



New Horizons

Newsletter of Warwick/Killarney Parish of UCA April 2024



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

11 April 2024

I greet you in the Name of Christ

During the Easter weekend services, we relived the story of how a shameful and bloody crucifixion transformed into a victorious resurrection to everlasting life. We marvelled at Calvary where sin and death were conquered forever. Christ died in our place – the Righteous One for the unrighteous; the Sinless One for the sinful, the Holy God for the unholy

The exuberance of Easter morning was like no other day. We were greeted with a stunning display of flowers and joy, with wonderful attendance! And yet shouldn't we celebrate the wonder of our living hope each day of the year, must we wait for Easter to roll around again to reclaim joy and hope? I have wondered about this! However, I am also grateful for the church calendar that forces us to go to these places and there is always the hope that somewhere somehow, we will become aware of the living presence of God in our lives. A presence that will be able to transform us into the people of God, for the people of God in this place.

As I reflect on the upcoming Jumpers and Jazz theme of "Score" and all the quirky ideas that are floating around the community, I cannot help but think that the greatest gift to all humanity, God's unconditional love, giving his son, so that all who will believe will have life everlasting is perhaps the biggest "score" of all!

The transformation of our Warwick property on a Friday morning is an ongoing Easter story for me, how the community are now bringing groups of vulnerable people for fellowship and community – I give thanks and praise to all the disciples serving Christ and others in this place!



Our affordable housing project has reached a critical phase in the negotiations, and we are hopeful that a resolution to all the sticking points will be imminent. Please continue to pray for the team working in this space!

I trust that we will live as Easter people!

Ansie Liebenberg

How can you help the hearing impaired in our congregation?

From where I sit when running the technology for our church services, I can't help but see the number of people in our congregation who are hearing impaired. Just this week every person at the end of each row nearest the sound box were wearing hearing aids, plus many more scattered throughout the church.

If you're one of the lucky ones to have enough hearing not to warrant wearing aids, you will not have experienced what it's really like to need them. Personally, my hearing loss is genetic, with the loss increasing as I age. It's been 40 years since I was first fitted for aids, with my loss being first registered as a 10 year old. That leaves about 17 years where I struggled to keep up with daily life, relying on strategies to help me out.

For so many of you though, your hearing loss has come about in later life, bringing with it challenges of firstly even wearing them for any length of time and secondly, learning those strategies for surviving conversations. It is very embarrassing to the hearing impaired person to have to keep asking for clarification of words and it is easy to fall into the trap of retreating away from people because conversations are all too hard.

This article has resulted from one of our parishioners recently asking me just how I cope and questioning how they can get people to realise what is needed for we 'hearing impaired people' to feel connected and worthy.

I knew my audiologist would have the perfect answer to this question. So, I offer to you all, our valued parishioners, the following resource:-

The Ten Commandments the Hearing Impaired Wish You Knew

- 1. Thou shalt not speak to the listener from another room.***
- 2. Thou shalt not speak with your back toward the listener or while the listener's back is toward you.***
- 3. Thou shalt not speak as you walk away.***
- 4. Thou shalt not turn your face away from the listener while continuing to talk.***
- 5. Thou shalt not speak while background noise (water running, radio or TV playing, people talking etc.) is as loud or louder than your voice.***
- 6. Thou shalt not start to speak before getting the listener's attention and while the listener is reading, engrossed in a TV program, or otherwise preoccupied.***
- 7. Thou shalt not speak while your face is hidden in shadow.***
- 8. Thou shalt not obstruct a view of your mouth while speaking.***
- 9. Thou shalt not speak rapidly or by shouting.***
- 10. Thou shalt be patient, supportive and loving when the listener appears to have difficulty comprehending what has been said.***

Thank you for reading this far. We really are all valued people in our congregation, so let's try and make everyone feel this way, whether hearing impaired or not. Mary Young

Food for Thought....How People Survive the Darkness



I have just finished a book titled “Gilka’s Journey”. It was written by Heather Morris, a Kiwi/Australian who now lives in Melbourne although she travels all over the world to complete the research that underpins her novels, books that are very closely based on true events and people. While working as a nurse in a large public hospital in Melbourne in 2003, she was introduced to an elderly gentleman who had a very interesting life story he wanted to tell.

Lale Sokolov and Heather formed a very close friendship as he shared his story of survival, resilience and hope amidst living through the darkness of the Holocaust. With his permission, she wrote his story...the story of the Tattooist of Auschwitz which I think became a film. But Lale was passionate about the amazing story of a young girl he befriended in that horror camp and so her story became the sequel to *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. Lale married Gilka’s best friend from the camp and they ended up in Australia. He maintained that Gilka was the bravest person he’d ever met!

In 1942, Gilka was just sixteen when she was taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration camp and the story of her survival there amidst the death of the rest of her family is hauntingly sad and yet also uplifting as she maintained a sense of right and compassion. But her story never ended there as, at the end of the war, she was freed by the Russians, then charged as a collaborator and sent to the desolate brutal Vorkuta prison camp in Siberia inside the Arctic Circle for another 15 years.

Here was another battle for survival and another story of unjust and brutal treatment through which the emergence of loyal and amazing friendships, triumphs and loyalties attested to the good side of humanity amidst inhumanity. She was befriended by a female doctor who saw her potential and trained her to be a nurse where her compassion could be urgently needed and appreciated. After Stalin died, those political prisoners were freed, and, gradually, life as we know it became hers as well. For Gilka had met a man in the camp and they subsequently married and settled in Czechoslovakia where she died in 2004 after 5 decades of being together.

This and so many stories that came out of that massive upheaval of both the World Wars revealed the best and the worst of mankind and I often wonder how I might have coped. In our little world around us, our worries and stresses seem like mountains. Do we really know how we might have acted if we were faced with the fight to survive...or die? What resources help us to cope? Where does our faith in God come to the fore when the chips are down?

Is it in circumstances beyond our control that we become aware of the real person underneath all our trappings and find what is most important to us? Gilka was a Jew, and this motivated her behaviour, her survival ability and her depth of feeling for others. Living under adrenalin seems to bring out the best in some of us! The author states, “The challenge of working with history is to find the core of what was true and the spirit of those who lived them.” My musings from under the shower!

Jean

Nature is a beautiful gift from God; the leaves change during each season. just as our faith in the Lord matures throughout our life.



Looking back, we see how our relationship with God.

has strengthened due to troubling storms and droughts.

We've lost friends, jobs or loved ones.

We've experienced financial burden, grief and bruised egos.

Through it all, God has remained present and provided a refuge for our broken hearts.

Because of His faithfulness, we have joy and peace; we begin to see the world through His eyes.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for Your presence during each season of life. We lift our voices in praise to You for Your love and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, Amen

From the Pilton April Newsletter

Containers for change



CHECK FOR THE 10c MARK

Thank you to all who recycle drink containers to contribute towards our **Containers for Change** scheme. The small amounts add up to a few hundred dollars each year, so it is certainly worth bringing your containers.

But remember – all lids off – and please leave them in plastic bags so they can be readily transported to the McEvoy St depot.

Financial Summary – March 2024

	March	Year to date	Budget
Income	\$20 814	\$68 919	\$66 282
Expenditure	\$15 394	\$44 518	\$44 608

OOPS Sometime accidents happen.

Although there is a sign in the hall requesting any damage or property issues be reported to either Ian Darnell or David Cahill, a recent damage to the plasterboard wall in Williams Hall was not reported by the person who did it. It was noted afterward by a third party. Unless we get a report directly (even anonymously written report) we cannot determine the cause and possible action to prevent future occurrences. Fixing it is easy in this case but preventing it is a different story. Please follow up if you are the person responsible.

Jumpers and Jazz in July Planning



Our planning for this year's JJJ began with good attendance at our first meeting and we have schemes and dreams that we can all enjoy, work towards and participate in throughout the buildup and 10 days of the event at the end of July.

Jazzy breakfast –Terry Smart and his catering crew are primed for Saturday 20th July – 7:30am to 10am – with a bountiful buffet breakfast. The workers in the main team are seasoned on the job but we'd like to arrange a small cleanup team of workers to pack away tables and chairs after 10am.

Could you help in this task? – see Terry – cooking beforehand, cleanup....

Courtyard Coffee – Cathy and Paul Ryan also have a well-trained team of pros who know what they're doing from experience each week – but this will operate Saturday 20th and Monday – Friday (22nd – 26^h) - 9:30am – 12 noon - and would appreciate some relief workers. They will draw up a roster so look for that closer to the time and see where you might be able to be part of this fun, busy activity. There will be pop-up stalls in the courtyard during this time –plants, crafts, etc – so if you have contacts who would like to display items for sale, please contact either Cathy or Paul.

Our Cape Chestnut Tree decorations - not finalized at this stage but we're hoping to have some creative input into how we could convey the theme of SCORE as it might apply to us. If you've got any ideas, please see Sue Campbell.

And... Not a labyrinth but a design that Jan Reid has devised – please read Jan's article and be involved as you can.

QUESTION

What is the connection between...
JUMPERS and JAZZ, KNITTING AND CONGREGATION?

ANSWER

We are making a TARGET on the grass in front of the Warwick church for JUMPERS and JAZZ and help is needed!
The TARGET will be 3 metres across, and we are KNITTING the outline of each of the circles. Simple knitting - all plain.

If you cannot knit, then perhaps you would like to donate a ball of wool...\$4.

Please see Jan Reid (0428985295) if you are interested in being part of this CONGREGATIONAL project. Thank you.

Warwick's Jumpers and Jazz in July is a time when our quiet city becomes full to overflowing with visitors who enjoy our local experiences and treasures and when we join in these special activities, we can become visitors in our own neighbourhood – so we'd encourage everyone to join in as they can.

After experiencing the wonder of the artistic display that was mounted at Pittsworth Uniting Church Rev Ansie has arranged for the artist to install her works, that tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry on earth – in our church.

We will be fortunate to have this installation in our church over the 10 days of Jumpers and Jazz in July and will need to organise volunteers to welcome visitors throughout the mornings.



Courtyard Coffee

One of our very special ministries happens each Friday morning in the Courtyard and Williams Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am.

An initiative of Paul and Cathy Ryan assisted by a number of volunteers to provide a place to gather with friends and family sharing a cuppa and delicious morning tea at very affordable prices in a peaceful garden atmosphere or in the quiet of the hall.

Now there is also a book exchange where you can swap a book or purchase for \$2.00.

Obviously, the best publicity is word of mouth as often it is a challenge to find a table.

Bookings are taken but not necessary. Why not make it a date next time you meet with friends.



Church Council Chatter for April 2024

Barry Kelly and Daryal Simpson welcomed back to Council.

The following Task Teams and leaders have been appointed for 2024.

Catering	Terry Smart
Cleaning	Sue Campbell
Communications	Sue Campbell
Finance	Jenny Lane
Housing Investment Fund.	Ansie/Jenny/Ian
Information Technology.	Lawrie Clayton
Jumpers and Jazz	Sue Campbell
Ministry Agent	Rev Ansie
Market Day	Scott Young
Pastoral Care & membership stats	Dianne Cahill
Property & online stats	Ian Darnell/David Cahill.
Safe Church	Jonna Cowan

MARKET DAY: Our windy March Market Day blew the gazebo protecting Treat Yourself over the Courtyard wall and saw our double gazebo torn. After consideration, Market leader Scott Young, has consulted with Property and has organised another top with Oz Trail which has a slightly smaller size. The big question is will it fit? Scott is planning to trial this before the next Market Day (August), and when ready, will be calling for his team to come and try.

PEACE WALK and CANDLE LIGHTING May 1st. This is the 3rd year we have participated by providing a sheltered area for the candle lighting and ceremony. It is part of our commitment to help those involved or who have experienced domestic violence. We will also host the supper afterwards with the Wednesday Beta Home Group offering to cater. Please let Dianne Cahill know if you can offer contribute either with food for the supper or are able to be involved with more hands assistance. More information in weekly notices.

PROPERTY: We are an active Church community. Some frustration has been raised at the continuing practice of items or property being damaged and not reported. Please, please report – even if you see an item that needs attention. Contact the office, in person if staff present, or even slip a note under the door. We will be putting up signage in the Hall for all users to see. If there is injury, then we have Incident Forms available in the porch for reporting – and this is mandatory. The reason behind this is to keep our properties safe for everyone to use and if we don't know how the damage occurred it is harder to prevent it happening again.

WORSHIP SERVICES This topic, with music, came up in each of our 4 points! Yes, it is time we looked at how we do this to meet the needs of our growing congregation. This will be a strong focus for our ongoing season. Watch out for more news on changes here – although right now, we welcome Daryal Simpson as another clever hand on our Warwick EasyWorship schedules (Easy Worship is used to project our Services to the screen in Warwick)

Our Council leaders for 2024 (photos on the wall in Williams Hall, thanks to Barry Kelly)

Rev Ansie Minister	David Cahill	Barb Cutmore	Daryal Simpson
Brad Beck (chair)	Dianne Cahill	Barry Kelly	Terry Smart
Marg Wells (Sec)	Sue Campbell	Angela Lester	Carolyn Vardy
Jenny Lane (Treas)	Lawrie Clayton	Alison Payne	Scott Young
Gordon Bratby	Ian Darnell	Jan Reid	

FEEDBACK FROM OUR FEBRUARY AGM: Council, in turn, was delighted to see the positive comments on the feedback forms. We looked at each of the four points: What delighted, What surprise, What disappointed and What you would like changed. While there was very little that people would like changed, changes need conversation. The secretary would urge those wishing to change any of the ways we do things to do so through our Congregational Meetings.

Marg Wells 0427144812

We are blessed in our Parish to have so many willing volunteers who come forward whenever there is a need. This brought to mind the following which demonstrates what can happen without the necessary communication.

This is a story about four people named **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have.
 -Author Unknown

At the AGM held in February Those attending were asked some questions

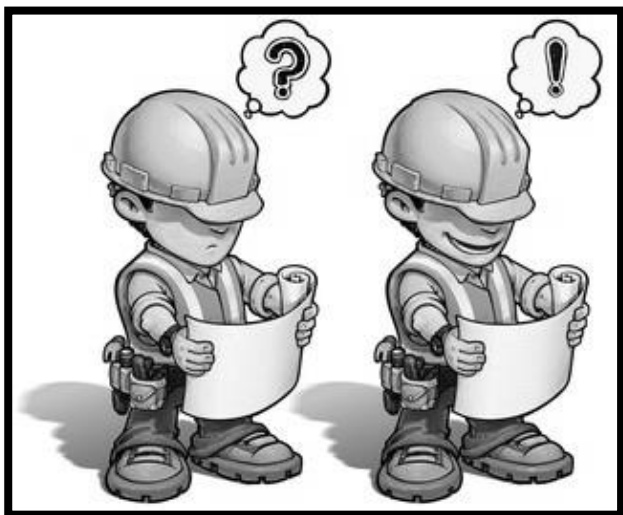
These are some of the responses.

What surprised you?

- By contributing 3 days a week 8-12, so much was done and so much was contributed to enable the former manse to be opened as a refuge for Protea Place.
- The amount of work that has been done. Not surprised – we were all involved.
- New Cross for Killarney
- Affordable Housing Project – huge idea! To fit 10 units on the Warwick property That 10 units fit in the space!
- Courtyard Coffee (out and in) The growth of Courtyard Coffee

What are you thankful for?

- Having Ansie and the team making so much happen this year.
- Ansie's guidance and direction
- All the volunteers:
- Protea Place
- Submission for affordable housing
- Killarney thankful for Ministers and Musicians from Warwick
- Clever people to go through intense process and have the volunteer expertise in planning and finances.
- Running an Alpha course every year
- Intergenerational group of people and their enthusiasm
- All major projects planned have gone through successfully.
- Leadership Team
- Protea Place
- Coffee Shop support
- Got through another year.
- Step up when needed.
- Enthusiasm and energy
- Thankful to all the volunteers
- Thank you to the Courtyard Cuppa volunteers, also the people who attend and non-church people who attend, Home made.
- Valuable conversations – connection point.
- Thank you for the Cross – individual skills!
- Everyone is one? over? and above' Other people have done it.
- Congregation coming together.



As with any building application, a number of inspections have to take place before final approval can be given.

If you have seen people in orange vests wandering through the complex, they are just ensuring that all is in order with our Affordable Housing Application.

This hopefully will enable plans to proceed to the next stage.