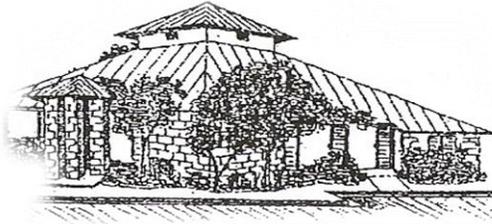


# Kirwan Uniting Church



[kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com](mailto:kirwanunitingchurch@gmail.com)

Church Office – 4723 2932

<https://kirwanunitingchurch.org.au>

Pastor Richard Lance - 0447 447 945

[rh lance@fastmail.fm](mailto:rh lance@fastmail.fm)

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

### 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

12th July 2020, 2020

Service Times: 8.30am and 10.30am

<b>Lectionary readings</b>	Pentecost 6
<b>Gen 25:</b> 19-34	<b>Psm: 119:</b> 105-112
<b>Rom 8:</b> 12-25	<b>Mt 13:</b> 1-9:18-23

### *Richard's Ramble*

Within the last month, Leisa and I have had some anniversaries of getting keys. The keys to my ancient Merc, 5 years ago (although the car is 20 years old). The keys to our Cedar Creek property, 4 years ago. And the keys to the Kirwan Manse and Church, 2 years ago. Actually, David King left the Manse door unlocked so that when I pulled wearily into the drive at quarter to six in the morning, I could get in and have a shower to make myself presentable for the Council whom I was to meet for the first time in just a few hours from then.

We use the metaphor of opening doors for new events, experiences and opportunities in our lives, and the metaphor of closing them for saying goodbye to a chapter. Sometimes, we stumble across a door when we don't expect it, like the gate to a secret garden. And those doors don't always

lead to somewhere benign. They might lead to a novel virus which lays waste to lives and economies – and snug church traditions. Nor do we always want a closing door to shut, we want the room, the house, of happiness and love to stay open forever.

Two years and two months ago, I didn't know that God was opening a door to a congregation in a suburb I'd never heard of in a town I'd never been to. Or that the door would stay open every six months or so for a couple of years, and would lead off to another door marked, first, Kent Removals when Leisa, Yannie, Glimfeather, Holly and our furniture joined me, and second to one for Leisa marked James Cook University. Those doors have made lovely sounds as they swung open. But other doors in my life, and I bet yours, have led to times of great unhappiness.

John on the Isle of Patmos was to see quite dreadful doors open in the cosmic battle between good and evil. Others would be on the face of it closed. He fell as though dead (Rev 1:17 & 18) But Jesus – the one like the "Son of Man" in John's vision – lifted him up, told him not to be afraid, told him that He, Jesus, lives for ever and holds the keys to close

death's door permanently and open Heaven's so that it can't be closed. As ever, an old hymn has it: God holds the key of all unknown, And I am glad; If other hands should hold the key, Or if He trusted it to me, I might be sad.

What if tomorrow's cares were here Without its rest! I'd rather He unlocked the day; And, as the hours swing open, say, My will is best.

I cannot read His future plans; But this I know; I have the smiling of His face, And all the refuge of His grace, While here below.

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**Evening Service  
– This Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> July at  
5.30pm** in the church. We will share in communion. Come about 5.00pm and have a cup of pumpkin soup with us. (thanks to Ross Cullen

who supplied us with a pumpkin from his Pumpkin Patch)

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#### *This Week's Calendar*

<b>Mon 13th</b>	<b>9.30am</b> Pastoral Care
	<b>7.30pm:</b> COM
<b>Wed 15th</b>	<b>7.30pm:</b> Bible Study

#### **COVID 19 Rules and our worship services and meetings at church**

The Queensland Government rules changed last Friday after Keeping in Touch had gone out, but we put them into practice on Sunday.

1. Our church is under 200 square metres so we are capped at a maximum of 50 people at worship services.
2. We are allowed one person per 2 square metres but are required to keep 1.5 metres apart from one another (please don't go into the maths – its bizarre but it was written by a public servant).
3. Singing is fine and no additional spacing is needed any longer.
4. Every surface we touch has to be disinfected after or before use.
5. Everyone has to sign in every time they come to a service or meeting. If you bring your own pen we won't need to disinfect quite so many pens and pencils.
6. Morning teas may restart, but we are not allowed buffet style or self service. Drinks and food have to be served by a server from the kitchen, but we can now have up to 4 people in the kitchen. It is recommended that food items are pre wrapped or are presented on covered plates. This is the same way that we have morning teas at our fairs and car boot sales. Food handling rules apply – please wash or disinfect hands or wear rubber gloves. This Sunday is too early to start teas, but we'll work out details at our council meeting and restart rosters. As the 8.30 service worshippers come out and the 10.30 people go in, it will be a good time to meet and chat, between about 9.30 and 10.15 am.

Synod asked each church to appoint a COVID warden - a rather old fashioned authoritarian word, but someone who takes responsibility for making sure we follow the rules and keep safe. I volunteered but if anyone else wants to join me or take over you are welcome. We can have more than one, especially for the weekday meetings. You get to attend thrilling Synod zoom meetings and receive all the updates.

So we will continue holding services at 8.30 and 10.30 am until the cap is lifted. Thanks everyone and thanks especially for your generosity and giving that have enabled our church to stay in the black. David K

