



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Christmas 2015

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P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

**Luke 2:8-20 (MEV)**

### The Shepherds and the Angels

<sup>8</sup> And in the same area there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And then an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very afraid.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Listen! Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy, which will be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign to you: You will find the Baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly there was with the angel a company of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

<sup>16</sup> So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.

<sup>17</sup> When they had seen Him, they made widely known the word which was told them concerning this Child.

<sup>18</sup> And all those who heard it marveled at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



**Isaiah 52 : 7 -10 (MEV)**

<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings good news of happiness, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

<sup>8</sup> Your watchmen lift up their voices; they sing joyfully together; for they shall see with their own eyes when the LORD brings Zion back.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem. For the LORD has comforted His people; He has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD has bared His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**John 1 : 1 - 14 (MEV)**

### The Word Became Flesh

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were created through Him, and without Him nothing was created that was created. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> This man came as a witness in order to testify concerning the Light, that all men through Him might believe. <sup>8</sup> He was not this Light, but was sent in order to testify concerning the Light.

<sup>9</sup> The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was created through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

<sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received Him, He gave the power to become sons of God, to those who believed in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." ~ G.K. Chesterton,



### PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Elders: Margaret Crowell Marie Meyer Barbara Murray  
Doss Wark Ross Davidson Gillian & Bruce Jarrett



**17 January 2015 starts @ 7.30am  
Hallsville County Gospel Breakfast**

A Bus will be running to pick up folk.  
Margaret will be in touch by phone to get names of those who would like to join in.

**And know that I am with you always;  
yes, to the end of time. ~ Jesus Christ**



..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus



**IN OUR PRAYERS** As we enjoy our festivities, let's also remember others who need our prayers:-

- \* Gillian Jarrett remains in hospital with pneumonia.
- \* John and Barbara Murray have a range of ongoing health problems
- \* Pat Hoyt presently has mobility problems
- \* Betty Leese is awaiting a nursing home bed
- Glenda Whitten, who is continuing to have problems with cellulitis

**Matthew 2:1-12 (MEV)  
The Visit of the Wise Men**

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who was born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where Christ should be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are no longer least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come a Governor, who will shepherd My people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, carefully inquired of them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word again, so that I may come and worship Him also."

<sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed. And the star which they saw in the east went before them until it came and stood over where the young Child was.

<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with great excitement. <sup>11</sup> And when they came into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> But being warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

**Matthew 1 : 18 -25 (MEV)**

**The Birth of Jesus Christ**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way: After His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man and not willing to make her a public example, had in mind to divorce her privately.

<sup>20</sup> But while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for He who is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> Now all this occurred to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>23</sup> "A virgin shall be with child, and will bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is interpreted, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being awakened from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and remained with his wife,

<sup>25</sup> and did not know her until she had given birth to her firstborn Son. **And he called His name JESUS.**



**Meg's Musings**

I came across this poem recently, and thought that it was too nice not to share.

**If you seek a special gift,  
The greatest gift of all,  
Don't look beneath your tree  
It was never there at all.  
The greatest Christmas gift  
Was given to us all,  
The Christ child in a manger  
In a lowly cattle stall**

May you have a holy, happy and blessed Christmas!  
Blessings from Meg



**Peel Valley Congregation**

**Friday 6pm** Family Service Hallsville

**Sunday 9am** Holy Communion Service Hallsville

(*3<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month only*)

1266 Manilla Road, Hallsville 2340

**Sunday 8.30am** Worship Gowrie

2125 Tamworth-Gowrie Road, Gowrie 2340

(*1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month*)

*"Come out to the bush and join in our informal worship followed by tea and raisin toast"*

**Sunday 11am** Service West Tamworth Uniting Church

79 Denison Street, West Tamworth 2340

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month** Peel Valley Church on a Bus

*You may be surprised where we end up having our church service!*



"Jesus is a model for how to live my life. I consider him a universal teacher, a person of integrity with natural authority who embodies the truth. He's someone in whom I can take refuge with trust and confidence. My relationship with Jesus straightens me out." ~ Fr Laurence

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**Hallsville** Country Gospel Breakfast **17 January**

**West** In Recess Until **24 January**

**Gowrie** In Recess Until **7 February**

8 January 6pm

**Hallsville** ~ Ross Davidson



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month**

~ Luncheon @ West

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month**

~ Trading Table @ West Tamworth

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month**

~ Markets @ Hallsville

**25 January**

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus