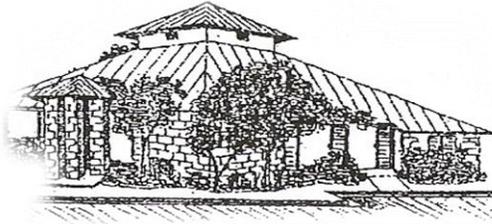


Kirwan Uniting Church



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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

25th October, 2020

Service Time: 8.30am

Preacher: Richard Lance

Reader: Sheila Van P

Service Time: 10.00am

Preacher: Richard Lance

Reader: Wendy de Munari

Richard's Ramble

I think I've told you the story about Rev Peter Hobson coming into the Synod complex refectory wearing a Cowboys t-shirt, straight after Rev Garry Hardingham had asked me whether I was interested in Kirwan Uniting (would have been nice if he'd asked Kirwan Uniting if they were interested in me, but them's the breaks). "Hey, Peter", I said to him, "Are you from North Queensland, what do you know about Kirwan?" "Great church", he replied, "my mum's a member, and Peter Ireland led me to the Lord".

I thought of this episode when I had a Facebook message overnight from someone who had been in my youth group, mumble mumble (OK, forty) years ago. She had noticed my name pop up on mutual Friends' walls, and wondered, is that youth leader Richard from ancient history? I've stayed in touch with one of my co-leaders from those distant days (she lives in France now, I'm taking a Zoom service at her church in a couple of weeks time), and a little while ago one of our (then young) people who has stayed friends with her, made me her own Facebook Friend. Then one request after another came in, including last night's latest. These are people whom I've not seen or heard from for almost forty years. They're parents (grandparents, even, in some cases). It's been very lovely to catch

up on so many years news. And they express happiness at being back in contact with me. But do you know, not one of them, in reminiscing, has said "You led me to the Lord". They recall riotous evenings and camps which would land youth leaders before Professional Standards and invalidate insurance these days, but no-one attributes their Christian discipleship (because many of them are active believers, praise the Lord) to my influence. This had me worried for a while, still does, but then I remember that the youth leaders worked as a team, like Starsky and Hutch. It's a case of I got them into the metaphorical garden in the first place with unholy ploys, another leader planted the Word, yet another watered it in deeper study, but God gave the increase. I don't think they teach unholy ploys in seminary. More's the pity. Ecclesiastes 11:9,10: "Young people, enjoy your youth. Be happy while you are still young. Do what you want to do, and follow your heart's desire. But remember that God is going to judge you for whatever you do. Don't let anything worry you or cause you pain. You aren't going to be young very long."

(Oh, and they've got a CBE, an MBE and a PhD between them. Can't say an unholy ploy helped there, they did it by themselves).

This Week's Calendar

Mon 26th	9.30am: Pastoral Care 10.30am: House of Jonah
Tues 27th :	9.30am: Craft:Cards:ChitChat
Wed 28th:	5.30pm: Music Group 7.30pm: Bible Study

Roster for 1st November, 2020

8.30am Service: Communion

Preacher: Peter Ireland

Reader: David B-T

Greeters: Garry Davey

Announcement: Sheila v P

Flowers: Merril Green

Roster for 1st November, 2020

10.00am Service Communion

Preacher: Peter Ireland

Reader: John Short

Greeter: Leisa Lance

Announcements: Kathy Reid

Offering: TBA

Morning Tea: Sheila v.P.: Marian Davey

COVID News

Restrictions are slowly easing but we must be careful and vigilant. The government defines places of worship as high risk environments, so consequently our industry plan is stricter than for other places, like restaurants. One ruling is that if you do any activity that means you have to go closer than 1.5 metres to another person you are required to wear a face mask. That discourages us from going back to the old style of offering collection, as the offering steward would have to wear a mask and rubber gloves, which is a bit off putting.

For the long term I think we need to accept that our current arrangements for services and meetings will probably continue for most of next year. As a disaster researcher I have been doing analysis of COVID figures and projections with my students. For the world, the numbers of people with the virus are projected to increase a lot early next year. Australia's cases are projected to go down to low levels and stay there next year because it is assumed that the (Queensland level) rules and restrictions will remain in place. When a vaccine becomes available, companies have to start manufacturing millions of doses and then distributing them, such that vaccination will be slow and at best can only reach part of the population by the end of next year. So

while the risk to us remains quite low into the future we need to accept that these rules and restrictions will be with us for a long time, and that we will have to keep worshipping at two services, sanitising, disinfecting, filling out contact registers and keeping 1.5 metres apart for most or all of the next year. Please stay home if you are sick or worried about the threat, but otherwise please join us in worshipping and meeting together, trusting in one another to do the right things to keep us all safe at church. Blessings David K

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News from Council of Ministry

Our finances are good. Thanks to everyone who has so generously contributed to supporting our church. Most of our revenue now comes from direct giving, but we need to keep the weekly offerings going. Doing an offering collection might not be the best way, and anyone who handles cash has to wear gloves, so we'll put the offering plate in a more visible position and give thanks in each service for all the gifts we receive. Graham is preparing next year's budget so please let any of us know of ideas that need to go on a wish list – things to maintain, improve or add to the church.

Because we have two services we are getting short on singers to lead our hymns and songs. Please let Anne Holmes or Maarten know if you are willing and able to join them as singers.

In preparation for the wet season, we need to have a brief working bee from 7 to 9am on Saturday 7th November. Please book this date and come along to help clear up, clean and fix things.

Thanks. David K
