



New Horizons



January 2026

Monthly Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish

Killarney Church Launches First-Ever Sit-Down Breakfast Communion Service

KILLARNEY — The new year began with a fresh expression of worship for the Killarney congregation, as the church hosted its first sit-down breakfast communion service — an initiative that was met with enthusiasm, warmth, and a full room of conversation around shared tables.



Held earlier this month, the gathering marked the first of four quarterly breakfast communion services planned for 2026. The format intentionally echoes the setting of the very first communion, where Jesus shared a meal at a table, speaking with those gathered around Him.

The idea was inspired by a visit to Willie’s Millmerran Uniting Church in October 2025, where a similar practice has been running for more than a year. That experience revealed an intergenerational community eating together, talking about faith, and engaging deeply with the story of Jesus in a relaxed, relational setting.

It was so exciting and life-giving to see people of all ages gathered around tables, sharing food and talking about the things of Jesus. When I returned to Killarney, it felt natural to explore whether our own community might embrace something similar — and they absolutely did.”

The inaugural breakfast service brought together long-time members, and a few newcomers, all sharing in conversation, prayer, and communion over a simple meal. The atmosphere was described as warm, joyful, and deeply connective — a meaningful start to the year for the congregation.

With such a positive response, the church is looking forward to continuing the quarterly tradition, offering a space where worship, fellowship, and shared meals come together in a way that feels both ancient and refreshingly new.

A New Year, A New Season of Faithful Growth

As we step into this new year together, our congregation finds itself at an important moment of transition and gratitude. The past season has been one of remarkable effort and faithful commitment. We have completed significant building projects that will serve our ministry for years to come, and we have successfully registered our independent women's support centre—a milestone that reflects our deep calling to compassion, justice, and community care.

These achievements were made possible through the dedication of leaders who have served tirelessly over many years. Many of them are now taking a well-deserved break, and we hold deep appreciation for the legacy they leave. Their faithfulness has shaped our community in profound ways. As we look ahead, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you might offer your gifts to continue this work. Every season brings new opportunities for leadership, creativity, and service, and your contribution—large or small—helps build the next chapter of our shared ministry.

Preparing for Our Annual Meeting – 15 February

Our annual meeting will take place on **15 February**, and it will be an important moment to reflect on the year behind us and discern the path ahead. We encourage all members to attend, participate, and help shape the vision for the coming year.

Entering the Lenten Journey

Soon we will enter the sacred season of Lent. This year, our worship and reflections will follow the Gospel of Matthew, exploring the life, teachings, and passion of Jesus through Matthew's unique lens. Lent invites us to slow down, listen deeply, and rediscover what discipleship means in our daily lives.

We will begin with an **Ash Wednesday service on 18 February**, marking our foreheads with the sign of the cross and our hearts with the call to return to God.

Join the Lenten Journey Homegroup

Throughout Lent, I will be hosting a special intergenerational Lenten journey as part of my Wednesday night homegroup—from Ash Wednesday through to Easter. This will be a space for reflection, conversation, and shared exploration of what it means to follow Jesus in this season. You are warmly invited to join us, whether you are new to small groups or have been part of them for years.

With a grateful heart,

Ansie Liebenberg



Food for Thought...2026...and What?

We have stepped into this new year with dreams and hopes...with resolutions to be the best disciples we can be, and then maybe with the help of the Holy Spirit to be able to make some changes in our flawed world. The news still haunts us as racism, war, famine, floods and fire spread across our TV screens. How we would love to stride out to make the Kingdom of God a reality right now! Then I found some parables that showed me how it can be done.

The first is the story of the Kite.

I'm a kite like all the rest of us. We all like flying when the winds start to blow, the skies are blue and the weather is just right. That's when we soar and glide and drift. Life is great and I'm happy. I long to soar higher and higher till I can reach the heavens....But the string is my problem!

I could float so high and look down on the people, trees and houses...but I can only go as far as the string will let me...it holds me back. My heart keeps urging me to go higher and higher, but I can only go so far for someone holds the other end of the string and stops my freedom.

One day I cried out in tears " Let me hold my own string and I would really be able to fly." Then one day, my chance arrived! The wind was fierce; the string was holding me captive as I swooped and flew...the string kept unwinding and I flew higher than ever. It was bliss...but suddenly the string snapped and I was truly free for a short moment of unimaginable joy. But then I found myself on the ground full of hurts and bruises. What lessons can we draw from this story?

The next...What will God Say?

The teacher and 2 students were reflecting on the parable of Jesus on the Last Judgment in which the King says to the sheep who did good in life, "Come, enter into your eternal reward." And to the goats, "Depart into eternal judgment!" The teacher asked, "what do you want God to say to you?"

The first answered, "I forgive you...all your sins are washed away." The second said, "Don't worry about all you have failed to accomplish in life. I understand! Come into your eternal reward." Then they both asked the teacher what he would like to hear God say. He paused, smiled and said, "I would like to hear God say, "Thank you!"

Finally, a Prayer for the Year Ahead

O Beloved, who loves me more than I could ever love myself, help me, for I am a fool and don't know how to ask for what I really need. Open my heart to you and give me what I need this day. Raise me up or strike me down...reward me or punish me. Give me gifts of shame or fame, disgrace or praise, success or failure, sickness or health. I offer myself to you in and as a sacrifice, so I may joyfully meet all that comes my way this year.

An entry plaque over the door into the Warwick Intermediate School said it all !

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, "Give me a light that I may walk safely into the unknown." And he replied, "Put your hand into the hand of God and that will be better than light and safer than the known way."

How often many of us entered those rooms and read those words day after day! Jean

Introducing Lydia and Peter Macartney

OK....Have you ever wondered at the stories people who sit in our pews could tell us? When new people come into our congregation, we try to make them feel welcome; make them feel at home in this new Christian family that they have become a part of. But do we also wonder what has brought them to our little corner of God's world? Well, here is a story that needs to be told of one of those families.

Lydia was born in Wagga Wagga, but, as in all of her most interesting story, she wasn't there long! Her schooling took place in Coonamble where she worshipped in the Anglican Church and it was here that she met a missionary whose story affected her so deeply that it created a turning point in her life that pointed to nursing training so she could offer herself to the Anglican Missionary Section. With this end in mind, Lydia moved to Tamworth where she completed her General Nursing Training, then trained as a midwife and finally trained to become competent in Mothercraft. Now she was ready for Mission work and was sent to PNG where she worked as a Nursing Tutor.

Now, what about Peter? Well, he was born and grew up in Belfast in Ireland, moved into England and worked with his Dad. Just take time to listen to his accent! Now Peter actually became a Maths/ Science Teacher and he, also, ended up in PNG in 1985, teaching at Milne Bay and later teaching English at Martyrs' Memorial School near Kokoda for a further 6 years.

And, in that special way God has of bringing his people together, they met in PNG, had a 2-3 month's courtship and came back to Tamworth to be married in 1992. They were a couple of late starters, he being 43 and she a young 37 so that both went back to PNG. Ready to become a family, Ruth was born in 1994 and Hannah in 1995, they returned to Tamworth and moved Queensland, north of Toowoomba to Cooyar for 14 years where they worshipped in the little Lutheran Church with a tiny Sunday School.

But nothing holds these pair down in one spot for long. For it was here they ventured into fostering, a project that lasted for approximately 20 years with Alyssa aged 22 and others more short term. Through this, they were driving very often to Crows Nest for Girls' and Boy's Brigades, Sunday School and a Bible Study. Finally, they moved to Crows Nest where they stayed for 7 years.

There the housing crisis caught up with them as the home they were renting was sold and they had to move to find a place to live. This meant a shift to Miles, but it was too isolating for the children and finally, 6 months ago, they found a place in Warwick. They found us to be welcoming and the church perfect for seeing and hearing Worship. Missionary work is being passed on with Ruth set to teach at an International School in Singapore and Hannah will probably go to Thailand next year as a missionary teacher. So, the wandering continues.

Lydia has joined a KYB group and they are gradually finding their niche here. Peter looks back on their life in PNG with fond memories of the people...so let us make this their special place to stay right here amongst us! There is much more to discover about their interesting lives! Talk to them and learn all about them!

Blessing the Backpacks & students

This week school is commencing for 2026. Let us ask for God's blessing for all students. We especially acknowledge those who are beginning school or kindly for the first time. Those who are commencing or returning to Scots PGC.



We offer prayers and blessings in support of them. As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Learning takes place in school, in church, in our family, in our community, and in the world.

God of wisdom and knowledge, enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn. Make the schools of our community lively centres for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom.

We thank you for teachers and administrators. Continually renew and affirm in them a sense of calling to the sacred vocation of teaching. Give them loving hearts, wise minds, strong spirits, and a passion for their students. Fill them with joy, sustain and strengthen them, and give them rest when they are weary. Let them trust the seeds they plant even when they do not see the harvest.

We thank you for each student, their life among us, and the future before them. Let each classroom they enter be a place of life and light, warmth and welcome, discovery and growth. Give them good friends and be good friends for others. Set them at tasks which demand their best efforts and lead them to accomplishments which satisfy and delight. Let them not take failures and disappointments as a measure of their worth but as opportunities for new learning and new beginnings. Open their hearts to life and their minds to learning.

In Matthew 19 – “Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted Him to place His hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told the people to stop. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them.”

Lord Jesus, please bless the backpacks and the children who use them. Let them always know that You love and care for them and are with them always. Keep them safe, give them good friends, and help them learn well. Help their parents as they love and guide them. AMEN

“True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.” **Nikos Kazantzakis**

INVITATION AND THANK YOU

After serving as Secretary on Church Council, it is time to hand this position on to someone else. As I go, I look back on 6 years in which I am grateful for so much.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with a wide range of amazing people – from our Church family to Presbytery, Synod and Assembly. I have met grace and learning, with many ‘wow’ moments that have kept me positive and excited by how much a group of Christians, a Church, can do to put words to action when we have the courage to step out in faith.

I have worked with a great team of Council members where there is sharing and vulnerability; humour and self-reflection and sometimes hard conversation to grapple with – but always growth (sometimes delayed on my part I confess!) I have been awed by the courage, diligence and acceptance of our Minister Ansie as she has led us to a more sustainable future.

Now, with the challenging work of establishing our affordable housing establishing, it is into this new season that I invite you to consider whether the position of secretary is calling you. If so, I promise you will gain new insights into Church matters, but you will also gain in the satisfaction of learning more about the processes involved today in communication.

The Secretarial job is all about communication, from taking and distributing Minutes, recording emails and responding where appropriate. Communication in keeping the Minister, Council and Church members informed. I avoided the position for a few years thinking I could not do it and if I can do it, anyone can do it!! Thank you for all the support and for the journey.

Contact me if you would like more information. Marg Wells 0427144812

Your Gifts Matter — Join the Parish Council!

Do you have skills in IT, property, communication, or governance?

Are you passionate about helping our parish thrive?

We’re inviting new members to join our Parish Council — a team committed to guiding and supporting the life of our church. Whether you're tech-savvy, have a heart for pastoral care and prayer, are a great communicator, handy with property matters, or experienced in leadership, your contribution could make a real difference. If you feel called to serve or want to learn more, please speak with Rev Ansie. Together, let’s build a vibrant and faithful future.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT KILLARNEY

Sunday 15th Feb - 2pm

Come and be informed about our journey through 2025 and our plans for 2026.



**Volunteer with
WillowTree 37**

Do you have time to give and a heart for helping? 🧡

WillowTree 37 is looking for volunteers at our drop-in centre. Our volunteers help create a welcoming, calm and caring space where dignity and kindness matter. ❤️

If this resonates with you and you have time to give, we would love to hear from you. 💜🧡

Contact us at team.leader@wt37.org for more info or call 4574 4876 between 10am - 2pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

[#volunteer](#) [#communitysupport](#) [#giveback](#)
[#willowtree37](#) [#kindnessmatters](#)

DATE CLAIMER

MARKET DAY MARCH 7TH 2026

Featured Stalls

Trash and Treasure

Please donate

**Household goods, tools, clothing, furniture, fabric
any good quality items which would not be included
in the October Market Day as Collectables.**

Books:-

Preferably novels and children's books.

Also, comics and magazines.

**Now may be a good time to start that New Year cleanout
and put aside those unwanted items which you no longer use
and are just taking up space. Please put them aside until we
are ready to receive them as the time is nearer for Market Day.**

**To arrange collection If you have large items,
please contact Scott Young 0429 969 432**

**A PLANNING MEETING will be held on Thursday 5th February 2026
at 11:30am in the Wesley Room. All Welcome.**

Suggestions for new stalls and entertainment appreciated.

The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ has commanded his Church to proclaim the Gospel both in words and in the two visible acts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Christ himself acts in and through everything that the Church does in obedience to his commandment: it is Christ who by the gift of the Spirit confers the forgiveness, the fellowship, the new life and the freedom which the proclamation and actions promise; and awakens, purifies and advances in people the faith and hope in which alone such benefits can be accepted.

On the front page of this edition of New Horizons, we read about the unique celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion as a Sit-Down Breakfast Service. What a significant way to share the bread and wine just as Jesus did during that first "Last Supper", around the meal table.

In the Uniting Church, Baptism is a sign of new life through Jesus and unites us with Christ and the people of God. It is the initiation into the way of life taught by Jesus and practiced by the Church.



On Sunday 11th January the congregation in our Warwick church joined with Sam and Franzi Lane as they presented their daughter Matilda Catherine for baptism.

Loving Father, Open our hearts to hidden realities: your love for all people, your presence in the community, your call to justice and peace.

May the sacraments stir in us that same love for those with whom we worship and all members of our human family.

Christ Jesus, Help us to copy your example: healing the sick, welcoming the stranger, assisting the poor and vulnerable. May the sacraments remind us of your love and self-giving, which we strive to imitate.

Holy Spirit, Make visible to our eyes what is invisible:

your call to your people, your summons to live our faith daily

as witnesses of justice and peace. May the sacraments move us

to engage in love-inspired action that transforms us and the world. Amen.