

## **GOONANEMAN ANGLICAN PARISH**

At present we are served by locum priests whilst we search for a permanent incumbent. Unfortunately, we can only offer a half time position but we are not looking for someone to do palliative care, as far as the parish is concerned. We are praying for someone with vision and energy who can help us move into a new chapter of renewal.

The Anglican Parish of Goonaneman is part of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland, northern region and the Burnett Deanery located in Wide Bay, Queensland. Goonaneman Parish was formed about 13 years ago with the amalgamation of the St. John's Parish of Biggenden with Gin Gin (including St Mary's Brooweena and St Thomas' Coulston Lakes) and the Parish of Christ Church, Childers with Woodgate. It comprises 6 centres, each precious in its diversity from the other.

**CHILDERS** is the town in which the priest resides. It is a very pretty, heritage town on the Bruce Highway 4 hours from Brisbane by road and Tilt train service. It has a population of about 3,500 which is greatly increased by the number of visitors who pass through all year round. Sadly, it is best known for the horrific fire in the Backpacker's Hostel about 13 years ago. This event, tragic as it was, has given the town's people a real sense of community and caring for each other. The city of Bundaberg is 35 minutes away, Maryborough 40 minutes and Hervey Bay 45 minutes. Childers has a wide variety of retail businesses. There are 2 Supermarkets, one of which is around the corner from the Rectory. In the fast food department it boasts a Subway and Macdonald's and has many cafes and other eating places along the highway through town.

### **MEDICAL FACILITIES**

The town has 3 medical practices, X-Ray and Medical Imaging facilities, visiting physiotherapists, podiatrists, optometrists, counsellors, 2 full-time pathologists, and a dentist, as well as 2 excellent pharmacies. There is also a small hospital which provides palliative care, convalescence and emergency cover, as well as providing nursing home care. Bundaberg Base Hospital deals with more serious needs as do the Private Hospitals in that city. Specialist care is found in either Bundaberg or Hervey Bay with the occasional referral to Brisbane. Adjacent to Childers Hospital is an aged care facility which caters for independent living and hostel accommodation.

### **EDUCATION**

There are excellent schools in town. Childers State School and Isis District State High School, along with St Joseph's Roman Catholic School are conveniently situated in the town, with rural children travelling to school by

bus. Some of the town's children attend St Luke's Anglican College or the Christian College in Bundaberg or one of the Catholic Colleges in Bundaberg or Maryborough. There are school buses to cater for these children. There are 2 kindergarten centres which also offer out of school hour's care.

### **LOCAL CROPS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS**

Childers is an easy place to live. People are friendly and helpful. There is plenty to do and all the shopping you need with perhaps the occasional trips to Bundaberg. It is the heart of a fruit and vegetable growing area with mangoes, avocados, macadamia nuts and small crops too numerous to mention grown for export in addition to Sugar Cane. The Isis Mill processes sugar cane drawn from a large area. Some farmers have diversified to cattle, alpacas and goats. One would say it is a wholesome area in which to live and raise a family.

The usual Service Clubs are active in the Childers community along with the CWA, Red Cross and many other organisations to appeal to all interests. The Parish Hall is used for meetings of various groups such as the Childers Quilters Group, Isis Orchid Society and the Pensioners Group on a regular basis, with a number of occasional bookings. Childers has a Choral Society, Arts Group, a Musical Production Company 'Pilot Light' which also runs the local FM community radio, Line Dancers, Potters workshop as well as card players and friendship groups which meet at the Neighbourhood Centre. The Art Gallery, under the auspices of Bundaberg Regional Arts Council is located in the famous Childers Backpackers building which also houses the memorial to the young people who lost their lives in the tragic fire. The Gallery showcases local and well-known artists with many travelling exhibitions. The Cultural Centre is the venue for live performances by local groups and visiting shows. Next to the Cultural Centre is an excellent Library, with computer facilities as well as a wide selection of books and information items. Sporting facilities include bowls, golf, cricket, rugby league, football, tennis, touch football, croquet, karate, and of course the gymnasium. Seasonal swimming pool and Club and Little Athletics are very popular among the younger folk. The major tourist attractions are "Snakes Down Under", "Flying High Bird Sanctuary", The Old Pharmacy, with Mammino's Ice Creams and some wineries to tempt the taste buds.

### **THE RECTORY**

The Rectory is situated beside Christ Church in the centre of Childers. It is a good-sized family home, with four bedrooms, one with en-suite and air conditioning. There is a second bathroom, living and dining area which is also air-conditioned, a well-appointed kitchen and a covered deck at the rear. The Parish Office and Priest's study are integral with the house but can

be accessed by a separate entrance and locked from the house. The house has gardens and a two car carport at front, and a rainwater tank. It is a low set brick home, purpose built for the parish about 12 years ago and has been well maintained. It has Solar Hot Water and Solar panels, and was recarpeted and painted throughout inside in 2012.

## **THE PARISH – CENTRE BY CENTRE**

### **ST FRANCIS – WOODGATE**

Woodgate Beach is a village of about 830 residents, almost 40 kms from Childers. It has an idyllic beach front setting; perfect for retirees, with little opportunity for growth as its boundaries are the Ocean and National Parks. The beaches are beautifully protected by Fraser Island, making it perfect for holiday makers who swell the population to a few thousand at holiday time. St Francis' Fellowship worship in the Woodgate Beach Community Centre, the rental cost for which is met by one of the parishioners. The fellowship is an integral part of the close knit community, with a very ecumenical flavour. They enjoy an Anglican Service at 11.00 am on the second and fourth Sundays of each month with an average attendance of around 20. Children are welcomed and are included in the service with special children's session and activities. A number of our folk also attend the Uniting Church Service on the alternate Sundays as they do ours.



The priest is assisted by LA's at Woodgate and each service is accompanied by a pianist on the piano owned by Woodgate Community. The fellowship is involved in the Woodgate Branch of Queensland Churches Together who organise combined services at Easter and Christmas as well as World Day of Prayer. Each July, the Woodgate Fellowship organise a Music and Morning Tea which is not only a great fundraiser, but also an amazing gathering of a

diverse group of locals and visitors from the caravan parks who come and enjoy each other's company and the entertainment. The members of the St Francis Community not only conduct their own quarterly meeting, but are very involved in the community. Many members are involved in the Christian Women's Fellowship which meets monthly. The local primary school is Goodwood State School.

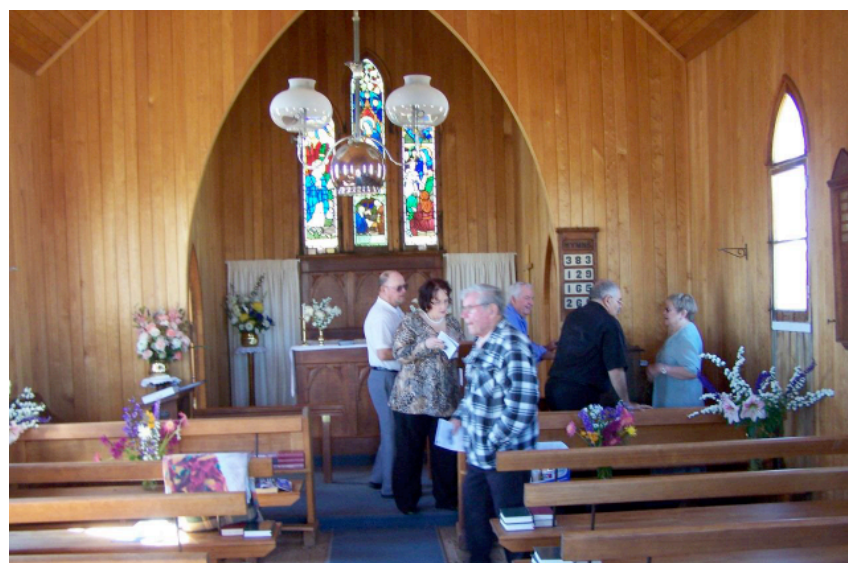
### **ST MARY'S – BROOWEENA**

Brooweena is a small rural village 80 kms SW of Childers but with its own small primary school. It is steeped in history and proud of its roots.

The Church has a rural setting about 5 kms from the village, on the Childers side, and is without power, giving it a unique charm. This little gem is listed on the Fraser Coast Heritage List. The Brooweena cemetery is attached. The average



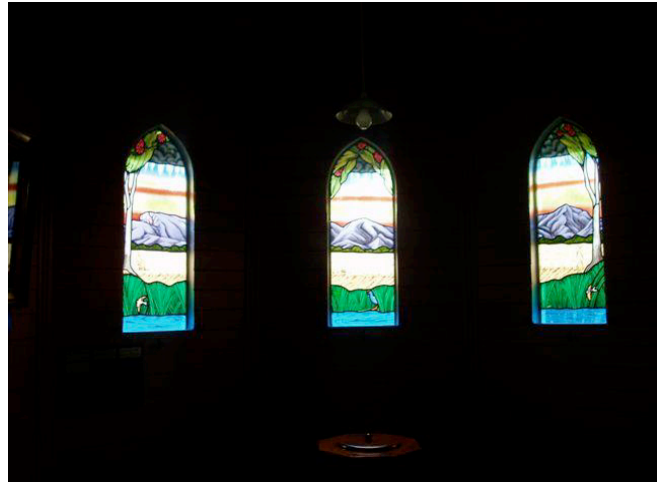
attendance has diminished in recent years to about 12, with possibility for growth. The service is monthly, either at 9.30am or 5.00pm on the first Sunday of the month and is a morning service is followed by morning tea and the evening service by a BBQ tea. As at all Centres, children are welcome and included. We have an organist who plays the old pump organ. The Christmas Eve late night service has been one of old world charm, lit by kerosene lamps and torches, and followed by Christmas cake and country hospitality in the pergola afterwards. Fraser Coast Regional Council pays the parish to keep the grounds mown since they own the pergola.



## ST JOHN'S – BIGGENDEN

Biggenden is 45 kms SSW of Childers, and once again is a rural town, the main industry being cattle for beef.

There is an abattoir at Biggenden providing employment for local residents. It boasts a 'high-top' school. St. John's Church is over 100 years old and is a traditional wooden church in large grounds with some attractive stained glass windows.



The old rectory is leased to Blue Care Queensland for the cost of the power and half the rates, plus maintenance. The Church gathers for Holy Eucharist on the first and third Sundays at 11.00 am, with an average attendance of 11. If children are present they are included in the service with special activities for them. There are two licensed LA's who assist the priest and two ladies able to play the organ.



The service is followed by a fellowship lunch in the Blue Care facility, by arrangement. They also enjoy a Mother's Union Service on third Friday of the month at 1.30 pm followed by the Ladies' Guild meeting. The Ladies' Guild conducts the Canteen at the local Cattle Sales, the income from which is a major income stream for the Parish. Another source of fundraising by the Biggenden Ladies' Guild is the quarterly Tombolas. The priest also conducts an ecumenical Eucharist at the Biggenden Hospital on the first Friday of the month at 10.45 am.



Biggenden Hospital has a Nursing Home Wing in which this service is conducted, much to the appreciation of residents and staff. It is well attended, with parishioners taking advantage of the opportunity as well. The church is cleaned by a lady who is paid by the Guild and at the moment the lawn is also being mown by a person paid by the Guild.

### **ST THOMAS' - COALSTOUN LAKES**

Coalstoun Lakes is a very small rural community, 65 SSW of Childers. Peanuts are grown here, as well as watermelons and some grain. Its existence as a community depends on the school which has less than 30 students. It is a very close community of people who are supportive of each other. The community church is a traditional wooden building on the Isis Highway. Until recently, it has had a service of Holy Eucharist on the fifth Sunday of the month at 11.30 am. This has ceased, and that service now rotates round the other Centres as a 10.00am Parish Service. There is a water tank on the church, but no toilet facilities, and fellowship activities are held in the Community Hall just down the road. Once a year, Coalstoun Lakes hosts a Mothers' Union Day which is always a pleasure to attend. A Tombola is conducted annually, with proceeds going to the St. Thomas' Coalstoun Lakes account, such is the community ownership of the building. It is well maintained, having been painted in the last 4 years, and the yard is kept mown by the lady who lives next door. We have promised that this building will not be decommissioned while ever we have Anglicans in the village.

### **ST MARY'S – GIN GIN**

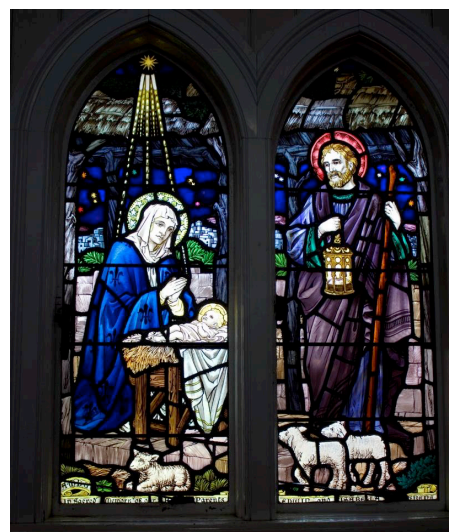
St. Mary's Church is a 111 year old wooden building in the centre of town. The grounds are expansive and also contain the Godfrey Wilson Memorial Hall which is hired out as an income stream for the Parish. It boasts a convenient kitchen, which was totally refurbished in 2008. Gin Gin is 54 kms NW of Childers with the main industry being citrus fruit, sugar cane and cattle. With an average attendance of about 12, it draws its congregation from outlying areas as well as in town. Children are an integral and most welcome part of the service. The worshippers enjoy a service of Holy Eucharist at 5.00 pm each Sunday followed by a shared tea in the hall. They have four licensed L.A's and a couple of people able to play the organ. One of the parishioners is responsible for the cleaning of the church



and another ensures the grounds are kept mown. Kolan Gardens Retirement Village is alongside the local hospital.

### **CHRIST CHURCH – CHILDERS**

Located beside the rectory in the centre of town, Christ Church is a wooden Heritage Listed building, with beautiful stained glass windows designed by William Bustard.



It is in pleasant grounds, with good off street parking, next to the church hall. Childers enjoys a service of Holy Eucharist at 8.30 am on each Sunday. When children are present, they are catered for with activities and a children's session during the service. Average attendance is about 15. Our Mothers' Union was decommissioned in 2014 but we still continue to host Lady Day in the Deanery, along with other regional gatherings. Morning Tea follows the service every Sunday. Rosters are drawn up for Welcoming, Morning Tea, and Church cleaning. There are 2 licensed LA's at Christ Church. Communion and pastoral visits as required are made at Forest View Retirement Village. In 2013, Christ Church, Childers celebrated 125 years of Anglican Ministry in the town. In 2014, the church building was painted externally, on a 7 year maintenance agreement, costing around \$6,000 per year for the 7 years. Programmed Property Services undertake an annual inspection and clean the building to a height of 3 metres.



### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Parish has six worship centres, five with church buildings and the sixth uses the local community hall for services. Usually, there is a Priest's Warden and a Peoples' Warden. There are 8 licensed Liturgical Assistants across the

Parish. The Parish Council at present has nine members, and meets once a month on the third Sunday afternoon, at Christ Church Hall, Childers. Ideally, each of the major centres is represented on Parish Council. Unfortunately, Biggenden and Brooweena do not have a representative at the moment. Each centre takes responsibility for its own life and property under the overall responsibility of the wardens. Each has a contact person with keys who can facilitate use of the churches and halls. Each centre arranges cleaning of the churches and rosters for refreshments, etc. The parish halls are well used and generate income.

### **PEW BULLETINS**

These are produced weekly and form the main line of communication in the Parish to advertise needs, news from the Parish Council, the happenings for the coming week and coming local and regional events, along with notes on the bible readings and theme for each Sunday.

### **PARISH CAR**

The Parish Car is a 2011 SsangYong Korando AWD. It is maintained by the local dealer in Bundaberg. It is in excellent condition, and owned by the Parish.

### **OTHER**

Lenten studies and other occasional studies and courses are held throughout the year.

Pastoral Care is undertaken by both priest and parishioners. Parish Roll, Blue Card and W.H. & S. documentation are kept up to date and there is a Pastoral Care Programme on the Church Computer. We have an accredited Spiritual Director in the Parish and spiritual direction is available at Christ Church by appointment, and reflection days and retreats are offered throughout the year.

There is a mission secretary on the Parish Council. The parish is committed to being actively engaged in mission giving. The Parish sponsors a child in Zimbabwe through Vana Child Care Ministries.

Representatives from the Parish serve on the Local Chaplaincy Committees at Biggenden, Gin Gin and Childers.

The Church computer was upgraded in 2012/3.

### **FUND RAISING**

Fund raising is essential for the survival of our parish. In Biggenden, the Ladies' Guild run the Canteen at the Cattle Sales and conducts 4 Tombolas per year. This is not a fixed income, but dependant on the economic climate. Woodgate community host an annual Music and Morning Tea. Gin Gin work hard at promoting the hall for rental. Childers also receive an income from hall rental. The Parish, for a number of years have hosted an exhibition in the church, of quilts made by the Childers Quilters who use the hall, and Orchids grown by the Isis Orchid Society who also use our hall.



### **ECUMENICAL MATTERS**

In small communities, it is important to have positive interaction with other denominations. The success of many events is dependent on support from the wider Christian Community. The Lutheran Fellowship use St John's at Biggenden for their service on 5th Sunday of the month. There is a group which supports Queensland Churches Together at Woodgate with the people of the beachside community attending each other's services on a regular basis. The Childers Ministers' Fellowship meets occasionally as needed to coordinate C.R.E. in our state schools and other occasional combined church activities. Biggenden, Childers, Gin Gin and Woodgate fellowships support World Day of Prayer in their local areas, with many Childers folk attending the 'Over 50's and Wiser' group at the Wesleyan Methodist Church and a couple attending their weekly prayer group.

### **WORSHIP STYLE**

Worship is the weekly Eucharist of a catholic ethos common to the Brisbane Diocese and using hymns mainly from Together in Song and occasionally from Mission Praise. Special services include Blessing of the Pets and Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas. Baptisms, though



infrequent, are always a joyous occasion. Funerals are conducted as required.

### **LITURGICAL TEAM**

At present there are 8 LA's across the Parish.

### **ROLES UNDERTAKEN BY LAITY**

We have rosters of greeters, readers and intercessors in each centre. Each centre takes responsibility for cleaning of worship centres and preparing and setting up for services.

### **FINANCIAL**

The envelope system for regular giving is encouraged, with facility for giving through direct deposit into our ANFIN Account. We do rely on our fund raising activities to survive financially and in the past have been grateful recipients of funding from the Bush Ministry Fund. Our only debt as such is the 7 year maintenance agreement with Programmed Property Services, which will be completed in 2020. Records are kept using MYOB and audited annually by a chartered accountant.

### **CHALLENGES WE FACE**

- Finding a full time priest and funding his stipend
- An increasing workload with decreasing human resources
- Caring for our increasing number of elderly parishioners
- Caring for parishioners scattered over a wide area.
- Moving from a maintenance to a mission culture.

### **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

The Anglican Church of Australia  
The Diocese of Brisbane

The Parish of Goonaneman Strategic Plan for Mission and Ministry (MAP) for  
2016.

#### **Mission Statement:**

To know the power of Jesus Christ to save, and to share that truth with others.

#### **Vision:**

To be a parish that includes everyone; that cares about and supports outsiders and people already in the parish; where our own faith grows

through prayer and Bible study; that takes the Gospel to people in the Church and people in the community.

**Core Biblical Values:**

We are committed to:

Teaching a Biblical faith and administering the Sacraments.

The Bible is God's word and we need it to know God and for personal life-change. The Bible is our standard for faith and behaviour and leads us to honour Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed onto you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24).

- **Prayer.**

Prayer is an expression of our dependence on God our Father and of our relationship with Him. Prayer has a high priority in all our gatherings.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6: 18).

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18).

- **Sharing our faith.**

In the parish and beyond it, individually and as a church, we will take an active part in the work of presenting the Lord Jesus to the world.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching

them to obey everything that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28: 19-20).

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15).

- **Having all church members involved in the work of the church, through servant leadership – that is, leadership that puts the needs of others first.**

As members of the body of Christ we are called to share in the work of the church. Our leaders (with training and encouragement) are called to follow the example of Jesus, selflessly giving their best to those in their care.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. (1 Corinthians 12:12).

The gifts He gave were that some would be: apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 11-12).

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11).

Whoever is the greatest among you shall be your servant. (Matthew 23: 11).

- **Integrity, Transparency and Accountability in all relationships.**  
As God's representatives, our words and actions need to follow His Word and be above reproach. This requires us to be willing to work together in love and humbleness.

Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5: 16).

Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4:15).

- **Giving generously from what God has given us.**

Our gifts, time, possessions, finances and skills belong to God. We will use them enthusiastically to advance the mission of Jesus both in our parish and outside it.

Remember that the person who plants few seeds will have a small crop; the one who plants many seeds will have a large crop. You should each give, then, as you have decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8).

### **Key Ministry (Work) Areas:**

Key Ministry Areas are our main activities to do God's work and reach our Vision.

- **Teaching the faith** to adults, teenagers and children  
*This includes people sharing or taking responsibility for* worship; personal daily bible reading and prayer; workshops or courses; preparation for early Admission or Confirmation; camps and retreats; small groups for fellowship, prayer, ministry, bible study, etc; biblical stewardship principles: training young servers; overseas missions.
- **Growing the congregation.**  
*This includes* pastoral care (looking after everyone in the church family); talking with newcomers and those who don't come to church as often as they used to; outreach events such as a Parish Fair; different sorts of church services; baptism visits, conversations and welcoming new parents; family, children and youth work; knowing our strengths and weaknesses, perhaps through the 'Natural Church Development' (N.C.D.)
- **Serving the Community.**  
*This includes* Anglicare links; Religious Education in schools; school breakfasts; casserole and food banks and food vouchers; school reading and mentoring programs; hospital or nursing home visiting; taking weddings and funerals; emergency relief programs (eg flood, fire etc).
- **Parish Resources**

*This includes records or 'hands-on' jobs, including finances; secretarial support, including Ministry Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday and Parish Pledged Giving Programme; care of buildings and grounds; hall hire; office secretarial and computing jobs, including parish roll and other data banks; social media, eg: website, face book; Workplace Health and Safety; Blue Cards; power point preparation for Services*

### **Strategic Action Plan for 2016:**

Goals and new plans are based on our core Biblical values.

#### **Teaching the Faith.**

- Conduct preparation for Confirmation aiming for a mid year celebration
- Offer Lenten studies for each Centre in the Parish with the option of continuing throughout Easter.
- Support any initiative for prayer in the Parish. Seek opportunities to initiate it where it is not happening.
- Set up a prayer chain in the Parish.
- Have a 'faith sharing' dimension to our gatherings after worship.

#### **Growing the Congregations.**

- To have activities, facilities and ways of including children, available at all services.
- To set up a parish web site with all our Centres and service times.
- To improve street signage at each of our churches.
- Invite the Quilters and Orchid Society to have another open day exhibition at Childers.
- Provide a stand with free Christian literature in each of our halls.
- Open our three historic churches at least one morning a week with hospitality for visitors.
- Woodgate to check if service times are still up in the caravan park and around town.
- Make a weekly pastoral phone call to all our 'shut ins'.
- Have at least one 'Connect to Church, Sunday in each of our Centres.
- Recognise the significant anniversaries for each of our regular worshippers. Continue the 'Cradle Roll'.

#### **Serving the Community.**

- Hold Harvest Services – at end of sugar harvest.

- Offer an opportunity for regular gatherings for fellowship for the lonely and widows at Childers.
- Offer a 'soup kitchen' on Sunday evenings at Gin Gin.
- See if a Men's Shed could make literature stands for Childers and Gin Gin halls.
- Each Centre to look to hosting an activity during a community event.