



New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Freestone Parish UCA OCTOBER 2022

Pastoral Ponderings

6 October 2022

I greet you in the Name of Christ

I have been reminded of a song during the past few weeks, the chorus goes like this:

Have you seen Jesus my Lord?

He's here in plain view

Take a look

open your eyes

He'll show it to you

I cannot help but be in awe of the many places I have seen Jesus in our faith family during the past weeks. Places that were so unexpected, it took my breath away.



In the generosity towards the vulnerable, the poor, the homeless, the other, the outcast. Disciples on a journey of learning and re-learning some truths about what it means to be a follower of Christ.

I was amazed at the wisdom and genuine courage of our church council. Wrestling with matters of bread and shelter and how to balance the risk and not lose the spirit of what we are all about. The growing crisis in housing is reaching our towns now and several of our members have opened their homes to shelter or to help.

The Warwick church was chosen by a vulnerable person as a safe place and made his home on the back porch during the bitter cold winter months. Congregation members befriended him, took care, and mostly got to know him. The Council discerned together a solution and has decided to accommodate Peter in the "old manse" for the period of October, November, and December at a nominal rental fee. We are praying that he will be able to find a more suitable and more permanent solution to the problem and that the three months grace we are able to extend will be put to good use. Please pray with us and intercede for a better solution for the number of people who are facing similar situations in our region.

By now most of you reading this must have heard or seen that the Lighthouse has moved into new premises that are a lot better for the purposes of the outreach. We wish them well and pray that God will continue to use them to provide care and resources in this area.

It gives me great joy to let you know that Protea Place Board in Toowoomba has accepted the proposal that our very capable Sue Campbell submitted with the help of a few others. Protea Place is a project that cares for vulnerable women and will be staffed by professional staff and team members who are trained to provide the care that is needed. It is a drop-in center for a few hours on a selected days (possibly two in the beginning) and it concludes always with a lunch shared.

Please pray for all the renovations that need to happen to make the building fit for purpose and that those with skills in these areas will be generous with their support. Please let me know if you can assist in any way.

I am also delighted to let you know that the Killarney congregation is back in full swing with weekly services, and it is really going well. Well done to this small but powerful congregation that did the brave thing and it is producing much fruit.

A further joy is the new Intergenerational service that we are planning for Warwick. This service will take place on the last Sunday of the month at 5:30pm, with the first one on 30 October. It will include a light meal. This service is for all the generations to grow together in faith. I am excited about it and trust that you will pop in to experience it!

I invite you to take a look, and to see Jesus!
He is here in plain view.

Lots of blessings

Ansie

The 23rd Psalm for Busy People

The Lord is my pace setter, I shall not rush
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals
He provides me with images of stillness
Which restore my serenity.

He leads me in the way of efficiency
Through calmness of mind and his guidance of peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all importance, will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal
In the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquillity,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruit of my hours,
Or I shall walk in the pace of my Lord
And dwell in his house for ever.
Amen.
By Toki Miyashina.



Food for Thought....Time and Tide

The saying goes that time and tide wait for no man (or woman). I sat and thought about this recently as I watched the minutes , the hours , the days and the years go by, swooshing past me at terrific speed...and I so want to slow them down! I watch the inevitable slowing down, the blemishes, the wrinkles, the fading of hearing and eyesight and the staggers....and I wonder how it all happened so fast. I really don't feel old...or want to be old... and I wonder at how and why God has planned our lifespan this way.

Someone listed the seven decades of man as Spills, Drills, Thrills, Bills, Ills, Pills and Wills!

My musing then took me into the realm of nature where I saw the same process as I see happening to me. Take the life of a rose. It starts as a tight little bud that opens into an absolutely beautiful, pure, breathtakingly perfect bud. Then, in its maturity, we see the layers of petals as the full bloom takes its form. As time goes by its petals start to fall one by one until its lifetime is completed. Another tight bud takes its place until it in turn becomes old. This ageing process is part of every entity in God's creation.

Back to where I am in this process! I found something that told me that you know you're growing old when everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. Your children begin to look middle aged. You join a health club and don't go. You decide to procrastinate, but never get around to it. Your favourite part of the newspaper is "Twenty-five years ago today" Your back goes out more than you do. You've got too much room in the house, but not enough room in the medicine cupboard. You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

So, I decided to find the upside of all this deterioration. The first little gem I came across said thus: *It has been said that there is not a man or a woman alive who could not retire comfortably in their old age if they could sell their experience for what it cost them.* So, OK God, why don't you harness all our wisdom to pass on to the next generation? Why do each of us have to discover it anew in our own lifetime? How much quicker your Kingdom would come with all this wisdom heaping up!

But then I also discovered life isn't over because you're getting older. Tennyson was 83 when he wrote, "Crossing the Bar". Gladstone served as Prime Minister of England at age 83. Verdi wrote Operas well into his eighties. Michelangelo was still producing masterpieces at 89 as was Monet at 85. Vance Havner told of a 90-year-old who decided to travel round the world. His friend, distressed, said to him, "You shouldn't try a trip like this. I might not see you again." Suitcase in hand, the man said, "Maybe not....you might be dead when I get back!"

So, let me finish this solitary musing with some words of a prayer from a seventh century nun. *Lord, you know better than I that I am growing old. Keep me from getting talkative, from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all....but, Lord, you know I want a few friends at the end. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible I may be mistaken. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people...and give me, dear Lord, the grace to tell them so !*

Finally, just read the final words of Psalm 92!.....Shalom, from young Jean!

OCTOBER CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

- **The Lighthouse**

The Lighthouse has now relocated to the Grafton and Guy Streets corner. Rev Ansie continues as Chaplain for the Lighthouse and Rev May as the Chair for the Lighthouse Committee until their AGM February 2023; Joanne Wallace is the new co-ordinator.

We extend our thanks to Daphne Porter for the work she did while co-ordinator, managing it so well and with so much care while The Lighthouse rented the old Manse.

Daphne, we valued the connections you gave us with this ecumenical outreach, especially the reports we had which enabled us to understand more of the wide range of services offered. You ensured it maintained a well-respected position in the community. Enjoy the time you now have!

- **The Manse**

God provides in wonderful ways! Protea Place Toowoomba has confirmed their support to set up Protea Place Warwick using the old Manse. What is Protea Place Toowoomba?

This excerpt from their website:

Our mission is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for vulnerable women who may be experiencing homelessness or disadvantage.

A place of safety, dignity, and acceptance that will empower women to rebuild and transform their lives.

A home-like drop-in centre where women are encouraged to self-determine through connection and support.”

In conversations with Protea Place, Ansie has been told it will probably be June 2023 before Protea Place Warwick commences. We look forward to hearing more of this journey and what we need to do to help it happen.

Temporary Shelter

Church Council agreed to allow our camper Peter Porter to live in the vacated Manse as a temporary residence.

- We are following Synod guidelines
- Peter has been given tenancy for 3 months (until end December) and in this time will have weekly inspections and other regulations to follow.
- Council members already working with Peter will continue to liaise with him and Cornerstone in seeking long term solutions to his complex needs.
- This action was considered the most Christian way to relocate Peter away from the back door, while being the good Samaritan to someone in need. It also complies with Safe Ministry with Children for our mainly music group plus church members using the Stacey Street entrance and Work Place Health and Safety Requirements.

- **Old Time Dance**

- A great success and will be repeated next year in March and 23rd September.
- Many thanks to Anne and Ian Coy and Alison and Cathy Payne for their work in making it go so well.

- **COMING EVENTS:**

- ***NOTE: Please hold social events on a Friday Night – those involved with worship on the Sunday find Saturday night impacts on the Sunday.***

- **Family Drug Support** – please see their Poster on the Noticeboard or pick up a poster if you know someone who would be interested. First meeting 12th October and then meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 4-6pm.

- **Marriage Course** – commences in Williams Hall on Tuesday 25th October 6pm and continues each Tuesday night until early December. **Pick up a brochure to read all about it!**

- **Intergenerational Worship**– We are excited to embark on an initial trial for a Sunday evening service that will be intergenerational on the Last Sunday of every month. The first one will be on 30th October at 5:30 pm at Warwick Uniting Church and will include a light meal.

Killarney News: Killarney now has the opportunity to worship each Sunday, with the Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Churches providing a roster for the 2nd Sunday of each month and our own Minister and lay preachers giving the message on other Sundays.

SURVEYMONKEY: Council has tasked Communications with running a Survey on a preferred name for our 3 churches. Check out the survey printed this issue which includes the online link to SurveyMonkey (you will not be asked for your name).

Marg Wells
Acting secretary



Finance Summary – SEPTEMBER 2022

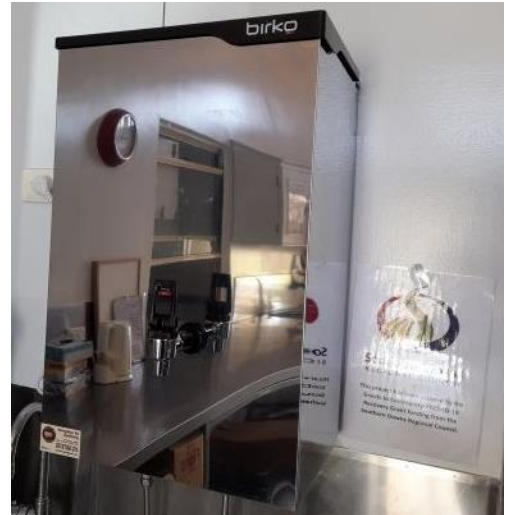
	SEPTEMBER	Year to SEPTEMBER	Budget to SEPTEMBER
Income	\$12 002.37	\$129 721.74	\$123 645
Expenditure	\$13 689.19	\$125 924.39	\$124 747

God is good and we thank Him for his faithful provision for our finances here. Presently, there is an expectation we may be able meet the challenging income goals we, the Parish, set for 2022 but there is more to do.

Further, our income into the future will be affected until our manse is re-tenanted, but such income holes can be overcome by working together and giving of ourselves, our talents, to make planned future ventures successful.

Thank you to Southern Downs Regional Council -

Thank you to SDRC for the funds to allow the replacement of our zip boiler. Many a good cuppa had been served from our previous zip boiler, but when it ceased to operate, some very risky ways to fill the big tea pots was observed – you know who I’m taking about. Thank goodness no injuries occurred – truly by the grace of God – but thanks to the generous grant from SDRC we can now safely fill tea pots, cups, saucepans etc. to facilitate the hospitality that is such an important part of our mission – within our congregation and the wider local community. So next time you’re enjoying a cuppa in the hall – raise a toast to SDRC.



Freestone Old Time Dance

A fun night of with the only serious faces on those who had to concentrate to the long-forgotten dance steps.

You are always assured on a delicious supper at any function at Freestone.

Be sure to look out for the date of the next dance.

Dancing in Swan Creek Hall every Tuesday with Ian and Anne Coy.



MARKET DAY – 15th OCTOBER

Saturday 9 – 12 noon

What will be there?

COLLECTABLES

Valued items in good



MEGA PLANT SALE



Australian Natives, Succulents & lots more

PRODUCE

Fresh is best



CRAFT



Including Christmas items

STALLS:-

- Homemade Cakes & Biscuits
- Sweets and Healthy Treats
- Sausage Sizzle
- Courtyard Café
- Drinks

How can you help?

- ◆ **Setting up from 7am on the day**
- ◆ **Provide** exciting valuable Collectables, Craft items – help set and sort the goods received on either Friday 14th or Saturday morning
- ◆ **Cook** sweets, healthy treats, cakes, biscuits, slices etc – Contact Judy Lester (0427 537 371 for cakes etc) or Mary Young (0429 969 433 for sweets) if you can help. All items need to show listed ingredients.
- ◆ **Contribute** to ingredients used in cooking – butter, condensed milk, sugar, eggs, chocolate melts etc. Leave in the church office.
- ◆ **Offer** to help on a stall
- ◆ **Invite** some friends and family to come and enjoy the music and grab a bargain

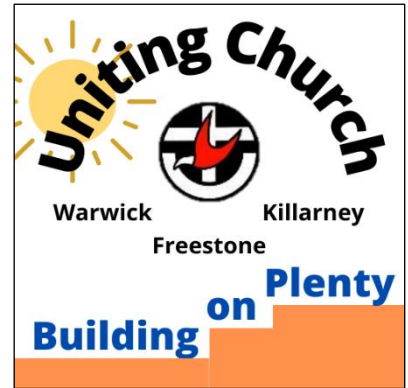
Entertainment:

- * Scots Junior Pipers 9am
- * Warwick Thistle Pipe Band 10am
- * Mystery Activity for everyone 11am
- * Southern Downs ARK pet display all day and more ...



Please contact Scott Young (0429 969 432) if you need help or further information.
See you there. Scott, for the Market Day Team.

**WHAT IS IN A NAME?
Plenty!!**



Review:

At our last Annual Parish Meeting (February this year), our official name was Warwick Killarney Uniting Church and the Freestone Preaching Centre. This is an awful mouthful and does not reflect the dynamic Freestone Church. Nor is it inclusive.

At that time there was no decision made on a name and it was decided to wait for a year to see if a year into our Plenty Priorities helped provide a name as well as generate a sense that we are on a 5 year journey.

It's time to look at the issue again for our next Annual General Meeting and, to resolve where we are now, we are putting it to the vote. We are using SurveyMonkey for those who would like to do it online. It is anonymous, you are not asked for your name.

SurveyMonkey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3DXCFNB>

NOTE: Surveys finish 31st October 2022

See below for those preferring a hard copy. Fill out and return to any on the Communications team: Angela Lester, Alison Baistow, Gordon Bratby or Marg Wells or leave in the office.

Please make your selection from the list below.

- Upper Condamine Uniting Church
- Living Water Uniting Church
- Harvest Uniting Church
- Living Harvest Uniting Church
- River Uniting Church
- Living River Uniting Church
- None of the above
- Keep the current Warwick Killarney & Freestone Uniting Church

Comment:

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