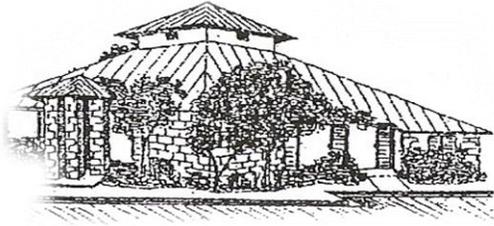


## Kirwan Uniting Church



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

Church Office – 4723 2932

<https://kirwanunitingchurch.org.au>

Pastor Richard Lance - 0447 447 945

[rhance@fastmail.fm](mailto:rhance@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

16th August, 2020,

**Service Times: 8.30am and 10.00am**

<b>Lectionary readings</b>	<b>Pentecost 11</b>
<b>Gen 45:</b> 1-15	<b>Psm:</b> 133
<b>Rom 11:</b> 1-2a;29-32	<b>Mt 15:</b> (10-20)21-28

### *Richard's Ramble*

I had a haircut on Wednesday. You'll see its aftermath on Sunday morning – some of you, earlier – in the will of the Lord and if the creek don't rise. Aces and Eights in Tavern Street did the deed, along the road from Gene and Eleanor's house, and temptingly opposite Dan Murphy (to which temptation I didn't yield on Wednesday, by the prevenient grace of God). An attraction of the salon (bit posh to call it that, it's a traditional men's barber shop) is the resident Staffie, who sniffingly inspects every customer as they walk in. Favoured clients get a lingering Staffie lick.

I used to attempt to disguise a receding hairline by brushing forward what was left. Vanity, vanity, all is vanity, said the preacher's wife. So off I took myself to Aces and Eights. One look at the increasingly ineffective brushover was enough to elicit from barber Alex, "Mate, yer need a buzzcut". Later that evening, I told Leisa that I was really tired. She said, it's probably the haircut, now you know how Samson felt. Hmm, doesn't

Delilah come into the story somewhere? Thursday morning saw me peering in the mirror with a magnifying glass, wondering whether any had grown back during the night.

Of course, it had, some anyway, but so teeny as to be invisible. A few weeks back, we were looking at Jesus' parables about seeds and sowers. Seeds become grain or flowers or whatever they're meant to be, but imperceptibly except to a time-lapse camera. The bible is full of examples of people who want to hurry up a natural or spiritual process, but who can't because the growing process comes from God. St Paul writing of church growth in First Corinthians 3: 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.' Paul again, in First Corinthians 11, not his finest chapter, in which he veers from one incoherent thought about hair to another, at least agrees with his critics that 'but everything comes from God'. (This is the passage where he says that women should have their heads covered 'because of the angels', as if angels are some sort of celestial seagull). And we are as frustrated about what we think is our failure to grow spiritually, as I am about my shorn hair growing back. But the bible says that growth is happening, 'from one degree of glory to another', imperceptibly but inexorably as we 'contemplate the Lord's glory', all of it

'comes from the Lord who is the Spirit' (Second Corinthians 3). So look, God is working his purpose out, as the hymn has it. If we look for growth in our church family and in our own lives, we might not discern it at first glance but it's happening. All of God. And anyway, Luke 12, even the very hairs of your head are all numbered; so do not be afraid. Works for me 😊

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***This Week's Calendar***

**Mon 17th**      **9.30am: Pastoral Care**  
**10.30am: House of Jonah,**  
**Tues 18th**      **9.30am: Craft, Coffee & Chat**  
**Wed 12<sup>th</sup>**      **7.30pm: Bible Study**



**COVID Updates**  
**Keeping Safe and Worshipping together with COVID**

**Morning tea:** we need people from either service to help serve tea and coffee between 9.30 and 10. You don't have to bring food as we are buying and supplying biscuits that are pre-wrapped. Anyone who has time, there is a very short training module - Free COVID Safe Training via TAFE - <https://tafeqld.edu.au/covid-safe> Sheree and I have done this so we take responsibility for safe service of teas, but more are welcome.

**Volunteers and Rosters:** we need people to volunteer to Sue Fraser to go onto rosters to help in services and all the other activities of the church. This is part of getting back to normal. However, the COVID and WHS regulations require that every volunteer who falls into the vulnerable category carries out a risk assessment. Apart from the fact that the document is about 6 pages long, we on CoM believe that the questions it asks and records are an invasion of privacy. Therefore we ask each volunteer to sign a disclaimer in which you agree to develop your personal risk mitigation strategy. All that we ask you to sign is agreement

to the following words – “I acknowledge my vulnerability to COVID 19 and will follow health advice concerning disinfecting and social distancing when attending services or meetings at KUC. I have developed my own personal COVID 19 risk mitigation strategy based on Queensland Government advice. I am aware of the risks and am happy to serve Kirwan Uniting Church as a volunteer worker.” Anyone over 70, or over 65 with health conditions is classified as vulnerable. So for example, in my case I acknowledge that I am in the age vulnerability category and additionally have three chronic diseases that further increase my vulnerability. Therefore my personal risk mitigation strategy is to follow all health rules, avoid any large gatherings or events, and to avoid travelling out of town. We ask you to consider your own risk and ways in which you manage it.

**Sign In sheets:** to simplify and speed up sign in, we have produced a list of all members on the church roll, on a single sign in sheet in alphabetical order of surname. Please tick in the box to the right of your name and cross off any family members who are not attending. We can then link this to the roll if we need to provide full contact details. Visitors can sign in at the bottom of the sheet. Please tell me of any errors on this list.

**Assurance of Safety:** part of our risk strategy is that there have been no COVID cases in Townsville since March. If the virus comes to town we will immediately review our strategy and probably go back to virtual worship and zoom meetings.

Enough for this week. I'll be preaching about volunteering next week.  
 David K

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**MUSIC UNDER THE TREES** Join Wendy Dany Duo for a relaxing, fun afternoon of golden classics from the 40's – 70's.  
**Where:** Kirwan Uniting Church, Hinchinbrook Drive, Kirwan      **When:** Saturday 22 August, 3.00pm – 5.00pm  
 What to bring: BYO chair and refreshments.  
**Please note:** Socially distanced seating is required. Do not attend if unwell.

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**RECYCLING BATTERIES** There is a small recycling bin from Battery World on the trolley so please bring along old batteries. Townsville Council does not want them in the home bins.

