

## Personal Profile for Rev'd Canon Gary Harch – Diocese of Brisbane



Born 1956; B Surv (Univ of Qld) 76; Worked as a surveyor 77-80, Youth worker Parish of Gladstone Dio of Rockpntn 81-82, St Francis' Coll 83-84; BA (Univ of Qld) 84; D.84, P.85 Rockhampton; C. St Paul's Cathl, Rockpntn 85-87; PinC Middlemount Dio of Rockpntn 87-90; R. St Colomb's, Clayfield Dio of Brisbane 90-96; Area Dean of Brisbane North East Dio of Bris 93-96; AD of the West 96-06; R. St Paul's, Roma Dio of Bris 97-06; R. St James' Toowoomba Dio of Bris 06-14; AD of the Downs 06-14; Res Canon, Cathedral of St John The Evangelist from 14; PinC Parish of Kangaroo Point Dio of Bris 14-22; Chair Parishes Building & Furnishing Advis. Cttee from 17; Area Dean, Deanery of Brisbane South-East 20-21.

Brisbane Diocesan Council member 1996-2021, Chair of Committees 2017-2021, Member and then Chair of Diocesan

Audit and Risk Committee for many years. Member of Diocesan Council Committee for advice regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Child abuse. Chair of DC committee advising on future of The Toowoomba Prep School. Member of committee advising structural reform of DC and carriage of that canon through Synod. Fourth time member of General Synod member.

Involvement in drama and light opera both on stage and off stage and developed liturgical drama and clowning.

Interests in the environment generally and birdwatching particularly, which led to being the Leader of an ANZSES expedition into the Simpson Desert, founding member of the Qld Waders Study Group and member of Toowoomba Field Naturalists Society. Member and Vice Chair of Qld Murray Darling Committee for many years. I have co-led several wilderness retreats into the semi-arid zone sw of Cunnamulla.

Committee member of Oxfam Support Group in Toowoomba.

Research into local Church history across three parishes and supported Roma Historical Society in documenting history and graves of WW1 veterans. Researched the restoration and replacement of stained-glass windows and initiated the installation of new stained-glass windows across three parishes.

I encouraged the repair and ongoing maintenance of four separate pipe organs in four separate parishes. I have a building project for new offices in one parish and in another parish oversaw the sale of Church land to finance the building of a new Church in a growing new development.

I am currently an Australian trainer of mentors for the Exploring Faith Matters (EfM) programme in Australia. I have been involved with this programme in various ways since 1980. I am also currently an Australian trainer of facilitators for the Prepare-Enrich marriage preparation and have for many years prepared couples for marriage using this programme.

Awarded the HMAS Moreton Commanders Medal in October 2021 and appointed the Honorary Chaplain to the Naval Association of Australia, Queensland Section from February 2022.