



# Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

Christmas 2020

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**Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)**

## The Magi Visit the Messiah

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked,

“Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3** When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

**4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

**5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6** “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

**7** Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared.

**8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9** After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

**10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

**11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**12** And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



**Luke 2:21-40 (NIV)**

**21** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

## Jesus Presented in the Temple

**22** When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

**26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

**27** Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

**28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

**29** “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

**30** For my eyes have seen your salvation,

**31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

**32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

**33** The child’s father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. **4** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, <sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

**36** There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

**38** Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39** When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

**40** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**Peel Valley Congregation** is in recess from the 31 December 2020 resuming on **7th February, 2021** at **West Tamworth** with Meg Mangan

Every moment is a fresh beginning. ~ T.S Eliot

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



### IN OUR PRAYERS

- We pray for the many people throughout the world who will be isolated from their loved ones this year.
- Thank-you God for the rain which fell this week.
- We pray for wisdom for the epidemiologists and politicians making decisions about how best to contain the Covid19 outbreaks.
- We pray for peace on earth, and goodwill to all men.
- We give thanks that we have come safely through this year of crisis and uncertainty.

### Meg's Musings

God of stable, stars and surprises; of light and hope and new life  
 Open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world.  
 Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels,  
 And respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives.  
 Thank-you everyone for your love and support through this strange year.  
 We have come through it together, and God has kept us safe, kept us together, and kept hope burning in our hearts.  
 We have so much to thank Him for.

Blessings from Meg



**A BIG THANKS** to Janet for the amazing job she has done on our newsletter this year. It has kept us amused, informed and together in spirit when we were unable to meet face to face.

### 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 Barbara Murray  
 Doss Wark Ross Davidson Bruce Jarrett



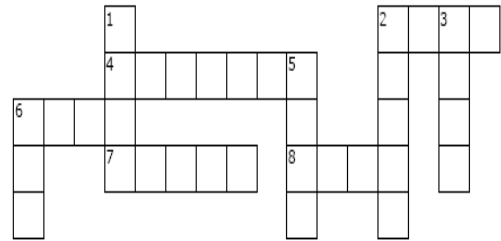
### Lectionary Readings for today:

- Nativity 1** Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96  
 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)
- Nativity 2** Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97  
 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20
- Nativity 3** Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98  
 Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)  
 John 1:1-14



## The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.  
 Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



### ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

### DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

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**



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