



NEW HORIZONS

Warwick/Freestone/ Killarney Newsletter September 2026



MINISTERS ON LEAVE!

Attended the morning worship service at the Abbey prayed for our communities. What an experience! Is windy and cold! But felt the Spirit of God in this place.



CLERGY CAPERS WITH REV PAUL CLARK



On the last weekend in August Rev Paul Clark led a Congregation Renewal workshop on the Saturday with 42 attendees from Crows Nest, Dalby, Nobby, Pilton, Killarney, Freestone and Warwick.



As depicted in the photos the discussion encouraged those taking part to consider ways of engaging communities in finding faith and a desire to participate in a discipleship journey with a reminder that while the big projects attract attention it is the little things which lead to growth. The challenge was To keep swimming. Trust the one who holds you. Trust your tools. Set your north Consistent persistence triumphs over spectacular charisma.

Rev Paul Clark introduced his puppets during worship on Sunday morning with the scripture reading on the Persistent Widow.

During the message his discussion with Hairy focused on prayer.



Thank you, Rev Paul, for your input and challenges to our Parish.

REV RUSSELL PERFORMS THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TOILET AND THE SHADE SHELTER AT FREESTONE CHURCH



On Sunday afternoon of the 13th September 2026, following the church service conducted by Rev Russell Reynoldson at Freestone Uniting church, the grand opening of the church toilet took place. The toilet paper ribbon was appropriately cut by Rev Russell who, in a short speech, remembered the old building which has been replaced by this state of the art, disabled friendly building, and those who enabled the construction of the toilet and the erection of the shade shelter.

Many thanks are due to the numerous folk who contributed in big and small ways to these wonderful improvements. Special mention should be made of Ian Darnell, Ray Browne, Cameron Mauch, and Philip Christensen for their generosity in their giving of time, labour, and/or materials.

Afternoon tea, under the shade shelter of course, followed the “ribbon” cutting with a non- alcoholic bubbly served to celebrate this very special occasion.

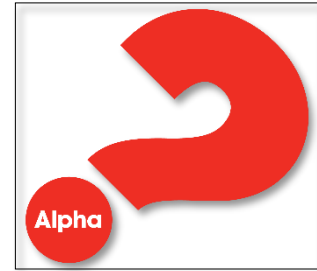
Thank you to those from the Warwick congregation who joined the local folk on this auspicious occasion, especially volunteer workers, Peter Campbell and Ray Browne, accompanied by Sue and Virginia.

In addition, it was lovely to see some young people there, the future congregational leaders, we hope. The toilet was christened by several folk on the day and declared by all a model in very good working order!!

THE KILLARNEY ALPHA JOURNEY

God meets us in our questions -Jesus invites us into relationship, not religion

Every Alpha is built around three key elements: connection, content and conversation.



Alpha happens around the table. People gather, share food, watch a short video, and engage in open and honest conversation – hearing others’ stories about faith and life, and sharing their own. Together, we have shared meals, opened your hearts, and encountered the Holy Spirit in powerful ways.

Whether experiencing a renewed sense of faith, finding answers to deep questions, or simply feeling the warmth of Christ’s love through fellowship, we celebrate the unique journey God has walked with each of you.



Leanne, Genny, Carolyn, Alan, Peter, Ros, Michelle, Lorraine P, Lorraine S and Sue were some of those who attended the Alpha course and were able to join the Alpha celebration service last Sunday 20th September.

Informative	Connections	Knowledge	Encouraging	Amazement
Friendships Formed	Power Of Prayer	Out Of Comfort Zone	Great Food And Conversation	Love And Care
Spiritual Food	Different Perspectives	Sharing	Learning New Things	Enjoyable

The table above reflects some of the ways each of those taking part felt the course had made an impact on their lives.



A significant part of the Alpha celebration service is the sharing of testimonies or stories of experiences during their faith journey and the Alpha weekly gatherings. Alan, Genny, Lorraine Powell and Lorraine Smith each spoke briefly sharing some insights which were very moving.

Alan's friend Brian Lee who had taken part during the course asked Alan to read a poem as he was not able to be at the service. Later Peter read a second one called Jesus Won't.

Wendy Lewis sent the following which was read during this time in the service.

My thoughts on our Alpha lessons. I feel I've worked out who exactly the Holy Spirit is and what he does in my life. I feel I never really had a handle on that before. This was perhaps the biggest thing I take from the lessons but really there was something new every week that I discovered. Everyone should give Alpha a try it's fun.

It is planned to continue meeting on Wednesday mornings during October and November but in what format will be decided when those who can come together.

Gracious God Thank you for this Alpha journey—for every shared meal, every honest question, and every moment of laughter and discovery. Thank you for the-unseen hand that has guided our conversations and the quiet grace that has met us right where we are.

We ask for your rich blessing upon all who have gathered here. Strengthen us in faith, root us deep in your love, and fill us with the confidence of your Holy Spirit. As this Alpha chapter closes, let the fire of your love keep burning in our hearts. Send us out as instruments of your peace, ready to share the good news of your grace with our friends, families, and wider community.

May your face shine upon us, may your Spirit direct our steps, and may your unending blessing rest upon this community today and always. Amen.



Food for Thought... a Living Lesson in Discipleship

I came upon this little gem when I was cleaning up some files. I don't know where it came from and it has no author. It looks like I have stacked it away a long time ago. It would occur in a much earlier time slot than today. It is set in a rather up market church congregation...but its lesson is timeless!

His name is Bill. He has a wild mass of hair, wears a T-shirt with lots of holes in it, dirty Jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his three years of college. He is brilliant....kind of esoteric... and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college. Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, wealthy and very conservative church. They are talking about trying to develop a ministry to the students...but they're not sure how to go about it.!

One day, Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, very old jeans, his holey T-shirt and wild hair. The service had already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat. The church is rather full and he can't find a seat. By now, people are looking a bit uncomfortable...but no one says anything. Bill gets closer and closer to the pulpit, and, when he realises there seems to be no seat, he just squats down to sit in the front right on the carpet. Although perfectly acceptable at the college fellowship, this had never happened in this church before.

By now the people are really uptight and the tension in the air is thick. About this time, the minister realises that from the back of the church, an elder was slowly making his way towards Bill. The Elder is in his eighties, has silver hair and wears a three piece suit...a Godly man, very dignified, very elegant and very courtly. He walks with a cane, and, as he starts walking towards the boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he was about to do. How can you expect a man of his age and his background to understand some college kid on the floor?



It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focussed on him...you can't even hear anyone breathing! The minister can't even begin his sermon until the Elder does what he has to do. Now they see the elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill to worship with him so he won't be alone. Everyone chokes up with emotion!

When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you might never remember. But what you have just seen, you will never forget! Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read"

Shalom, Jean

Our Big Spring Market Day at the Warwick Uniting Church – 10th October



Nearly time to start cooking... the Treat Yourself crew at our March Market Day.

With this warm weather upon us, at the Warwick Uniting Church we are right into planning and preparation for our October Market Day – starting at 9am through to 12pm.

Have you noticed that the plants you buy from our big plant stalls always survive your home condition? That's because the plants are propagated here, grown here – and survive the hot and the cold of our weather in Warwick. They are also usually pretty water hardy...With this beautiful warm weather, our plants have had a kick start in growth and our potting sheds are bursting so there will be lots of well-established plants to choose from.

This market day also features a Collectables stall – with a wide range of items that are interesting and a little exclusive in value. Laces, porcelain, art work, silver – come and see if any of it is what you could add to your collection of pretty things.

Also weather dependent, at this market we have a Produce stall which features locally grown vegetables, preserves and flowers - fresh from our gardens.

And to complete our market offerings we have our ever-popular Courtyard Coffee, Home Baked, Treat Yourself, Sausage Sizzle and plenty of good quality novels and children's books.

Southern Downs Animal Rescue – ARK – will bring animals that would love to have a fur-ever home so if you've got a space in your heart for a four-legged friend come and choose your new buddy.

Our entertainment this Market Day features a good taste of Scotland, Filipino dancers and our very own Melos – some of this will be in the church and the remainder out in the grounds.

So, come and see – you're always welcome – to roam in the grounds, sit in the church in the cool or in the courtyard enjoying a hot drink and sweet treat, chat to others, take home some of the wares of the stalls and soak up the atmosphere of the morning.



Warwick Uniting Church

MARKET DAY

10th October 2026

9am to 12pm

Everyone welcome!

Market highlights:

- Big plant sale
- Craft
- Collectables
- Food stalls
- Entertainment
- ARK Animal Rescue
- Produce

Warwick Uniting Church
37-39 Guy St, Warwick Qld

Celebrating Our Courtyard Coffee Team

A huge shout-out to our incredible Courtyard Coffee team! Thank you for your faithful service — baking, serving, chatting, smiling, and welcoming our community most Fridays of the year. Your hospitality creates connection, joy, and a place where people feel at home. You are truly amazing, and we are so grateful for you.

