are maintained in the Glasshouse.

The Greenhouse

The Greenhouse has had a successful year with excellent results in the maintaining and propagation of club plants for sale and other special events. This year, our Greenhouse has continued to supply door prizes for our monthly club functions, Church Gardens, 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 have trialed different products over the years, but; "Rock Dust" distributed by Rocky Point Mulching proves the most successful of all. With the roof replacement, it has proved a huge success, especially with the climatic conditions inside. We are always most grateful to our 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 can 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 borrow further books 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.

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 preview what is coming up. The well-maintained website is also a wonderful communication tool for connecting us to other garden clubs and interested people from across the local and global community, with prospective new members. The club's website and associated Facebook are valuable tools each year when advertising you Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo.

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 \$3,000 was presented to Frontier Services to assist drought affected farmers, and \$1,500 to the church for roof repair. Many other smaller donations were distributed to different charities throughout the year, such as the "Ipswich Boys Brigade", "Giving with Love" and "Fiddlers Inn".

Special Thanks

I wish to express my personal thanks to each member of the Committee: Peter Arnett, Desleigh Murphy, Kathy Ungerer, Faye Wright, Alan Addison, Ian Muil, Mavis Wakefield, John Harle, Del Harle, and Judy McLaughlin. I also want to take this opportunity to thank all Garden Club members for the loyal support they have extended to the committee throughout the year. Above all, and on behalf of the Glebe Garden Club, I extend a huge thank you to all Expo Coordinators and the army of volunteers from the Church and the Garden Club that made this year's Ipswich Home Gardener's Expo such a huge success. Without this magnificent support, this event would not be possible.

David Murphy, Secretary/Vice President

GLEBE GARDEN CLUB FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/12/2018

OPENING CREDIT BALANCE	1st January 2018	\$6,137.52	
Cheque A/c		\$4,915.	\$11,052.86
	Cash Reserve A/c	34	

RECEIPTS:

Membership Fees	710.00
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Donations at Door	1,709.30	
Plant Sales	1,138.75	
Fares - Bus Trips	3,591.80	
		7,149.85
Garden Expo:		
Stall Fees	2,497.50	
Takings	10,603.25	
ICC Sponsorship	2,500.00	
Change re-banked	1,600.00	
		17,200.75
Glasshouse Income	76.00	
Sale of Club Shirt	25.00	
Club Days Change Re-banked	100.00	
Sale of Eggs	22.50	
Sale Surplus Library Books	14.60	
Sale of Rock Dust	220.00	
Sale of Honey	108.00	
Bank Interest - Cheque A/c	7.31	
Bank Interest - Cash Reserve A/c	17.28	
		24,941.29
		35,994.15
PAYMENTS:		
Meeting Expenses -		
Contribution - GRUC	600.00	
Christmas Gift Plants	250.00	
Change for Meetings	100.00	
Name Badge Components	24.30	
Door Prizes	33.00	
Donation - Giving with Love	250.00	
Speakers Expenses	185.00	
		1,442.30
Glasshouse Expenses	449.20	
Greenhouse Expenses	494.48	
Garden Expo -		
General Expenses	1,579.23	
Advertising	2,194.69	
Data Projector	199.00	
Expo Speakers	1,250.00	
Change	1,600.00	
ATM	400.00	
First Aid Services	432.00	
6 th Ipswich Boys Brigade	500.00	
Refund Entry Fees	10.00	
Hire of Marquees	50.00	
		8,214.92
Donations Expo Proceeds -		
GRUC	1,000.00	
GRUC Roof Repairs	1,500.00	
Fiddlers Inn	500.00	
Women's Fellowship	500.00	
Frontier Services Assist Farmer	3,000.00	
		6,500.00
Adopt-A-Hive Project	125.00	
Bus Trips	3,086.00	
Library Purchases	28.99	
Subscriptions/Members	298.99	
Website Hosting Fees	600.00	
Sundries	102.49	
Photocopying	415.65	
Labels for Honey	98.00	
Purchase of Rock Dust	200.00	

	4,955.12	
		22,056.02
Cheque A/ C	5,005.51	
Cash Reserve A/c	8,932.62	
		13,938.13
Mutual Support Scheme		3,000.00
TOTAL CLUB FUNDS		\$16,938.13
CASH RESERVE ACCOUNT		
Opening Balance 1st January 2018		4,915.34
Receipts:		
Transfers from Cheque Account	4,000. 00	
Bank Interest	17.28	
		4,017.28
Closing Balance 31st December 2018		8,932.62

SILKSTONE EISTEDDFOD

The 92nd year for the Silkstone Eisteddfod began with the Annual General Meeting in February. All Office Bearers were re-elected for another year although no Assistant Treasurer was appointed. By May, it was realised that there was a need for someone to attend to the preparation of receipts as required. Kim Mensforth volunteered his services and was duly appointed to the role of Assistant Treasurer.

We thank our many donors for their ongoing financial support for the Eisteddfod. It would be impossible to operate without them. We thank the Ipswich City Council for their donation of \$3 625.00 to assist with Adjudication Fees and to fund the ICC Aggregate Awards which are awarded over the three sections of the Eisteddfod.

The Eisteddfod competitions began with the Piano and Instrumental Section held in 10 sessions over one week in August. The Convenors, Coral and Kathy Myatt reported that the two very talented adjudicators, Jennifer Newcomb and Lisa Conlan-Holowinia provided much appreciated, constructive and informative comments for participants aged from 6 years to adult. The Piano sections had an abundance of entries, but the String Section has been declining over the last few years as we have lost good teachers in Ipswich.

In October, the Speech and Drama Section was held over four days. The Convenor, Chris Lloyd and her assistant Di Johnston, reported that the number of competitors was down from 559 in 2017 to 431 in 2018. Because of extreme heat in 2017, it was decided to hold this section in the church. It worked well for all concerned so the Church will be used again in 2019. The Adjudicator, Alanna Noyes, was impressed with the variety of items, the standard and friendliness of the Eisteddfod and commented on how well it was organised.

Her feedback was appreciated by the competitors. A new item, Group Dramatization of a Poem, worked well and hopefully, more groups will participate in future years. It was good to have a number of new scribes and comperes involved to ease the load on the regulars.

The Vocal Section followed Speech and Drama with 19 sessions over 10 days. The Convenor, Merle Mensforth, assisted by Trish Cole-Clarke, reported that despite the difficulty in finding an adjudicator to replace Jason Barry-Smith, God's provision was evident, as Adele Nisbet had much wisdom and knowledge to pass on, treating competitors and the audience to a mini master class each time she presented her adjudication. Gordon Harris adjudicated for one session when Adele Nisbet was unavailable. He provided a list of 16 songs for the 16 and over age solos to eliminate a problem from past years – the choice of inappropriate songs. A possible drama over the unavailability of choir risers from our usual source, the Department of Education's Music Resource Centre, was eliminated when we were able to borrow risers from Brassall State School. Thank you to Bill Milward and his team of men who collected and returned the risers. The Principal has been thanked for this assistance.

The 2018 Eisteddfod concluded with the well-attended Presentation Evening on November 10th. Bursaries and Awards were presented, and the audience was entertained with a number of items that had been presented during the Eisteddfod. The evening concluded with the usual delicious supper. Thank you to Karen Madders and Kathy Hart for assisting with supper to enable committee members to enjoy the evening. The door donations on the night were passed on to the Leichhardt Patrol to assist Rev. Graham Slaughter with his work with farming families in the Western Downs area.

Early in the year we were saddened by the death of Mrs Heather Turner, a long-time supporter of the Eisteddfod. Her family maintain her legacy by continuing the Senior Piano Championship, named in honour of Heather's father, the Norm Duce Memorial Cup. In December, we were saddened by the death of Gemma D'Aubbonnett, one of our most loyal teachers of strings, piano and vocal sections over the past 28 years. She will be sadly missed by all involved in the music scene in Ipswich.

Thank you to all who assist the Eisteddfod in any way – those who provide prayer support, the scribes, comperes, door keepers, those who bake, prepare meals, work in the canteen, assist with preparation of buildings and to the groups who move their activities to enable the Eisteddfod sessions to occur. We appreciate you, each and everyone. Special thanks to Lola Milward, our Catering Convenor for all three sections. Lola diligently keeps the Canteen running smoothly and ensures that the Adjudicators and volunteers on duty have meals and tea breaks. One adjudicator was so delighted

with the way she was looked after that she wanted to take Lola home so the special attention continued!

At the final Committee meeting for the year, in December, we received a letter from our Treasurer, Anita Hunter, advising that she would not be able to continue in the role after the next Annual General Meeting. Steps have been taken to ensure this position is filled and we thank Anita for looking after matters of finance for the past two years.

As we move into our 93rd year, we assure the congregation of our desire to continue to show the hands and face of Christ to the community through all the activities of the Silkstone Eisteddfod.

SILKSTONE EISTEDDFOD ANNUAL STATEMENTS - 1/1/2018 - 31/12/2018

	2018	2017
Income		
Entry : Piano & Instrumental	\$2,185.00	\$1,542.00
Entry : Speech & Drama	\$2,491.00	\$2,389.00
Entry : Vocal	\$4,660.00	\$3,341.00
Programmes	\$1,304.00	\$1,512.00
Total Entry Fees	\$10,640.00	\$8,784.00
Door : Piano & Instrumental	\$1,568.80	\$1,269.15
Door : Speech & Drama	\$922.60	\$971.40
Door : Vocal	\$2,517.00	\$2,771.95
Total Door Takings	\$5,008.40	\$5,012.50
Canteen : Piano & Instrumental	\$608.55	\$624.20
Canteen : Speech & Drama	\$777.80	\$851.90
Canteen : Vocal	\$1,697.10	\$1,783.85
Other Canteen	\$50.00	\$43.50
Total Canteen Takings	\$3,133.45	\$3,303.45
Donations	\$5,369.00	\$6,447.86
Ips City Council Grant	\$3,625.00	\$500.00
Interest Received	\$64.90	\$86.37
Donation from Book Sales	\$0.00	\$56.00
Door Takings at Presentation	\$325.00	\$433.85
Total Other Income	\$9,383.90	\$7,524.08
Total Income	\$28,165.75	\$24,624.03
Expenses		
Prize Money : Piano & Instr	\$605.00	\$518.00
Prize Money : Speech & Drama	\$400.00	\$398.00
Prize Money : Vocal	\$1,540.00	\$1,279.50
Awards & Bursaries	\$2,415.00	\$2,235.00
Trophies & Engraving	\$2,178.27	\$2,735.97
Total Prize Money	\$7,138.27	\$7,166.47
Adjudicator Piano & Instrument	\$1,925.00	\$1,665.00
Adjudicator Speech & Drama	\$1,645.00	\$1,870.00
Adjudicator Vocal	\$3,200.00	\$2,750.00
Total Adjudicators Fees	\$6,770.00	\$6,285.00
Printing Costs	\$275.92	\$719.58
Photocopying Costs	\$9.90	\$139.20
Stationery Costs	\$89.10	\$233.81
Telephone expenses	\$0.00	\$8.00
Postage Costs	\$462.00	\$505.80
Courier Costs	\$0.00	\$156.44
Canteen Expenses	\$1,255.94	\$1,278.47
Gifts	\$0.00	\$94.45
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,092.86	\$3,135.75
Donation Glebe Road U/C	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Domanation - McKay Patrol	\$450.00	\$0.00
Donation Presbytery / Downs	\$0.00	\$350.00
Donation Queensland Eisteddfod	\$0.00	\$250.00
New Piano Wheels	\$0.00	\$2,009.09
GRUC Organ Repairs	\$150.00	\$0.00
Total Other Special Expenses	\$3,600.00	\$5,609.09
Total Expenses	\$19,601.13	\$22,196.31
Operating Profit	\$8,564.62	\$2,427.72

TEAM TIMOR

Visit by Mr Gorden Tuaty and Mrs Christina Cardoso 9th to 21st May 2018

The 6^h annual visit by members of Ekaristi IPTL congregation was planned based on previous visits as well as activities particularly relevant to our guests, Mr Gorden Tuaty and Mrs Christina Cardoso. Highlights of the visit included meeting with Ipswich Uniting Church ministers, meeting with our Church Council, visiting Silkstone State School, Bethany Lutheran School and Ipswich West Special 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, and at regular church groups and informal meals. Rev Lyn Burden hosted us and they visited Albert St UC, and other Wesley Mission activities, including the Brisbane Relief Hub in Fortitude Valley and Sinnamon Village. These visits grow the partnership between the two churches as we share our lives, and personal connections are established.

Tetun Language Course

Once again, Mr David Lyon conducted Tetun Language refresher classes. Our visitors from Timor Leste were present at two of these classes. David's Timorese wife and their children were able to attend one evening, and we continue to appreciate his instruction. The willingness of our team members to learn the language demonstrates Glebe Road's commitment to our Timorese friends and the partnership that we share.

UnitingWorld team visits

UnitingWorld projects in Timor Leste will be highlighted in the Lent Event studies for 2019 "*Courage in a Fearful World*". Team Timor was invited to share some of the stories of our partnership with Ekaristi Church. Cath Taylor and Alex Baker joined in the Trivia Morning and gathered video footage and interviews about our partnership. The UW team also visited Ekaristi church and interviewed Rev. Domingus Alves. It is encouraging that UnitingWorld recognises the strength of our partnership which is built on mutual understanding and faith.

Everything in Common

At the request of the Mission and Outreach Ministry Group, Team Timor hosted three stalls in December where Gift Cards and Christmas cards in support of UnitingWorld projects were made available for sale. The stalls were very well supported, and we raised \$1951. Of that amount, \$980 was raised from sale of \$20 Healthy Kids Gift Card in support of children in Timor Leste.

Fundraising

In 2018 we conducted monthly BBQs at Harvey Norman at Booval, raising \$2437 to finance the annual visit by our Ekaristi friends. Funds from The Ladies Fellowship Morning Tea were directed to the purchase of sewing machine, oven, food mixer and sundry baking items for the Ladies Group at Ekaristi. While our team were in Dili, Jill Case was able to go shopping for these goods. The Ekaristi ladies plan to use these items to make saleable products for fundraising for their church. The Fun and Friendship group presented an excellent fundraising Trivia Morning, raising \$500. All 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.

Dental Project Report

The Dental Project of Timor Children's Foundation in association with Glebe Road Uniting Church made a return visit to Timor-Leste in June 2018. Two teams travelled to Dili, Timor-Leste: Dr. Malcolm Campbell led a team of 3 Dentists and support staff to the UnitingWorld Fusona clinic in Lospalos and our Glebe Road Team arrived a week later and treated children at Marcelo 02 School. The school is a mission activity of Ekaristi church and is located on the church property. The visit of the teams overlapped ("tag team") which allowed us to make best use of the equipment and supplies. Our Glebe Road team: Dr. John Fisher, Dr. Vanessa Reher (Griffith Uni), Prof. Peter Reher (Griffith Uni), Bec Apps (Nurse), Rev. Lyn Burden, Peter & Jill Case and Rev. Gwen Fisher.

In the 4½ days of work at the school the team treated 142 patients and performed 170 procedures. In the mobile makeshift surgery, the Dentists extracted 235 teeth, completed 57 fillings and constructed a restorative crown and bridge. They provided

approximately \$70,000 worth of treatment free of charge to the patients. Our nurse Bec, was kept busy assisting the Dentists in all this activity.

With their extensive teaching experience, Peter & Jill Case taught and modelled oral health education lessons in the school classes, as well as assisting with IT administration and the clinical work. The team attended worship and Rev. Lyn was invited to preach at the Sunday service. As well as supporting staff in the treatment of the children, Lyn drew on her solid background in education to conduct English lessons for the teachers in their lunch break. Rev. Lyn and Rev. Gwen visited with the Moderator of the Synod and Synod staff of IPTL Timor-Leste.

Rev. Gwen renewed our contact with the Australian Embassy in Dili and the school and church leaders were delighted that the First Secretary and Senior Coordinator for Health from the Australian Embassy chose to visit the school to support our work.

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 2018 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. 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 2019.

We are delighted that with the encouragement of our Federal member and the Australian Embassy in Dili, we applied and have been awarded an Australian Government Friendship Grant for our project work for 2019. Our work so far has been done with a single shared mobile unit which has at times been unreliable. This grant will allow us to purchase much needed equipment which has previously been out of our price range!

Further visits

An invitation has been extended to Ekaristi Church to nominate two people to visit Glebe Road in 2019. Two Dental Teams will visit Marcelo 2 School in June 2019. Expressions of interest are sought from anyone who wishes to join the September 2019 Exposure Trip.

Sincere thanks to the Team and to our congregation for your invaluable support and encouragement as we seek to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Timor Leste.

Noel Rothery, Convenor

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

The Glebe Road Uniting Church congregation has been active in both the Core Group and the various activities of the Queensland Community Alliance ("QCA") throughout the year. The QCA brings together faith groups, unions, community organisations, charities, ethnic associations and community members committed to working together for the wellbeing of our communities. The Ipswich Group is made up of leaders from Glebe Road & City Uniting Churches, Churches of Christ in Queensland, Congregation of Christian Churches Samoa Australia, Amnesty International, Booval & Ipswich Catholic Parishes, Together Union, United Voice Union, Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union, Services Union, Men's Shed, and Ethnic community leaders, supported by Multicultural Development Australia

The year 2018 saw the closure of the Mental Health Collective Impact project for which the QCA facilitated a \$270,000 grant received by Queensland Health to study and seek to reduce suicide in West Moreton, which had ranked second in frequency in Queensland. The project was successful in forging alliances among general practitioners and mental health providers, designing strategies for early intervention and more effective care. A faculty member of USQ Ipswich is seeking to develop a follow-up grant to continue the initiative, which is precisely in keeping with the objectives of QCA - to promote the development of local undertakings for the benefit of local communities

The QCA brought together 25 people at Glebe Road Uniting Church in August, for table talks, bringing them up to date on its activities and asking them both what they were

most proud of about Ipswich and what they would change about the City. This meeting brought three new Core Group members and gave rise to a table talk and listening meeting at the Redbank Plains Community Centre where 43 members of 10 faith groups, unions, organisations and associations committed to hosting relational meetings prior to the end of the year, for the purpose of planning a review meeting in February 2019

The decision by the Queensland Legislature to dismiss the Ipswich Mayor and Councillors raised considerable concern amongst QCA members, for fear that he appointed Administrator would be answerable only to the Legislature and have no direct community accountability. The QCA thus formulated a letter signed by community leaders asking that the Administrator meet with community representatives and create a mechanism for accountability. The Office of the Administrator was immediately responsive. Conversations are ongoing.

The QCA scored some significant victories during the year. The LNP formally and publicly recognised the Queensland Community Alliance at its assembly on the 7th November. The LNP has agreed to work with the QCA around policy development on the NDIS and Employment and has agreed to meeting with the QCA annually. In addition, the State Government committed \$100,000 to fund the trial of a link worker to address the issue of social isolation which the Mt Gravatt team of the QCA brought to its attention. This will see local GP's being able to refer people they identify that are social isolated to the link worker. The link worker will then use their contacts to encourage involvement in activities.

My experience working with the Core group of the Queensland Community Alliance Ipswich and participating in its various initiatives has given me the opportunity to meet a wide range of engaged people from a variety of organisations, unions and associations who care about the wellbeing of Ipswich and its continued democracy despite current political turmoil.

The QCA has achieved tremendous success throughout the region, including bipartisan support, and needs new and engaged members in Ipswich to continue its efforts. It welcomes new members either as individuals seeking to participate in community improvements, or as groups wanting to become part of QCA. Please see me or give me a call if you are interested in joining the Queensland Community Alliance Ipswich.

Dr Sylvie Tourigny

CAROLS IN THE PARK

2018 was another successful year for Carols in the Park. With a lot of prayer we stayed dry despite the threat of rain/storms (apart from the sound guys that got a little wet packing down late that night). Once again, we managed to engage with the local community through a variety of activities, sausage sizzle and carols, it was amazing to see the people walking to the carols from the surrounding streets. This year we were fortunate enough to have the addition of some pre-carols performances from the Cambrian Youth Choir, Christine Howden and Peter Hall from Ipswich Central, and our dancing girls Emily Green and Ella Bruce. A big thank you to all of you for sharing your gifts and talents with those who came early to get their spot on the grass.

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. 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 our Saviour 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.

This year also saw the Ipswich Uniting Churches being involved in the organisation and running of the Carols. North Ipswich volunteered to man the BBQ and did an amazing job of feeding the hundreds of people that attended. Ipswich Central joined the team on stage in the band and the choir adding some beautiful harmonies and guitar playing to the carols. Volunteers also came from across the churches to help with delivering flyers, helping with the children's craft and sharing at the communications desk.

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

ANZAC DAY HOSPITALITY

Glebe Rd. Uniting again provided hospitality at the 8.00 am Cameron Park ANZAC Day Service on ANZAC Day 2018. This was made possible by the generous support of several GRUC volunteers who set up for the event, and served those attending with tea, coffee, and ANZAC biscuits, which were again kindly provided by Woolworths Booval. A small donation for Ipswich Legacy resulted from gold coin donations by people on the day. Once again, Pete (Arnett) gave inspiring input through his preaching at the service, which was attended by hundreds of local community members.

Di Bos

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The children's programs at Glebe Road were well supported during 2018. 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 a space for our children to grow in their faith whilst having fun and getting to know each other a little better. The opportunity to share their faith and pray for their family and friends remained an important part of their Sunday mornings. Our leaders and helpers put together meaningful and fun programs to cater to each age level from Creche to High School years.

Our children were 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 Term 1 2018 and was a wonderful event in the life of our Church. Children and their parents enjoyed every aspect of the program. It 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 coordinated 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 on the day, your dedication to this outreach is highly valued and very much appreciated.

Kids Hope 2018 continued with 3 Mentors attending Silkstone State School for one hour each week of each of the 4 Terms. As always it was most encouraging to hear the success stories from both the Mentors and Staff at the school. It was most encouraging to continue the relationship with the school through Claudian in her role as the school Chaplain. The school remains very supportive of the program and are very keen for us to have an increase in Mentors.

Silkstone School remains an important partnership with Glebe Rd. It was very helpful to meet with staff during the year and very productive to share with Claudian our heart for the partnership to continue in 2019 in whatever way the school saw as the greatest need. We look forward to what is ahead in this area of our ministry. As a church we provided morning tea for World teachers day in October. This was met with much enthusiasm and the staff were blessed by your generosity.

Family Connexions continues to be an effective way to keep in touch with Families both from our Church and those who chose Glebe Rd to have their little ones Baptised or Dedicated during 2018. Marg Coghlin coordinates this work and we thank Marg for her heart for the most precious of our Church, our kids, and their families. Birthdays are remembered and acknowledged along with the anniversary of Baptism and Dedication. Families are also invited to come along to all of the activities we plan for our Children and their Families.

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, Convenor

FAMILY CONNEXIONS

Our Baptismal Role grew slowly in 2018 with only 5 new children being added into our church family. We do have 34 families on the roll as I write this. Fourteen of these belong to church. In 2019 it is my hope I will touch base with each of these families. It is also my hope that I would invite each of these families to some of our significant services and to let them know they are very welcome. Please add these families onto your prayer list.

In 2018 one of our families returned to their home country of China. It was very sad to see this family go. We wish them well and as I have said this may be a holiday only and we may see them again. Also, another one of our church families moved back to the Gold Coast to be close to her family so we wish Anna, Finn and Saxon all the best for their future.

All our families are invited to Easter Services, Carols in the Park, Father's Day and Mother's Day celebration.

Margaret Coghlan

MAINLY MUSIC

The past year has been exciting and challenging. What a privilege to get to know new families. We have enjoyed the opportunity of walking alongside them as well as with those who have been a special part of mainly music for some time.

Team Training: Fire safety and Safe Ministry with Children training was undertaken.

Park Days: Ripley Water Park has been added to our list of venues.

Theme days: These are always popular. Monday threw a 'Pyjama Party' and everyone arrived on time as they didn't need to get dressed!! Thursday held a 'Zoo Day'. In addition to regular Zoo inhabitants there were insects and prehistoric creatures!

Father's Day: This was an enjoyable, combined celebration held on a Saturday morning. However, attendance was down, and we may need to consider an alternative time, to accommodate busy families, in 2019.

Saying Goodbye is never easy. Graduation days were held for those moving on to new experiences in Kindy and School. Some families are leaving the district. We wish God's blessing on them in the future.

Sincere thanks: We are grateful to our team members who have been so generous with their time and talents. Their contribution has been invaluable. We want to say a very special thank you to those who will not be available to work with us in the New Year. May God continue to bless you in your new endeavours.

God's love is central to every aspect of mainly music - in the presentation of the program and in the interaction of team and families. We want to continue to present God's love within this ministry well into the future. With that in mind we ask that you pray for the right people to help with mainly music. Please continue to uphold our teams and the families that we serve.

Karen Madders and Carole Edwardson

HIVE YOUTH MINISTRIES

We started Hive at the beginning of the year with 4 participants. Attendance numbers were irregular with two of the older participants beginning work and study commitments. Despite this we managed to grow the number of registered attendants to twelve, although it was extremely rare to have them all attend on the same night. Weekly programs were structured and mostly well received but problems arose due to inconsistent numbers and some nights had to be altered due to numbers. We did no devotions during the first term, deciding to focus primarily on building relationships with those that attended.

Term two remained consistent with term one in terms of attendance. Programs were put in place but it was decided half way through the term to look at a more flexible approach to the nights to avoid participants being disappointed when numbers prohibited some theme nights being run. We also introduced fortnightly devotions during term two.

Term three saw numbers begin to drop as we began to run weekly devotions. Although only 10-15 minutes long some participants stopped coming due to "God stuff". Our more fluid approach to weekly programs was well received with participants deciding between a number of different activities and this increased everyone's overall enjoyment of youth group.

Term four saw the biggest decline in numbers all year. With some participants reconciling with their immediate families and moving away, and others gaining a new found sense of confidence and exploring other options, we were left with two

participants. Fortunately for us we ran a year 6 bridging program which allowed year 6 students to come and experience youth group, from halfway through the term. This introduced four additional participants and our numbers remained steady at six until the end of term. We also changed the name of youth group after some consultation with the participants. After much discussion the name "The Lighthouse" was chosen, by everyone involved, to be the name that best represented what our youth group was about.

I cannot express my thanks enough to Jackie McMillan for her unswerving devotion to our youth group. Although only intending to come for the first term until other volunteers were available, she ended up coming for the whole year. She produced amazing suppers every Friday night as well as organising the treats and special meals I required for our more specific themed nights.

It is vital that we can find volunteers for 2019 to avoid burnout for those that already give up their time, but also to show the young people that come that there is more to Hive, and Glebe Road Uniting Church, than just a building and two faces.

Yours in Christ

Mike McMillan

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

MINUTES - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 11TH MARCH 2018

Welcome Meeting opened at 10.50 by Gwen Fisher, who welcomed all to the meeting.

Opening Prayer Peter Arnett opened the meeting in prayer.

Attendance/Apologies As per Attendance Register circulated.

Standing Orders The congregation was reminded consensus voting is used in congregation meetings held at Glebe Rd, using orange or blue cards for voting preference.

Correspondence None

Election of Church Councillors

There are 8 candidates for 6 positions on the church council.

Nyleta Bruce, Peter Case, Daniel Francis, Derek Hirons,
Judy Jackson, Noel Rothery, Sylvie Tourigny, Ruth Wilkins

There were 6 people nominated and approved by consensus for scrutineers.

Paul De Sauty, Rob Edwardson, Chris Lloyd, Janet White,
Kate Green and Nigel Lucas

Sitting Members - these are the 4 elected members that are remaining on the Church Council

Hannah Jackson, John Fisher, David Hunter and Di Bos

Minutes of 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting of 12 March 2017

The minutes of the 2017 Congregational Meeting were presented and moved to be confirmed as a true and accurate record. Approved by consensus.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Timor - David Hunter spoke to the congregation about the progress with the maritime border, that there has been a new agreement signed last week. We are thankful to God for his intervention in bringing this about. This will mark a new chapter in friendship between two countries. Noel and Team Timor say thank you to the congregation to support this.

Annual Reports The 2017 Annual Reports have been available for a 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, and we are encouraged to operate according to our gifts and abilities.

Peter Arnett thanks Marilyn and those who assisted in the preparation of the reports and presentation.

The congregation was given opportunity for questions or comments to these reports.

David Murphy - asked for special thanks for Bill Milward's work in the garden.

Colin Alexander - also thanked Bill Milward, says he is fascinated by the number of activities that happen here, and mentioned Coral & Margaret long service with Silkstone Eisteddfod.

thanks will be Peter Arnett confirmed all that David and Colin said. A letter of forwarded to Bill Milward.

Treasurers & Auditors Reports

Derek went through the Treasurers and Auditors Report. The current rate of offering / givings are level with 2011 giving.

The Data Projector disaster, we are waiting for fix in the next week or so.

Colin Alexander expressed disappointment in the offerings

Budget 2018

over some things.

Derek reminded the congregation that there is no control

Derek went on to highlight some areas such as offerings, rental of centres / complex by U3A. Project / Building Maintenance - Shalom Roof.

The reports were moved and accepted by consensus.

Auditor Appointment

It was moved that RW Ramsey again be appointed as our auditors, and this was approved by consensus.

Election of Presbytery Representatives

consensus Paul de Sauty & Janet White were nominated and approved by as Presbytery Representatives.

Election of Chairperson of Congregation

Chairperson Gwen Fisher was nominated and approved by consensus as of Congregation.

Election of Secretary of Congregation

Secretary Anita Hunter was nominated and approved by consensus as of Congregation.

Any further business

Margaret Buchanan wanted to thank Robyn Sorensen for repairing the binding of some church books.

Margaret Buchanan said the organ has been repaired at a cost of \$150.

The newly elected Church Council members were announced as:

Nyleta Bruce, Peter Case, Daniel Francis, Derek Hirons, Judy Jackson, and Ruth Wilkins.

Next Meeting

To be advised

Closure

Peter Arnett closed the meeting in prayer 11.50 am.

MINUTES - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 23rd SEPTEMBER 2018

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Gwen Fisher, Congregational Chairperson, welcomed those who were present and opened the meeting with prayer. A special welcome was extended to Rev. Dave Baker, Moderator, Queensland Synod of the Uniting Church.

Attendance and Apologies

Attendance and Apologies were as per the Attendance and Apologies Lists. The apology of Rev. Brian Hoole, Presbytery Officer Bremer Brisbane Presbytery, was noted to the gathering.

Determination of a Quorum

It was noted that a quorum for the meeting had been achieved.

Appointment of Minute Taker

It was moved that Rev. Diane Bos be appointed the Minutes taker for the meeting, in the absence of a permanent Secretary of the Congregation at this time. Carried.

Purpose of the Meeting

Rev Peter Arnett shared the purpose of the meeting with those present. The meeting was being held following the 2018 Assembly decision to recognise two types of marriage (traditional and same gender marriages) by the Uniting Church in Australia. UCA Church Councils now needed to decide whether congregational facilities would be made available for both forms of marriage approved by the Assembly. While the decision is made by the Church Council, the Council needs to consult widely with the congregational members, and the meeting today is being held for the purpose of hearing congregational input on this matter.

It was noted that there would be three opportunities for providing this feedback. The meeting (1) could hear input from individuals who wished to state their position at the meeting; (2) table discussions would be held during the meeting; and (3) response sheets would be handed out at the end of the meeting so that people could indicate their degree of support for the use of facilities for both forms of marriage.

It was noted that attaching names to the response sheets was optional for those actually attending the meeting but would be required for forms distributed outside of the formal congregational meeting, and for any letters being submitted to the Church Council.

Opening Remarks

Rev. Dave Baker outlined the journey of the Uniting Church in Australia thus far regarding this issue. He noted that in 1984, a Presbytery in Victoria, upon receiving an application for candidature for the Ministry from a person of same gender sexual orientation, had sought guidance from the Assembly. The Assembly Standing Committee found that sexual orientation was not in itself an impediment to candidating for the Ministry, and that the Presbytery should discern suitability for ministry on other grounds, other than sexual orientation. The 1990's saw a focus on discussing the concept of covenantal relationships within the church, while the 2003 Assembly passed a resolution affirming the 1984 Standing Committee decision that sexual orientation should not in and of itself be a bar to ordination, though this was seen as contentious.

The 2012 Assembly saw an initiation of consultation and discussion across the church regarding human sexual relationships, including same sex relationships, though the following 2015 Assembly found that it was not in a position to make a decision, other than that the discussion should be continued. In 2018, the Doctrine Committee produced a paper recommending that there should be a change in the understanding of marriage to include same gender marriage. It also allowed for conscientious objection to this change. Ministers should be free to decide their position according to their own conscience, and congregational Church Councils would be free to decide whether or not to make their church facilities available for the expanded definition of marriage. The 2018 Assembly made this decision to allow for two views of marriage in the life of the church following 18 hours of debate.

Questions of the Moderator

Nil

Introduction of Time-keeper

Rob Edwardson was appointed time-keeper for the speeches, which were limited to three minutes per contributor.

Speeches

Rev. Peter Arnett Prayer opened the contribution section with a prayer that people to be able to listen to each other and hear each other, even with differences in perspectives and positions on the issue. There was an invitation to those in attendance to share their own perspectives and thoughts with those present.

Various speakers noted their positive support for the Assembly decision. Several issues were mentioned including positive experiences of family members who were in SG marriages, the experience of gay friends who had not been made welcome in the church and had consequently left the church, and a sense of how any of us would like to be treated if we were created differently to the “norm”. One participant noted some of the limitations of Biblical passages referring to the issue and the fact that Jesus was silent on the matter. Many Biblical texts can be seen as culturally determined, and it is important that compassion is elevated above the letter of the law.

Other speakers noted their concerns or disagreements, including whether the changes were being made for political reasons or to encourage LGBTIQ people to join the church. Another felt that, while we may not agree with the sexual orientation taken by people, we as Christians continue to love them. One participant noted the need for Christians not to conform to the world’s standards, while another believed that same gender relationships were sinful and that marriage was between a man and a woman with one of the major purposes being the procreation of children.

Other people found themselves very conflicted about the matter, as they had family members in same gender relationships, and wanted to be accepting and supportive, yet had qualms themselves. Others struggled with how the congregation would relate to people in same gender marriages who might use our facilities, if there were ambivalent feelings towards them within the congregation. Another person felt that currently marriage in our society was generally being devalued and asked if there was another term that might be suitable for same gender relationships.

Following the contributions, the Moderator Rev. Dave Baker, congratulated all present on the respect and consideration that had been displayed to all people, independent of their positions. He said that the issues raised publicly provided a good basis for ongoing discussion within the congregation. He noted that he himself was on a journey regarding this issue, which had commenced in 2003 and which he admitted he was still ongoing. This subject raises the question of how the church can be faithful to its beliefs but still change as circumstances demand. He did note the need for consistency though in any decision the Church Council reached. That is, any decision needed to apply across the board and not in a piece-meal way. In response to some of the comments/queries raised about alternative forms/names that marriage might take depending on whether hetero- or homo-sexual people were involved, David noted the importance of the theme of Covenant, exemplifying trust, honesty, commitment, and faithfulness between people, that applied to and was sought by all Christian people in their relationships, whether heterosexual or homosexual.

A further question emerged regarding the control over marriages on church property. David noted that the Minister in Placement at their church ultimately had control over all weddings that took place there. The capacity to say Yes or No to any wedding going ahead on the premises continued, based on the assessment of suitability for marriage of the partners, as it had always operated in the past. Even if others e.g. celebrants were involved, the Minister in Placement would be involved and have overall oversight.

Facilitation of Table Group Conversations

Rev. Peter Arnett invited people to share casually at their tables. No formal facilitation had been set up, and 10 minutes was devoted to this.

Invitation for Written Responses

The response papers had been distributed previously, and Rev. Peter Arnett provided an explanation of the response forms. It was noted that attaching names to the response sheets was optional for those actually attending the meeting but would be required for forms distributed outside of the formal congregational meeting, and for any letters being submitted to the Church Council. People would have a further week to make contributions with the process being finalised next Sunday (30 September 2018). The quantitative and qualitative data will be analysed and submitted to the next Church Council meeting.

Final Remarks

Rev. Gwen Fisher thanked people for their attendance and for the honesty of their sharing, which contributed to a deepening of relationships within the congregation. The Church Council will greatly appreciate the information gathered to assist in decision-making. She also noted that the next Congregational Meeting will occur on Sunday 2 December 2018 after the joint Advent service.

Closing Prayer

Rev. Dave Baker closed the meeting with prayer.