

bris biz

Newsletter of GFS/Kids Plus+ Brisbane Diocese

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An Anglican Ministry



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Chairman's Letter

My Dear GFS Friends

So what has happened since my last letter to you. Well quite a lot actually.

Kylie Wall, the Domestic and Family Violence Advisor, who we were paying the wage for one day a week, resigned in early June. There has been no advice from the Diocese that this position is going to be filled, and no meetings have been scheduled for the Domestic and Family Violence Working Group, of which I am a Committee member. Again, we are left unformed, not knowing what any future plans are for this position, or for the Working Group. Very frustrating and disappointing.

Margaret set up a GFS information stall at Synod in June, and she and I were there on the Saturday for the Morning Tea break and the lunch break. I left after lunch, but Margaret stayed on for the Afternoon Tea break. My sincere thanks to Margaret for getting all the GFS 'stuff' to Churchie, and for giving up her time on a Saturday to be there to 'man' the display.

Chairman's Letter (continued)

In July Ipswich has its SPARK Festival, and St. Paul's Church is open every day and evening for people to visit for the week that the Festival is held. The focus of the displays in church this year was 'Women in Ministry', so there was a display on the Desert Mothers, M.U. had a display and I was asked to have a GFS display (see photos below). I collected all the material that Margaret had for Synod, and our Banner, and set it all up in St. Paul's Church. I also used the pictures from a Power Point I had used when I moved a motion at Synod to celebrate GFS Ministry a few years ago. The pictures that I printed out took us through the history of GFS and advertised that it is the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of GFS in England in 1875. Some photos of the display are included in this letter. I was also asked to supply some of my poetry to be printed out and displayed, so this display was set up next to the GFS one.

On 25th July Margaret, Lesley Gee and I were invited to go and see the progress on the building site of the Youth Homelessness Accommodation Project. Di Bell was also invited but unfortunately, she was sick so couldn't join us. It was very exciting to see this project underway, and we can't wait to see a finished unit in a few months when we will be revisiting the site once more. Sue Cooke, the CEO of Anglicare, and Kelly Burmester, the new head of Fundraising joined us. We then went for lunch after the site inspection and discussed how GFS can be recognised as a major contributor to this project. No decision as yet has been made as how this recognition will look.

Chairman's Letter (continued)

As there are no longer any camps being run by ACYC, and attending one of these camps was a criteria for a student receiving one of our bursaries, we had a discussion with Ruth Mathieson, head of St. Francis College, about how we could reinvent the way we give out grants to students at the College. It was decided that a better way forward would be to invite applications from students for funding for specific subjects that needed to be undertaken. An application form will now have to be drawn up.

On a personal note my L4 and L5 vertebrae joints have now been injected. My doctor wasn't very confident that it would help but it worked immediately and my back has been really good since. It wasn't a very pleasant experience having the needles put in, and then the substances injected, but if it is going to keep me pain free for a few months then I'm willing to endure a few minutes of pain to have it done regularly if it's going to give me a few months free of pain. I get some back ache but that is just muscular, probably a combination of age and those muscles not being used properly for a long time. I pray that the success of the injections continues for quite a while before I have to go through it all again. I ask for your prayers too please, they are greatly appreciated.

Please pray for the newly formed parish of the Ipswich Anglican Community where the parishes of Ipswich and Ipswich North have come together to form one parish. Also please uphold in your prayers our new priest who will arrive tomorrow night (Sunday 27th July) at 11.40pm, with his family from South Africa, Mpole Masemola. Can't say that I'm looking forward to being a part of the welcoming group at the airport at that time of night when I'm usually tucked up in my warm bed, but I am so looking forward to seeing them again

Chairman's Letter (continued)

and feel privileged to have been asked to be there to meet them. Mpole and his wife Lareto came over here to visit the parish earlier in the year and I met them then, they are beautiful people and it's so exciting to be welcoming them to Australia.

On August 14th it will be 10 years since my beloved husband, Austin, died. My girls want to have a family get together on Saturday the 16th to celebrate his life and commemorate this significant date, so I won't be at the next Council Meeting on the 16th. Sorry.

As I stated previously our next meeting is on Saturday 16th June at St. Francis College at 1pm. My closing words to you come from Romans 15: 5 - 8

'May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy.' In this divided world, with so much fighting, bloodshed, hatred and fear the spirit of unity is sadly missing. It seems as though all is lost and helplessness begins to creep in, but we can continue to pray, even when all seems lost and the world is led by megalomaniacs, we can still pray. That is the strongest tool in our arsenal, prayer. Pray without ceasing and don't lose hope. We are united in Christ, pray that the world too may be united.

May God bless you and those you love today and always.

Much love

Lesley xx

2025 Diary Notices

AUGUST – 2nd – Amplify Conference
16th – Executive Meeting

SEPTEMBER - 27th Thursday - World Day of Prayer

OCTOBER - 3rd – 6th – 150th year celebration
18th - Executive Meeting

DECEMBER

13th – Council Meeting, Buddy Reveal and Christmas Breakup



SPARK festival

St Pauls, North Ipswich
photos



Anglicare Women's Away – from - Homelessness

In February members asked what items were most in need when they visited the facility. In a subsequent email a **Welcome pack** of the following items: Dinner set (plates, mugs), Drinking Cups, Cutlery, tea towels, bath Towels, Fry pans / saucepan set, Cutting boards, Utensils, Toaster Kettle was mentioned. At Executive meetings members have been donating items and or funds for clients when they are ready to move into safe and stable long-term housing. Much of the above list plus blankets and toiletries were delivered on the 23rd June to the facility. (See photo at left).

All the items were greatly appreciated.



Our

Outreach Group Photos 29th May 2025 enjoying lunch after the Supreme Court Library Tour



L-R: Feona Walker, Patricia Jones, Jenny Tutin, Nancy Norwood, Rosanne Stothart, Bronwyn Barber, Clare Reed and Di Bell .



L-R: Margaret Humphries, Margaret Beerling, Margaret Greer, Lesley Briggs, Lesley Gee and Cheryl Russell.

Kenmore GFS Journeers

We had a successful Christmas in July cake stall and launch of Backpacks, Thanks so much to lots of Parishioners for their support last Sunday. We had a wonderful spread of cakes and sweets to sell. We raised \$404.10 including donations of \$110.00.

Kenmore GFS Journeers have a meeting Sunday 27th at 11.00 am following the Kenmore service. We will discuss who will benefit from our successful fund raising. Thanks to so many who took a Backpack to fill with new items for the Foster Children's programme of Anglicare.

God Bless, Suzanne Claire.



Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. [James 1:17](#)

BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS AND IN THIS WAY YOU WILL FULFIL THE LAW OF CHRIST. Galatians 6:2

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Anglicare Youth Homelessness Accommodation Project

On the 25th July Lesley Briggs, Lesley Gee and Margaret Humphries visited the site.



L – R: Grant, Project Manager, Margaret Humphries, Lesley Gee, Lesley Briggs and Sue Cook Anglicare CEO

The base of the lift area in centre of photo



The family units

Prayer Points

Let us pray for:

- Lesley Briggs and executive members for their commitment, decision making in the Brisbane Diocese.
- The GFS Australia Executive Members Julie, - Rev'd Sandra, Tania, Bronwyn members, Chris, Helen and Chaplain Rev'd Cheryl and Val.
- Branch Leaders at Kidsplus+ Bundaberg, and St Mark's Clayfield as they bring the word and life of Jesus into the lives of the many young people they encounter.
- Rev'd Kurt Langmead, family and Heather Robinson leaders at Lightning Ridge and their ministry to the people of that region.
- Jeanne Withange, the GFS World Team and family worldwide celebrating 150 years of GFS.
- The GFS World Project – The Bakery Project – Democratic of Congo.
- GFS branches in Dioceses across Australia and around the world that members will be inspired by the word of God to live a life filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Anglican Youth, Children and Families Ministry (AYCF) Juliet Briner Parish Support Officer and the future of this ministry.
- Bursary recipient Allana her ministry in theology and music. Pray also for the changes in criteria for receiving a bursary.
- Parishes accessing GFS grants for children, youth and families ministry.
- For Alexandra Chuc as she ministers to children and families at the Queensland Children's Hospital and for her research work.
- Those we know who are not well and those recovering from surgery Ian Kjellgren and Paul Gribble, for Keith Reed (husband of Clare), and Andrew Nolan, son of Jenny Nolan (NQ) undergoing treatment for cancer, Di and Kevin Bell, Kathleen Brecknell.
- Victims of Domestic Violence that is so prevalent and their recovery for a happier and fulfilling life.
- For a resolution of war between Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza and an end to the violence and civil unrest in Myanmar, Sudan and other countries in conflict and peace to the innocent victims of atrocities in these countries.



ABOVE ALL PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER IN THESE TRYING TIMES