



THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

The Right Reverend Dr. Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

PO Box 4
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Phone: 02 66424122
Email: bishop@graftondiocese.org.au

Sunday 7 April 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am pleased to announce that the Rev'd Tiffany Sparks has accepted the position of Diocesan Archdeacon and Ministry Development Officer in the Diocese of Grafton.

Tiffany is currently Rector of Ashgrove in the Diocese of Brisbane. She comes to us with experience in parish ministry where she has creatively engaged with the local community through ministries such as *Practically Spiritual*, a systematic theology group, *Wine and Cheese Nights* which serve as a public forum to tackle matters of faith in the secular world, and *All in Church*, an approach to intergenerational worship. Beyond the parish Tiffany has experience of engaging with wider society, including being the developer of *Repent4Lent.org*, a Social Media campaign that involved over 30,000 engagements worldwide, was a panellist on the ABC's Q&A Program and is a participant in the SBS Reality TV Documentary on Christianity - *Christians Like Us* - which is currently airing on SBS TV. In these and other ways, Tiffany has shown that she has a broad vision of what "Church" looks like and its role in a rapidly changing, secular society. She has experience in School Governance, having been on the School Council at Hillbrook Anglican School in Brisbane, and holds the AICD (Australian Institute of Company Directors) qualification in governance. Prior to parish ministry she was Chaplain at Griffith University, was on staff in the Department of Theology at ACU and has degrees in Theology and Social Science with Honours in Pauline Studies.

Together with the Bishop and other senior leaders, the Diocesan Archdeacon helps to shape and live out mission and ministry across the diverse ministry contexts of the North Coast. The post holder is required to exercise this significant role of spiritual leadership with integrity, leading and working alongside large teams of clergy, lay people and volunteers.

The selection panel was convinced that The Rev'd Tiffany Sparks will meet the requirements of this role with integrity. In addition, we believe that she offers the kind of creative energy and leadership that are currently needed as we grow into becoming the church of the future.

I look forward to welcoming Tiffany and her husband Grant to the diocese and sharing ministry with them. A commencement date has not yet been set, but is likely to be in June or July. Please keep Tiffany and her family in your prayers as they begin to undertake this move as well as the new responsibilities that Tiffany will be taking on. Please pray also for the people of Ashgrove Parish as Tiffany prepares to conclude her ministry there.

Yours in Christ

Dr Murray Harvey
Bishop of Grafton

My name is Tiffany Sparks and I am currently the Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church Ashgrove in Brisbane where I have served since 2012. Throughout my life some of the most influential conversations have been theological and philosophical in nature, which has encouraged me to reflect deeply on what being a Christian means and what that tells us about how to serve each other with love, respect and dignity. I have always been fascinated by how we develop as a culture, forming cultural norms and community narratives. This fascination has been with me from my late teens, drawing me to pursue education in Social Sciences and Theology with honours in Pauline Literature. I was ordained in 2011 at 29 years old. Before ordination my ministry included working for the Department of Theology at ACU during my honours studies and working for Griffith University as Chaplain. Previously I was involved in creating young mothers' groups in Western Queensland, refugee and homelessness advocacy.

After having my son at a young age, I have been particularly concerned with people on the margins, who feel excluded from God and Church and seek to make the Church more accessible to everyone. I am also interested in exploring the online space with campaigns like repent4lent.org, where I encouraged people to reflect on current society and their own beliefs and in 2014 St. Paul's became the first mainstream Church to accept Bitcoin (crypto currencies).

I am married to the lovely Grant Sparks and we have a blended family of 6 children, a grandchild and 2 beautiful border collies. I am looking forward to all the adventures this future ministry is going to offer, to meeting and supporting people in their vocations and to being inspired by where the Spirit is moving in our places of worship and in the community.

