



# 3-31 January 2021

## Tamworth City Uniting Church

Welcome to limited Face to Face Worship

Lay Preachers and Lay Leaders will be leading us each week during January. We can welcome up to 75 people, but Covid restrictions may change. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home. Take care everyone.

### Contact Details:

- **IIM Minister:** Rev Betty Stroud 0419 687 181 or email [dotteddog@bigpond.com](mailto:dotteddog@bigpond.com)
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 6766 5311, Email [tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com](mailto:tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com), Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri Website [www.ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com](http://www.ucatamworthcity.wordpress.com)

### Other Useful Local Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email [tsuoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tsuoffice@gmail.com), Website [www.tsuc.org.au](http://www.tsuc.org.au)
- **Southside Lay Preachers:** David Bissett 0400 186 723; Rob Wood 0447 425 411; John Nash 0428 333 358
- **Young Family Worker:** Jillian Cumberland 0402 341 684 Email: [jillian.steppingstones.uca@hotmail.com](mailto:jillian.steppingstones.uca@hotmail.com)
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846 Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

*To continue to support our ministry financially by setting up a direct deposit into our accounts using phone or internet banking:*  
Account Name: Tamworth City Uniting Church  
BSB: 634 634  
Account No.: 100026126  
Reference: Offering



## This Week's Notes

### News Items

- With the current Covid Restrictions we can welcome 75 people to worship. We will still need to maintain social distancing efforts, cleaning hands, general good hygiene, don't come if unwell and use the QR code/mark the roll.
- Copies of the second report from our consultations with Rev Terence Corkin are available in the Church. Food for thought as we move into the challenges of 2021. Looking forward with hope to being the hands of Jesus in our local community, working together with Tamworth Southside and Peel Valley Congregations.
- Note: For your information. Entry to Lincoln Grove Memorial Gardens & Crematorium is now off Workshop Lane (accessed via Goddard Lane & Armstrong Street).

## Upcoming Events

Office Closed, Nicolette on leave 2-16 January.  
Rev Betty will be enjoying some time in Orange during January, rejoining us in February.

**Sunday, 3 January:** 9:30am Worship with Barry Gillett (75 people attending worship, singing allowed if you wear a mask). Elder Rob Duns, Door Rosemary Barclay. Printed Order of Service.

A new notice sheet covering all of January available today.

Mon, 4 Jan: Carpet Cleaning in Dunn Hall & St Andrew's Room, 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tue, 5 Jan: Note Office Closed until 19 January.

Wed, 6 Jan: 10am Morning Tea in the Vestry.

Fri, 8 Jan: 6pm New Vogue Dance in Jubilee Hall.

**Sunday, 10 January:** 9:30am Worship with the Elders—Judith Archbold, Edna Sheppard, Margaret Cupitt (75 people attending worship, singing allowed if you wear a mask) , Door E Fairall, One notice sheet for January. Printed Hymn Sheet.

10am Hilton Anglican Church meeting in Jubilee Hall.

Mon, 11 Jan: 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tue, 12 Jan: Note Office Closed until 19 Jan.

Wed, 13 Jan: 10am Morning Tea in the Vestry.

Fri, 15 Jan: 10am Craft Group in St Andrew's Room.

**Sunday, 17 January:** 9:30am Worship with Peter Battle (75 people attending worship, singing allowed if you wear a mask) , Elder Margaret Cupitt, Door Sonya Hardin, One notice sheet for January. Printed Hymn Sheet.

Mon, 18 Jan: 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tue, 19 Jan: 9am Church Office opens 9am-2pm Tuesdays to Fridays.

Wed, 20 Jan: 10am Morning Tea in Vestry

Fri, 22 Jan: 6pm New Vogue Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Sat, 23 Jan: -pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall

**Sunday, 24 January:** 9:30am Worship with Rob & Mariette Duns (75 people attending worship, singing allowed if you wear a mask) , Elder Rob Duns, Door Mariette Duns, One notice sheet for January. Printed Order of Service.

Mon, 25 Jan: 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room, 5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

Tue, 26 Jan: Australia Day Public Holiday

Wed, 27 Jan: 9am-2pm Church Office Wed-Fri, 10am Morning Tea in Vestry

**Sunday, 31 January:** 9:30am Worship with the Moderator, Rev Simon Hansford (75 people attending worship, singing allowed if you wear a mask) , Elder Robyn Hely, Door Gwen Chaffey.

### First Sunday after Christmas



## Thank you!

Thank you for joining with us in sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Your gifts will bring hope, peace, joy and love to families affected by conflict and disaster around the world.

“Love your neighbour as yourself” Mark 12:31



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

# Praying for Direction: A Time of Discernment

Over the next few months I am encouraging you, the members of this congregation to include in your prayer time, prayers for this congregation as we determine ways ahead. This process has already started with the workshops that have been held by the Rev Terence Corkin – not just with this congregation but also with Peel Valley and Southside.

Next year I will be organising services, studies and workshops that build on the outcomes of Terence's work as we look at possible ways forward. We can't do this on your own! We are, at all times, reliant on the leading of God's Spirit. So in your prayers you might like to have a conversation with God about the following:

How might we open ourselves more – both individually and as a congregation, to the in-filling of God's Spirit:

- That we might let go of attitudes that are about what 'I want', rather than what is best for the whole
- That we will be open to thinking about changes that might require us doing things we don't necessarily want to do.
- For me as I prepare the services, studies and workshops
- For yourselves as you determine at what level you might be able to participate in the discussions

Let's pray together as we discern what it is that God is calling us to be and do. Grace and peace, *Betty*

## Prayers

### Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on encouraging your individual commitment to prayer and service.

### Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

3/1: Keep the people of the Middle East in our prayers this week.

10/1: Keep the people of Iran, Iraq and Syria in our prayers this week.

17/1: Keep the people of the Arabian Peninsula in our prayers this week.

24/1: Keep the people of Cyprus, Greece and Turkey in our prayers this week.

### NENW Presbytery

Keep in your prayers our upcoming Preaching Workshop with Rev Bill Loader based on the book of Mark on 5/6 February 2021. Registration forms available from the office.

## Food Pantry

A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt long life milk, 500g sugar, 25 tea bag box, 50g coffee, 100gm tuna/sardines, 2xcuppa coup, 2xrice/pasta pack, 250g biscuits, tin baked beans/spaghetti (ring pull), tin steak & veg (or similar), 2minute noodles, small tinned fruit, small cereal. Thank you everyone.

## Face to Face Worship

Things look and feel a little bit more 'normal' at church however, we still have to comply with current restrictions and keep everyone safe. If you are felling unwell, please stay at home. Worship will commence at 9:30am, hand sanitizing station as you enter and leave, you will need to wear a mask if you are going to sing in worship. Couples and families may sit together, everyone else will be seated socially distanced, (total 75 people). Seating on pews—three singles spaced one either end and one in the middle, or one couple and a single, or one family. There is a NSW Services App QR code to register your attendance (and a roll will be marked). If you are unwell or have visited a Covid-Hotspot you will not be able to attend worship. You are encouraged to depart keeping socially distanced An offering plate will be left at the entry table for envelopes and cash. There may be morning tea on special occasions. You will need to comply with Covid Safety measures including social distancing at all times. Required people: one person on the door (marking the role/checking QR login), one sound desk operator, one preacher (lapel mic), one elder (lectern mic), one reader (pulpit mic), one organist.

# Advent, Christmas & Epiphany

## Re-turn, re-claim, re-shape, remember

Our Advent and Christmas scripture stories are familiar, but we discover a pattern based around “re-.” We are a people re-formed and always being re-formed by scripture and the work of God’s Holy Spirit. We are re-made, re-enlightened, re-engaged when we re-visit the timelessness of spending time in Advent and lingering in Christmas as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our saviour.

God wants to remind us and re-frame us as a people created for relationship during a time when God breaks into the world to be in an intimate relationship with us. God restores and redeems all creation through the birth of God’s child, Jesus Christ. This intimacy is unparalleled and causes us to re-imagine why we might want God to be so close with us.

The Season of Advent invited us to focus on hope, peace, joy, and love. For Hope, we discover: reshape, reclaim, remember. In Peace, we discover: remind, reveal, reinforce, redefine. In Joy, we discover: refocus, restore, rejoice. For Love, we discover: reflect, resist, re-imagine.

The Season of Christmas challenges our divine creation as we wrestle with why God would desire to be in flesh with us, and for what purpose did Christ come to join all of humanity on Earth. For the two weeks of Christmas, we offer reaffirm, redeem, rename for the first week and recognize, re-engage, respond for week two.

Living with these seasons and these adverbs has challenged the way we view the incarnation. We realize the magnitude of such a gift (or intrusion) of God’s presence as a re-establishment of creation’s purpose. We recognize that the (mostly) traditional use of Advent themes like hope, peace, joy, and love can lead to a season filled with platitudes, which stands counter to the “reason for the season” of Emmanuel’s birth. We have joined in revisiting the old stories and texts and all God’s spirit to challenge you alongside us. Re-engage, re-view, re-consider, reflect and respond.

By the time we get to the Season after the Epiphany we are ready to re-place and re-move some of the ways we felt stuck. Beginning with the Baptism of Jesus, the Season after the Epiphany offers us a time to explore a call from our old habits and into a fresh start. We come through captivity, fog, and complacency so we can continue through the year with a re-freshed ability to remain in community with the whole people of God.



## Lectionary Readings

Sun	3	Psalm 147:12-20*
Mon	4	Isaiah 60:1-6
Tue	5	Ephesians 3:1-12
Wed	6	Matthew 2:1-12 (Epiphany)
Thu	7	Genesis 1:1-5*
Fri	8	Psalm 29*
Sat	9	Acts 19:1-7*
Sun	10	Mark 1:4-11* (Baptism of our Lord)
Mon	11	Psalm 63:1-8
Tue	12	Hosea 1:2; 2:7-13
Wed	13	Hosea 2:14-23
Thu	14	1 Samuel 3:1-10*
Fri	15	John 1:43-51*
Sat	16	1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

Sun	17	Psalm 139:1-18*
Mon	18	Jonah 1:1-17
Tue	19	Jonah 2:1-10
Wed	20	Jonah 3:1-10*
Thu	21	Mark 1:14-20*
Fri	22	1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Sat	23	1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Sun	24	Psalm 62:5-12*
Mon	25	Jonah 4:1-11
Tue	26	1 Corinthians 7:32-39
Wed	27	1 Corinthians 8:1-13*
Thu	28	Deuteronomy 18:15-22
Fri	29	Mark 1:21-28*
Sat	30	Psalm 111*
Sun	31	Psalm 112

\* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

