



# New Horizons

**The monthly newsletter of the  
Warwick/Killarney Parish**

**December 2022 / January 2023**



## *Pastoral ponderings*

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen, and very present Christ!

What a year this has been! I find myself without words as I reflect on the images and stories of what 2022 brought. It certainly has been an adventure!

We have experienced so many victories, so many times that we felt that God came so close, and we came so close to God that we knew and heard what God wanted us to do: back to almost normal worship, gathered again, and were able to share physical peace with one another (once or twice). Ministry groups have rallied and gone back to the work of making disciples. A new intergenerational worship service was started, and a group of young women took the lead. Such joy! Our *'Who Cares Catering Team'* showed care and love in an abundant way, putting together feasts and celebrations that have become the talk of the town! Not to leave out the miracle of a manse! Certainly, is a highlight for me. We have managed to not only buy a property, but we have also managed to contribute financially to God's work in this parish which is nothing short of a miracle. Thank you, thank you to every one of you, those who contributed treasure, time, or talent. There are so many who have prayed and for that I give thanks. To all our leaders who stepped up and stepped out in faith, serving, worshipping, and leading in this new way of life.

But to say we only had times of consolation and joy, will also be a misrepresentation. There have been times that I wondered where God is in the trauma and challenges faced during the year. The economic crisis around us is growing and the stress and strain on families and individuals are felt. For the first time in

Warwick, we have had someone homeless and sleeping in our doorway! After a bitterly cold winter, the Lighthouse moved to new premises, and we were able to settle him into the old manse. These temporary arrangements are coming to an end early in January. The housing crisis is escalating and currently, there are more than fifty people (according to Cornerstone) who are in similar positions in town. People living in their cars or couch surfing with friends and relatives. We have worshiped with people who are homeless, facing domestic violence, and are confronting debilitating mental health challenges!

All this good and bad, victories and failures, consolations, and desolations. All of this, this fullness of life is ours, given as a gift from God, not to rescue us from our circumstances but to show and teach us how to live lives of hope, peace, joy, and love. Because God is with us.



All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet, Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel - which, when translated, means, God with us..." - Matthew 1:22-23 (AMPC)

Emmanuel - God with Us!

This is another name given to Jesus. Jesus was truly one with God—taking on humanity to bring reconciliation between God and us.

This was the only way to bring us back into a relationship with God. God came as a baby, then grew to be a man—He walked, talked, and had fellowship with humanity in the person of Jesus, Emmanuel - God with us. And today we as Christians can enjoy the presence of God and fellowship with Him through our faith in Jesus.

God is with us today – therefore, we can face whatever life brings. So, let us celebrate!

From my home to your home, I am wishing you a happy and blessed Christmas.

Ansie Liebenberg

There's a computer virus going round – slightly different from the usual kind:-

***WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS***

*Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.*

*Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:*

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.*
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.*
- A loss of interest in judging other people.*
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.*
- A loss of interest in conflict.*
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)*
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.*
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.*
- Frequent attacks of smiling.*
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.*
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.*

*Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.*

*(Anonymous)*

*I hope you all get the Advent Virus of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!*

## Thank you Quita

For someone as artistic as Quita Hamer – it was hard for her to pass by the opportunity to gift us the beautiful nativity scene that was used to convey the Christmas story at the intergenerational service on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Quita worshipped with us for quite a few years until she could no longer drive to attend church. You might remember the beautiful emu eggs and miniature landscapes that Quita painted for previous Spring Fairs. Since she has moved to Akooramak she attends the Monday morning worship services that members of our church provide for the residents and wanted to contribute to our worship in church.



I'm sure this very attractive nativity scene will be used to enhance our Advent worship for many years to come – so we say – thank you Quita.

Sue Campbell

Chair – Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church.

## Seasons' blessings from Church Council

As the year draws to an end, the excitement of the Christmas message reminds us of who we are – and whose we are. Even with COVID restrictions lifting, for many of us this year has been more stressful than others, with quite a few of us succumbing to the virus.

But this is the time of year to look forward to the coming of Christ as a baby who would live our life with us on earth.

So, from your church council, we wish you all a blessed Christmas time, surrounded by friends, family and loved ones – to celebrate this wonderful event that was and is the foundation of our faith.

May this time be one of hope for a bright and prosperous future, love for all mankind, peace throughout our community and world, and joy in the life that our faith provides for us.

Merry Christmas

## God's Gift

God's gift a babe, for all to hold and close enfold with love  
God's gift his son, for all to know and richer grow in love  
God's gift this man, for all to see upon the tree of love  
God's gift his life, so all may live, and living give with love.

Eva Donaldson



## ***Food for Thought...Christmas, New Year....and Time***

How many people have said to you right now, "How can it be Christmas? November began yesterday." Why do we find the days flicking by so fast? What blessings are we missing in this world of labour-saving devices? Why do we all seem so stressed?

Once, a few hundred years ago, the setting sun heralded in the time to eat, tell stories around the fire, and then sleep till daybreak. Up until 1500, clocks only spelled out the hours...no minute or second hands to be seen. How would we cope without the exact digital time on our smart phones? We seem to be programmed to work, often well into the night, and so fill every moment with activity. Even Jesus said, "Night time comes when no one can work." We say, "Work and shop till you drop," and stores can stay open for 24 hours. We think that we have to work hard at fixing the mess we see around us...that it's all up to us.

So, I found two poems that will definitely give us some food for thought:  
The first one is about priorities and missing God-given opportunities.  
It was written by Phyllis McGinley, and titled,

### *The Ballad of Befana.*

Befana, the housewife, scrubbing her pane saw three old sages ride down the lane,  
Saw three grey travellers pass her door....Caspar, Balthazar, Melchior.  
"Where journey you sirs?" she asked of them.  
Balthazar answered, "To Bethlehem,  
For we have news of a marvellous king.  
Born in a stable is Christ the King."

"Give him my welcome!" Then Caspar smiled,  
"Come with us, mistress, to greet the child."  
"Oh, happily, happily would I fare were my dusting  
through and I'd polished the stair"



Old Melchior leaned on hid saddle horn. "Then send him a gift to the small newborn"  
"Oh, gladly, gladly I'd send him one were the hearthstone swept, and my weaving done  
As soon as ever I've baked my bread,  
I'll fetch him a pillow for his head... and a coverlet too"  
Befana said. "When the rooms are aired and the linen dry,  
I'll look at the babe"...but the three rode by.

She worked for a day and a night and a day.  
Then, gifts in her hand, took up her way,  
but she never could find where the Christ Child lay.  
And still, she wanders at Christmastide,  
houseless, whose house was all her pride,  
Whose heart was tardy, whose gifts were late...  
wanders and knocks at every gate,  
Crying, "Good people, the bells begin!  
Put off your toiling and let love in."



The second one was written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow during the American Civil War, and it reminds us that God is in control no matter how much we might feel that He's abandoned us. Faith tells us that there will be a time when peace and goodwill will prevail!

### *Christmas Bells*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play.  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat,  
of peace on earth and goodwill to men!  
And thought how, as the day had come,  
the belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along, the unbroken song of peace on earth, goodwill to men!



Till, ringing, swinging on its way, the world revolved from night to day.  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime....of peace on earth, goodwill to men!  
Then, from each black, accursed mouth the cannon thundered from the South.  
And, with the sound, the carols drowned of peace on earth, goodwill to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent the hearthstones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born, of peace on earth, goodwill to men  
And, in despair, I bowed my head.... *There is no peace on earth*, I said,  
*For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to men.!*

Then pealed the bells louder and deeper: *God is not dead, nor doth he sleep*  
*The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, with peace on earth, goodwill to men!*

A new year will begin before we have another New Horizons. In 2023, let us slow down a little, smell the roses, spend time being still before our God, take time to enjoy each other and so be aware of the blessings and goodwill that surround us.

Enjoy your celebration of Christ's Birth in whatever way or place you find yourself....eat plenty of chocolate and take some time to ponder the meaning of the Incarnation...Christ always with us, Then resolve to slow down in the year ahead! A happy Christmas and a blessed New Year....Jean

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**CAROLS IN THE CHAPEL Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm**  
**Scots PGC Chapel Warwick**

**CHRISTMAS DOWNUNDER Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> -Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Rose City shopping Centre**

**CAROL SERVICE Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**  
**Warwick Church following fellowship tea 5.30pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm**  
**Freestone church**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Warwick 7.00am**

**Killarney 8.30am**

## **LOOKING BACK AT CHANGES**

This is a follow on from interviewing Anne Ware of change in October specifically how doing church changes over the years. Some of the questions we have been looking at have been how we cope with change. How willing are we to embrace new faith journeys? Can we adopt priorities from Synod and have them work locally? How do we cope with change here? We can either embrace it or resist it. How does how we react help us in our faith journey?

### ***Introducing Lyn Parkinson***

Lyn kindly agreed to answer the following questions. Lyn has many roots in our community. Growing up in Freestone and attending the Wesley Uniting Church until it was taken apart stone by stone and rebuilt as the Scots PGC Chapel. The site became Rose City Shopping Centre. Till this time, we had two Uniting Church congregations in Warwick, St Andrews and Wesley – each on their own corner of Guy Street. On the congregations joining, St Andrews became a new church: Warwick Uniting Church.



#### **1. What is the biggest change you have had in Church life as an adult?**

Lyn as an active member of the Wesley Uniting Church accepted the change of worship venue and does not remember any problems with it at all. One memory is that those attending Wesley all joined hands around the Wesley Church before it was pulled down.

One huge change personally, was marrying Graeme in 2019. Like all change this brought up challenges of deciding what to keep in making two households one; how to make two lives one. So, plenty of trust, plenty of discussion and plenty of compromise.

Some changes happen gradually as you get older, from being deeply to less involved in active church programs. I remember Lyn as the Sweets cook for many Markets, organising a casserole bank for those needing extra care, Elder to name a few. Lyn found an awkward visit to a freshly bereaved person, when accompanied with a casserole, could open hearts and provide a link for that person to cling to.

#### **2. Does change increase trust when you embrace it?**

Yes, and being open and able to compromise, accepting even if not always agreeing.

#### **3. Can you trust unless you understand why the change is happening?**

With change in the Church, e.g., new initiatives trust in Council and people in it has helped Lyn accept change

#### **4. What do you understand of our Plenty priorities?**

- a. Discipleship – Lyn has been the leader behind the Akooramak Worship Services held each Monday at 10:45am Covid has restricted movement within the different areas of Akooramak and the group has been asked for and is delivering a monthly Worship Service for Bromley Court (first Thursday on the month at 2pm). Akooramak is more than delivering a weekly service. It is fellowship, it is the chance to sit with those who are dying. It is listening – even to those who do not come but recognise these friendly regular visitors. Lyn is aware of how important outside contact is to the residents.

- b. Fit for purpose – making sure our resources work

We have Protea Place to the fore of Church news as a great example of using our property to benefit our community. It certainly comes under Flourishing Communities with many of our other activities. However, Lyn's take on this is simply do what is fitting for people. Even on a personal level, we need to be aware of the other person's needs – to be there for them in that moment.

5. **How do you feel about change today?** You become more accepting of change as you get older. You don't need to understand fully to accept change and there is also the fact that you don't want to sound silly if you ask questions.

Thank you, Lyn. For those thinking of visiting Akooramak, you will need to register at the office, and they will give you a simple Covid test to do and give you a mask to wear for your visit. Like Lyn, let us embrace and trust our leaders as we go forward. Roll on, 2023!

Marg Wells

## FRIDAY COFFEE HAS STARTED!

Each Friday morning, from 9:30am – 11am, we have some tables set ready for those who would like to come to a quiet area for coffee or tea.

Paul and Cathy Ryan have been teaching a few of us Barista skills with our professional coffee machine – all set up now in the kitchen with thanks to Sam Reid. Our chief Barista is Berenice, giving us her time with mentors Paul and Cathy. We have freshly baked food and an amazing menu. Flat white? Cappuccino – full strength, half strength? Chai? Hot chocolate? No problem!! Milk, Soy, Skim? Of course!! The menu is growing all the time.



In good weather tables will be set up in our Courtyard. God's Gardeners will be providing the food on the first Friday of each month and we hope we can serve people in the garden as we now have a comfortable and freshly painted table and chairs (thank you John Morris!). The garden is such a beautiful area with different vegies and herbs growing

through the year and now our beds have been shifted, have even more planning to do.

- Watch out for our pop-up shops – plants and holding Crosses at the moment.
- Grab a loyalty card and earn a free coffee
- Buy a Blessing Card for someone else. Thank you, Jonna, for these attractive gift cards!



we

Prices: Tea - \$2  
Coffee \$4  
Cake/slice etc \$2

## PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT

We are finishing year 2 of our 5-year journey with our Plenty priorities of Discipleship, Fit for Purpose leading to flourishing communities.

In July, the Communications Talk Team thought it would be fun to replace the 150<sup>th</sup> logo used in 2020 celebrating our 150 years of worship in the Warwick Sandstone Church. To make it even more fun and to get people talking about our Plenty priorities, we invited everyone to come up with a logo expressing our priorities. We have been displaying them on the cover of our Notices and hope they have kept you aware of our journey with these priorities. Many thanks to those who have contributed!

### NAME CHANGE:

Six years ago, we called ourselves Warwick Killarney Uniting Parish. Freestone Church was used infrequently. This changed when Ansie and Willie spoke with our Freestone farmers and found a time that would allow farmers to meet for worship – and the Freestone Church was reborn, meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2pm. What fun work was involved renovating this lovely old church!



What a wonderful day the rededication Service was in 2020.

Our name changed to Warwick Killarney Uniting Church Parish and Freestone Preaching Centre. Well, we only used it to label our Annual Parish report book!

In February 2021 at our Annual Parish Meeting, we cast the vision to adopt Project Plenty, developed after lengthy consultation with all Queensland churches by Synod.

We looked hard at ourselves at 2 planning meetings, late 2021 and early 2022.

We saw ourselves as a school church in that we liked to be taught, and also as a hospital church in that we wanted and did provide a safe place for healing and restoration.

As part of this new vision, it was agreed to consider a name change to be more inclusive of and recognise, the importance of Freestone in our Parish. A shorter name was also thought to be less unwieldy to use. What fun we had with our Notices inviting you to suggest different names and trying them out each week on our Notices.



In October this year, the Communications Task Team was tasked with running a survey on the names below:

Name	No of votes
Upper Condamine Uniting Church	3
Living Water Uniting Church	2
Harvest Uniting Church	1
Living Harvest Uniting Church	0
River Uniting Church	0
Living River Uniting Church	0
None of the above	4
Keep the current Warwick Killarney & Freestone Uniting Church	20

This survey was done both in New Horizons and online through Monkey Survey.

At our 2022 Parish Meeting we had not reached consensus in Council so delayed any name change but encouraged the conversation to continue.

From the comments, the overwhelming response was that the name should have a geographical reference so people would know where we are. So, where too from here?

For those who journeyed with us, thank you for the conversations and comments. We respect the decision to continue with the use of Warwick, Killarney, Freestone Uniting Church.

At this end of the exercise, I would like to thank Ansie for the planning meetings which everyone was welcome to attend. In beginning of a very active 5 years of mission with our priorities, it was valuable to have a good look at ourselves, our strengths and our weaknesses.

It has been obvious that many have not understood either the journey of the name changes or the purpose of the co logo replacing the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo (we will always use our dove and cross UCA logo).

I would encourage everyone to keep up to date with what is happening with our groups and the information we put out. Better yet, join a group and get involved!

### **THE WORLD STOOD STILL**

The world stood still- in the silence of the night  
 The world stood still- in the stars all shining bright  
 The world stood still- in the angel's wondrous light  
 The world stood still- in the shepherds trembling fright  
 The world stood still- In the coming of the Christ  
 The world stood still.

Eva Donaldson



## A Brief Outline of our 2023 Calendar January – March

### JANUARY – MARCH 2023

Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> Office open  
Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> Notices commence  
Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> Akooramak Worship begins  
Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> Church Council

### FEBRUARY Children/Youth programs recommence

Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> Killarney mainly music  
Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup> Warwick mainly music  
KMAC Worship  
Bromley Court Service  
Girls' Brigade Killarney  
Monday February 6<sup>th</sup> Grief and Loss Course commences  
Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> Market Committee Meeting  
Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> Parish AGM in Warwick  
Friday February 17<sup>th</sup> Freestone Dance  
Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> Lent begins -

### MARCH

March 11<sup>th</sup> Market Day

- Trash and Treasure
- Both plants in courtyard
- Books on stage
- Treat Yourself
- Home Baked
- Café for morning tea
- Sausage Sizzle
- Entertainment

### **A Blessing for 2023**

- As the dawn breaks on a New Year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.
- Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. The past year is gone and with it any regrets, mistakes, or failures we may have experienced.
- Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. This gives a chance for a new start. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, let us each day say, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be."

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