

## A New Year, a New Direction and a New Beginning in Christ

It is important for all churches to have a sense of direction and vision that aligns with God's mission. This is a way of ordering our life, giving us purpose, and finding our identity in Christ.

To that end, the Lifeworks Church Council met in January and approved a direction for Lifeworks for this year, which is focused around answering three questions as a community together. While these questions do not form a complete vision, or strategic plan, we believe that these are the things that God is asking us to consider, and that in following these directions we are being open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, who will assist us in filling out this vision.

The questions/directions:

### What does it mean to be part of the Uniting Church family in Toowoomba?

For the Uniting Church to have a fruitful future in Toowoomba, it seems that the time is right to start working and visioning more closely together.

As we have seen, we are starting to work with Middle Ridge Uniting Church which is already bearing fruit in the Alpha Course which starts soon. We have also been connecting with Rev Dylan Miegel who is at St Stephen's, and we have been working with Wilsonton Uniting Church for the Palm Lake services.

Lastly, we have our Connect 100 connections through Tanya, which are part of the wider Uniting Church family (Uniting Care). Through 2025 and beyond we will be looking for more opportunities to work together with other Uniting Churches, including a special celebration service for the Uniting Church anniversary in June.

### What does it mean to be a church for Glenvale?

The people who decided to buy the land on which the church was built had great foresight in that a residential community has sprung up in Glenvale that is projected to reach 30,000 people in the next 10 years. Currently, we are doing very little that connects with this community on our doorstep. I am not aware that the other churches in Glenvale are making a particular focus of this either, so there seems like a great opportunity to connect with this fledgling community that is being established.

To that end, Church Council sees the need to orient all our ministries and advertising towards local residents, as well as beginning a new ministry that is specifically tailored to outreach to the local community. A Lifeworks member suggested the idea of a community BBQ and we think this is a simple and great idea. Part of the intention with Breaking the Bread on Sundays was the hope of inviting and attracting new people, but that hasn't really developed in that way and is very church-focused. So, we are replacing The Breaking of the Bread with The Glenvale Community BBQ outreach which will commence on Sunday March 2nd.

### What does it mean to be a church that makes disciples?

It is often said that the 'core business' of church is making disciples. This involves both the initial contact to the 'unchurched' or whose Christian faith is lapsed or underdeveloped, and then encouraging and growing those people in faith and understanding in following Jesus. Of course this can be done in many ways, but if we do not clearly articulate or understand how we are doing this at Lifeworks, then the net result will be we will be less effective in doing this. Ministries such as the Alpha Course and the Church Camp are critical in providing pathways of discipleship, so we will look to continue these types of opportunities throughout the year.  
(cont over)

We must understand our existing ministries, how they fit into the framework of discipleship, and then clearly articulate and provide pathways and opportunities for a deeper journey of faith.

Of course, these three directions/questions are just a beginning, and much more will take shape as we explore these spaces and what it means to be church together.

I am keen that we have a clear understanding of Lifeworks' ministries and how all these things fit together, build some new ministry teams, and develop people's gifts and leadership potential, giving diverse opportunities to serve.

Already there are some practical outworkings of these directions. As mentioned, we are starting the Glenvale Community BBQ on Sunday the second of March. This will be an event for the whole community of people who live, work and play in Glenvale. We will provide a free sausage sizzle for the community as well as hot and cold drinks. The intention is to advertise this well to Glenvale residents through a letterbox drop.

In March we will have a preaching series on these directions, and begin to commission leaders and ministry teams for special areas of focus.

A focus at this time is building a Ministry Team for pastoral care. This team will help Lifeworks in enabling and encouraging us to pastorally care well for one another, and make sure that no-one slips through the net.

### **How Can I be Involved?**

If you are already asking this question, that's great! If not, please consider these:

- Volunteering to be on the Community BBQ Ministry Team, which will be doing things like hospitality, cooking, set-up, advertising, welcome and cleaning. The emphasis on this ministry is for Lifeworks members to serve our local community and there will be lots of opportunities for growing in faith and discipleship as part of this journey.
- Volunteering to be part of the Prayer and Pastoral Care Ministry Team. There will be three aspects of involvement to this. Firstly there will be an organizing committee which will assist in providing vision and direction to this aspect of Lifeworks. We then need volunteers who are able to be part of an intercessory prayer network, and also those who can help in practical ways. Many of you at Lifeworks are already doing these things, so when this Team is commissioned, make sure that you let us know the ways in which you'd like to contribute.
- Prophetic ministry - if these questions/directions have stirred you up and you feel that God is prompting you to advocate for a particular ministry or direction, and that Lifeworks needs to hear this, then the doors are open to that conversation. We want to hear from you! To that end, in March, the Presbytery of the Downs will be conducting a consultation with Lifeworks which will seek your feedback, but be encouraged and reminded that outside of this process, you are welcome to give feedback to Church Council at any time, which can be done through contacting the Minister, Chairperson or Secretary, whose details are in this newsletter.
- Prayer. Your prayers for all these things, will lead to better outcomes for Lifeworks and the community we serve.

So, this we hope and pray is the beginning of a new direction for Lifeworks, and there will be many more opportunities this year for you to learn, serve and grow.

In all these things we ask for the blessing of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit, and I leave you with these words of the Prophet Isaiah (43:18-19) for your encouragement:

"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  
Rev Adam Tipple

## Contact Us

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PO Box 18093, Clifford Gardens, Qld 4350

### Intercessory Prayer Team

Email [prayer@lifeworksuniting.org.au](mailto:prayer@lifeworksuniting.org.au)

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land - the Jarowair and Giabal people.

## February 2025 Services

Sunday 2nd February 9am (Holy Communion)

Worship Leader: Va Palfi

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Sunday 9th February 9am

Worship Leader: Kerrie Andrews

Preacher: Steve Cramb

Sunday 16th February 9am

Worship Leader: David Hogg

Preacher: Rev Adam Tipple

Sunday 23rd February 9am

Worship Leader: Marg Thorpe

Preacher: Rev Lynne Hindman

Livestreams - please see [Facebook](#) for the latest link.

## Giving Details

If you would like to give to Lifeworks, you can use the following methods:

Electronic direct deposit

Bank: Westpac Bank

Name: Lifeworks Uniting Church

BSB: 034 242

Account Number: 359 011

Write a cheque to Lifeworks Uniting Church, and post in the mail to: PO Box 18093, Clifford Gardens, Qld, 4350

Cash can be left in the offering bag on Sunday mornings.

We thank-you for your generosity!

## Quick Links

[www.lifeworksuniting.org.au](http://www.lifeworksuniting.org.au)

[YouTube](#)

[Facebook](#)

Midweek online prayer link (Weds 7am) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81432040065...>  
Password: B1x6cs

## Prayer Points

- Shannon Wessling who continues to battle with ill health.
- Steve Cramb as he commences on Church Council.
- For the Glenvale Community BBQ.
- For our relationship with Middle Ridge Uniting Church and the other Uniting Churches in Toowoomba.
- For the direction of Lifeworks, and for God to raise up leaders and volunteers in the congregation.



## News and Announcements

### Church Council News

Church Council met on 28th January. Many of our key conversations and decisions have already been covered at the front of this newsletter. A brief summary here of other decisions/discussion:

- We co-opted Steve Cramb for a period of 12 months to serve on Church Council. This will be great experience for Steve, and we look forward to his insight and gifts being shared more widely with the congregation. Please pray for Steve as he commences in this role.
- The Lifeworks budgets is currently running at a loss for the year. This is partly due to increased costs and being behind in receiving payments that are due from other agencies in the church. Giving has remained steady. This could potentially lead to cash-flow problems, so we discussed a contingency of drawing down on the money invested with the Uniting Church Investment Service if necessary.  
So, at the moment Church Council is not overly concerned about this, but the situation will require careful assessment to see if there is a longer-term trend.
- We are investigating a card payment system (Zeller) for use at Sunday offerings and other occasions. We recognise that not everyone carries cash, or will take the information needed to make an online payment, so the hope is this gives us more flexibility around giving.

### Pastoral Care Volunteers Needed

This year I am very keen to build up a team of Pastoral Care Volunteers to visit residents at BlueCare Toowoomba Aged Care Facility in Stenner Street, Centenary Heights.

I'm looking for people who have a heart for people and a listening ear. People who feel called by God to sit with residents and be a friend, living out God's love and grace in their words and actions.

If this is something that stirs your heart, please feel free to speak with me.

Chaplain Peter Cole - BlueCare Toowoomba

M: 0493 703 360 E: [p.cole@bluecare.org.au](mailto:p.cole@bluecare.org.au)

### Special Offerings

One of our customs at Lifeworks is the monthly special offerings. It may sound like a challenge to others that the offering plate be passed around twice on some Sundays. However, the practice has not only been entrenched by deliberate decision of the Church council, it has remained a strong commitment by attendees. Last year, 2024, saw Lifeworks contribute a total of a little more than \$5021 in cash, with quite a healthy further amount given by direct debit, to causes as different as Lifeline, Tony's Kitchen, St Stephen's Winter appeal and Qld Synod disaster relief.

The first special offering for 2025 will support Destiny Rescue whose work has grown into a worldwide organisation dedicated to rescuing children from sexual exploitation and trafficking and equipping them to stay free. The organisation serves to help amplify the voices of those who are enslaved and those who have been freed from abuse.

In March, the special offering will support the purchase of Bibles for mainly music families.

Thanks to all who contributed no matter how much or how little. Your gifts are a blessing.

Derek Curnow.



LIFEWORKS

# BBQ BASH AND SPLASH

Join us for some cricket and  
water fight fun, followed by  
a BBQ



All welcome,  
bring your  
friends and  
family.

**4pm, Sunday  
2nd Feb**

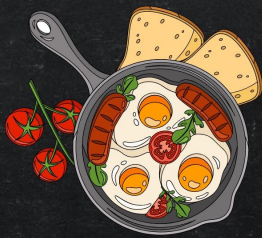
Bring a camp  
chair and  
what you  
want to  
chuck on the  
barbie.

# GAMES, GRUB & GOD

**SUNDAY 23RD FEBRUARY  
4.00PM TO 6.15PM  
AT LIFEWORKS UNITING CHURCH**

**BOARD GAMES  
SKILL GAMES  
CARD GAMES  
ALL WELCOME**

## *Men's Breakfast* at Lifeworks Uniting Church



**8am, Saturday 29th March**

**Guest Speaker: Rev Myles Waldron  
(Prison Ministry)**

Please RSVP by 25th March to  
[minister@lifeworksuniting.org.au](mailto:minister@lifeworksuniting.org.au)  
or by text to Adam - 0487 572 400

Gold coin donation welcome  
615 Boundary St Glenvale

# GLENVALE COMMUNITY BBQ

**FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

**Sunday 2nd March &  
Sunday 6th April  
from 4pm to 6pm at  
Lifeworks Uniting Church**

COFFEE, HOT AND COLD DRINKS ALSO AVAILABLE  
FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN GLENVALE  
ALL WELCOME



615 Boundary St Glenvale

# LIFEWORKS UNITING CHURCH

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tues-day	Wednes-day	Thursday	Friday	Satur-day
						<b>1</b> 9am Lifeworks Craft Group
<b>2</b> 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room  9am Worship  4pm BBQ, Bash and Splash	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7am Online morning prayer  9.30am mainly music	<b>6</b> 9.30am Keenagers	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room  9am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7am Online morning prayer  9.30am mainly music	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room  9am Worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7am Online morning prayer  9.30am mainly music	<b>20</b> 9.30am Keenagers	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8.30am Prayer in the meeting room  9am Worship  4pm Games, Grub and God	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7am Online morning prayer  9.30am mainly music	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	