

# Peel Valley Congregation

**Hallsville & West Tamworth**



**25 October 2026** **Rev Geoff Flynn** **Rev Sam Sadrata** **Meg Mangan** **(Pastoral Care)**

**Matthew 22:34-46** (NRSV)

**The Greatest Commandment**

34 When the Pharisees heard that he had
silenced the Sadducees, they gathered
together, 35 and one of them, an expert in
the law, asked him a question to test him.
36 "Teacher, which commandment in the
law is the greatest?"
37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord
your God with all your heart and with all
your soul and with all your mind.'
38 This is the greatest and first
commandment.
39 And a second is like it: 'You shall love
your neighbor as yourself.'
40 On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets."
The Question about David's Son
41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered
together, Jesus asked them this question:
42 "What do you think of the Messiah?
Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The
son of David."
43 He said to them, "How is it then that
David by the Spirit[b] calls him Lord,
saying,

44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your
feet" '?

45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he
be his son?"
46 No one was able to give him an answer,
nor from that day did anyone dare to ask
him any more questions.

**Leviticus 19:18** (NRSV)

18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a
grudge against any of your people, but you
shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am
the Lord.

Where there is love there is life.

~ Mahatma Gandh

**Deuteronomy 6:5** (NRSV)

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all
your heart and with all your soul and with
all your might.

**CHOSE LOVE, JOY, PEACE & HUMILITY**

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

"Because someone bumped into me!!!"

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in the cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out. It's easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves... "what's in my cup?"

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Love, joy, gratitude, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, victim mentality and quitting tendencies?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let's work towards filling our cups with gratitude, forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, resilience, positivity; and kindness, gentleness and love for others. ~ ANON

**Fabulous Finds Op Shop** @ Hallsville **9:30 to 1:00pm** Thursday, Friday & Saturday. -

Cuppa and a chat always available.

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




**IN OUR PRAYERS**

- Along with most other Australians, we pray for Helen Haines.
- We also pray for more considered, and respectful, words and actions from our leaders - politicians, and others.
- We give thanks that good rain is expected to fall within the next week.
- We pray for the Guests attending Kairos Outside this weekend.
- We pray for all those people we know who are unwell at the moment.

**Meg's Musings**

Many years ago a neighbour planted six oleander bushes along our fence-line - and then put the house on the market.

For the first several years, the oleanders had no impact on us.

But they kept growing - some of them up to eight metres high, which made quite a difference to the amount of light parts of our house and garden received.

During winter we also experienced an avalanche of fluffy oleander seeds drift over our yard.

The house was leased out, and neither the tenants or the agent were interested in trimming the oleander bushes.

This week the owner arranged for the bushes to be cut down. What a huge difference it made!

The extra daylight is lovely. But the bushes had also screened out the street-lighting in Brisbane Street. The impact of that is less "lovely".

Each of us is faced, from time to time, with the consequences of decisions made by other people. The results can be positive, negative, or mixed. How we deal with the changes that come our way says a lot about who we are, and WHOSE we are.

*Blessings from Meg*



Perhaps the reason we respond so universally to our mothers' love is because it typifies the love of our Saviour. ~ *Bradley D. Foster*

***CHURCH SERVICES*** 11am **West Tamworth**

1 November **~ Rev Geoff**
8 November **~ Meg**
15 November **~ Rev Sam**
22 November **~ Meg**
29 November **~ Combined service Fijians City**



**Minister's Reflection**

**The Greatest Commandment**

When Jesus was asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?", he answered with two: love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbour as yourself. Drawing together the Shema of Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, Jesus declared that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

This was more than a concise summary of religious duty. Jesus showed that love of God and love of neighbour cannot be separated. We cannot honour God while ignoring the needs of those around us. Nor is biblical love merely a warm feeling. It is a steadfast commitment to take another person's needs seriously—even when that person is difficult to understand or love.

This teaching remains a searching test for the Church. Are we keeping the light of faith burning? Are we using the gifts entrusted to us? Are we offering Jesus our devotion, or standing back to criticise the efforts of others?

There is much to celebrate. Through our opportunity shops, we help clothe and support people in need. We visit vulnerable residents in aged care. Through Kairos, we minister to people in prison. We have also welcomed newcomers to Tamworth, including PALM workers and health professionals of Indian heritage, extending hospitality across cultures.

Yet another challenge lies before us: nurturing the next generation of leaders. Like Joshua following Moses, new leaders need encouragement, opportunity and trust. Those who have served faithfully can help by sharing wisdom, making room and blessing others to carry the work forward.

These questions are not intended to discourage us. They invite us to keep walking with Christ, whose love both challenges and empowers us. Every act of mercy, patience, generosity and courage expresses our love for God. Every prayer and act of worship should send us into the world ready to love our neighbour.

May our congregations be known not only for what we believe, but for the faithful love we practise. Let us ask God for unwavering commitment: to love God wholeheartedly, serve one another humbly, and seek the good even of those we regard as political opponents.

*Rev Geoff*



**My Younger Days**

When I was in my younger days,
I weighed a few pounds less,
I needn't hold my tummy in
to wear a belted dress.

But now that I am older,
I've set my body free;
There's the comfort of elastic
Where once my waist would be.

Inventor of those high-heeled shoes
My feet have not forgiven;
I have to wear a nine now,
But used to wear a seven.

And how about those pantyhose-
They're sized by weight, you see,
So how come when I put them on
The crotch is at my knee?

I need to wear these glasses
As the print's been getting smaller;
And it wasn't very long ago
I know that I was taller.

Though my hair has turned to gray
and my skin no longer fits,
On the inside, I'm the same old me,
It's the outside's change a bit.



~ Maya Angelou

THANK YOU to everyone who coloured in, or completed prayer strips, for Kairos Outside. It is very much appreciated.
Please pray for the group this weekend, and also in the days ahead.

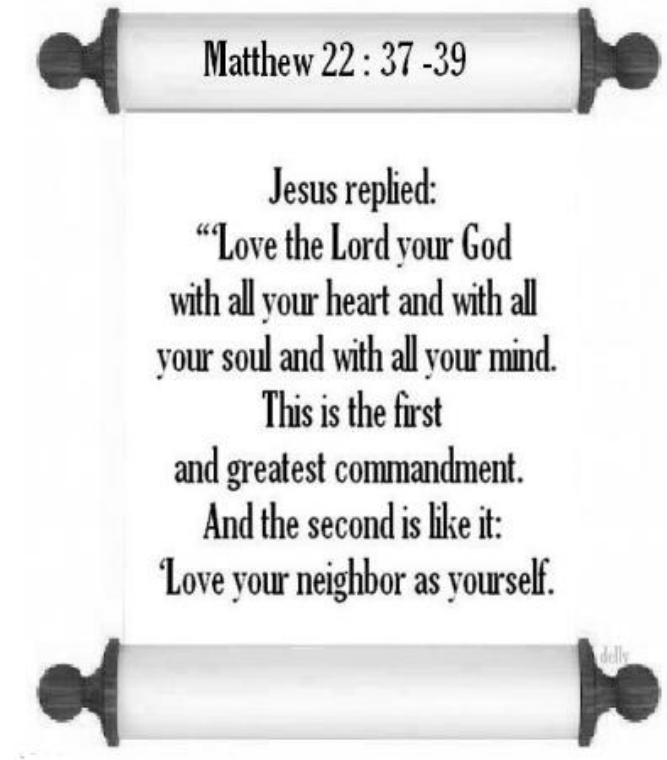
NOTE: The Escott family would like to express their appreciation to everyone whose help allowed them to hold the funeral for Robyn Escott at Hallville Church on the 20th of October.
They were very grateful that so much effort was made to allow this to happen.

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES:**

The boxes were delivered on Monday, after being blessed on Sunday.
They will be transported to Sydney, checked, and then shipped to the children who will receive them.
Our thanks to everyone who contributed in any way.

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

~ C. H. Woolston 1880




**PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION**

Our goal:

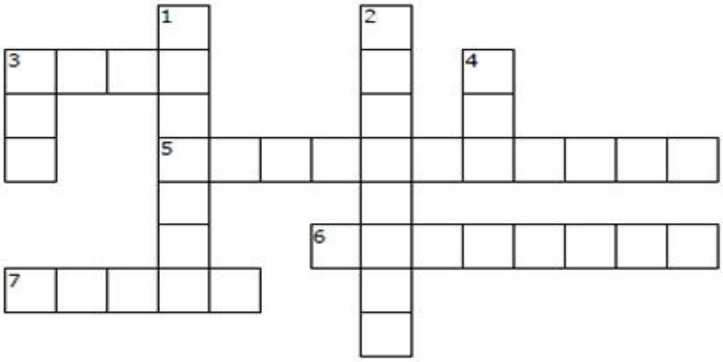
**"To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."**

Mission: **"Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."**
Minister: **Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202**
**Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188**
Pastoral Care: **Meg Mangan 0476 375 989**
Elder: Margaret Crowell
**P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH**

# The Greatest Commandment

Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'"
Matthew 22:37





ACROSS

3. To have a deep feeling of affection or attraction for someone
5. A rule or law; direction or instruction to do something
6. A person who lives near or next to another
7. The center and source of a person's emotions or feelings

DOWN

1. Someone who educates or trains others
2. The most important; better than all others of the same kind
3. A system of rules or principles
4. The creator of heaven and earth; The One we worship

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| COMMANDMENT | HEART | LOVE | GREATEST |
| TEACHER | GOD | LAW | NEIGHBOR |

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

Sermon4kids

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MIND | PHARISEES | QUESTION | JESUS |
| LAW | GREATEST | COMMANDMENT | YOURSELF |
| EXPERT | HEART | NEIGHBOR | LOVE |
| SOUL | LORD | HEARING | SECOND |