



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

1 March 2026 Rev Geoff Flynn Rev Sam Sadrata Meg Mangan (Pastoral Care)

**John 3:1-17 (NRSV)**

## **Nicodemus Visits Jesus**

**3** Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

**2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

**3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

**4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

**5** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

**10** Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? **11** "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

**12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

**14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ....continued

**16** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Genesis 11:27-12:4 (NRSV)**

## **Descendants of Terah**

**27** Now these are the descendants of Terah. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran, and Haran was the father of Lot.

**28** Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his birth, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

**29** Abram and Nahor took wives; the name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife was Milcah. She was the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah.

**30** Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

**31** Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot son of Haran and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. **32** The days of Terah were two hundred five years, and Terah died in Haran.

## **The Call of Abram**

**12** Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

**3** I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

**4** So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for Vera, whose recovery from knee surgery is not straightforward.
- We give thanks for the many willing hands who serve us in some way each day.
- We pray for the many millions of people throughout the world living with chronic diseases.
- We also pray for those people conducting research into curing diseases.
- We pray for everyone for whom the world is a volatile place at the moment.

### THE CURSE OF THE CURSOR

I have my battles with technology  
I admit  
And mostly the Cursor  
Is the cause of it.

That tiny blimp  
I find hard to catch  
As it plays hide & seek  
Amongst the apps

It can ruin my day  
And David's too  
For when I'm defeated  
He's my 'Go to'.

I lost half the day  
Because of that thing  
Thwarted again  
I felt completely done in.

At to Jenni Fergus (Tamworth Parkinson's Group)

### Meg's Musings

#### "God so loved the world...."

It's the beginning of a verse which we have all heard many times.

Many people can rattle it off, quoting the King James version, which was popular up to the 1960's - when many of us were in Sunday School, and learned memory verses.

What does it mean for you?

Is it something which you recognise when you hear it or see it, but it's not really relevant to your life?

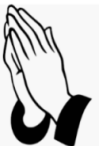
Is it something which you understand and can appreciate?

Or is it something which has moved from your mind to your heart, where it helps to form who you are, and how much you trust God?

*Blessing from Meg*



Teach me to seek you,  
And reveal yourself to me as I seek;  
For unless you instruct me  
I cannot seek you,  
And unless you reveal yourself  
I cannot find you.



Let me seek you in desiring you;  
Let me desire you in seeking you.  
Let me find you in loving you;  
Let me love you in finding you.  
Amen

~ St. Anselm of Canterbury

## Lent/Easter Journey



- 17 February – Shrove/Pancake Tuesday 10:30am Southside
- 18 February – Ash Wednesday 10:30am Southside
- 24 February – Lenten Study 7pm Zoom – five weeks CHANGED
- 26 February – Lenten Study 2pm St Andrew's Room – five weeks
- 29 March – Palm Sunday Combined 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 9:30am at Tamworth City
- 2 April – Maundy Thursday 7pm Southside
- 3 April – Good Friday 9am Tamworth City
- 5 April – Easter Sunday Combined 9:30am Southside



**Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville**  
**9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday.** Cuppa and a chat always available.

### 4th Sunday Monthly Hallsville Markets

Big breakfast served 8:00 - 10:00 am

Next Markets 22 March



### Other Lectionary Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalms 121  
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Matthew 17: 1-9



### CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

**8 March** ~ Meg Mangan  
**15 March** ~ Rev Sam Sadrata.



### 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."**

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## Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter – Lent 2

There is a quiet courage in the way Abram listens. In Genesis 12:1–4, God speaks a word that is both invitation and daunting – ‘Go from your country... to the land that I will show you.’

Nothing to work from but a promise, and the God who makes it. Abram goes.

There is something in that movement that speaks deeply into this second week of Lent. We have come out of the wilderness with Jesus in Matthew 4. We have faced the testing, stripping back, the honesty of confronting our hunger and illusions. Now, like Abram, we’re asked to take a step. To trust in God, not because we know where we are headed, but because we know the One who calls. We are pilgrimage people on the way.

Bringing it close to home, we understand something of this call into the unknown. Seasons shift. Rain comes or doesn’t. Communities change shape. People move away or move back home. Presbyteries and Congregations adapt, stretch, and sometimes grieve what once was. We know what it is to live with uncertainty and yet to keep going. To keep tending the land, the relationships, the faith that sustains us. Perhaps Abram’s story reminds us that faith is rarely about staying put. It is about being willing to trust God’s leading even when the road ahead is dusty, unmarked, or steep.

We return to Matthew 17:1–9, the story of the Transfiguration. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a mountain. Away from the noise, away from the demands, away from the familiar. There, on that high ridge something shifts. His face shines. His clothes blaze. Moses and Elijah stand beside him. The disciples glimpse God’s glory breaking through the ordinary. It is a moment of revelation and also a moment of preparation because from here, Jesus turns his face toward Jerusalem. A Glimpse for the Journey ahead.

The disciples don’t understand it yet. They want to stay on the mountain, to build shelters, to hold onto the moment. Yet Jesus knows that faith is not lived on the mountaintop, It is lived in the valleys. In the places where people hurt, where injustice takes root, where healing is needed, where courage is required. This transfiguration calls us not to escape from reality but it strengths us for it.

...continued

It is God saying that this is my beloved. Listen to him. Listen because the road ahead will be hard. Listen because glory and suffering are woven together.

Listen because love will lead him all the way to the cross.

And so the disciples come down the mountain. Not fully understanding but changed.

Lent 2 invites us into that same movement; down the mountain into the world carrying whatever glimpse of God we have been given.

For some of us, that glimpse comes through prayer. For others, through community. For others still, through the land itself. Transformation does not always look dramatic. Sometimes it’s as simple as a softened heart, a renewed hope, a willingness to forgive, a courage to speak truth, or a deeper trust in God’s presence.

Abram steps out because God promises to be with him. The disciples step down because Jesus walks beside them. We step into Lent because Christ leads us still.

In our region, we know what it is to walk by faith. We know what it is to keep going when the way ahead is unclear. We know what it is to rely on community, on shared strength, on the God who has carried generations before us. Lent is not about becoming someone else. It’s about becoming more fully who God calls us to be. That is to be people of courage. People of compassion. People who listen to Christ and follow him into the world’s need.

*Amen.*

Rev Sam Sadrata

## GROWING OLD

*Growing old means you have lived long enough to see love, loss, joy and lessons that only time can teach.*

*Every wrinkle tells a story of survival, strength and moments that truly matter.*

*Ageing is not about losing our youth, but about gaining wisdom, patience and perspective.*

*To grow old is to be granted more mornings to be grateful, more memories to cherish and more chances to love.*

*Many dreamed of reaching this age but never do – so honour your years with gratitude and pride.*

~ anon

# God So Loved the World

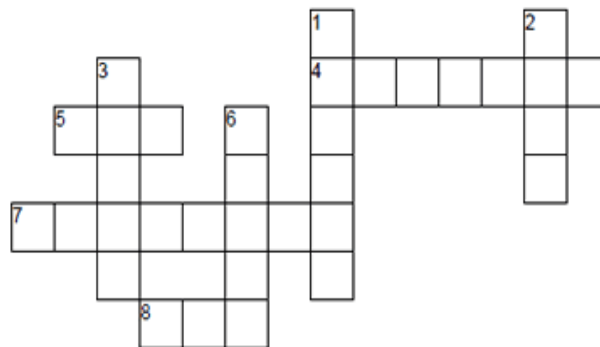
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 3:16-17

M L I Z D Q X P T H R O U G H  
 V D J P Q W T W V L R C I D A  
 C Y U L I F E O K D D E D B V  
 I T S H B N R W L Z K O H M V  
 S H Z N D G G J L G B S E N D  
 J G O D B M A M R Y F N U L O  
 S Z E N K D L V M R A W O N  
 R A J M C P K V E F Q H X V O  
 Y I V L G C S P L H E O J E U  
 B W E E B O M E Y I V E O D U  
 P O J S U N R R K M P V R W Z  
 X R C V T D P I P F P E R S H  
 S L S G C E X S Z N I R Z D T  
 V D B Q G M F H E T E R N A L  
 U G Y W P N V B E L I E V E S

LOVED	GOD	SON	CONDEMN	BELIEVES
THROUGH	SEND	WHOEVER	LIFE	SAVE
PERISH	ETERNAL	GAVE	HIM	WORLD



## ACROSS

4. Lasting forever; without end
5. Male offspring
7. Accept something as being true, genuine, or real
8. The creator of heaven and earth

## DOWN

1. To die or be destroyed
2. To rescue from danger or harm
3. The earth with its inhabitants and everything on it
6. Cared very deeply for someone

~ Sermons 4 Kids

ETERNAL	WORLD	PERISH	SAVE
LOVED	GOD	BELIEVES	SON

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