

You are invited to....

Dare to Dream

Come on the journey as we discover God's vision for Lifeworks

Lifeworks
Uniting Church

The Vision



The prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29) wrote:

And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

At Lifeworks, the time has come to say that we *dare to dream*, to open our hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit and have the courage to hear and respond to the call of Jesus to 'follow me' as disciples of Christ, into our local community.

We believe that God is calling us to be *a church for the community,* looking outward and not inward, and that as we get to know the local community and serve the people we find here, God will grow the church.

The vision then is for:

- A church that knows its community.
- A church that walks alongside the community.
- A church that meets the needs of the community.
- A church that disciples the community.
- For the community to come to know and love Jesus through Lifeworks Uniting Church.

In all these things we embrace Jesus' vision for building a different kind of community - one that is full of grace, love, faith and hope, a community in which everyone may find their place, and live a life filled to the brim.

Dare to Dream is a journey, a process, that will help us to realise this vision.

How Did We Get Here?



In 2001 three Uniting Churches in Toowoomba (Scots, Newtown and Westbrook) joined together to form Lifeworks, and later bought some land, the current Lifeworks site. When the land was purchased, there were few residential developments in Glenvale, yet this seemed to the church at the time to be the right spot to build a new church. This turned out to be a great decision and very prescient as Glenvale has grown enormously over the last two decades.

The vison for the church at that time was to be a church that was well-connected to the community, but over the years, that vision lost energy and direction, so the time is ripe for refreshment in our current context.

A critical question that can be asked of any church is, ‘If you closed your doors tomorrow would people in the community notice and miss you?’ We want the answer to that question to be a resounding, ‘Yes!’.

In early 2025 we started having discussions at Church Council about directions in which we felt God was leading us. One that emerged was ‘to be a church for Glenvale’. At the time we didn’t have a great understanding of what this entailed, or what the path forward was, but we had just enough faith to start something new to discover and serve our local community, launching the ‘Glenvale Community BBQ’ in March 2025. This has been a wonderful learning experience for Lifeworks, as God has provided guidance and resources in many instances around this ministry, confirming that we are headed in the right direction.

Then in February 2026, Lifeworks started to pray together for renewal; much fruit has come from this prayer, praise God, including increased focus and energy around the vison of being a church for the community.

The fruit of these prayers and this dreaming is a process and a role that has been shaped to guide us over 12 months, as we *Dare to Dream.*

Where Are We Going?

Dare to Dream is a faith journey, a 12 month 'whole of Church', process, running from October 2026 to October 2027, that will help us to realise the vision of Lifeworks being a church for the community. This process will go through three phases: Dream and Discover, Discern and Decide and Develop and Deliver. Each phase will bring a different focus, although there will be continuity and overlap between the phases.

Alongside this process is a new role, for which we will soon advertise, of **The Glenvale Community Project Officer.** This is a day a week role for 12 months, focussed on assisting Lifeworks to get to know our community and its needs, helping us to build relationships with the community, and identifying opportunities for Lifeworks to serve our community, including helping the church to connect existing ministries to the community. We are delighted that the Presbytery of the Downs has agreed to provide 50% funding for this role, with Lifeworks providing the other 50%.

The role will sit within the process, and the two will inform one another.

The Phases

Dream and Discover – Mid October 2026 to Mid April 2027



During this phase the focus will firstly be on *discovery* - Lifeworks getting to know the local community and identifying the needs of the community and opportunities for Lifeworks to serve. The Glenvale Community Project officer will assist in helping to collect data and build relationships with local businesses, schools etc., and identifying trends. Opportunities will also be identified for 'co-creation', and groups and organisations that might work alongside Lifeworks in new community ventures.

We will host several 'get to know' seminars. These will be opportunities for the Lifeworks congregation to hear from residents and community

figures, as to what their experience is of Glenvale and what the community needs.

Alongside this is *dreaming*; where we focus on getting to know the congregation's passions and gifts, identifying new leaders, and providing opportunities for equipping and serving. We will be asking, 'what is your dream for this church?', as we seek to build a fuller vision for our community and seek to work with you to help activate the gifts and passions the Holy Spirit has given to you.

By the end of this phase our goals are:

- To have hosted at least 2, 'get to know' events.
- To have the *Dare to Dream Report* finished, on the make-up, needs and trends of our community, the opportunities for Lifeworks to serve, and suggestions as to what new building we might consider on the Lifeworks site, to help facilitate our vision.
- To have our existing ministries (e.g. mainly music, Games and Grub, the Glenvale Community BBQ and Keenagers) well-advertised and well-known to the community, with a higher engagement and participation.
- To have 'Activate' conversations with all members/attenders of our congregation.
- To finish a 'Story of Dreams', collecting the dreams, visions and ideas of our members/attenders, i.e., YOU.

Discern and Decide – Mid April 2027 to End of June 2027

The focus in this phase is for the church to make the right *discernment*, regarding future directions and how our dreams and visons connect with the community's needs, and to *decide* what opportunities to invest into as we look to serve the community and grow the church.

As part of this we will have two 'Discern and Decide Sundays', where we look to gather in prayer and conversation as we seek to make wise discernments and decisions. On the first of these Discern and Decide Sundays, we will hear the Dare to Dream Report and The Story of Dreams presented and have a time of conversation and small group discussion.

On the second of these Sundays, we will make some clear decisions about direction, new ministries, and how we use our property to align with this.

By the end of this phase our goals are:

- To publish the ‘Dare to Dream Report’ and ‘The Story of Dreams’, at the beginning of April 2027.
- To have two ‘Discern and Decide’ Sundays, one in April 2027 and one in May 2027
- To identify at least two new ministry opportunities that we will develop as a priority.
- To have a clear direction on how the Lifeworks site should be developed to meet the needs of the community, Lifeworks needs, and for Lifeworks to realise our vision to be a church for the community.
- To form a Mission Development Team to help develop and deliver new ministries.
- To form a Property Development Team to work on our property and site, aligning with our vision.

Develop and Deliver – July 2027 to October 2027

The focus of this phase will be on the development of new ministry opportunities/programs and delivering them for launch by the beginning of September 2027. We will investigate funding and other resources that may be available from the Presbytery, Synod or Government, to help support these new initiatives.

We will look to engage our congregation in those areas of service that align with their gifts and passions.

Our Property Development Team will consider the discernment and decisions around the Lifeworks site and property, how these might be achieved, and what steps to take as we build the site here.

We will also look to share the knowledge gained in the ‘Dare to Dream Report’ with other churches in Glenvale, once our priorities and directions have been established.

By the end of this phase our goals are:

- To develop and launch two new ministries/initiatives, programs that are sustainable and well resourced. ‘Good ideas have legs’.
- To identify resources, funding and options for development of the Lifeworks site, and to form a clear plan as to how the site should be developed.
- To have every Lifeworks member/attender be given the opportunity to serve in an area that matches their gifts and passions.
- To share the Dare to Dream Report with other local churches.

An Invitation to You!



We would love for you to be involved, to come on this journey with us and God, and to dream and discover what God’s plan is for you through Lifeworks Uniting Church. The whole process will be much better for your engagement!

As you can see, there will be many opportunities as highlighted in this process for you to be involved, beginning with your prayers as we commit to this journey as a church.

Opportunities for engagement, will include, but not be limited to:

- Prayer – start today and keep praying!
- Being part of the ‘get to know’ events.
- Have conversations about your gifts, passions and dreams, and be part of learning opportunities.
- Contribute to the ‘Story of Dreams’ as we prepare to Discern and Decide.
- Come to the Discern and Decide Sundays, as we receive the Dare to Dream Report, and The Story of Dreams, pray together, have discussion and make decisions.
- Be part of new ministry opportunities.

Final Comments

The Lifeworks Church Council believes that this vision and the Dare to Dream process have been given to us by God; to enable us to become the kind of church Jesus wants us to be. Of course, along the way we may learn and discover new things from God which will help to refine and change this process. We commit to the flexibility and openness to do this, and to follow The Spirit's leading, where change is called for and necessary.

As we do this together, let us be reminded of the word from God that has sparked so much in this season, Isaiah 43:18-19:

"Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.

Grace and Peace,

Lifeworks Uniting Church Council

October 2026

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