

## Diary Dates

Sun, 22 Advent Week 4

9am Tamworth City  
Worship with Rev Henry  
Swindon. Morning Tea.  
11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch

Mon, 23

Tue, 24 Christmas Eve

9am-12noon Church Office  
10am Pres Bookkeeper  
5pm Carol Crawl starting at  
McKay House, Alblas Lodge  
then Village Community Hall  
7:30pm Christmas Eve  
Service at Tamworth City  
11:30pm Christmas Eve  
Service at Tamworth  
Southside

Wed, 25 Christmas Day

8am Christmas Day Service  
at Tamworth City  
8am Christmas Day Service  
at Tamworth Southside  
9am Christmas Day Service  
at Hallsville

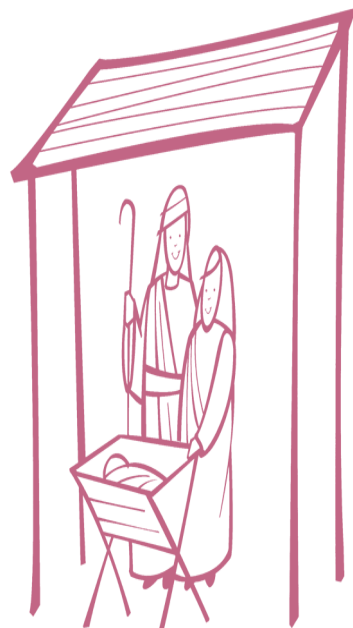
Thu, 26 Boxing Day

Fri, 27 9am-12noon Church Office

Sat, 28

Sun, 29 Christmas Wk 1

9am Tamworth City  
Worship with Elders.



## Preaching Plan

Sunday, 29 December—Christmas Wk 1

9am Tamworth City Service with Elders—Elder: J Archbold;  
Door: H Fergus, J Carthew; Organ: R Richardson.  
9:30 Tamworth Southside with John Cummins



### 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

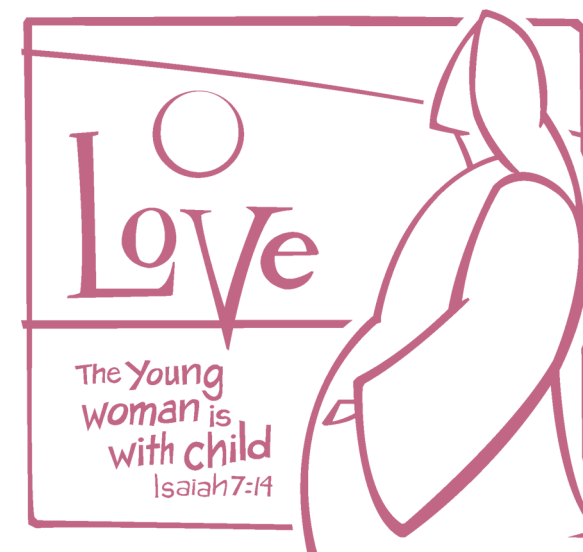
### Other Useful Local Contacts:

- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email tsuoffice@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

22 December 2019

## Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today at Tamworth City. Rev Henry Swindon will be leading our service. Please stay for a chat and morning tea.



# Seasons of the Spirit

## Choose to Trust...

### Readings

Isaiah 7:10–16 ; Psalm 80:1–7,17–19; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25.

### Prayer

God of all time and space, we rejoice in your abundant love. Open our hearts to celebrate your gift of Jesus. Bless us with patience and vision, faithfulness and courage, as we follow the Christ. Amen.

### Biblical Background

The characters and communities in this week's readings have all experienced turmoil. Joseph wrestles with how to cope with the news that the woman he is engaged to is pregnant with a child who is not his. The land of King Ahaz is in turmoil, and a psalmist's community has experienced a disaster. Paul's letter to the Romans is perhaps less about turmoil and more about identity in Christ.

Isaiah 7:10–16 As king of the southern tribe, Judea, Ahaz has chosen not to join Israel's military alliance with Syria against Assyria. Israel threatens to attack Judea if they do not get on board. In the midst of political turmoil, the prophet encourages King Ahaz to trust in God rather than military might. Isaiah assures Ahaz of God's protection and says the birth of Emmanuel will be a sign for him. Divine light is shed on a human predicament.

God's purpose for God's people is also found Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19, which is written in response to a disaster. The people lament and pray as a community. They wrestle with God, and request that God listens, acts, and then transforms their situation. They consider their plight to be God's responsibility.

Responsibility is addressed in a slightly different way in Romans 1:1–7. Here, the apostle Paul and the Roman city have obligations and responsibilities to one another, and they are interconnected. Paul notes that

# 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, 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 Breakfast with Walk-up artists



# Angel

Could you be someone's angel this Christmas? You might ask your family to help another family that is less fortunate. If you could share some food, clothes, or toys you would be doing God's work.



Colour the Angel.

## Christmas Gift

Here is an idea for a present for someone. If you know of someone who is lonely or has no family, it would be fun to make this for them.

In your yard or nearby park find things to make a wreath. Be sure to have permission before you gather things.

Cut out a circle from cardboard. Then cut a circle out of the center. Then glue or wire evergreen boughs, pinecones, nuts berries, and whatever you have found to the cardboard.

You can add a bow or Christmas balls or decorations. Punch a hole at the top and hang with string.



## Lectionary Readings

Sun 22 Psalm 80:7-19  
 Mon 23 Isaiah 62:6-12  
 Tue 24 Titus 3:4-7  
 Wed 25 Luke 2:1-20\*  
 Thu 26 Isaiah 63:7-9\*

Fri 27 Psalm 148\*  
 Sat 28 Hebrews 2:10-18\*  
**Sun 29 Matthew 2:13-23\***  
 \* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

he is called to be an apostle, and Christians are called to a life in Christ. Paul reflects that he is a servant of Christ, and acts under the authority of Christ. Through this reading, we are also reminded of our identity in Christ, and to trust that God is never absent in our lives.

Matthew 1:18–25 is a reading with real human emotions. When Joseph hears the news that the woman to whom he is engaged is expecting a child who is not his own, his first reaction to quietly break up with her, and not disgrace her publicly.

In Joseph's time, a promise to be married was quite different from many engagements today. In modern times, many engagements and the relationship can be ended with words, and yes, often emotional heartbreak. In biblical times, however, an engagement (or betrothal) was much more of a contractual bond. The betrothal had two parts: the first was a legal contract, and the second was a pledge of marriage and marriage feast. (This second part could take place considerably later than the first.) When Joseph hears of Mary's pregnancy, they were in between these two phases. They were essentially married because of the legal contract and commitment, but they had not yet moved in together. The suspicion of adultery at this stage of their commitment could be grounds for divorce.

Mary's announcement brings their family into turmoil, and Joseph responds accordingly. It is then he receives a message from God's angel, which comes to him in a dream, urging Joseph to not be afraid and to fulfill his marriage to Mary. Joseph chooses to trust the message and marries Mary. Together they raise the child Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

•••••

The phrase "God with us" was a powerful message of hope to the Hebrew people and to the early Christian community. Choosing to trust in God when we are experiencing turmoil can be a challenge. How do you find ways to choose to trust in "God with us" when life is hard? How do you sense God with us in our time?



# Today's Information

## Worship on Sunday, 22 December - Advent 4

9am Worship Service with Rev Henry Swindon. Morning Tea.

## Korean Reborn Church

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

## Christmas Bowl Appeal

Envelopes can be put on 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—Update

Available today.

## Doing It For Our Farmers

Our Christmas run for DIFOF last Monday helped over 80 farming families in the local area. Thank you for your support. We continue to support our local farmers with drought relief packages, vouchers and prayers. There is always someone in need. Thank you Sue-ellen for your leadership. Pantry in recess until the end of January 2020.

## Target/UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

What a busy week we had!! Thank you everyone for your support of this very worthwhile time of sharing with our wider community. Over 80 local families have been assisted with their Christmas celebrations. Special thank you to Sue-Ellen Wilkin who leads us in this venture each year.

# This Week's Events

## Opportunity Shop

Closed on Saturday, 21 December. Limited opening hours during Christmas and New Year. Reopening in 2020 on 2 January. Thank you everyone for your support of our Op Shop. This is a vital link to our local community and support to Youth Vision and the Church.



"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 4

# Maintenance Items

## 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 noodles, small tinned fruit, small cereal. Thank you everyone.

## Bread Tags for Wheelchairs in South Africa

Please save your bread tags—they can be recycled to fund wheelchairs in South Africa. Now collecting in Australia too! Leave in the office.

## New Hymns

We've been enjoying some new hymns over recent months. If you would like to follow along, there are hymns books available. Please ask a door steward for a hymn book.

## Morning Tea Support

We enjoy a lovely morning tea every Sunday, thank you to those who help out each week on the roster (or co-opted). Would you like to join our team? Have a chat with Di Cole (6766 4552) or Joan Crosling (6761 8737). Housekeeping: a quick reminder to make a swap if you are not able to do your rostered day (let Di or Joan know too).

## Sunday Trading Table

Our bring-and-buy table is selling anything from handiwork to cooking, produce to jams. Stop and buy something this week and donate something another week. After church with the morning tea in the St Andrew's Room.

## Venture Christian Bookshop— Quirindi

108 George Street, Quirindi 6746 1065. Serving Christ in the community since 1985. Cards for every occasion, bibles, music CD's, DVD's, adult and children's books, giftware also available. Email: vcbquirindi@bigpond.com

## Home Communion

Do you know someone who might like to have an Elder bring Holy Communion to them in their home? Please let Judith Archbold know (6766 6716).

## Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday mornings from 10am. In recess until 2020.



"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 9

# Prayers

## Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Pastoral Partners, Elders, St Andrew’s Village, Fellowship Committee activities, Hospital Visitation and Opportunity Shop. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

## Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Ghana and Nigeria in your prayers this week.

## Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the outreach and activities of Salvation Army, Roman Catholic Churches, The Father’s House, Trinity Church, and the Uniting Churches—Peel Valley, Tamworth City & Tamworth Southside—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.



## Christmas Holiday Office Hours

9am-12pm Tuesday, 24th and 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

# Next Week & Beyond

## Worship on Sunday, 29 December

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

## New Year Office Hours

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



**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:*

<u>Tamworth City (Cnr Marius &amp; Bourke Sts)</u>		<u>Tamworth Southside (Op Golden Guitar)</u>	
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>

### 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 21 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. Food Hamper Sunday. Light Morning Tea.

### Op Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine Furze (0401 762 463) or Judy (0418 662 081).



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Finding strength in love after fleeing Syria**



How do we share God's unconditional love with those who have suffered unimaginable violence? Through your gifts, you can help support Syrian refugees as they rebuild their lives. 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

### Locomotive Linedancing

Recommencing on Tuesday, 7 January 9:30am-12:30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

### Op Shop Working Bee

Recommencing on Wednesday, 8 January 9am. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work, then a cuppa!. All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.

### Rev Betty Stroud

Commencing her Intentional Interim Ministry on Wednesday, 8 January 2020. We extend a warm welcome.

### New Vogue Dance Group

Recommencing in Jubilee Hall 6-9:30pm Wednesdays.

### SU SUITE

An opportunity to brush up on how we share the Gospel boldly, with conviction, respect and love. Saturday, 11 January 1:30-4:30pm at the Norwest Church in Anne Street, Tamworth. Learn how to be natural, authentic and bold in your Gospel Conversations. Everyone intending on working in the SU Tent during country music is encouraged to participate. RSVP to Dave Tankard on 0401 571 978.

### Worship on Sunday, 12 January 2020

9am Worship Service and Welcome with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: Jeanette Dezius; D: Norm Dezius B Johnston; PP: J Phillips; O: R Richardson.

### Date to Note

- 13-17 January SU Outback Adventure Camp
- 14 January 8am Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster
- 17 January 10am Craft Group
- 24 January SU Country Music Mission Tent 9:30am-2pm
- 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. Applications close on Friday, 18 January. . Contact Bill Warburton on 0408 465 355 or more details are available in the office.