



# 13 December 2020

## Tamworth City Uniting Church

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### 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*

Welcome to limited Face to Face Worship

Rev Betty Stroud will be leading us this week.

We won't have to register for worship each week, now we can

have up to 75 people.

Take care everyone.



## This Week's Notes

### News Items

- Congregational AGM last week, congratulations to Congregational Chair—Peter Battle, Congregational Secretary—Pat Pryor, Church Council Secretary—Judy Phillips, Congregational Rep to Church Council—Dot Miles. Elder's Reps Margot Hobson, Mariette Duns, Rob Duns, Judy Carthew, Edna Sheppard, Church Council Chair will be taken by Rev Betty Stroud until the position can be filled, Church Council Treasurer will be taken by Gai Newby and Nicolette Willis until the position can be filled. Presbytery Representatives are Margot Hobson and Peter Battle, alternates are Paul Turner and Mariette Duns. Safety Officer is Norm Dezius.
- Exciting news with new Covid Restrictions applying from this week. Our worship space will be allowed to welcome 75 people. We will still need to maintain social distancing efforts and use the QR code/mark the roll.
- Entry to Lincoln Grove Memorial Gardens & Crematorium is now off Workshop Lane (accessed via Goddard Lane & Armstrong Street).

# Upcoming Events

**Sunday, 13 December:** Advent 3, 9:30am  
Worship with Rev Betty Stroud (we're excited to be allowed to have 75 people at worship you will not need to register to attend) , Elder Paul Turner, Door Joan Crosling, Sound Judy Phillips. Note that we are allowed to sing as long as we wear masks whilst doing so.

10:30am Sunday School get-together in Dunn Hall & St Andrew's Room—craft presentation and sausage sizzle.

**Monday, 14 Dec:** 9am DIFOF Christmas Hamper Day,

9:30am Kairos Sewing in Jubilee Hall,

10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room,

5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

**Tuesday, 15 Dec:** 9am-2pm Church Office Tue-Fri,

9:30am Locomotive Line Dancing in Jubilee Hall,

10am Stepping Stones Playgroup combined gathering at Tamworth Southside,

7:30pm Advent Bible Study in St Andrew's Room.

**Wednesday, 16 Dec:** 9am DIFOF Christmas Hamper Day,

10am Morning Tea in Vestry,

2:30pm Advent Bible Study in St Andrew's Room,

6pm Meditation in Church Chapel.

**Thursday, 17 Dec:** 10am Stepping Stones Playgroup meeting in Bicentennial Park Splash Pool.

**Friday, 18 Dec:** 9am Christmas Appeal Collection from Church Office,

10am Craft Group in St Andrew's Room.

School Term 4 finishes.

**Sunday, 20 December:** Advent 4, 9:30am  
Worship with Rev Betty Stroud (up to 75 people at worship you will not need to register) , Elder Margot Hobson, Door Sandra Perkins, Sound Judy Carthew.

**Monday, 21 Dec:** 10am UNITING H&CC in St Andrew's Room,

5pm Dare2Dance in Jubilee Hall.

**Tuesday, 22 Dec:** 9am-2pm Church Office Tue-Thu,

7:30pm Advent Bible Study in St Andrew's Room.

**Wednesday, 23 Dec:** 10am Morning Tea in Vestry,

2:30pm Advent Bible Study in St Andrew's Room,

6pm Meditation in Church.

**Thursday, 24 Dec:** 7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship at Tamworth City and

11:30pm Christmas Eve Worship at Tamworth Southside.

**Friday, 25 Dec:** 8am Christmas Day Worship at Tamworth City,

9am Christmas Day Worship at Tamworth Southside and Hallsville.

10:30am Hilton Anglican Community Church in Jubilee Hall.

## Third Sunday of Advent



## The joy of returning home

Today there are more than 60,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India. With the civil war over, many wish to return home to live in peace and freedom, and help rebuild their nation. Act for Peace's local partner, with your support, is helping returnees rebuild their lives by providing training and livelihood support to help families earn an income. **Please give today.**



**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](https://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

**Sunday, 27 December:** Note NO service at Tamworth City. 9:30am Service at Tamworth Southside.

Church office will be open limited hours between Christmas and New Year.

Nicolette on leave 2-16 January 2021.

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

Monday, 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.

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

**Sunday, 10 January:** 9:30am Worship with the Elders (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.

## Doing It For Our Farmers

### Christmas Hampers

A very diligent band have been working at aw 1/19 Wallamore Road preparing Christmas Hampers for disadvantaged farmers in our area. Special thank you to Sue-ellen Wilkin and Gail Brooks for their tireless efforts throughout the year. The drought is easing, but not gone.



## 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*

## Christmas Appeal

Collection day: 18 December.

Maybe you'd like to donate financially.

Contact the office.



# Food Pantry

Bring along something to the office anytime. A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt UHT 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.

# Prayers

## Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on the new Church Council, and it's Mission Groups—Faith Matters, Enabling God's Mission, Care & Support, Resourcing God's Mission, and Community Connections. . Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

## Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of The People's Republic of Chin, Hong Kong and Macau 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.



## Christmas Blessings from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth

*Merry Christmas from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth.  
We extend a warm welcome to you to worship with us:*

Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts)  
Christmas Eve 7:30pm  
Christmas Day 8am

Tamworth Southside (Op Golden Guitar)  
Christmas Eve 11:30pm  
Christmas Day 9am

Peel Valley (Hallsville, Manilla Rd)  
Christmas Day 9am



# Lectionary Readings

Sun 13 Psalm 126\*  
Mon 14 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16-17  
Tue 15 Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Wed 16 Romans 16:25-27\*

Thu 17 Psalm 89:1-4  
Fri 18 Psalm 89:19-27  
Sat 19 Luke 1:26-38\*  
Sun 20 Luke 1:47-55\*

\* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings



## Updated Face to Face Worship

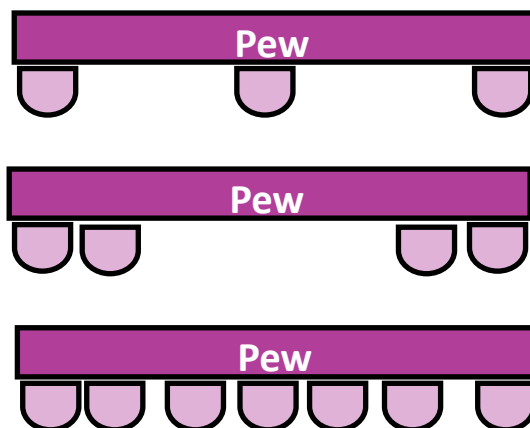
Things will look and feel a little bit more ‘normal’ at church when you return (we still have to comply with current restrictions and keep everyone safe):

- 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.
- You do not need to register with the office, however there will be a NSW Services App QR code to register your attendance (or a roll will be marked).
- If you are unwell or have visited a Covid-Hotspot you will not be able to attend worship,
- You will be instructed on the process for departing by Rev Betty/Lay Leader immediately prior to leaving, particularly in regard to social distancing and waiting,
- 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 (and it’s the hardest thing to do).
- We have a new QR code and you will be encouraged to use your mobile phone to register, however there will be one person on the door (marking the role), one sound desk operator, one preacher (lapel mic), one elder (lectern mic), one reader (pulpit mic), one organist.

## **New Seating Options:**

From 7 December 2020

- Three Singles
- Two couples (or one couple and one single)
- One Family



## A Song of Happiness

Based on Psalm 126: What a crowd! The people of Israel were coming from far and near. They were making their way to Jerusalem. They were remembering all that God had done for them. They were remembering the time when the people were finally free to come home to Jerusalem again, after living in a foreign country for so long, away from everything they loved. Fields and gardens were planted, houses were built, and people had a vision of their temple restored. God, indeed, had done wonders. At last, their destination was in sight. They could see the gates of Jerusalem just ahead. From the crowd came songs of happiness and thanksgiving.

### **A Song of Happiness**

When God made us happy again, it was as if we awoke from a dream.

Then we laughed and sang, we shouted for joy, because God was so good to us!

We were sad, and our lives were hard, but we planted our seeds, and we prayed.

Then God blessed the seeds, and they grew.

So we laughed and we sang, we shouted for joy, because God was so good to us!

May all hurting people learn how to laugh, when they find they don't hurt anymore.

May the ones who are hungry shout for joy, when they find good food to eat.

The people continued to relive their memories through their singing.

Yes, what God had done before, God would do again.

*"A Song of Happiness" Lectionary Story Bible: Year C by Ralph Milton. Copyright © 2009 Wood Lake Publishing Inc.*

*"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 5*