



# New Horizons



FEBRUARY 2024

Monthly Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish

## *Pastoral Pondering*

I greet you in the Name of Jesus!



As we stand on the threshold of a new year, filled with hope and anticipation, we are excited to share with you the vision for the year ahead at our Annual Parish Meeting in Killarney on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at 2 pm.

Come and share with us some of the victories and some of our failures in 2023 as we look back on an eventful year and give thanks to God for provision and care. Share in our service where we also give thanks and honour some of our living saints for the work of service offered in our community.

We believe in the power of community, faith, and shared purpose, and we are thrilled to invite each and every one of you to join us as we share the progress made on some of the dreams we have.

As we embark on this journey together, we invite each and every one of you to share in the vision and actively participate in the upcoming events and activities. Your presence, support, and contributions are invaluable as we strive to create a vibrant and inclusive community that reflects the love and compassion of our faith.

Together, let us embrace the opportunities that lie ahead, uplift each other in times of need, and celebrate the blessings that grace our lives. With open hearts and unwavering faith, we look forward to a year filled with growth, transformation, and the joy of shared experiences.

May the year ahead be one of abundant blessings, growth, and unity for our congregation.

*With love and gratitude,*

*Ansie Liebenberg*

Each week, the National Assembly of the Uniting Church publishes a regular news update of happenings around Australia. This year, they have begun a new series highlighting activities in Parishes and Congregations. This was the first was on their website last week. I thought you would all be interested in it.

**In this new regular series, we're (Assembly Uniting Church of Australia) excited to be telling some stories of our local congregations and communities of faith - the beating heart of the Uniting Church! [Find our growing hub of stories here.](#)**

"This is my Uniting Church." In our first feature for 2024, Rev Ansie Liebenberg shares some of the story of Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church in the Southern Downs Region of Queensland, two hours south-west of Brisbane.

**"God's provision in our people. We have heroes in our community..."**

**Describe your faith community,**

I would describe my church as a place where you can come as you are. I would describe my church community as a source and a resource, compassionate, hospitable, growing. We offer courses for healing through Grief and Loss. We hold the Alpha course each year. We are multicultural with workers from PNG and South Korea, some of them studying here.

Amongst our Ministry groups we have Courtyard Coffee each Friday morning providing a space for people to meet and also offering the best deal for coffee/tea and a treat in town. This is perfect for those wanting to come to church sometimes for the first time and feeling unsure or nervous about coming. We have such a range of experience and talent for the missional work that comes our way. For instance, professional baristas for our Courtyard Coffee, two farmers in our Community Garden and a qualified accountant as our Treasurer. Our community spreads beyond our geographical boundaries.

**What's one thing that makes your community unique?**

Our outreach ministries such as Courthouse Cuppa where we take morning tea to the Magistrate's Court. We have a ministry agent who shares her husband with another Church, Pittsworth Millmerran, and that makes our church unique.

**Where do you see God at work in your community?**

God's provision in our people. We have heroes in our community. Heroes who renovated a fairly derelict old manse, allowing us to rent it to Protea Place, a Women's Support Centre providing support, dignity and safety to vulnerable women. Our heroes have given time, energy and expertise and often provided materials out of their own pocket. Our heroes come forward to ask what they can do. Our heroes have put on a fun social night to raise money for a defibrillator for our Williams Hall, providing entertainment and a meal as well as a social space for others to come and meet us. Our heroes are walking the labyrinthic paths of affordable housing and grants.

**What are the intergenerational and/or intercultural aspects?**

In the beginning of 2023, we began holding a monthly evening Intergenerational worship service. Since September 2023 it's been a weekly service and the material provided by the Intergen team is amazing. A number of young people have joined and are participating in the running of these services. Every night the service is concluded with a very tasty meal provided by someone in the congregation.

**What are some of the challenges you are facing?**

Accommodation in the town for newcomers, particularly affordable housing.

**What can the rest of the Church pray for in that place?**

The ongoing response to intergenerational worship. Affordable housing for our community.



**PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm Killarney Uniting Church

**AGM Report Book out now Hard copies available in the foyer.**

**We have received 2 Nominations to Church Council:**

**Daryal Simpson & Barry Kelly**

*Please bring some afternoon to share after our Meeting as we fellowship with our Killarney congregation.*

**Let us know if you need transport.**



***TWEATTT***

This special program will continue as a blessing for those of us who find the loneliness of eating without someone beside us to mull over the news and share thoughts. This group of those who live alone allows us, once a month, to talk up a storm and enjoy the amazing two course meal served up by our wonderful, compassionate caterers.

Anne said one day that she has to talk aloud every so often to make certain she still has a voice. So, don't be shy! Come and join us on the first Sunday of the month as we meet for a yarn straight after morning tea which then morphs into more talk around the meal table in the Hall. It is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know and appreciate each other more deeply. Just turn up! You will be made to feel very welcome! Shalom, Jean

## ***Food for Thought...Fostering a Positive Reaction***

I have just finished the book which was our U3A book-club book for the month whose title was *Good Morning Mr Sarra*. It was written by Chris Sarra whose childhood was conditioned as the youngest of a large in a large Italian-Aboriginal family in Bundaberg where he was taught to be proud of who he was and where he came from. His story is inspiring and challenging and is peppered by the mentoring he received that sent him on the pathway where he became Queensland's Australian of the Year in 2010, and where his story was the subject of one of the 'Australian Story' episodes.

Challenged by teachers and others, he became aware of how a low expectation of what Indigenous Australians are capable of charted their life story. His studies took him through to a Master's Degree and ultimately to a PHD in education 2012. A born teacher, who served for a time as a Guidance Officer, he was asked by the Education Department to become the Principal of Cherbourg State School

Here he put his philosophy into practice and changed the school and the community with his motto of strong and smart and the school war-cry:

*Jingle bells, jingle bells, Cherbourg School is here.*

*We're young and black and deadly, so come and hear us cheer.*

*Bring on every challenge...put us to the test.*

*We're from Cherbourg State School, and you know we're the best! Hey!*

Having taught in an Aboriginal School, it all challenged me to put my expectations into perspective...and it goes beyond that to what we expect from others as we unfairly typecast those we meet and see around us. How we react in all sorts of ways to others and events can make such a difference to others. It is a book well worth reading and it is in the Town Library.

*Another story of how we can make a difference even when we are unaware of what we're doing comes from Clark Cothorn.*

He and Gavin were helping their Pastor guide thirty lively teens through an all-night 'lock-in' at the church. The two began a game of table tennis which soon became serious with the score tied near the end of the game. That's when Tracy from year 9 grabbed the ball and refused to relinquish it to them. Clark's first impulse was irritation...but then he remembered the passage they had shared with the group from Corinthians "love is kind and patient...not rude or easily angered."

So, they joked with Tracy until she finally threw the ball back to them and they finished the game. Hours later, Tracy and 6 others walked down the aisle in response to an altar call, and then, when she gave her testimony later that night, she said, "I grew up in a family where no one goes to church. I've learnt to get attention by making people mad at me. But, earlier today, I saw something very different. When I stole the ball, you two men never got mad at me...never fought back. That's when I decided I wanted whatever it is that you have."

Shalom, Jean

## CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER FEBRUARY

### Church Council

Nomination forms for Church Council have gone out, and I have been asked “What does the Church Council do?”

This is the official definition: *In the Uniting Church regulations (3.1.2), the Church Council’s main priority is to build the congregation up in faith and love. This means encouraging each member to be active disciples in all of their lives, not just while attending worship on Sunday.*

While the above really is a call for all of us, as a Council we are tasked with some training such as Safe Church, and the principles of Pastoral Care and financial and property stewardship. This may seem intimidating but really, we meet monthly to gather all the different ways we need to care for and grow our people. And in doing so, we learn, and grow, all the time!

The good news is that if you are not ready for this, but have specific skills and gifts to share, we have Ministry Groups and Task Teams who would love to include you.

Our Annual General Meeting has been the focus of Council meetings this year. 2023 was a busy and eventful year and our 2024 Annual General Meeting, to be held Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2pm in Killarney Uniting Church, will be informative as we look back at joys and highlights from last year.

**Come and have your say!** We will be looking forward to plans for the year, learning about where we are with some of our priorities and where it could take us this year.

**Come and have your say!** Part of the proceeding will be a private ballot on extending Rev Ansie’s placement with us. Ansie is now in her 9<sup>th</sup> year, but Council is recommending we apply for a further 5 years to give us stability with our priorities. Our Presbytery Minister, Rev Yvonne McRostie, will be consulting with us before we vote as part of the very regulated regulation 2.6.8.1!

**Come and have your say!** The Annual General Meeting Report Book is printed and out. Make sure you get a copy and read it! As Secretary, I apologise for the delay in getting this out, but you will understand when you read our Treasurer’s commentary on the budget. Jenny blesses us with her analytical financial skills. Thank you to Carolyn Vardy and Peter and Michelle Cloherty who will make sure Killarney get a copy with a non-Uniting Church Service adding to the deadline there. I would like to thank all those who have given me their reports. As mentioned in our Assembly article, we have heroes in our Church family.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 7pm March Market Day Planning

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2pm Annual General Meeting Killarney Uniting Church**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 4pm Family Drug Support information session Warwick Uniting Church

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February midday, lunch Warwick Uniting Church Cost \$5

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 10am World Day of Prayer Warwick Uniting Church

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March International Women’s Day RSL

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March **9am-MIDDAY MARKET DAY**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March Good Friday

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

### *What is World Day of Prayer*

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer is “**Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.**”

It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions and symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome. Bringing together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Through World Day of Prayer, women around the world: affirm their faith in Jesus Christ; share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs.

Through World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged:

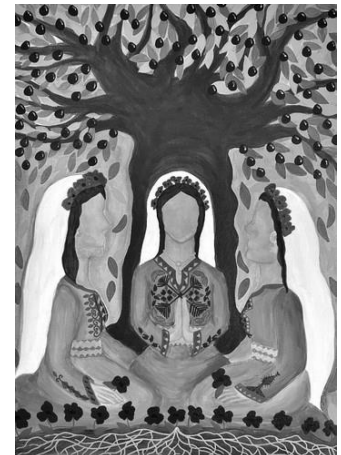
- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation;
- to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures;
- to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them;
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.
- Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Locally, the Christian denominations rotate the hosting of the World Day of Prayer service. We, in the Warwick Uniting Church accepted the invitation in 2023 to be the host in 2024.

Countries for around the world are given, the responsibility for preparing the worship service usually 4 years ahead. Last year the service was written by the women of Taiwan and this year by the women of Palestine. This, of course, was well before the tumultuous times in Isarel and Palestine now with the theme .

“I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love”

**Ephesians 4:1-3**



This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression. The program was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7. We reflected collectively on this theme from the context of our suffering as Palestinian Christian women. We hope to inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in love during troubled times.

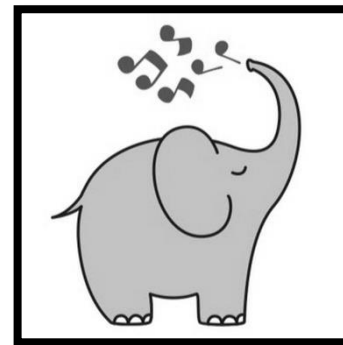
*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

We welcome all adults – men and women to the World Day of Prayer service. Please come and join us on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 10.00am in the Warwick Uniting Church.



### ***It's Time***

The writer of Ecclesiastes had it so right when he stated *that everything has a season, a time for everything under heaven....a time to embrace and a time to turn away.* Sadly, we often think that we can go on forever...that we are indispensable, but there comes a time to let others pick up the baton and, maybe even run in a different direction. This church



exits today because so many members took that baton from others, ran with it, and then placed it into the hands of others.

So, what am I talking about amid this rambling. In 2008 a young mother came to our church looking for a Mainly Music group like she and her son had experienced in Brisbane. It took some time to get some enthusiastic group to own the idea. Tentatively, the then visioning Committee agreed to back it and we finally began in May 2009 which makes it fifteen years old this year. Over those fifteen years, as part of an amazing, committed team, we have seen the joy in song and action, the excitement in young and old, and the amazing relationships that have been fostered. We have watched babies grow into school students and move on. We have been privileged to have entered into the miracle of the birth cycle and we have found ourselves unable to get the songs out of our brains.

But it is time for me to move out and let younger people find the joy of serving Christ in such a special mission. Scott Young will take over the role of Leader and I will still be available as a relief if ever needed in the days ahead. It has been a wonderful ride, a special adventure with the congregation's backing and a Saviour that underpins it all. Thank you for the privilege of seeing it begin and thrive even throughout the pandemic.

***It's time!*** And I leave with such wonderful memories to ponder. May God bless the team, the babies and toddlers who will be the leaders of tomorrow, the parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents who all make up Mainly Music....Shalom, Jean.

### **Ways to bring God more into your life this Lent.**

- Sit down for a cup of coffee or tea just as you would with a treasured friend – but this time your friend is God. Chat with Him (aloud!) about what's going on in your life, what's on your mind. Take a daily coffee/tea break like this each day of Lent.
- Instead of giving up something, perform a random act of kindness each day during Lent – even just making a point to smile at strangers as you run errands or sending an "I'm thinking of you" message to one person each day can make a difference.
- At the end of each day, set aside a few minutes to reflect over your day and look for the hand of God in it.
- Prayer is our conversation with God, both our speaking to Him and listening. When we develop a lifestyle of prayer in our daily life, we develop a closer relationship to each person of the Trinity. There is no right or wrong way to pray,

Lent is not a personal self-improvement program. remember, Lent is not about getting it perfectly right. Ask the Holy Spirit how He wants to make you more like Jesus, and then follow that prompting in your Lenten practices.

# Market Day

## Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **TRASH OR TREASURE**

Donations towards the Trash and Treasure stalls are welcome from now on.

Are you downsizing?

- A quantity of good fabric bargains are priced ready for sale.
- Furnishings and linen always are popular items.
- Household goods and kitchen appliances.
- Tupperware, cake tins for cooking and storage
- If you have furniture to donate, please contact phone numbers below.
- Do you have a shed with tools etc which are no longer used? Why not have a clean out as they may find a new home.

Storage is available for larger items.  
Please don't leave items in the foyer of the Williams Hall! .

#### **BOOKS**

Novels only for this market day.

#### **PLANTS**

Native plants and garden plants.



As always **HOME BAKED, TREAT YOURSELF,  
SAUSAGE SIZZLE, DRINKS, CAFÉ, ARK**

#### **ENTERTAINMENT**

- **9am. Warwick City Band (in the church)**
- **10am. Warwick Central School Choir (in the church)**
- **11am. Ellie Kelso dancers ( on the grass)**

Contacts for any 'pick-ups' or queries are Scott Young (0429 969 432)  
and David Angell (0400 433 910).

*Planning meeting Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm  
All welcome to be part of this community outreach/fundraiser planning session.*