



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH

13 December 2020

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Other Lectionary Reading for this week:

Is 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 Luke 1:46b-55



- 26 December ~ Pat Johnston
- 28 December ~ Myra Forrester
- 29 December ~ Lorabelle Whitten
- 11 January ~ Ernie Thompson
- 17 January ~ Jan Parker
- 24 January ~ Phyllis Bylund
- 30 January ~ Trevor Forrester
- 31 January ~ Margaret Crowell & Cameron
- 31 January ~ Kevin Hoyt



"Here is the church. Here is the Steeple.
Open the doors to see the people."



Do you remember?

CHURCH SERVICES

20 December 11am **West** ~Sue Budden

 **CHRISTMAS DAY:** Worship at 9:00am at Hallsville.

The service will be relaxed, informal, and definitely child-friendly.

Please come, and bring your friends and families too.



At this stage, no singing without a mask..... but you never know when the rules may change!

John 1:6-8,19-28 (NIV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

"If only our eyes saw souls instead of bodies, how very different our ideals of beauty would be." ~ Unknown

Love

The greatest gift you will ever receive will never be found under a Christmas tree.

It is far too valuable to be stored in any other place but in the depths of your heart.



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



IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Marg.
- We thank God for those people who remain committed to teaching scripture in schools.
- We continue to pray for John Murray, whose surgery was bigger than expected.
- We pray for people who feel anxious about Christmas.
- We give thanks for the rain which fell last week, and pray for further falls.
- We pray for Jim Newton who had a fall, and has several fractures and is in a lot of pain.

Meg's Musings

One day last week I read an Upper Room devotional about how God never gives up on us.

Never Give Up!



It brought to mind an image of a frog and a stork in mortal combat.

Neither of them could afford to give up the struggle, even for a split second.

For some people Christmas becomes a serious struggle.... a struggle to get everything prepared, arranged, organised, purchased, wrapped, sent, cooked.

Such a mindset entirely overlooks the fact that we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who came to release us - not to place us under a heavy burden.

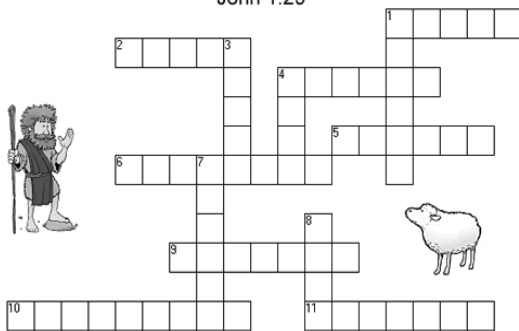
This Christmas let's celebrate by refusing to feel defeated, or to judge ourselves or others' efforts.

Let's decide that what matters this Christmas is that God chose to come among us, and stayed to love and support us through everything we face.



Blessing from Meg

Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
John 1:29



ACROSS

1. The Son of God.
2. John baptized with _____.
4. A dry, barren plain.
5. The place where God lives.
6. A strict observer of Jewish law.
9. The promised one; the Christ.
10. The mother of John the Baptist
11. To immerse by water or fire.

DOWN

1. The river where John baptized.
3. A Jewish title of respect for a teacher.
4. The Spirit landed on Jesus in the form of a _____.
7. To turn away from sin.
8. Behold, the _____ of God that takes away the sins of the world.

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 Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



Keanu Reeves



He was abandoned by his father at 3 years old and grew up with 3 different stepfathers. He is dyslexic. His dream of becoming a hockey player was shattered by a serious accident. His daughter died at birth. His wife died in a car accident. His best friend, River Phoenix, died of an overdose. His sister has leukemia.

And with everything that has happened, Keanu Reeves never misses an opportunity to help people in need. When he was filming the movie "The Lake House," he overheard the conversation of two costume assistants; One cried because he would lose his house if he did not pay \$ 20,000 and on the same day Keanu deposited the necessary amount in the woman's bank account; He also donated stratospheric sums to hospitals. In 2010, on his birthday, Keanu walked into a bakery and bought a brioche with a single candle, ate it in front of the bakery, and offered coffee to people who stopped to talk to him. After winning astronomical sums for the Matrix trilogy, the actor donated more than \$ 50 million to the staff who handled the costumes and special effects - the true heroes of the trilogy, as he called them.

He also gave a Harley-Davidson to each of the stunt doubles. A total expense of several million dollars. And for many successful films, he has even given up 90% of his salary to allow the production to hire other stars.

In 1997 some paparazzi found him walking one morning in the company of a homeless man in Los Angeles, listening to him and sharing his life for a few hours.

Most stars when they make a charitable gesture they declare it to all the media. He has never claimed to be doing charity, he simply does it as a matter of moral principles and not to look better in the eyes of others.

This man could buy everything, and instead every day he gets up and chooses one thing that cannot be bought: To be a good person ♥

~ The Mind Awakened

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