



TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities and Hope Christian Homes | FEB 2023

Everyone Welcome

Dr Louise Gosbell joins Our Place Christian Communities as Ministry Leader

By Jenny Bawden



We're starting the new year with a new ministry leader – and we're so thankful for God's provision in answer to our prayers. With lived experience of disability and a PhD on disability in the gospels, Louise Gosbell has presented at numerous local and international conferences on disability and the Bible. She's served as principal of Mary Andrews College, taught the Bible at Wesley Institute in Sydney and been involved in running a Jesus Club at her church. She has also written the Everyone Welcome disability inclusion resource for the

Sydney Anglican Diocese, which has a wealth of information to help churches truly welcome and include people living with disability in all aspects of church life.

Louise longs to see Christian communities become places of belonging for people living with disability. "I'm really excited to be joining Our Place in the role of Ministry Leader. This is a real area of passion for me so it is a real privilege to serve Our Place in working towards their vision of helping churches become places of belonging

for people with disability."

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Louise into this role and are looking forward to seeing Louise bring her professional and personal experience to Our Place. It's hard to think of anybody better equipped for this work.

With God's grace, we hope to help many churches become places of welcome and gospel ministry to people living with disability...and be blessed in return!

Feb 19 | Our Place and Hope Christian Homes Annual General Meeting
Pray for us as we seek God's guidance and provision, and make ministry decisions.

Mar 11 | Hope Christian Homes Afternoon Tea
Find out how you can be part of a missional movement among people with disability.



A new kind of **hope**
A new kind of **home**
for people with **disability**

Find out and become involved in an innovative housing initiative for people with disability being launched in Springwood and the Blue Mountains.

SATURDAY
MARCH 11
2.00-3.30 PM
SPRINGWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
160 MACQUARIE RD



It's time to build!

Feeling seen feeling heard

Ministry alongside people with disability
with Our Place Christian Communities



It's been four years since she started a career in disability support; God's been growing Grace Dandie's heart for people with disability to know Jesus.

"It was never on my radar," Grace admits. "But I just got involved with it, started to really care for people and supporting people with disability."

We're so thankful for Grace, who served as a ministry worker with Our Place, and for the way God has encouraged her through her role. "The relationships I've built while doing this job, seeing how much Our Place encourages people and makes people feel seen and feel heard... That's the most encouraging thing for me, being part of that story."

"It's been such a blessing to be part of people's lives, and actually get to spend time with people with disability and go 'Hey, you have all these amazing gifts.' And I'm just excited to see how Our Place enables people to actually use those gifts!"

"It's the Bible being enacted. This is what we're supposed to do as Christians. We're supposed to go out, bring people off the streets. We're supposed to bring people into our church and enable them to be able to thrive in our churches. So I'm just excited to see the future of Our Place, and the future of churches, and the way that we can be loving people."

Grace will be moving into a full-time role with her local church, All Saints Anglican.



Belonging workshops & seminars

Learn how your church can be a
disability inclusive
community



workshop ideas with others who share your heart for people with disability



engage face to face with specialists in disability theology and ministry



start taking practical steps you can apply in your small group, church and community

To book a workshop at your church, contact Louise via email ministryleader@ourplacecc.org.au.

Thank you

...to the amazing local artists who donated art for our fundraiser! We couldn't have done it without you.

One of the artists was Stephen Travers, who donated a beautiful pen and ink drawing. Check out more at his website www.stephentraversart.com.

