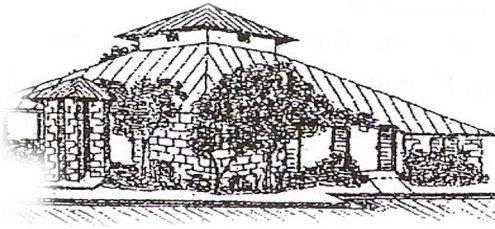


Kirwan Uniting Church

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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. Stay for morning tea after the service!

**We aspire to be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit
to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world**

14th March, 2021 Lent 4B

09:00

Preacher: David King
Reader: Wayne Paul

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

RICHARD'S RAMBLE

I have never smoked cigarettes – well, the usual drag behind school bike sheds before almost being sick, and never trying them again. I did used to have a cigar or two each year, to mark my or a friend's birthday. It's probably been twenty five years since I indulged in that Havana decadence. But I did enjoy smoking a pipe. Not so much smoking it, although I'll come to that in a sec, but holding the lovely smooth bowl, savouring the exhaled cherry or whatever hint had been added to the tobacco, picking an aromatic pipe tobacco, wielding the stem as a pointer in pub discussions, playing with the tamp and pipe cleaners. If you're familiar with an

English pub, you'll be able to imagine the scene. I even had a Donegal Tweed jacket, still do, it doesn't fit now 😞

Leisa will tell you that I spent more time playing with my pipes (English briars, Falcons, Meerschaums, an eclectic collection) than smoking. She would be right (she's always right) because I never mastered the art of keeping them alight. Anyway, accepting that pipes are just as dangerous to health as any other form of smoking, I gave them all away. I see on eBay that old pipes are worth quite a bit now.

This business of keeping things alight is applied to love and enthusiasm. We say "The flame has gone out", when relationships break down. We say the same thing when our early Christian zeal gives way to fatigue. Or disillusion and doubt or even plain abandonment of belief. Your life hasn't worked out as you thought God had promised. A loved one wasn't healed. The flame has gone out. Perhaps you've been red-hot alight all your life, praise the Lord for that, but the extinguished flame analogy resonates with me.

The thing is, unlike my gone-out pipes, the flame was never lit by you in the first place.

2 Timothy 1, **I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God.** The ignition is God's. Paul remembers the people who taught Timothy, and is convinced that their pupil has assimilated their faith – their flame, if you like. **I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.**

The flame is there, it's put there by God and kept kindled by God, all of grace, inextinguishable. So go on, fan it into a blaze. (Would that my pipes had had the divine spark 😊)

Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. We're looking at events in Jesus' life in the lead-up to Easter.

AGM

The AGM is this Sunday after the 09:00 service.

Craft and cards at 09:30 Tuesday.

Church Bowls to Support McKay Patrol Padre at Cloncurry

A social Bowls morning will be held on Saturday 13th March at 8.00am at the Jubilee Bowls Club, Burdekin Street, Mundingburra.

Morning Tea afterwards at Aitkenvale Uniting Church.

Cost is \$20.00, to include hire of bowls. \$10 of this goes to support the McKay Frontier Services Patrol.

All are welcome (no skill necessary) See Peter Ireland if you are interested, or for preparation and catering purposes, contact Kay Ph: 0409892795

wazz.kay@bigpond.net.au

Our **Evening Service** is this Sunday at 5:30pm. We shall share communion together.

The next **Men's Breakfast** will be in the church covered area on Saturday 20th March at 07:30am. \$10 for a traditional breakfast, but non-eaters are welcome to attend – with a suitable donation.

The always-interesting John Sands is our speaker. Please put your name on the list at church, or contact David Brooke-Taylor 07 4779 9976.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Ryan Community Centre, Morindo Drive, Kirwan, Friday 2nd April at 5pm.

Bring a plate to share for a light supper at the conclusion of the service, and enjoy fellowship with our sisters and brothers in Christ from other churches.

KUC has been asked to provide a volunteer or three to play the part of servants in the passion play. One person can play all three parts. A role for one or more of our young people, perhaps? Talk with Pastor Richard.

21 March 09:00

Lent 5B

Archer Wright's Baptism 😊

Preacher Pastor Richard

Reader Wayne Paul

Isaiah 46:3,4

Deut 33:27a

Mark 10:13-16

Greeter/Door Steward: Jenny Titmarsh

Offering: Wayne Paul & David B-T

Announcements: Kathy Reid

Morning Tea: Helen and David Beck

Flowers: Tominica Taumololo

5:30pm Evening Service with Communion.

Led by Peter Ireland