

Hi Everyone,

14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

It is with great sadness that I am writing to inform you that the Glebe Road Uniting Church Auditorium was extensively damaged by fire this past Friday evening. The roof has been destroyed, but it appears, at this stage, that the structural integrity of the building has not been compromised.

I am very thankful to report there were no injuries and I am grateful to the members of the Fire, Police and Ambulance Services who attended the scene and addressed the issues so swiftly and professionally.

Investigations are continuing to determine the cause of the fire.

A special thanks to David Murphy, Rob Edwardson and Derek Hirons who rushed to be present during the emergency and remained on site to liaise with the Emergency Services personnel.

The Church Auditorium, Church Hall and Church Office, will be unable to accommodate worship, group activities, meetings and administration for the foreseeable future.

Therefore, this Sunday we are encouraging everyone who attends worship at Glebe Road to participate in worship at one of the other Ipswich Uniting Church locations:

8:30am at 2 Pommer St, Brassall

9:00am at 27 Ellenborough St, Ipswich

9:00am at 114 Jacaranda St, North Booval

Alternatively, you may choose to engage in worship online by live streaming the 9am service from Ellenborough Street, or watching it at a later time.

I appreciate that this devastating news about the fire may cause significant distress to you and your loved ones at this time. If you need someone to talk to please call me, or ring a supportive friend for comfort and prayerful encouragement.

The Leadership Team is preparing to meet early next week to discern the way forward.

Please be assured of my love and prayers for you at this difficult time. Remember, our God is a faithful God. From Psalm 121:1-2 we read:

"I lift up my eyes to the mountains - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth."

Blessings,  
Pete.