

Au Revoir and Thank You ...

This is a sad day for us. We'll sorely miss Orrell and Christine ... their Visions and Dreams for us and the Visions and Dreams they've encouraged us to grow. Thank you, both, for launching us on such a journey.

Our faith gives us the confidence to always live in hope ... not only for our eternal future, but also for life here and now. So, whilst we're sad and there are tears - and that's OK - let's be confident moving forward, knowing that we are an integral part of Jesus' Church ... He has plans for us, He knows our future and He will be with us every step of the way. Our responsibility is to serve and keep our focus on Him ... and to faithfully pray for our forward journeys - both Uniting 4570's and Orrell's and Christine's.



The **VIBE**

2nd June 2024

Scripture: Psalm 84. 10-12. MSG.

Joel 2.28-32. MSG.

2nd Peter 3.8-15. MSG.

Message: 'Calling It A Day'

*"Better is one day with God than a thousand years without Him."
Charles Spurgeon*

Better is one day in Your courts,
better is one day in Your house.
Better is one day in Your courts
than thousands elsewhere.
Thousands elsewhere.

At the end of the day, we must go forward with hope and not backward by fear and division. Rev. Jesse Jackson



*The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
Rev Clement Cotterill Scholefield*

**Today, Sunday 2nd June 2024, is our last Sunday together.
Today is a 'Service of Closure', but not the 'closure of service'.**

As you do, on these significant occasions, I've been remembering and reflecting on our first Sunday together, our first date, Pentecost Sunday 23rd May 2021.

On the popular TV show 'First Dates' success is measured by answering the final question - "Would you like a second date?"

At the conclusion of our first date, I asked you for a second date.

Specifically, I asked for that date to be the 5th of June 2022. That second date, like our first, was also Pentecost Sunday.

It would mark our first anniversary.

Our first year of serving Jesus together.

Anniversaries are milestones from

which we can look back and see how far we have come.

They are guide-stones from which we can dream and envision what might be achieved in the time between our first and the next milestone/anniversary.

On our first date (23rd May 2021), I encouraged us all to focus on the three gifts mentioned on the Day of Pentecost, 'Prophecy, Visions, and Dreams (Acts 2. 14-18)' and to personally ask the Holy Spirit to give you, a *word*, a *vision*, or a *dream*.

You asked, and the Holy Spirit answered.

We captured those answers and used them to establish some guide-stones, markers, KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) for the next twelve months.

On our second date (first anniversary) Pentecost Sunday, 5th June 2022, we held a Congregational Meeting. Three proposals were presented by Church Council, representing the three gifts of Pentecost 'Prophecy, Visions, and Dreams':

1. 'Concept Plans' - *our missional engagement*
2. 'Corporate Identity' - *discipleship practices*
3. 'Operational Guidelines' - *our governance*

Paragraph 3 of the Basis of Union declares, "we rely on the gift of the Spirit in order that we may not lose the way." So, on this our last Sunday together I want to encourage you to rely on the gift and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and to personally ask the Holy Spirit to give you a *WORD*, a *VISION*, or a *DREAM*, and use them to establish some guide-stones, markers, KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) for the next twelve months, so that on the 1st of June 2025 you can look back and see how far you have come.

Grace and Peace,
Orrell



Without a doubt the last three years have been challenging for all concerned, and yes, more painful than any of us could have imagined, and, more painful for some than others.

None of the pain will be wasted, all of it will be redemptive.

This has been one of the most, if not THE most challenging Placement in all our years in ministry.

The good news is both Chris and I love a challenge, and we absolutely love 'Uniting 4570!'

We have no regrets, harbour no resentments, and take only positives from the last three years.

I acknowledge all of you and thank you all for your love and your patience, for standing firm in faith, and for standing up for us, and beside us.

In particular, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Church Council for their faith and tireless service to Christ and His Church.

Their leadership has navigated our Church here in Gympie and Imbil through uncharted waters and extraordinary times. They have been unwavering in their faith and commitment to Christ, and in protecting and strengthening His Church.

I also want to acknowledge Chez (Cherylie), who has been a vital part of the Ministry Team in this church long before we arrived. Her faith in Christ and devotion to His Church are a shining example to us all. For us, she is more than a colleague she is a true and very dear friend who has supported Chris and I with encouragement, with her ceaseless prayers and not least, with her sheer hard work! We will miss her.



And last, but never least, I want to acknowledge my best friend, soulmate, workmate, my gorgeous girl, for whom I thank God every single day, Christine. Who has selflessly and tirelessly poured herself out in serving Christ not only here in Gympie, but in every church, in every city and country that God has sent us to for more than forty years.

As you move forward, Chris and I want to encourage each one of you to stand shoulder to shoulder in unity as you continue your journey together.

Grace, Peace and Love,
Orrell and Chris

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15.5-6. NIV.

NOTICES

Next Sunday

We'll be welcoming Rev. Dr. Peter Hall to our Gympie Worship Service next week. Peter will deliver the Message and share Communion with us.

For the next little while, there'll be a notice in The Vibe advising you of who Gympie's guest speaker will be on the following Sunday.

Operation Christmas Child - June Collections

This month we're collecting '**Toys**'. Nothing too big as they'll need to fit into shoebox-size gift packs. Here are some suggestions ... balls, yoyos, puzzles, skipping ropes, dolls, plastic animals, soft toys, cars, trucks, marbles.

March for Life 2024 - Next Saturday

8th June, 2pm, outside Parliament House
(cnr George & Alice Streets, Brisbane).



This is an opportunity to let parliamentarians know that, just because the law allows for the legal termination of pre-born life, those precious lives were created at conception and their lives are as valued as born lives. You can catch a bus from Gympie - **leaving at 10am** from Memorial Park, River Tce (donations towards bus hire cost would be welcome). To reserve a seat, contact Felicity on 0456 691 530 or email gracebe777@startmail.com

SHINE Women's Gympie Conference

Saturday, 3rd August. Further details will be included in next week's 'Vibe'.

Worship

Worship Services... **Gympie:** 15 Red Hill Road - 9am + Kidz Church (school term)
Imbil: 3 Elizabeth Street - 9am

Live-streaming... Sunday messages are usually livestreamed to facebook & YouTube; look up 'Gympie Regional Uniting Church'

Contact Us

Church Office... M: 0493 442 250 P: (07) 5482 2985 E: cherylie@gruc.org
www.gruc.org.au F: www.facebook.com/guchurch

Office Hours... Mon & Wed 8.30am-12pm; Tue 9.30am-3pm; Thu 8.30am-3pm

Pastoral Care... Please contact the office by phone or email.

Offering & Attendance Last Week

Attendance: Adults 78 ♦ Children 9 ♦ Facebook 215 ♦ YouTube 9

Total Week's Offering: \$ 2,376.90 ... Budgeted Offerings per week is \$3,270.00.

Tithes & Offerings by Bank Transfer: Westpac BSB 034 127 Acct: 29 4101

(Please identify your bank transaction as either 'Tithe' or 'Offering', Thank you)