



New Horizons

Newsletter of Warwick/Killarney Parish of UCA April 2023



I greet you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour!

When I look around and I see the beauty and the abundance all around, my heart is thankful, and I praise God for this season of plenty. I am blessed to serve alongside people who are generous kind and supportive, and I give thanks to God for the privilege to share Easter 2023 with you.

I write this the week before Holy week, a time in most clergy's lives that is hectic and full of preparations for services and sometimes I wonder about it all. The first quarter of the year is always full of starting up meetings after a long summer break, the normal annual meetings, and budgets and then the very important season of the church Lent and Easter.

Do you ever wonder what could be said about Easter that hasn't already been heard hundreds of times before? Do you feel like this season, which is supposed to be all about life, energy, and inspiration, too often ends up being dull, repetitive, and even a bit tedious?

I believe that can happen when the focus of the Easter season is on a past miraculous event that has little connection with the realities of our current life and world. When all we can say about the resurrection is that "Jesus rose to save us and secure a place in heaven for us", then one week is more than enough to share our message, let alone seven!

But of course, Easter is far more than a remembrance of an ancient miracle. It's an invitation to a whole new way of being. And that's what Resurrection Life is all about.

Learning from Mary how to avoid getting stuck in the healing, restoration, and goodness we experience by letting these things go so we can keep moving into new and deeper experiences of life.

Learning from Thomas what believing really is and why it must move beyond agreeing to a few ideas and become more about living courageously even when outcomes are not guaranteed.

Learning from the two disciples on the road to Emmaus why faith calls us to embrace the risks that always come with seeking to be fully alive.

The first three weeks of Easter focus on three resurrection appearances, and they invite us to experience resurrection for ourselves right here and now. Let us explore how Easter shifts to focus on Jesus' teachings and how they can lead us into a richer and more vibrant experience of Resurrection Now!

Whatever and however you are spending your Easter season, I trust that you will experience in the smiles, the songs, the services, the family, the Easter Eggs, and the food, the resurrection life Jesus is offering each one of us.

Ansie Liebenberg
30 March 2023



Warwick Uniting Church

EASTER SERVICES

come Easter with us ...

Journey from Palm Sunday, through Good Friday, to Memorial Sunday and Resurrection Sunday.



EASTER SERVICES

Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday

- 8:30am Killarney Holy Communion
- 9:30am Warwick

Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday Intergenerational Tenebrae

- 7:00pm Warwick

Good Friday 7th April:

- 9:00am **Killarney***
- 7:00am **Warwick***
- 7:00pm **Freestone***

Saturday 8th April Memorial

- Warwick 9am to midday

Resurrection Sunday 9th April

- 8:00am Killarney
- 10:00am **Warwick***



***PLEASE TAKE NOTE
OF THE ALTERED
SERVICE TIMES
HIGHLIGHTED IN RED***

Alleluia Christ is Risen ! – He is risen indeed.

MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

What do you think happens at a Church Council meeting?

We set the first 30 mins aside to look at who we are as leaders and how we lead. This can be a small group session and in March we looked at how we compare nationally with other Churches. This is ongoing for April – both the joys and the challenges, and a big thank you to those who filled out the NCLS survey forms – some interesting results.

We move to business, dealing with mail coming in and mail going out. Every communication is brought before Council and the action needed recorded.

We look at Task Teams and through the year, our Ministry Reports. These can involve requests to Council, updates on what is happening in each particular group. Again, all are recorded and discussed as needed. All are aimed at one thing – growing our mission in this place for Christ.

We finish the meeting with time allocated for prayer and the pastoral concerns for the Parish.

Our big office news is that the office is leasing another printer as the current printer is wearing out and too expensive to repair. It has been a brilliant addition to the office, and we are looking forward to meeting the replacement.

Giving from the pews. You will have noticed the smart cards at the back of each pew, with a QR code that can be quickly scanned by phone to take you to a safe spot for offerings. Thank you, Lawrie for setting this up.

We welcome Peter Campbell returning as Chair of our **Finance And Risk** Task Team with Brad Beck stepping down as he takes on the role of Chair of our Council.

Property is getting organised to replace the fence and noticeboard at Freestone.

Jazzy Breakfast is on again, Saturday 22nd July and we promise great entertainment with our fabulous breakfast.

We have some volunteers from Council going to Red Cross for training as evacuation volunteers and being a presence for the Church in those situations.

All Church groups and activities seeking grants are asked to go through a FAR new section headed by Barbara Cutmore and copied to Sue Campbell. Both Barbara and Sue have valuable experience and success in obtaining funding.

February 2023	Year to date	Budget
INCOME	\$25 032	\$23 509
EXPENDITURE	\$27 891	\$28 107

Our figures for 2023 to February are seen as being well in line with our budget – with income above and expenditure below budgeted figures. This bodes well for our continuing generous giving by our members – generous of their time, talent and treasures, as we have seen in our labours in the old manse as well as buoyant offerings and donations. Praise be to God for all his provisions.



News re Protea Place – Warwick Fundraising

In the last few weeks, things have been moving fairly briskly in regard to Protea Place – Warwick fundraising.

On March 17th, a very successful lunch was held at the RSL, with Phil Vellacott entertaining us – along with Kim Stokes from Toowoomba as MC for the event. 154 people joined us to support the need to raise \$130 000 for the Warwick operational costs for one year – due to start in July.

The Protea Place Toowoomba team were in full support to assist in our event. Many of our local - Granite Belt and Warwick - businesses generously donated gift vouchers for a multi-draw raffle and we thank our Church family in Stanthorpe for making some lovely connections on our behalf.



Sue and Lloyd Clarke, Hannah Clarke's parents, donating \$25 000 from their organization – Small Steps for Hannah, Scope Allora donated \$5000 and Warwick RSL a further \$500; at the close of the lunch our fundraising total was \$72 000. While these businesses and organizations will be acknowledged and thanked by Protea Place – our personal support by buying local where possible is the best way we can say thank you to these generous local businesses.

Since then, on Saturday 25th March The WUPPIES held a concert in our hall, providing afternoon tea and sing-a-long music to a crowd of about 50. This event raised \$1065 towards this fund. And on Sunday 2nd April, The Warwick Choral Society Inc. will present an Easter cantata – 'Easter Song' - with some of their proceeds going to Protea Place Warwick.

There will be other fundraising events planned. In whatever form – and for how ever much these events raise – we can show our support for Protea Place Warwick – by supporting these events – as best we can. There is a small group of volunteers toiling in the former manse to prepare the site for this women's day respite centre. We can't all be involved in this aspect of our commitment to support Protea Place in our community, but we can all support an event, a local business which supports PP - or even just to tell a friend about this most-needed facility we are preparing – right next door.

Sue Campbell

Food for Thought...A Special Book!

What follows is a testament to how those strange co-incidences often happen in our day to day living! Let me begin by explaining about our three year Lectionary cycle which guides the preachers and us through a systematic exploration of the Bible. We are at present in Year A, which is the year of the Gospel of Matthew, although at times we dip into John as we have done recently.

Now, going back a good few years, I was attending Synod and, as always, I went browsing into the area set up by UC Resources and came out with some books, one of which was a book that had a profound effect upon me. Then it was placed on my bookshelf. Recently, I dug it out to give to someone going through a tough time. Recently, they returned it and I started to read it once again and couldn't put it down!

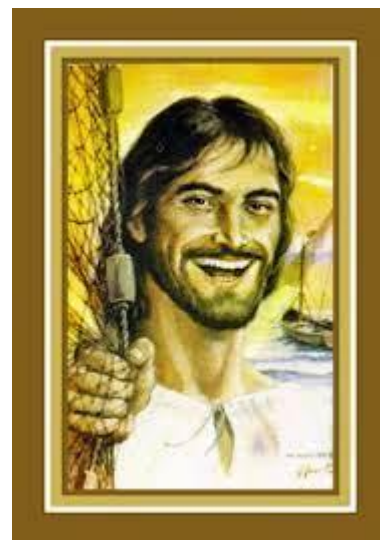
It's title is, "In the Footsteps of Jesus. One Man's Journey through the Life of Christ" It was written by Bruce Marchiano. Now, here's the co-incidence...From December 1992 till April 1993, finishing with the sections of Easter, Bruce, an American, was chosen to play the part of Jesus in a word for word production of the Gospel of Matthew, filmed in South Africa with a cast and crew that were mainly South African.

Bruce was an actor, and he describes how an actor prepares for a role, deeply delving into the person they are portraying. Bruce and most of the key people involved were all deeply Christian and the production was showered and lynch-pinned with prayer every step of the way. It is awe inspiring to read the effects it had on all involved and definitely worth a read.

What amazed me the most was how deeply Bruce and his producer read and reread the Gospel to get a real picture of Jesus the man. What emerged was a man who thoroughly enjoyed life, always laughing and smiling, always loving compassionately, even the misguided Pharisees! A son of a carpenter and always on the move, he came across as a man used to hard physical labour and so was strong and fit.

The more deeply he read and prayed, Bruce saw Jesus as a Man of Joy, a sparkle in his eyes, a hearty laugh, an excitement and a vitality, a passion as well as compassion. He spoke truth against a sea of opposition...he lived what he preached always, marching boldly across cultural boundaries, loving both the good and the bad.

There are so many touching stories about those Bruce worked with and the depth of the friendships forged. Those five months made it very hard to return to LA...but, then a ministry developed in a return to South Africa. A lot of the film of "Matthew" took place in a town called Quartzazate and in the grounds of Cape Town University and the book is filled with photos and pictures from the film. Many lives were changed during and after the film was produced.



I have the book and I am willing to send it around to those who would like to read it! The blurb on the back of the book says, "Come with Bruce on an intensely personal journey into the heart of God. The Jesus you discover will move you to tears, fill your heart with joyous victory and astound you with His amazing love." Shalom, Jean

TWEATTT

Have you ever thought about how comforting and intimate it is to have someone to talk with while you eat? Something we take for granted until we lose it. Dinner at night was always the time to mull over the day's happenings, plan ahead, discuss the news and just enjoy another's company. What happens when you eat alone? It doesn't even taste the same and you forget the time until it is too late to eat anything other than a piece of toast! It isn't worth the dirty dishes to concoct a special treat!

Enter TWEATTT...those who eat alone and talk to themselves! It is open to any singles, and we even talk after church until noon when the meal is served. We can only enjoy all this because we have those wonderful cooks who so lovingly look after us and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. A special invitation for the first Sunday of every month when our catering committee conjures up a two course meal in the hall just for us. It costs us a measly \$15 and there are even choices! Now we have the privilege of eating and talking together over many topics and just taking the time to savour the meal and getting to know each other just a little bit more. God's angels!!

Grief and Loss Program

Barbara Cutmore and I have just completed another eight week course with 4 participants. This is a course available to anyone who has lost a loved one in death and is on a journey through grief. It may be very recent, or it might have been years of them still struggling to cope with loss, so many different types and ages of those deaths, but all are on that difficult journey.

What a privilege to guide them through the maze of emotions and really enjoy seeing the difference in them that occurs over those weeks. For two hours each Monday over eight weeks, they share their stories and their lives with each other, and this is what really makes the difference. They glimpse the same feelings in each other and realize grief is a journey, one we all travel at some time in our lives.

The Presbytery of the Downs recognised this Course prepared by Blue Care as answering a crying need so that, as a compassionate church, they have put money aside enabling us to run the courses without asking the participants to pay a fee. Each day, a folder of handouts is distributed so they can revisit the focus and poems of the day.

We are willing to run another course next term if there is enough interest. A group may not exceed 6 members as this allows for personal sharing. This last group was made up of four very different ages and stages. If you are interested or know of someone who might benefit from the course, please contact either Barbara or I pick up a form from the Foyer Shalom, Jean

**The great gift of Easter is hope –
Christian hope which makes us have
that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph,
and in his goodness and love,
which nothing can shake.**

Basil Hume





A MARKET DAY PICTORIAL



God's Garden:

Well friends, we are now officially in autumn, which for farmers and growers is often the time of harvest. So, I thought I'd take this opportunity to report on all our harvesting. I'm sure that many of us have been blessed with the bounty from the garden.

Our cucumbers have come in very odd shapes and sizes, but have been quite delicious eating, and there has been plenty to share from just a few vines. The other prolific producer has been our couple of tomato plants. They were self-sown from last years' crop, and John just popped them in to see how they would go. None of the fruit is like our bushes from last year, but they have that home grown rich flavour.

Radish are our great standby. Whatever we plant, a few radish seeds go in, and in three weeks or very soon after, the crop is pulled. We tried wombok this season, but its claim to fame was it fed all our garden creatures, in spite of all our best efforts.

The beans have been another great hit, with bounteous amounts being picked, eaten raw, and shared with lots of people. I think John gives a sigh of relief is someone else has picked the beans before him. We've been blessed not to have any problems with bean fly strikes.

Now let me sing praises about our rainbow spinach. I have never seen it before, so when I saw those juicy red stems, I carefully felt around the base for the beetroot bulb. Oh well, I did laugh about it.

Finally, the flowers! The cone flowers, Echinacea, have been quietly delighting the eye all summer. In our first year, when Sue was coordinator, she planted sunflowers, and each year since. This year they have filled the garden with colour, and some people have come to take photos at the delight. As Costa says, there is always a list of jobs to be done, but we work to delight ourselves and bring joy to the whole community. Rev May for the garden team, Alison, Sue, Marg, Lee and John.



Thanks to Captain Wendy for the photo of the members of Killarney Girls' Brigade on parade during the Harvest Festival Service.