



New Horizons

Newsletter of Warwick/Killarney/Freestone Parish
February 2023



To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."

As we reflected on the work of God amongst us in 2022, I was filled with joy and thankfulness! Your generosity and kindness have enriched my life and that of our family. A huge thank you for the blessings of the Christmas Hampers that were delivered to our home just before Christmas! It was full of the most delicious treats! We are still feasting on it and giving thanks for your generosity.

The President of the Assembly is visiting Warwick on Monday 20 February! We are hoping to have Coffee (tea) in the garden on Monday. Please join us to celebrate with her some of the wonderful stuff that happens in this place!

The National Church Life Survey results are out! And I was pleasantly surprised at the outcomes. We submitted 68 forms (it is about a 35% snapshot of our Parish) The survey looked at:

The People of this Church (Parish)	32% were New Arrivals in the last 5 years.
What We Value and prioritise	53 % Practical care for one another in times of need
How we Relate to God	90% Agree faith in God is an important part of who I am
How we relate to each other	95% Strong sense of belonging
How we relate to the community	66 % Helped others in 3 or more informal ways (year)
Our Vision and Leadership	68% Agree this church is ready to try something new.

Not only did we get the results of how people feel now about the Parish, but these results were also compared to our own stats for 2001, 2006, 2011 and now 2022. I trust that you will enjoy reading this as much as I did!

We are preparing for Lent and Easter and will have an Ash Wednesday service at Warwick on 22 February 2023 at 7 pm. Please check our communications regarding Easter services and gatherings. For those who are interested in personal guides for the 40 days of Lent, please contact me and I will assist.

I am needing a break after a busy season and will be away on leave during the first two weeks in March. As usual, we have a strong capable team of people who continues to serve and minister in this Parish, and for that I am grateful. We are hoping to welcome our new grandchild at the end of March, and we are hopeful that Berenice will also be driving independently by then.

Grace and peace

Ansie Liebenberg

NOTES FROM OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

LOOKING BACK ON 2022

How do you remember 2022? Below is some feedback from our Annual General Meeting.
What have you enjoyed?

- Intergenerational Services Warwick
- Combined Services Killarney
- Phrase from God's Garden to John "Are you God" Reply: "Only one of his workers".
- mainly music Killarney numbers increasing.
- Fellowship more intentional
- Morning devotions enjoyed all for different reasons.
- Grateful for the hospitality from those than can offer it, making it so easy to come to events.

What has amazed you?

- People enjoying and maintaining Groups they're in
- So many people in Task Teams and those people continuing and how much is happening from our Task Teams
- Small number of volunteers doing so much.
- Local businesses willing to be involved in Protea Place
- Embracing new ways of being.

What did we forget?

- All the inconvenience and troubles in maintaining church family and just reporting.
- How quickly we forget all we have done.

What new things have you learnt?

- Freestone getting new gardens.
- Everyone's generosity.
- We are flexible.

INTRODUCING COUNCIL FOR 2023

Rev Ansie

Brad Beck

Gordon Bratby

Dianne Cahill

David Cahill (on leave)

Sue Campbell

Lawrie Clayton

Barbara Cutmore

Ian Darnell

Jenny Lane

Angela Lester

Alison Payne

Paul Ryan

Cathy Ryan

Terry Smart

Jan Reid

Vanessa Solomon

Carolyn Vardy

Marg Wells

Scott Young

Please note Sue Campbell is stepping down from her position as Chair but remaining on Council. Sue has been passionate and diligent in her role as Chair and we thank her for her leadership. Council will now have the task of selecting a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

POLICIES ENDORSED (i.e., we all agree to comply with the regulations)

Same Ministry with Children was endorsed. A must for us to have any activities with children.

Work Place Health & Safety was endorsed. This ensures we are in line with Synod's requirements for us to have safe premises for everyone – members, tradies, visitors.

Alcohol With little time in a busy year to hold conversations on this topic, it was moved by the Chair to keep the current policy of no alcohol on church premises.

Use of Church Property for Same Gender Marriage: With little time in a busy year to hold conversations on this topic, it was moved by the Chair to keep the current policy of not allowing same gender marriage on church premises.

BUDGET: Thank you to our Treasurer Jenny Lane for a clear presentation of last year's finances and the work she has put in to preparing the budget for 2023.

Jenny made the following points:

- We started last year with a deficit of \$15000. This was relieved by money from Synod for Covid expenses and increased tithing.
- We need to keep in mind we still have \$13000 figure we will need to find, despite estimates for our usual fundraising already added in to our figures.
- Catering and Courtyard Coffee are already helping by raising money.
- Contact Jenny Lane if you have fundraising ideas.
- The Budget was endorsed including an increased expense for cleaning. We are now paying a cleaner 3 hours per week for the Warwick property and greatly relieving stress from our Hospitality Teams



National Church Life Survey

Results are in and show the following:

1. Church background of all who have joined us – over past 5 years. 32% are new arrivals.
2. Faith alive and growing – significant growth in our journey. Up 34%.
3. Inviting others to church : how willing are we to share our faith with others: Decreased.
4. Hospitality intentional welcome: People felt welcome and embraced.
5. Vision: clear and people aware
6. Flexible: willing to change – could be the key to us being in this position.
7. Only UCA that has shown the average age has gone down. Down to 59. We have a generation of young people coming through.

Our Annual General Meeting ended with hopeful prayers for the future. We need to thank Ansie for strong leadership and call to discipleship but recognise the importance of each and every member. Each one of you brings life, witness and service.

QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

Worship: Vital and Nurturing

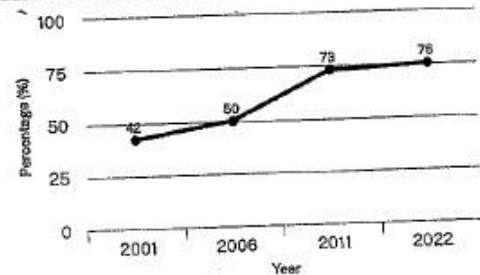


Experience Inspiration during Church Services

75% of attenders said they always/usually experience inspiration during services



Change over time: Percent of attenders who always/usually experience inspiration during services



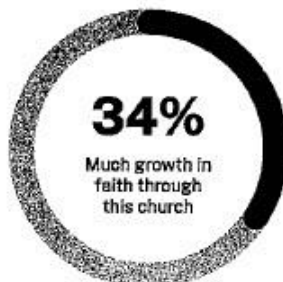
QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

Faith: Alive and Growing

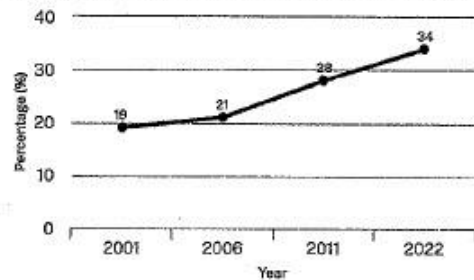


Growth in Faith through this Local Church

34% said they had experienced much growth in faith through this local church in the last 12 months



Change over time: Percentage of attenders who experienced much growth in faith through this local church in the last 12 months



PEOPLE OF THIS CHURCH

Church Background

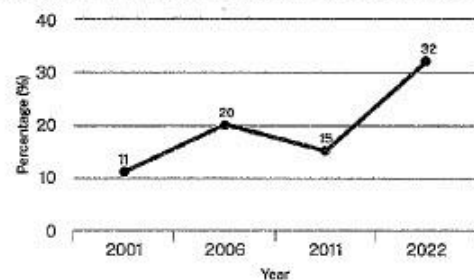


Background of Church Attenders

32% of attenders here are new arrivals to this cluster in the past 5 years



Change over time: Percent of attenders who were new arrivals in the 5 years prior to the survey



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

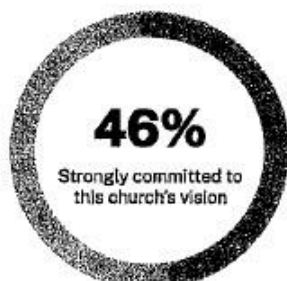
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Vision: Clear and Owned

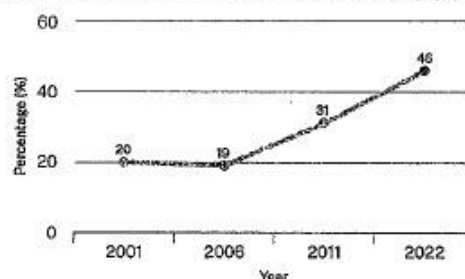


Committed to this Cluster's Vision

46% of attenders said they are aware of and strongly committed to this cluster's vision, goals or directions



Change over time: Percent of attenders who are aware of and strongly committed to this cluster's vision, goals or directions



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

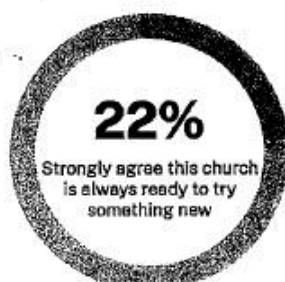
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Innovation: Imaginative and Flexible

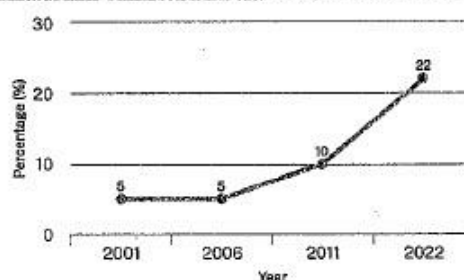


Ready to Try Something New

22% of attenders strongly agree that this cluster is always ready to try something new



Change over time: Percent of attenders who strongly agree that this cluster is always ready to try something new



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

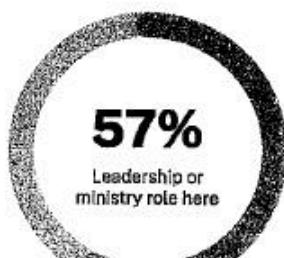
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Leadership Culture: Inspiring and Empowering

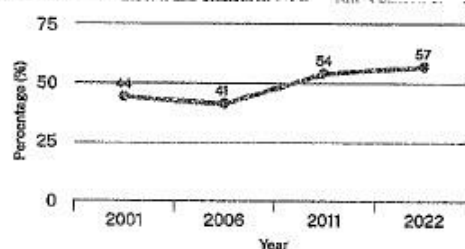


Leadership Roles

57% of attenders perform at least one leadership or ministry role here



Change over time: Percent of attenders who perform at least one leadership or ministry role here



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

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Belonging: Strong and Growing

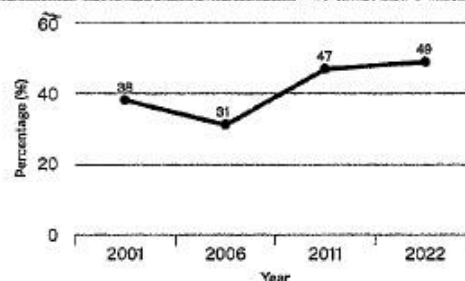


A Strong and Growing Sense of Belonging

49% of attenders said they have a strong sense of belonging to this church which is growing



Change over time: Percentage of attenders who have a strong and growing sense of belonging to this church



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

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Faith Sharing: Willing and Effective

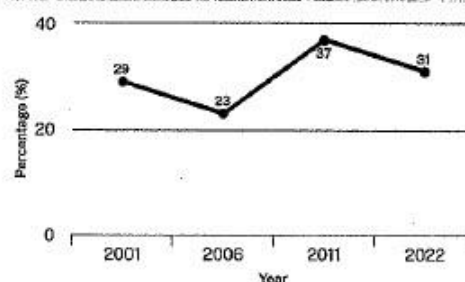


Inviting Others to Church

31% of attenders said they had invited a friend or relative who does not currently attend church to a service here in the last year



Change over time: Percent of attenders who invited a friend or relative who does not currently attend church to a service here in the last year



QUALITIES OF CHURCH HEALTH

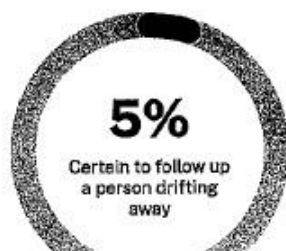
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Inclusion: Intentional and Welcoming

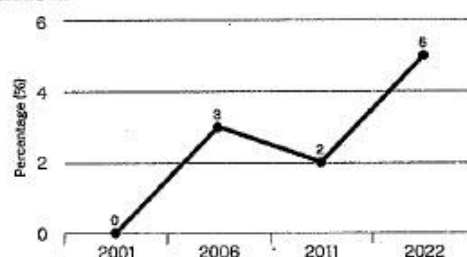


Follow-up of People Drifting Away

5% of attenders said they would certainly follow up someone they knew who was drifting away from church



Change over time: Percent of attenders who are certain they would follow up someone they knew who was drifting away from church



The power of flourishing communities



This Annual General Meeting will be my last as chair of our Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church – Church Council – and as such I have had the privilege of presiding over the exciting and challenging plans, discussions and decisions that have seen our parish continue to grow in strength, service, witness and faith.

As a parish, we have taken on the big initiatives that our synod has put before us. Earlier, we focused on the 5 directives that helped to keep us looking to how we addressed the priorities of Christ centred at prayer and listening, discipleship, Leadership/Stewardship, Connecting with communities, Youth, children and families. Under Rev Ansie's direction we were encouraged to really examine how we incorporated these areas in our ministries, and to respond when they were lacking.

And more recently these were realigned with Project Plenty focus areas – and from them we have taken on the themes of our contribution to flourishing communities and discipleship. These themes will carry our mission and service into the future as we continue our commitment to provide for and support the work of Protea Place in Warwick. At present this work is in the form of hot, dusty labour to prepare our former manse to house this service. And it is this labour that I see as witness of our contribution to this community. It's not glamorous work, with little kudos, but yet again it sees our people toiling for a common, humanitarian cause.

This is similar to the work that was accomplished in the preparation of 3 Finch St as a mission house for Rev Ansie and family. Within a few weeks the financial support from our parishioners and generous wider church family enabled the acquisition of an asset that occurs once in a generation – or two or three. In the busyness of our parish life that seems a long time ago, but it is only 11 months.

It is this drive to labour for our church, in all manner of endeavours, together with the strength in our commitment as a faith community, that will be our witness to the people who know us as Christians. It is our engagement as Christians with the wider community, as we reach out from our church doors, that brings our faith into our community.

We didn't always know what the outcomes of our plans and decisions would be. But we made plans – and we saw them come – coming – to fruition. We are very fortunate that we seem to be a church with a thirst to grow and learn – and this bodes very well for our future as a thriving faith community.

Thank you.

Sue Campbell





First Food for Thought for the year 2023....Parables.

We all know that Jesus often spoke in parables. We've all been engaged in lively discussions trying to grasp the salient meaning of many of his stories. Just when we think we've captured its true meaning, we discover other ways of translating it and crystalising its deeper lesson. So, a parable is a wonderful way to make us think.

This month, I found a couple of stories that are like the parables of Jesus...and I challenge you to see a couple or more ways of distilling their meanings. The first one is

about salt, and I discovered it when I was preparing to preach at Killarney last Sunday.

A man walked into a grocery store and asked, "Do you sell salt?" "Ha," said Bob, the owner, "Do we sell salt? Just look!" Bob then showed the customer an entire wall of shelves stocked with nothing but salt...iodised salt, kosher salt, sea salt, rock salt, garlic salt....every kind of salt imaginable.

"Wow!" said the customer. "You think that's something," said Bob. "That's nothing! Come here and look." They went into a back room with shelves, bins, cartons, barrels and boxes all filled with salt. "Do we sell salt!"

"Unbelievable," said the customer. "You really do sell salt." Bob replied, "But, that's just the problem! We never sell any salt. But that salt salesman...o-boy, does he sell salt!" Salt that stays on the shelf doesn't do any good at all. D James Kennedy 1999

What lessons did you find here and in the following one?

An old Jewish story tells about how, when some calamity was threatening his people, Rabbi Israel used to go to a certain HOLY PLACE in the forest, light a SACRED FIRE and say a SPECIAL PRAYER. Thus, every time, the calamity was averted.

Many months later, in the time of Rabbi Nagid, when another such threat arose, he went into the forest and said, "God, Lord of the Universe, I do not know how to light the SACRED FIRE...but I still remember the HOLY PLACE in the forest and I still know the SPECIAL PRAYER". So, he said the special prayer in the Holy Place, and when he returned home, the calamity had been averted,

Some years later, when Rabbi Moshe found himself in trouble, he went into the HOLY PLACE in the forest and said, "God, Lord of the Universe, I still know the HOLY PLACE in the forest, but I do not know how to light the SACRED FIRE and have forgotten the SPECIAL PRAYER. Yet, O Lord have pity on us and save your people." Again, the tragedy was averted.

Finally, after many years, the next rabbi needed to avert a tragedy. Sitting at home, he prayed to God from the depth of his heart. "Sorry Lord, I do not know that Holy Place in the forest. I cannot light the Holy Fire and, worst of all, I have forgotten the Special Prayer. But, O God, have pity on us and deliver us from danger." And God listened to him, and the calamity was again averted. A Hesidic Story.....Shalom, Jean



Drawing inspiration from the Gospel reading of the day, Pope Francis spoke of when Jesus told his disciples “you are the salt of the earth”, “you are the light of the world”. Christians, he said, must be salt and light, but never self-serving: salt must add flavour and light must illuminate the other. The Pope continued his homily with the question: “what must a Christian do in order for the salt not to run out, so that the oil to light the lamp does not come to an end?”

The “battery” a Christian uses to generate light, the Pope explained, is simply prayer.

Prayer, the Pope said, is what lights up Christian life,

and he highlighted the fact that prayer is a “serious” matter:

“a prayer of adoration to God the Father, a prayer of praise to the Holy Trinity, a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer to request to God... prayer must come from the heart”.

As regards the salt that Christians are called to be:

it becomes salt when it is given to others. This, Pope Francis explained, is another Christian attitude: “to give of oneself, to give flavour to the lives of others, to give flavour to many things with the message of the Gospel”.

Salt is something to be used, not to keep for oneself – Francis elaborated - but to give to others. “It’s curious – he continued - both salt and light are for others, not for oneself: salt does not give flavour to itself; light does not illuminate itself”.

Of course, he noted, you may be wondering how long salt and light can last without running out if we continue to give of ourselves relentlessly. “That’s where the power of God comes in, the Pope explained, because the Christian is salt given to us by God during Baptism, it’s a gift that never ends”.

TWEATTT

We began again on the first Sunday in February. If you are new, this is the group of singles who meet on the first Sunday of each month, We are those who eat alone and at times are reduced to talking to ourselves to see if we still have a voice. I was surprised to discover that half the enjoyment in a meal is to be sharing news and views with another. Eating while you watch TV is a pale second!

So, we are lovingly served a two-course meal by our amazing Catering Group who even allow us a choice between two dishes on the menu. We stay and yarn together from morning tea after worship until the meal is served at midday. Then, we sit around the table and converse as one group, listening to the various opinions on a subject. Last Sunday, we discussed what constitutes worship for each of us. It is really a special time for the ten or twelve of us who attend....a time when we are listened to and a time of sharing as a group of Christians.

Thank you to our wonderful caterers who make this such a special time!

Please join us if you are one of those who eat alone and often don’t cook for yourselves because it seems pointless for one! A special time of ministry!.....Jean

On Friday 27 January a sell-out crowd filled Kings Theatre at the RSL Warwick to start the fundraising and community support for Protea Place Warwick. And what a great opportunity it was to raise the awareness of what Protea Place will provide for women in need of all manner of support, when Protea Place begins operating midyear.



RSL management allowed Protea Place to link up with a wonderful double act tribute night – with Roy Orbison and The Everly brothers –presenting local

members of our Protea Place Warwick team with a cheque for \$1500. Together with raffle proceeds of a voucher from Glengallan Homestead and the RSL, and a contribution from the sales of CDs, this will contribute towards the operating costs needed to provide the services of the program.



Other groups with plans for fundraisers are the Warwick Art Gallery Trivia afternoon on February 11, Golf afternoon on March 19 and an Afternoon with the

WUPPIES – our very own ukulele group, on March 25. So, look out for these events and participate as you are available. Also – do you have a group of friends who could organise an event to raise funds for Protea Place – a movie premier, a concert, a dinner, etc. Let the PP team know so we can send you the logo and lend you the banner for your event. The local community has already shown its generosity in many ways in these early stages of establishing this program.

A team of volunteers is working to restore the former manse of the Warwick Uniting Church and renovate it to a comfortable standard as the home of Protea Place, with the hardware and materials donated from our local generous businesses – but helpers to paint would be a big help on this labour-intensive process. Contact Ian Darnell – mob# 0478 217 021 or Sue Campbell 0407 622 877 if you can join this team of willing workers.

Selah Bible Study

We meet each Wednesday afternoon from 3-5pm and we are at present working our way through Ecclesiastes. We have decided that we need to cover our church, community and world in relevant prayer, something we can do even if we can't tackle more physical tasks.

So, we have decided that the first half hour will be afternoon tea and catch up on each other's news, Then, from 3.30-4.00 pm, we will learn to pray together, while the next hour is Bible Study. Please let us know of any pressing needs that our prayer time could take on board.

If you feel that prayer like this is really important to you, but you don't want to be part of the Bible Study, please come and join us for that half hour. You will be deeply welcomed! Jean

CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

- **New Day off for Ansie**

Ansie's new day off will now be Friday which enables Berenice to attend TAFE in Toowoomba.

- Ansie will be on much deserved leave from 3-12th March.

- **Online Tithing Points:**

Stripe was the financial body directing Ucare tithing to our bank account. For those who have been using Stripe, Lawrie, our I.T. leader has created a Stripe QR code enabling deposits to our account without going through UCare

If you have our purse sized tithing cards, please dispose of them.

Replacements are available. The online tithing sheet in the church (by our EFTPOS Machine) is up to date and correct.

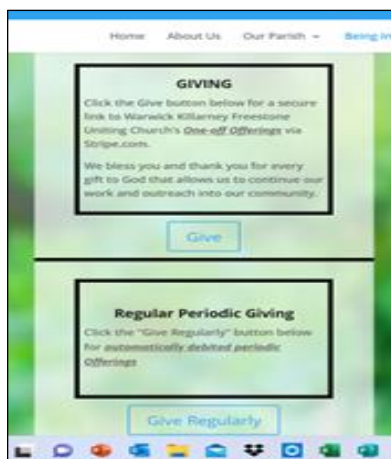


- We all like privacy around our tithing arrangements. If using Ucare for regular payments, the Jenny and Laurie only need to know your name and a contact number to keep you informed of changes.

Jenny Lane Treasurer treasurer@wkuc.org.au

Lawrie Clayton I.T. Task Team it-helpdesk@wkuc.org.au

Another area for tithing information is our webpage. Lawrie has created a beautiful secure page allowing people to choose how often they give: [Give - Warwick Uniting Church \(wkuc.org.au\)](http://wkuc.org.au) (under 'Being Involved' tab)



OR USE DIRECT DEPOSIT

Our direct debiting information is current and correct and straight from your account to ours.

Bank: Uniting Church Warwick/Killarney Westpac
BSB: 034 226 Acc:141717

Please mark deposits offerings or donations

Hospitality

- ***Cleaning***

- Thank you, Kim Morrow, for being our cleaner for so long. Enjoy your retirement.
- A huge welcome to Kristina Christensen who has taken the position of cleaner for the Warwick Complex
- Kristina will be cleaning the toilets each week, cleaning the Hall one week and the Church the following week.
- *We need ALL GROUPS using the Hall to be mindful that they need to clean after use, including vacuuming the Hall, leaving the kitchen tidy (which includes taking the tea towels home to be laundered)*
- ***Sunday Hospitality = Hospitality Groups still active and vital contact points***
- Door welcomers are still needed.
- Morning tea catering and servers still needed.
- Stewards still needed for the offering.

- **No more checking in at the door!**

MARKET DAY – 11th MARCH

Saturday 9 – 12 noon

What will be there?

Giant **TRASH & TREASURE**








NATIVE PLANTS, SUCCULENTS FERNS, HANGING BASKETS & MORE



BOOKS



STALLS:-

-  Homemade Cakes & Biscuits
-  Sweets and Healthy Treats
-  Sausage Sizzle
-  Café for Coffee & Cake
-  Drinks

How can you help?

-  **Setting up from 7am on the day**
-  **Provide** exciting Trash & Treasure and books – help set and sort the goods received on either Friday 10th or early Saturday morning.
-  **Cook** sweets, healthy treats, cakes, biscuits, slices etc – Contact Alison Baistow (4661 5173 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.

Entertainment:

- * Warwick Thistle Pipe Band 9am
- * Inverness Highland Dancers 9.30am
- * Warwick City Band 10am
- * Central School Choir 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.