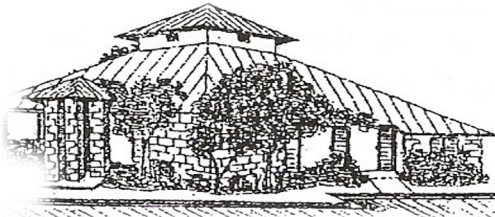


# Kirwan Uniting Church

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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**

**31st January, 2021 Epiphany 4B**

**09:00**

**Preacher: Peter Ireland  
Reader: Kathy Reid**

**Psalm 111  
Deut 18:15-20  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28**

With sadness, we let you know that June George's beloved husband, Aubrey, died on Thursday morning. Aubrey's funeral will be this Wednesday 3 February at 10:00 in the church.

We extend love and prayer for comfort to June and all of the family.

"... sown in weakness, raised in power".

Today is Lois' last Sunday with us for a while. Her little doggy friend and she are going driveabout in a groovy campervan. We are so grateful for all that Lois has brought to our fellowship, and to our music. May our Lord bless you and keep you safe. "Mizpah – the Lord be between you and us while we are absent one from the other".

### RICHARD'S RAMBLE

I'm not a very healthy eater, Leisa's best efforts to reform me notwithstanding. Let me give you an example. You probably like apples as those crunchy, juicy round things you buy at Lamberts. While I like them as cider or, better still, Calvados. I am fond of bananas, mind you. As is Wendy Cope. But to get back to apples. My favourite form of apple is Apple, our house is teeming with them, a couple of iMacs, couple of iPads, couple of iPhones, an Apple TV, and assorted accessories.

Bible compilers, in the Old Testament specifically, speak of "The apple of" (God's usually) "eye." Nowadays, in English, the phrase refers to someone or something which one cherishes above all others. We have Shakespeare to thank for this evolution of meaning. In *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a fairy drops juice distilled from a flower which has been hit by Cupid's arrow, into a sleeping young man's eye, saying "Flower of this purple dye, / Hit with Cupid's archery, / Sink in apple of his eye". Shakespeare simply meant the young man's pupil, as did the OT writers (I'll come to that), but generations of

high school English teachers, steeped in Regency romances, have misled their charges as to original meaning. So in Psalm 17, most famously, “Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings” The Hebrew, אֵינִי עֵינַי, iyshown ‘ayin, means, as Shakespeare seemed to know 2,000 years later, the pupil or “dark part” of the eye. Ah, you might say, that takes away the force of the psalmist, or you and me, being most cherished by God. Not at all, the phrase really conveys that you and I (let’s be a bit anthropomorphic here) completely obscure God’s eye. We might imagine a domestic scene in the household of the Holy and Undivided Trinity: Son and Spirit: “There’s something in your eye”. Father: “It’s Richard” (Substitute sinner-saved-by-grace of your choice). You’re not insignificant. You’re not overlooked. Your history, nor even your present, doesn’t obscure you from God. You-in-Christ take up all of God’s field of vision of love.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Recommences for 2021 on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 7.30pm.  
New people are always welcome.  
We will start the year with a look at the OT Prophet Micah.

**HI TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!**

Sunday School is starting again today. And next Friday 5 February, we’re having a burger and sausage evening at the Manse at 6:30pm. Invite your friends! Just let Annette or Gail or Richard know who’s coming.

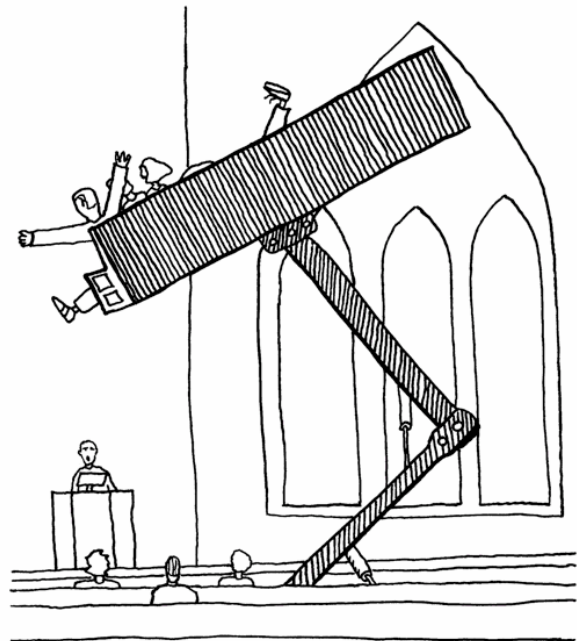
**KIRWAN FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday February 2<sup>nd</sup> 09.30 at the church. David and Helen Beck will share some of their Christian journey with us. Come and get to know them.  
(Editor’s note: They’re worth getting to know! Adare Uniting’s loss is KUC’s gain.)

**7 February 09:00 Holy Communion**

Preacher: Richard Lance  
Reader: Sheila van Prooije  
Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Cor 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

Greeter/Door Steward: Sheila vP  
Offering: Robin W, David B-T  
Announcements: Sheila vP  
Morning Tea: Kathy & Andrew Reid  
Flowers: Merril



SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING