

## Diary Dates

Sun, 15 Advent Week 3

9am Tamworth City  
Worship & Youth Vision &  
Kids Play with Rev Will  
Pearson. Morning Tea.  
Sausage Sizzle

11am West Tamworth—Rev  
Will Pearson

11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch

5:30pm Southside Carols on  
the Carpet (BBQ/Carols/  
Play/Supper/Farewell to  
Sarah)

Mon, 16 8am Christmas Appeal in St  
Andrew's Room (Farmers)

9:30am Kairos Sewing JH  
10am-4pm Op Shop M-F

Tue, 17 8am Meals on Wheels Kitch.

9am-2pm T-F Church Office  
9am Christmas Appeal in St  
Andrew's Room

10am Pres Bookkeeper

5pm Rainbow Cottage  
Concert (day set-up)

Wed, 18 9am Op Shop Sorting—Vest

9am Christmas Appeal in St  
Andrew's Room

6pm Meditation in Church

6-9:30pm New Vogue JH

Thu, 19 9am Christmas Appeal  
Collection Day

9:30am Yoga in St AR

2pm Advent Study 4 DH

4:30pm Church Music

7pm Advent Study 4 DH

Fri, 20 10am Craft Group in Dunn H  
12noon Christmas Lunch in  
Dunn Hall

Sat, 21 9am-12noon Op Shop

Sun, 22 Advent Week 4

9am Tamworth City  
Worship with Rev Henry  
Swindon. Morning Tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch



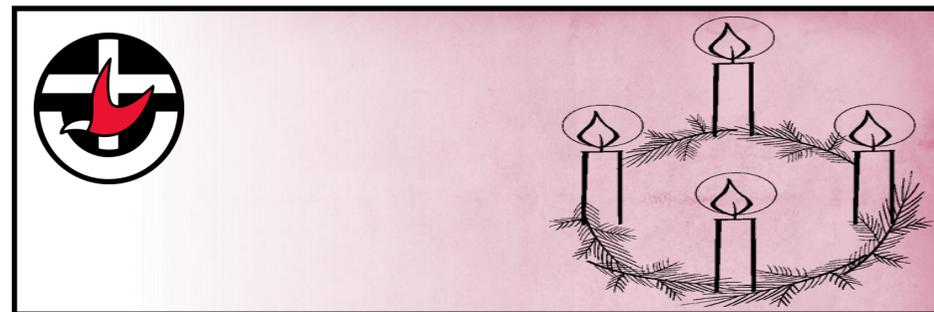
## Preaching Plan

Sunday, 22 December—Advent Wk 4

9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Henry Swindon—Elder: R Duns;  
Door: H McKenzie, M Duns, B McLean; PPoint: J McClelland;  
Organ: R Greer. Morning Tea.

9:30 Tamworth Southside

11am West Tamworth with Sue Budden.



### Contact Details:

- **Supply Minister:** Rev Will Pearson 0431 150 253  
pastorwill@bigpond.com
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340  
Ph 02 6766 5311, Email tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com, Hrs 9am-2pm Tue-Fri

### Other Useful Local Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340,  
Email tsucoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Ministry Worker:** Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373  
tsucminister@gmail.com
- **Young Family Worker:** Sarah Wright 0423 617 813 Email:  
sarah.familyworker.uca@gmail.com
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846  
Chaplain Rev Henry Swindon 0466 445 632
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

15 December 2019

## Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today at Tamworth City. Rev Will Pearson will be leading our service including Youth Vision Outreach and Children's Drama. Please stay for a chat and sausage sizzle/morning tea.



# Advent Bible Studies

## Re-orienting your Christmas Compass...

### Week 4: Peace for the World

#### What does peace look like?

When Jesus was born, a choir of angels sang about peace coming upon those whom God favours (Luke 2:14). Peace has many facets – lack or cessation of conflict and violence; wellbeing and calmness; peace with God, oneself and one's neighbour. Chris Walker, a Uniting Church theologian, picks up these various facets in his new book *Peace like a Diamond*, which is available through [mediacom.org.au](http://mediacom.org.au).

The first reading this week is from the OT prophetic book of Micah. He was a contemporary of Isaiah and had harsh words for the wealthy landowners who robbed poor people of their land and livelihood. Micah prophesied God's judgment against them for their corruption and injustice. During this period the Assyrian army threatened Jerusalem – this happened about 100 years before the Babylonians destroyed the city. Interspersed with these violent prophecies of destruction and judgment, Micah brought messages of future hope and prosperity for Judah. Read Micah 5:1-5a.

Bethlehem was a small town near Jerusalem that had come to fame as the birthplace of the great King David. In this passage Micah speaks of a



future ruler to come from Bethlehem who shall be a shepherd for the people of Israel. This ruler shall be considered great to the ends of the earth and shall bring peace.

# Southside Scene



**Worship:** 9:30am Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday. In recess 5pm Dec/Jan.

**Ladies Breakfast:** 7:30am on 4th Tuesday each month.

**Stepping Stones:** 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tues, school terms.

**Prayer Team:** 3pm Tuesdays.

**Motor Bike Ride:** 9am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

**Faith & Art Group:** 1pm Thursdays, alternate weeks, school terms.

**Men's Choir:** 5:30pm on alternate Thursdays.

**Men's Bowls:** 9:45am 2nd & 4th

Friday North Tamworth Bowling Club

**Men's Breakfast:** 7:30am on 1st Saturday each month.

**Carols on the Carpet:** 5:30pm on 15th December. Farewell for Sarah.

**Website:** [www.tsuc.org.au](http://www.tsuc.org.au) or

**Facebook:** Tamworth Southside UC

**Our Vision:** *To be a faithful & enthusiastic part of God's church in our community, sharing the love of Jesus.*

**Mission Statements:** *To build up individuals and teams, empowered by the Holy Spirit, using our spiritual gifts to serve each other & our community.*

# Peel Valley Congregations

## GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST

### TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

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

*Mission "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve"*

*Website: [ucapeelvalley.org.au](http://ucapeelvalley.org.au)*

*Email: [ucapeelvalley@gmail.com](mailto:ucapeelvalley@gmail.com)*

Pastor Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Contact: Margaret Crowell 0408 660 025

Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369

Elders: Margaret Crowell, Ross Davidson, and Bruce Jarrett.

**Sun, 15 Dec**—11am West Tamworth Service with Rev Will Pearson.

Trading Table.

**Sun, 22 Dec**—11am West Tamworth Service with Sue Budden.

**Wed, 25 Dec**—9am Hallsville Christmas Service with Rev Jim Newton.

**Sun, 5 Jan**—11am West Tamworth with Meg Crowell. Lunch after.

**Sun, 12 Jan**—11am West Tamworth with Meg

Mangan HC.

**Sun, 19 Jan**—7am Country

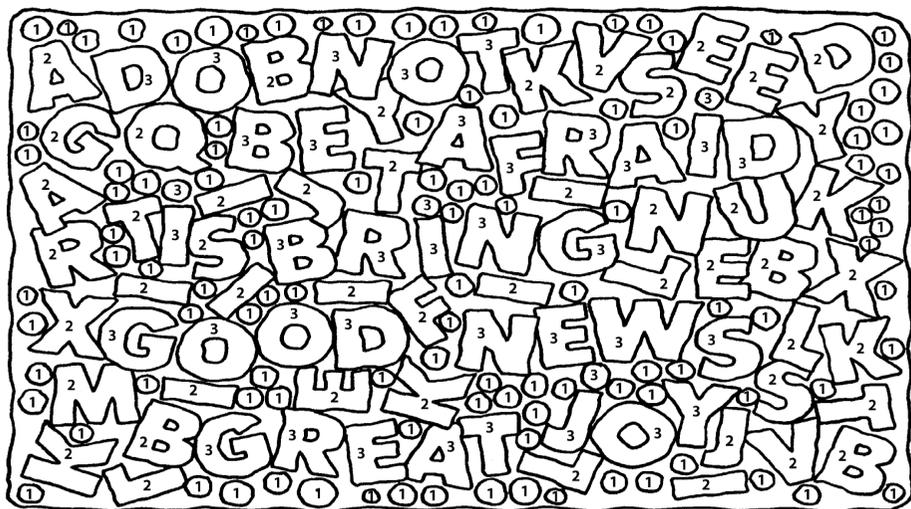
Music Big



## Color by Number

Using the color code, color this art to reveal the message from Luke. 1=Red; 2=Green; 3=Blue

Answer: Do not be afraid. I bring good news first.



## Promise Puzzle

Unscramble the words to find the message from Psalm 91:11-12

“O F R E H I L W L

M C A O N M D I S H G L A E S N

C R O N N I C N E G O Y U O T U R D A G U O Y N I

L A L R O Y U W S Y A . N O H I T R E S H N A D H Y E T

L W I L A E R B O U Y P U .”



Answer: “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up.”

## Lectionary Readings

Sun 15	Psalm 146:5-10*	Fri 20	Romans 1:107*
Mon 16	Isaiah 7:10-16*	Sat 21	Psalm 80:1-7
Tue 17	Ruth 4:7-22	Sun 22	Psalm 80:7-19
Wed 18	Matthew 1:1-17	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 19	Matthew 1:18-25*		

## Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Although we may immediately think of Jesus when we hear this passage, the first hearers were more likely to think of a strong military ruler like King David who would bring an end to conflict imposed by enemies like the Assyrians (verses 1-2). This is similar to the type of peace described in the *Pax Romana* offered by the Roman Empire. In many trouble spots around the world this is precisely the sort of peace people are longing for. Pause to pray now that God would bring peace and an end to violence in places like Afghanistan and Iraq, Burma and Fiji.
- The Hebrew concept of peace (shalom) is much broader than the ending of military conflict, although it certainly includes this. Shalom also implies a sense of wholeness, health, harmony in relationships (with both God and neighbour) and prosperity – including provision of needs and security (verse 4). What might this type of peace look like in your context?
- Several Christmas carols speak about Jesus bringing peace on earth. Given that Jesus did not drive out the Roman armies occupying Israel or end violence, what sort of peace did Jesus bring and to whom?

## Mary's prayer for peace

In the Advent stories that introduce Luke's Gospel, the pathways of John and Jesus are intertwined. John will be a mighty prophet who will prepare the way for Jesus, while Jesus will be the longed for Messiah to bring salvation to Israel and the world. In the passage we will consider, the two expectant mothers meet each other. Through the insight of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth, mother of John, recognises the significance of Mary's child. *Read Luke 1:39-45.*



Mary then responds with a song of praise that rejoices in what God is doing through her and her child. The song is sometimes called the Magnificat. *Read Luke 1:46-55.*

Mary shows remarkable faith and maturity for a young woman.

She is able to look beyond her socially awkward status (pregnant but not yet married) to what God is doing and will do through Jesus. She sees this as so certain that she speaks as though it is already accomplished. Our focus will be on verses 51-55.

### Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Mary speaks in terms of reversal – the proud, rich and powerful will be brought down and the hungry and lowly lifted up. This is the upside-down kingdom message that Jesus later spoke about (e.g. Luke 6:20-26; 14:7-14, 15-24). As people who may be

## Maintenance Items

### Reverse Parking

We've had a couple of near-misses recently. Would everyone using the car park please reverse park into parking spaces. This will mean that when it gets full it will be easier to get out and pedestrians will be safer. Thanks.

### Library

We have a library of books/DVDs in the Vestry. Do you have any you no longer require of a religious nature to donate to our Library? Maybe you'd like to borrow a book. Talk to Peter Battle 6766 7455.

### Transport to Church

Can you help with transport to church? Maybe you've got a spare seat and can pick someone up from nearby on your way. Contact the office on 6766 5311.

### Key Audit

Please check your need for keys to the various buildings here at Tamworth City. Take the opportunity to return a key you no longer need.

### Housekeeping Item

Please report all incidents/accidents to the office, even if there is no further action. We need to keep a record for our insurance. Thank you.

### Wheelchair/Walker

There is a wheelchair and a walker available in the Vestry to assist in transporting those who require one to and from the church carpark. Please return to the Vestry.

### Screening Mammogram

Breast Screen NSW Hunter New England offers all women aged 50-90yrs a free Screening Mammogram for the early detection of breast cancer. Call 132050.

### Free Prostate Cancer Support

Counselling and information provided at Tamworth Hospital. Helping with Risk factors, testing diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Phone 1300 881 826.

### Kairos Outside Sewing Group

Kairos Outside Sewing Group meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Monday mornings from 9:30am-3pm each week during school terms.

### Food Hamper Sunday

Food Hamper Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the month. Bring along something to the office anytime. A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt UHT milk, 500g sugar, 25 tea bag box, 50g coffee, 100gm tuna/sardines, 2xcuppa coup, 2xrice/pasta pack, 250g biscuits, tin baked beans/spaghetti (ring pull), tin steak & veg (or similar), 2minute

# Prayers

## Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Children's Ministry, Christian Education, Scripture in Schools, Sunday School, Young Families Worker, Mission Outreach, Doing it for our Farmers and Rainbow Cottage. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

## Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Benin, Cote D'Ivoire and Togo in your prayers this week.

## Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the outreach and activities of Liberty Church, Calrossy School, St Peter's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Northwest Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church and the Church on the Way in our prayers.

## Presbytery Prayer Points

We continue to pray for life-sustaining rain to fall across our Presbytery. We also keep in our prayers firefighters working in fire-affected areas. And the exciting Christmas outreach activities happening around our Presbytery. Our annual Preaching Workshop 7/8 February 2020.

## Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who led classes in our high schools this year—Belinda and Darrel. Participation rates over the past couple of years has fallen from 90% to 50%, due enlarge to the now opt in arrangements and societies move away from it's Christian heritage. We are funded from donations. If you would like to contribute: A/c name TSCEAI, BSB 032 621, A/c No. 372 372. Thank you.

## Prayer Chain

If you have a concern that you would particularly like prayer support for, please contact Judith Archbold 6766 6716 or Ted Woodhart 6766 1804.

considered to be among the rich and perhaps powerful in the world, what might this reversal look like for us? (The stories of Zacchaeus in Luke 19 or the early church in Acts 2 may provide some clues).

- It seems clear that Mary's vision of peace will only result when injustice is overthrown. This kingdom manifesto is repeated in Jesus' first public appearance in Nazareth (Luke 4:16-21). The invitation to us then is to work with God to help the poor and oppressed and to overturn injustice, as exemplified in the actions of people like Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King. Spend some time in your group to come up with one or two concrete actions you will commit to that will help bring about this peace.

## To Conclude

As your group comes to the end of these studies, spend a few minutes sharing what has most surprised or challenged you. How will your walk of discipleship grow? How can you encourage and support one another on the journey?

Before you conclude, pray for one another, for your community and for your neighbours.

*This resource is produced by the Centre for Theology & Ministry  
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*

<http://ctm.uca.edu.au>

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# Today's Information

## Worship on Sunday, 15 December - Advent 3

9am Worship Service, Youth Vision Presentations & Kids Play with Rev Will Pearson. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea.

11am West Tamworth Service—Rev Will Pearson.

## Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship. Jubilee Kitchen & Dunn Hall for lunch.

## Carols on the Carpet

Tamworth Southside are hosting Carols on the Carpet on Sunday, 15 December from 5:30pm. BBQ, carols and Kids Play, farewell for Sarah Wright. Everyone's welcome. Come dressed in Christmassy Splendour. BYO supper to share (shortbread, cake, lollies, fruit, slices, etc. Soft drinks and juice provided.

## Church Council Meetings

### AGM

Reports received via the Reports to the Congregation AGM. Elections were held for all positions: Chair—Barry Gillett; Deputy Chair—Lloyd Johnston; Secretary—Edna Sheppard; Assist Secretary—Heather McKenzie; Treasurer—Paul Turner. Convenors: Evangelism—Edna Sheppard; Worship & Education—Barry Gillett; Fellowship—Rob Duns; Special Missions—Judy Phillips; Elders & Pastoral Partners—Norm Dezius; Finance & Admin—Paul Turner; Property—Judy Carthew; Safe Church Officer—Norm Dezius; Rainbow Management Committee—Sandra Perkins, Edna Sheppard, Annabel Ashworth, Rev Betty Stroud; Young Families Worker Support—Nicolette Willis, Julie Bennett; Uniting St Andrew's Liaison—Bill Standen; Co-opted Member—Nicolette Willis.

### General Meeting

Commencement date for Rev Betty Stroud—8 January 2020.

Safe Church Tool Kit—Norm Dezius.

Healthy Church Council booklets available for new councillors.

Drought Relief Funding from Presbytery for two month's rent approved.

Blessing of the Fleet at Tamworth Southside a great occasion of support.

## Worship on Sunday, 29 December

9am Worship Service with the Elder's leading. Elder: J Archbold; D: H Fergus, J Carthew; O: R Richardson.

## New Year Office Hours

9am-2pm Tuesday, 31st, Thursday, 2nd.

## Minister's Fraternal Meeting

Thursday, 2 January 6:30am-7:30am in the St Andrew's Room.

## Op Shop

Re-opening on Thursday, 2 January from 10am-4pm. Note change in float arrangements until 19 January.

## Office Hours

Office Closed from 3 January, reopening Tuesday, 21st January.

## Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the St Andrew's Room. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 3 January.

## Worship on Sunday, 5 January 2020

9am Worship Service with Mr Barry Gillett including Holy Communion. Elder: E Fairall, M Cupitt, R & M Duns; D: R & P Pryor; PP: M Miles; O: R Greer.

## Date to Note

- 6-11 January SU Chaffey Dam Watersports Camp.
- 7 January Locomotive Linedancing returns
- 8 January Rev Betty Stroud joining us.
- 9 January Minister's Fraternal Meeting
- 11 January SU SUITE Talking your faith naturally.
- 13-17 January SU Outback Adventure Camp.
- 7/8 February NENW Presbytery Preaching Workshop.

## Uniting Pianoforte Confidence Scholarships

Uniting have provided Tamworth Southside with a grant to support up to three scholarships for keyboard at Tamworth Regional Conservatorium. More details in the office.

## Meditation Service

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh on Wednesdays evenings from 6pm in the Chapel area. During School Terms. Last 18th Dec.

## Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursdays 9:30am. Last 19th Dec.

## Advent Studies

Rev Will Pearson has offered to take our annual Advent Studies continuing 19 December at 2pm and 7pm in the St Andrew's Room. The studies will be in the notice sheet each week so that everyone can join in.

## Craft Group

Our craft group meet on the 1st and 3rd Friday morning of the month at 10am in the **Dunn Hall**. Bring along some craft, have a chat and a cuppa. Our next get-together will be on Friday, 20 December.

## Adult Fellowship & Lunch'n'Chatter Christmas Lunch

Join us on Friday, 20 December from 12noon for our Christmas Lunch in the **Dunn Hall**. Please let Lorraine Furze (6761 7371) know you will be there for catering. Thank you.

# Next Week & Beyond

## Worship on Sunday, 22 December - Advent 4

9am Worship Service with Rev Henry Swindon. Elder: R Duns; D: H McKenzie, M Duns, B McLean; PP: J McClelland; O: R Greer. Morning Tea.

## Christmas Holiday Office Hours

9am-2pm Tuesday, 24th, Friday, 27th.

## Christmas Worship

*Christmas Eve* 5pm Village Carol Crawl—Rev Henry Swindon  
7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship—Rev Will Pearson  
11:30pm Southside Christmas Eve—Rev Simon Hansford  
*Christmas Day* 8am Christmas Day Worship—Rev Will Pearson  
8am Southside Christmas Day—Suzanne Holloway  
9am Hallsville Christmas Day—Rev Jim Newton

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 10

Mission Envelopes to Joy Balazo \$508 received, letter of thanks from Joy.  
Fete 2020—held over to February meeting.

Donation from the Korean Reborn congregation for electricity \$500 received with thanks.

Rev Will Pearson in his minister's report thanked the congregation for their generous welcome, he and Betty have enjoyed their time with us. A time of healing and hope. Will's last service will be on Christmas Day.

NCLS survey will be completed in the coming year.

Evangelism committee looking forward to Christmas Appeal next week—if you would like to join in, just come along on Tuesday-Thursday just for an hour or for the day. Lunch provided on Tuesday.

Worship Committee updates: 29 Dec Elders; 5 Jan B Gillett HC; 12 Jan B Stroud, etc. Possible changes to HC move to 2nd Sunday having implications to the rosters already sent out for Elder/Door duty.

Fellowship committee hosing sausage sizzle after worship today.

Elders/Pastoral Partners—recent meetings have been very worthwhile having Will & Betty to share ideas between Armidale and Tamworth.

Finance & Admin—financial figures presented. Approval for Nicolette additional 4hrs per week and on holidays 3-19 January.

Young Families Ministry—update on calling for new person for the position, financial requirements beyond 2020. This has been a very worthwhile project and should be continued past 2020.

Uniting St Andrew's Village—30 vacant units; new barbecue near hall.

Minister's Fraternal meetings in St Andrew's Room during January 2020.

SU Country Music Tent Friday, 24 January 9:30am-2pm.

Thank you sent to Shaun Hamilton Funerals for new No Parking signs.

Third Sunday of Advent

**Finding joy in resilience**

Is it possible to be joyful when the natural disasters that batter your island home become more destructive with every year? Your gifts help the people of Tonga to prepare for, and stay safe through, worsening disasters. Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 7

### Christmas Bowl Appeal

Envelopes can be brought back to the offering plate any Sunday up to Christmas. A retiring offering on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will also be taken up. We will hear about projects through Advent. Please give generously.

### UnitingWorld—Everything in Common Gifts

Gifts that fight poverty and build Hope. Gifts range from \$10 to \$500. Something for everyone. Grab a brochure at church today.

### Doing It For Our Farmers

We continue to support our local farmers with drought relief packages, vouchers and prayers. There is always someone in need.

### 2020 Rosters

New rosters are being made up for next year. Would you like to join one of the teams for Morning Tea, Lawn Mowing, Flowers, or Church Cleaning? You would be made most welcome. Talk to Nicolette in the office.

## **This Week's Events**

### Target/UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

A very busy week in the St Andrew's Room. Christmas Appeal hampers and gifts sorted and wrapped. We are including the farming community in our appeal this year, so it will be a very busy time. Come and join in the fun!

You can still donate by buying a bauble at Target \$1 or going to [www.unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au/donation-page](http://www.unitingcarechristmasappeal.com.au/donation-page).

Monday 16th—Farmers collect pre-packed hampers, delivery of food.

Tuesday, 17th—Food Hampers and Gift wrapping.

Wednesday, 18th—Finish everything off.

Thursday, 19th—Collection day.

### Kairos Outside Sewing Group

Kairos Outside Sewing Group will be meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Mondays from 9:30am-3pm each week during school terms.



### Opportunity Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine (0401 762 463) or Judy (0418 662 081). Closing on Saturday, 21 December. Limited opening during Christmas and New Year. Reopening in 2020 on 2 January. Thank you everyone for your support of our Op Shop.

### Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 17 December from 8am.

### Church Office

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday to Friday. *Nicolette*.

### Rainbow Cottage Concert

Annual concert in Jubilee Hall on Tuesday, 17 December from 5pm.

### Op Shop Working Bee

Sorting each Wednesday in the Vestry. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work and then a cuppa! All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.

### New Vogue Dance Group

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall 6-9:30pm Wednesdays. Last Dance 18th Dec.

## **Christmas Blessings from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth**

*We extend a warm welcome to you to worship with us this  
celebration of the Saviour's birth:*

### Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts) Tamworth Southside (Op Golden Guitar)

Each Sunday	9am	Each Sunday	9:30am
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>11:30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>8am</b>

### Peel Valley

2nd & 4th Sunday	8:30am at Gowrie
1st & 3rd Friday	6pm at Hallsville
Each Sunday	11am at West Tamworth
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9am Hallsville (Manilla Rd)</b>

