



TIME TO BUILD

Building lives, homes & communities

Newsletter of Our Place Christian Communities
and Hope Christian Homes- DEC 2023

Highlights of 2023

Celebrate with us the good things that happened in 2023.

1 Weekly Meals Welcome Home Springwood

On Tuesdays Jerrah, Lewis and Simon have dinner together. It is lots of fun. They play games and pray for each other. Sometimes other people come too. This helps to build community.



2

**Belonging
workshops for
churches
seeking to
create inclusive
communities**

We ran three Belonging workshops this year:

- All Saints Anglican Epping
- St Matts Anglican Botany
- Kangaroo Valley Anglican

We shared lots of good ideas and information. We look forward to seeing what is next for these communities.



3 Community Celebration at Welcome Home Springwood

In August, Welcome Home Springwood held a community celebration inviting people from churches and the local community. Around 50 people attended creating an inclusive and diverse event.



4

The Board and Staff of Our Place Christian Communities

We're so thankful for our faithful board and committee members – for Jenny, Lisa, Ian, Sam, Simon, Paul and Renee. We are thankful for those who worked for us during 2023 - Kirk, Louise, Trix and Fiona.

5 Disability and the Church Event - St Andrews Cathedral

In May, we co-hosted a panel on Disability and The Church featuring keynote speaker John Swinton, and panellists Louise Gosbell and Kirk Patston, with panel host Stephanie Kate Judd. It was a wonderful night learning what the bible says about disability.

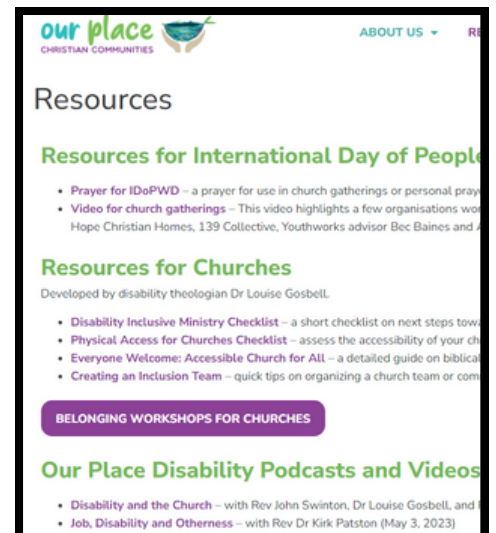


Rev John Swinton

Dr Louise Gosbell

6 New online resources

We are thankful for the new resources we have made available on our website.



7

Our advocates - partners in encouragement, time, energy, finances, and vision

We give thanks for all who have partnered with us in time, energy, finances, and who advocate for our vision to others. Pray as we build those relationships.

8

International Day of People with Disability

We made a video and prayer to celebrate the International Day of People with Disability. It promoted awareness and brought our prayers before God.

9

Ministry Matters at SMBC

In October Kirk, Rod and Jerrah spoke at SMBC “Ministry Matters” about our work to future ministry workers. We look forward to speaking to other bible colleges next year.



10

A certain hope

Pray for people with disabilities. Pray that they may find hope in Jesus, and a welcoming community in their local church.

We're so thankful for your partnership with us. We pray you have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Keep praying for us as we head into 2024.

10 ways you can advocate

for people with disabilities by partnering with Our Place and Hope

1 Pray

Read our newsletter and social media posts for prayer points.

2 Share your story with us

We know our lived experience with people with disability, including our own - we'd love to connect and hear yours! Contact us at admin@ourplaceecc.org.au.

3 Follow us on social media

This helps us get the word out to people on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

4 Share our social posts and events with friends

Help us to reach more people by sharing about us with others - via social media or word of mouth!

5 Invite us to run a Belonging workshop at your church

We'd love to work with you, your pastor and your church in raising awareness around how churches can be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

6 Let your church know about our workshops

We'd love to make this easy for you and have resources you can use to share.

7 Volunteer with us

Contact us to ask us how and discuss the possibilities!

8 Give a tax deductible donation

Consider giving financially towards our work. You can give to Hope Christian Homes for property or Our Place Christian Communities for ministry.

9 Introduce us to friends

We would love to connect with others who share our heart for people with disabilities to be safe and known, connected and growing, celebrated and loved, in Christian community. A lunch, a walk, a high tea, a BBQ, a tennis match...We're happy to meet friends anywhere!

10

Ask God

God knows more than us, he made you and knows the plans he has for you. Ask God to show and guide you how you can partner with us next year.