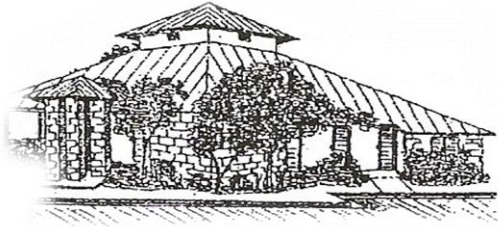


Kirwan Uniting Church



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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.*

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

2nd August, 2020,

Service Times: 8.30am and 10.30am

Lectionary readings	Pentecost 9
Gen 32: 22-31	Psm: 17 : 1-7,15
Rom 8: 1-5	Mt 14: 13-21

Richard's Ramble

Most of you know that I'm waiting for an op date for a cochlear implant. Should be within the next couple of months. If you don't know what a cochlear implant is, it's an electronic device inserted inside my skull and then attached by a magnet to a receiver outside, which mimics what undamaged hearing nerves would do, first to actually "hear" sounds and then to interpret them as words (or music, or a door slamming, or whatever). Actually, it's my brain which does the interpreting, and that needs retraining after 25 years of total deafness in my left ear. The receiver thingy outside looks like a beer-bottle cap, you might have seen people sporting them and wondered what they were. My audiologist said that he'd order a device to match my hair colour. "Silver-grey OK?" My meta-physical poet mate George Herbert (remember him from last week?) wrote:

The harbingers are come. See, see their mark:
White is their colour, and behold my head.
But must they have my brain? Must they
dispark

Those sparkling notions, which therein were bred?

Must dullness turn me to a clod?

Yet have they left me, Thou art still my God.
(The Forerunners)

He is saying that white hair is a harbinger, a forerunner, of impending old age, and perhaps even of losing his fine mind which has produced a prolific output of poetry, philosophy and theology. But even were that to happen – and here we can see our modern plague of Alzheimer's and other dementias – "Thou art still my God". What an assurance was his, and grounded in God's promises in scripture. To His first Jewish people, "They will be my people and I will be their God" (Jer 32:38). Echoed to us, his 'grafted' people, in Second Corinthians 6,
"I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people."

Herbert knew that the relationship depended on a Covenant, not a cognitive test. And the title of his poem? A forerunner travelled ahead of the royal party to find lodgings for them. Once found, over the lodging's door the forerunner chalked a white mark. So what, Herbert muses, if these white hairs herald a possible loss of intellect or other powers of youth. "Thou art still my God".
Oh, and the King is coming.

This Week's Calendar

Mon 3rd 9.30am Pastoral Care
10.30am House of Jonah,
Tues 4th Fellowship- see notice
Wed 5th 7.30pm: Bible Study



August Fellowship Meeting Mini Golf Tuesday August 4th 10am. Kings Road

If you would like to join us please let Sheila know a.s.a.p.



Evening Service
Our next Evening Service will be on Sunday 9th

August at 5.30pm in the church. We will celebrate communion.



COVID Updates
There are no major new rules this week, but that may change

quite soon. The following 2 pieces of advice have come from Synod.

1. Queensland Health continues to encourage people to get the influenza (flu) vaccine. There are currently no vaccines that protect against COVID-19. Queensland Health states that “whilst influenza vaccine will not prevent coronavirus infection it can reduce the severity and spread of

influenza, which may make a person more susceptible to other respiratory illnesses like coronavirus”.

2. Morning tea etc. - people must be seated when eating or drinking refreshments. Members can be served their food and drinks from a serving point, but people must then find a seat. Members should not mingle by changing seats.

Please note that we are not passing round the offering bags, but ask that you put your offering in the plate by the door.

Public Health people started doing spot checks of churches to check compliance. Synod advised that the police had contacted a congregation in the Mary Burnett Presbytery to undertake a spot check on COVID-19 planning. The congregation had not yet recommenced services on site and was applauded for taking a considered approach in planning for reopening to ensure that their site was as safe as possible. They were advised that places of worship will be regularly checked by authorities to ensure adherence to public health directions.

Personally I find this rather sad. The purpose of a church is to worship God and witness for Christ. We need to be open, to come together, so please continue to do the right things – wash hands, sign in, keep social distance and don't come if you are unwell. Thanks to all our people who are cleaning and disinfecting everything after services and meetings.

Blessings David K

STABLE ON THE STRAND TRIVIA NIGHT

OmniTitan Trivia Night on the 15th August has it all. Check out the flyer on the notice board..

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