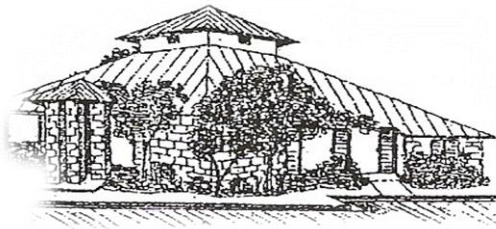


## **.Kirwan Uniting Church**



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## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

***WELCOME!*** *We welcome all visitors with us today, and pray your time with us will be a blessed one.*

*Please stay and share morning tea with us after the Service.*

### **Kirwan's Mission Statement**

To be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

<b>Lectionary readings</b>	<b>Lent 5</b>
<b>Ez 37: 1-14</b>	<b>Ps 130</b>
<b>Rom 8: 6-11</b>	<b>Jn 11:1-45</b>

### ***Richard's Ramblings***

In two weeks, it will be Easter. Among the bible texts that we turn to, is Job 19:25, "I know that my Redeemer lives". We might even dig out the Messiah CD or .mp3 which we played during the Christmas season, fast forwarding to the lovely soprano aria. But there's more to Job's story than his firm assurance that "in my flesh I shall see God".

The internet abbreviation, TL:DR stands for "Too long, don't read" (or "didn't read"). Lots of us append that to the first 18 chapters of Job, particularly chapters 1 and 2 when Satan tells God that, first, Job only trusts Him because he (Job) is well off, and then, after Job loses all of his wealth and family, that second, Job still trusts God because he has his health. In the story, one of the oldest parts of the Hebrew bible, God allows Satan to take away Job's health, too.

We are in a better position, unfortunately, to have insight into Job's predicament as we isolate ourselves for self-protection and community protection for the duration of the COVID-2 pandemic. Chapter 19 v13: "He has put my family far from me, and

my acquaintances are wholly estranged from me". It's against that backdrop that Job cries out his defiance to Satan, (never mind TL:DR for now):

O that my words were written down!  
O that they were inscribed in a book!  
O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!  
For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he<sup>l</sup> will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

"whom I shall see on my side". Where have we heard words like that? Yes, Romans 8:31 – 39 (TL:DR ☺ Look it up yourself). "If God is for us, who is against us?" And, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth", *nor a novel coronavirus*, "nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

***NB: Please be sure to check your emails and spam for link to Service this week.***

***Link:*** <https://vimeo.com/399569139>

Hello everyone

Just a brief note about Sunday's AGM. I decided to go ahead with the meeting so that the difficult financial, operational, and pastoral activities over the next months are taken by appropriately authorised people. I was aware of the Moderator's letter advising that meetings should cease, to comply with the limits for indoor meetings, so we had the meeting outside in the covered area, and took extensive hygiene precautions including sanitising all seating and keeping an appropriate distance during the meeting. In addition to the meeting business, we were reminded that the church is not just a building or even the groups that meet, but all the individuals who love God and one another. In the moderator's words " . . look after yourself during this unprecedented time. . .let us continue to love God, love one another and love our neighbours."

David Brooke-Taylor (Chair – congregational meeting)

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Message from CoM

The AGM went ahead on Sunday as we were able to maintain the proper social distance and hear one another, as we were only 15. We discussed many innovative ideas on how to hold small worship services, and small meetings, as well as online worship. However, the next day the government announced that all places of worship would be completely closed, so we are left with the only option of remaining together as a virtual community - worship by video and meetings by zoom. Richard and the pastoral care team are organising phone groups, so that we can remain together, though distant. So good luck and blessings to everyone.

David King



Direct Debit

Over the next months our church is going to face many challenges, but also opportunities. The mission, ministry, worship, pastoral care and outreach will be ongoing.

Richard will still be visiting and contacting people, as well as creating a Church Service via the internet each week.

The financial requirements of our church will continue. However, without the usual Sunday gathering, the reality is that our giving through our Sunday collection offerings will not be available. We are thus asking you to please consider electronic giving. The easiest way is by Direct Debit through your bank to our Church Account at the St George Bank, so we can continue God's work with our Church family.

If you are willing to Direct Debit the details are:

Account Name	UCA-Kirwan
Uniting Church	
BSB	334040
Account Number	553871199

***NB: Please note that I will be not doing K.I.T over the next few weeks - self isolating. Please check your emails for any contact from Church leaders. God bless and keep safe.***



