



TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

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

4 tips on disability inclusion (some lessons we learned from each other recently)

At each of our disability ministry training workshops, we learn from each other and share experiences. Here are some nuggets from our recent workshop at All Saints Anglican...



1 Give people permission

We all have different bodies and minds and we need to do different things to help us learn. We can make our church services and events more inclusive by clearly communicating that people are allowed and free to do what they need to. Whether that's a quiet space, moving around, closing eyes or doing craft...Let's give each other permission to learn the way we do it best.

2 Interrogate biases and culture

Are our religious and cultural biases getting in the way of how we view and value people? What is ingrained in our thinking that we need to learn to question and interrogate in light of how God views people? Are the things we say about God and people with disability biblically sound and true? Being made in God's image means that we are to love and serve each other regardless of disability.



3 Encourage the use and growth of all gifts

God has given His people gifts – including people with disability. People with disability may want to accomplish and achieve goals in sharing Christ and growing in their faith. Do we allow people with disability this godly ambition - to strive for goals as much as everyone else, to grow in their faith, to reach out and serve and bless others – and encourage this to happen? Let's have helpful expectations.

4 Acknowledge God is the only One who is truly limitless

If God is the only one who is limitless, then all human beings are all really limited in some way, not just those of us with disability. Let's question our assumptions around capability and limits. Since all humans are God's image bearers even after the fall, we can each represent God in the world within our limitations. It is God who chooses; He works through who He works through, and it is by His grace that we enjoy Him and each other in work and community.

Thank you

To Grace and the team at All Saints Anglican & thanks Ian and Jill for the on-the-spot bookshop!



Upcoming workshop

JUNE 25

1:00-4:30pm

St Matts
Anglican
BOTANY



Book a face to face or online disability ministry workshop with Our Place

**ministryleader
@ourplacecc.org.au**

Hope Christian Homes UPDATE

Simon Shead shares how our pilot home in Springwood has been a great place of joy and growth. (P.S. Stay tuned for a party invite...)



Jerrah, Lewis and I have been having weekly dinners on a Tuesday night to begin the journey of a community where people with and without disability are safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved. It has been a joy for all involved.



The dinners have been full of laughter and mutual encouragement. We've had the opportunity to share in many things; walks through the local town, discussions about activities of the day, board games and prayer for each other. A favourite moment has been planning for a future community celebration. Everyone is very excited about the concept... particularly ideas for music and dancing!



Each of us is involved in local churches, and excited about inviting people to join for a meal. Plans for further construction of the home are being considered to allow for more space and opportunities for community engagement. We would love prayer that we would be able to adapt to any changes needed, and be able to have more dinners together in the future.

People with disability chosen by God at key moments of history



Rev John Swinton challenges: Let's think about "disability and the strange new world within the Bible" @ St Andrew's Cathedral.
Some biblical figures and passages to ponder...

Moses - Exodus 4:10-17: God did not tell Moses, "I'll heal you and you do it." He says, "Go do what you're told." A place of disability is a place where God is; it's strange and mysterious, but God is there.

Paul - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: Paul prays for the "thorn" to be taken away; but it doesn't happen. We long to fix and mend things, but God wants us to participate in the loving things He's doing just as we are.

Jesus - The gospels: Jesus' body on the cross was a disabled body and yet a means of God's grace. Jesus' disabled body is the source of our salvation, and shows how He identifies with all of our experiences.

*Thank
You*

To Steph and the team at Anglican Deaconess Ministries for your partnership in hosting Disability and the Church at St Andrew's in May.

Disability and the Church



WATCH
VIDEO



Rev John Swinton



Dr Louise Gosbell



Dr Kirk Patston



bit.ly/DisabilityAndTheChurch

How you can pray for your church

Pray for the deepening spiritual growth of people with disability in our church. Pray for insights into God's word and how to apply it. Pray for great blessings to come to our community through Christians with disability.

MONDAY

Pray for our church and ministry leaders. Pray for wisdom as they seek to make decisions and implement changes. Pray that these measures will enable people with disability to hear and experience the gospel at our church and beyond.

TUESDAY

Pray for connections and opportunities for encouragement, prayer and collaboration for our church. Pray that there may be synergy, support and fruitful relationships between churches and Christian organisations in disability ministry.

WEDNESDAY

Pray for our church's capacity to make disability inclusion a reality. Pray for the people, time, resources, understanding and perseverance to reach out, minister to, serve alongside and share life's joys and challenges with people with disability.

THURSDAY

Pray for Christians with disability in our church to have the joy of seeing friends and family come to know Christ. Pray for missionaries with disability to live out the gospel in powerful ways, and be effectively supported by our church.

FRIDAY

Pray for people with disability to know and follow Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Pray for the Lord to grow in our church a heart for people with disability – and for the insight, skills, and understanding to communicate the gospel.

SATURDAY

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH



6 day prayer guide

DOWNLOAD HERE

How you can pray

our place
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES



June 18: Louise visiting CrossLife Church at Asquith to give a short **presentation on including people with disability.**

June 25: Belonging workshop @ St Matts Botany, 1-4:30pm. Topics include: biblical perspectives of disability, identifying barriers and solutions, and creating disability inclusive communities.



For more information and registration
bit.ly/BelongingStMattsTicket

How you can partner financially



This EOFY, you can give a tax-deductible donation to support the ministry of Our Place to equip local churches to be places of belonging for people with disability.
ourplacecc.org.au/donate/

