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June 2024

It doesn't seem possible how fast that the year has been passing and that now we are in June!

This will be a great summer for those who enjoy sport with the European Football Championships in Germany starting this month, the Wimbledon tennis championships and the Olympics in July and August. For armchair viewers this will truly be a feast of sport as we support and cheer on our teams, players and athletes! But I also love the impact that such tournaments have on people as it is often an encouragement for people to play football or tennis for themselves and to engage in other sporting activities. Such events can often inspire and encourage us.



As I was thinking of these events to come I was reminded how as Christians we are of course encouraged to not only support each other on our Christian journey but to continue to be open to the new thing that God wants to do in us and through us. For each one of us it will be different, but God has a part for each one of us to play, whether it is in a more active role or perhaps a more supportive role. But as we journey in the Christian life together God calls us to be open and receptive to Him to all that He asks of us.

Romans 12:1-2 says 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform anymore to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will.'

I pray that each one of us will continue to be open to God and all that He wants to do in us and through us in the days which lie ahead.

God bless you.
Major Kevin



Regular Activities

Sunday:

9:30am Breakfast Church
10:30am Morning Worship

4pm Messy Church (2nd Sunday of the month or otherwise stated)

Fellowship Lunch (3rd Sunday of the month—note change of date for this month overleaf)

Tuesday:

10:00am CAMEO Club

2:00pm Over Sixties Club



Wednesday:

7:45pm Songster Practice

Thursday:

6:00pm Music makers

7:45pm Band Rehearsal

Monday to Friday

Café on the Rec - open for business 8am to 4pm and

Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Also **Sunday mornings** 8.30am to 10am for the Junior Park run.

All items for the July newsletter: messages, prayers or prayer requests, please let Major Kevin, Caroline, Mags or Bev know by Sunday 23rd June 2024. If you would like the newsletter emailed to you each month, please let Bev know.

bev.robilliard53@gmail.com

Café Church Dates for your diary:

From 3.30pm to 5.00pm

23rd June, 2024 'Learn'

28th July, 2024 'Leap'

This is a place for you to explore, question and belong. All Welcome.

A time of prayer to discern the way forward for our church. Come to pray at 7:00 p.m. just for half an hour to seek God's guidance. Place the following dates in your diary...

Monday 10th June
Tuesday 25th June
Tuesday 9th July
Tuesday 23rd July
Tuesday 6th August

The Rose

It is only a tiny rosebud... a flower of God's design but I cannot unfold its petals, with these clumsy hands of mine. The secret of unfolding flowers, is not known to such as I... The flower God opens so sweetly, in my hands, would fade and die. If I cannot unfold a rosebud, this flower of God's design, then how can I think I have wisdom, to unfold this life of mine? So I'll trust Him for His leading, each moment of every day And I'll look to Him for His guidance, each step of the pilgrim way. For the pathway that lies before me, my Heavenly Father knows, I'll trust Him to unfold the moments, just as He unfolds the rose.

Do you have a spare morning or afternoon during the week that needs filling :)? Would you please consider helping at our Café on the Rec as Volunteers are needed to help us open the café each day. This is a valuable ministry to our community, many relationships have been built and forged. Please have a word with Sandra or Steve Ambrose for further information.



Diary Dates for June 2024:

Sunday 16th Father's Day

Saturday 29th Charity Concert – arranged by Jamie

(see poster below)

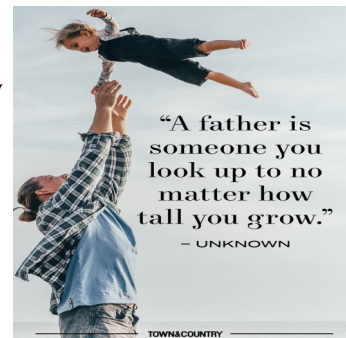
Sunday 30th 10.30am Exchange of Pulpit

6.00pm United Church Service at The Salvation Army Hall: Speaker Bishop of Dunwich



"Tickets are now available for the Last Night of the Proms Concert on 29th June. Tickets can be purchased from Café on the Rec, or directly from Jamie or Lesley. You can also purchase a ticket online from TicketSource. The QR code for the event is shown on the poster displayed on the noticeboard in the foyer. If you need any further details, please speak to Jamie and he will be happy to help."

Don't forget Father's Day on Sunday 16th June.



An elderly Chinese man had 2 large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. This went on daily for a full 2 years—the man bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the man one day by the stream. 'I'm ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.' The old man smiled. 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path and everyday while we walk back, you water them. For 2 years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house!'

This is a parable expressing the need to accept ourselves for who we are, how God made us. Each of us have our own unique flaw but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. We should always be accepting and enjoy our differences in ourselves and in others.



One thought I had when I read the parable was: shame the man never thought of alternating the cracked pot, shoulder to shoulder on his daily walks, then he would have had flowers on both sides of the path! I've been called a crack pot on occasion, but my hope is that I leak a little good along the path I walk every day—we never really know the actual benefits that are a result of our leaking a little goodness, kindness, love and understanding. Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people; a heart that forgives the worst; a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith in God.

Psalm 25:4-5 says: "show me your ways Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour and my hope is in you all day long." Be blessed, Bev.