

## Diary Dates

Sun, 8 **Advent Week 2**

**9am Tamworth City  
Worship & Baptisms with  
Rev Will Pearson. Morning  
Tea.**

11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch

7:30pm Coffee, Cake &  
Carols at St John's

Mon, 9 9:30am Kairos Sewing JH

10am-4pm Op Shop M-F

10am Uniting in St A Room

Tue, 10 9am-2pm T-F Church Office

10am Pres Bookkeeper

10am Rainbow Rehearse T-F

10am Stepping Stones

Christmas at Southside

7pm Church Council AGM &  
Meeting in StAR

Wed, 11 9am Op Shop Sorting—Vest

6pm Meditation in Church

6-9:30pm New Vogue JH

Thu, 12 9:30am Stepping Stones

Christmas in Dunn Hall

9:30am Yoga in St AR

9:30am Cottage Homes

2pm Advent Study 3

4:30pm Church Music

7pm Advent Study 3

Fri, 13 10am Senior's Communion  
at St Andrew's Village  
Community Hall

Sat, 14 9am-12noon Op Shop

9am-9pm Mattham Drama  
in Jubilee Hall

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)

## Preaching Plan

**Sunday, 15 December—Advent Wk 3**

9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Will Pearson Youth Vision/Kids  
Play—Elder: N Dezius; Door: W Purss, S Hardin, J Dezius; PPoint: J  
Carthew; Organ: R Cathcart. Morning Tea & Sausage Sizzle.

9:30 Tamworth Southside HC

11am West Tamworth with Rev Will Pearson. Trading Table.

5:30pm Carols on the Carpet at Tamworth Southside



**8 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 and sacrament of Baptism.

Please stay for a chat and morning

### 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



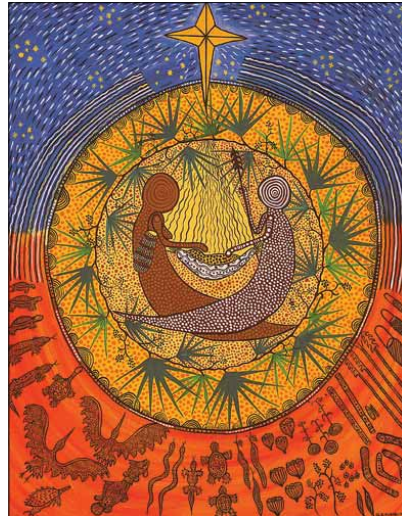
# Advent Bible Studies

## Re-orienting your Christmas Compass...

### Week 3: John the Baptist's take on Jesus

**Rejoicing in God's presence and promise of restoration!**

The OT passage this week comes from the relatively unknown book of Zephaniah the prophet (found towards the back of the OT). Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah and Habakkuk and prophesied during the years just before the Babylonian conquests of Judah. The book is mostly very dark and depressing with destruction predicted for Judah, Jerusalem and surrounding nations. The last two paragraphs of the book, however, look to a much brighter future for the remnant of God's people after the storm of judgment has passed. Read Zephaniah 3:14-20.



This song of joy looks forward to a day when God's people will be restored, including the lame and the outcast (verse 19), and God's presence will be known in their midst (verses 15, 17). Using two contrasting images, this presence will be that of a victorious warrior as well as a tender parent who will rejoice over the people with singing and renew them in his love (verse 17). A similar pair of images occurs in Isaiah 40:10-11.

# 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.

**Lectionary Study & Worship**

**Preparation:** 4pm 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*

# 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, 8 Dec**—8:30am Gowrie Service & 11am West Tamworth HC Service

with Meg Mangan. 12noon Congregation Christmas Lunch at Hallsville.

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

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

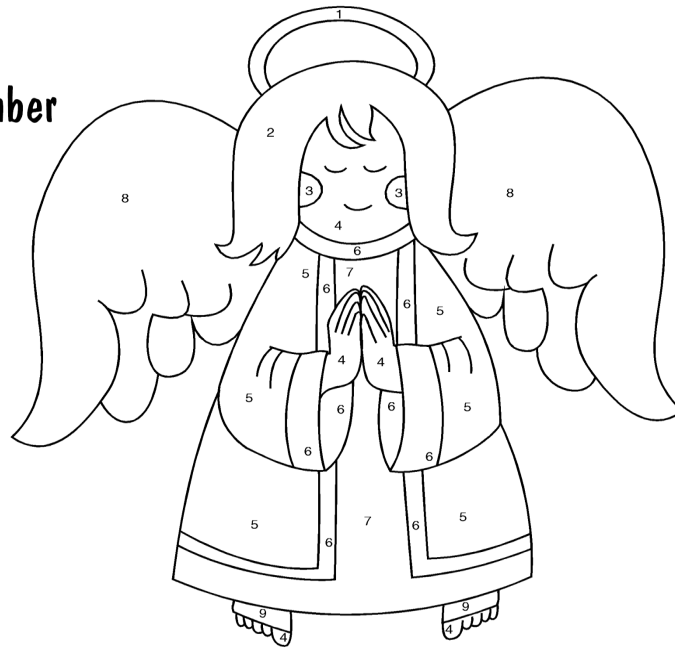
**Wed, 25 Dec**—9am Hallsville

Christmas Service with Rev Jim Newton.



# Christmas Color-by-number

- 1 = Gold
- 2 = Black
- 3 = Light Red
- 4 = Skin color
- 5 = Green
- 6 = Dark Blue
- 7 = Light Blue
- 8 = Grey
- 9 = Brown



## Peace Word Jumble

Peace	I	I	have	leave	said	with	this	you	to	my	you	peace	so	I	that	give	in	to	me	you	you	I	
may	do	have	not	peace	give	in	to	the	you	world	as	you	the	face	world	persecution	gives	But					
Do	take	not	courage	let	I	your	have	hearts	conquered	be	the	troubled	world										

Starting with the first word, write it and every other word in the blanks below. Read the verse.

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled. John 14:27

Now start with the second word and write every other word in the blanks below. Read this verse.

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

John 16:33

I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world! John 16:33

## Lectionary Readings

Sun	8	Psalm 72:8-19*	Fri	13	Matthew 11:2-11*
Mon	9	Isaiah 35:1-10*	Sat	14	Matthew 11:12-24
Tue	10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Sun	15	Psalm 146:5-10*
Wed	11	James 5:7-10*			* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings
Thu	12	James 5:11-16			

## Questions for reflection and discussion:

- One of the features of this passage is its emphasis on God's presence among the people. In Matthew's Gospel, the birth of Jesus is seen as fulfilment of this hope, with Jesus called *Emmanuel*, which is Hebrew for 'God with us' (Matt 1:22-23). In what ways do you experience God's presence in your community and in your life?
- The images chosen to describe God in this passage are starkly contrasting. One is quite militaristic (a heroic warrior) and one is intimate (a loving parent). If this passage points forward to Jesus' ministry, in what ways are these images appropriate?
- This is a song of rejoicing that celebrates God's mercy and grace beyond judgment. Write a short poem, draw a picture or offer a prayer that expresses your response to God's grace and mercy in your life and that of your community. Share this with the others in your group.

*1 Catholic Bibles – and indeed the Scriptures used by the early Christians – contain several more books written during the inter-testamental period which are usually referred to as the Apochrypha.*



## Preparing in John the Baptist style

The Gospel passage continues the story of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. It gives a sample of his preaching and some insights into his understanding of what repentance looks like in action – turn from selfishness and greed and practice generosity and simplicity. The UnitingWorld Everything in Common catalogue (and other similar catalogues, etc) offer us opportunity to put such ideas into practice.

*Read Luke 3:7-18.*

This passage remains firmly stuck in my head from an occasion when the preacher unwrapped a rather large and sharp axe during the sermon and proceeded to walk somewhat menacingly up and down the aisle of the church with it (Luke 3:9). I'm not suggesting that you repeat this visual illustration but it sure made people sit up and take notice! Presumably this was also the aim of John the Baptist.



John's portrayal of Jesus is sharply at odds with many of the carols we sing at this time of year – which present Jesus as the meek and mild baby who doesn't even cry. Instead Jesus is the more powerful one to come (verse 16) who will divide Israel like a farmer winnowing wheat (verse 17). Presumably those who accepted Jesus' message were like the wheat while those who rejected Jesus' message were to be treated like chaff, fit only for the fire.

## Maintenance Items

### 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](mailto: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.

### Line Dancing

The Locomotive Line Dancers will be hiring the Jubilee Hall from 9:30am-12:30pm on Tuesdays for Line Dancing and Occasional Social Dances on a Sunday afternoon. In recess until 2020.

### New Vogue Dance Group

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall from 6pm-9:30pm on Wednesdays.

### Hospital Visit

Are you scheduled to go into hospital? If so, you need to let us know if you want visitors (your Pastoral Partner, an Elder, or the Office). The current system at the Hospitals does not allow us access to this information easily.

### Stamp Collecting News

Funds raised support projects across the Uniting Church in NSW. Keep in mind that the stamps you receive today, our customers are anxious to buy tomorrow at the Synod Stamp Committee sales. Keep them coming in. Leave them at the church office for trimming/sorting.

# Prayers

## **Prayer Focus—Tamworth City**

Today we focus on the activities of the Worship, Evangelism, Property and Finance & Admin committees. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

## **Ecumenical Prayer Calendar**

Keep the people of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal in your prayers this week.

## **Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches**

We keep the outreach and activities of Scripture Union, St John's Anglican Church, the Community Presbyterian Church, Life Church, the Hospital Chaplain, St Paul's Anglican Church, Harvest Church and Liberty Church 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.



## **Questions for reflection and discussion:**

- How does John's message appeal to you as a model for contemporary evangelism? Or for contemporary discipleship? What is helpful for us in John's message?
- Jesus is a gift to us – but a dangerous gift! How do John's insights help to prepare us for the coming of Jesus? What are some practical steps you can take along the lines suggested by John?
- John suggests that there are consequences to our choices. Jesus made similar claims (e.g. Luke 6:46-49). Discuss and write down two steps you can take to help each other remain accountable to the radical demands of following Jesus. Revisit them in six weeks time.

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Synod of Victoria and Tasmania*

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

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# Today's Information

## Worship on Sunday, 8 December - Advent 2

9am Worship Service and Baptisms with Rev Will Pearson. Morning Tea.

### New Hymns

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

### Korean Reborn Church

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

### Coffee Cake & Carols

Tamworth Choral Society invite you to their Coffee, Cake & Carols to round off their 70th Anniversary Platinum series of concerts we will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of Sir David Willcocks, famous for his arrangements of Christmas Carols. Our format this year will be that of the famous Nine Lessons & Carols. Sunday, 8 December from 7:30pm at St John's Anglican Church. Tickets \$10/head (\$20/family).

### 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.

### Hospitality/Visitation

While Rev Will Pearson is here with us, he would like to visit as many people as possible. If you'd like to have a visit please let Will know (0431 150 253).

### 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.

## Rainbow Cottage Concert

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

## 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.

## 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 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

## Worship on Sunday, 29 December

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

## 2020 Dates

- 6-11 January SU Chaffey Dam Watersports Camp.
- 8 January Rev Betty Stroud joining us.
- 11 January SU SUITE Talking your faith naturally.
- 13-17 January SU Outback Adventure Camp.
- 7/8 February NENW Presbytery Preaching Workshop.



### Kirinari Community Services—Christmas Lunch

Are you alone for Christmas Day? If so, Kirinari Community Services will be hosting a Christmas Day Lunch and invite you to share it with us. 12-2pm on Christmas day at the Tamworth Community Centre. Gold coin donation. Our focus is on people with a disability and our elderly residents who have no one else to share with. Transport can be organised. RSVP by 13 December to Lorraine Legge 0418 194 819.

### Ben Mettham Drama Co

Using the Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 14 December from 9am.

## Next Week & Beyond

### Worship on Sunday, 15 December - Advent 3

9am Worship Service, Youth Vision Presentations & Kids Play with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: N Dezius; D: W Purss, S Hardin, J Dezius; PP: J Carthew; O: R Cathcart. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea.

11am West Tamworth Service—Rev Will Pearson.

### 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.

### 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!

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.

### Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

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

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

### Target/UnitingCare Christmas Appeal

Do you know someone who'd appreciate some help this Christmas? Let the office know. You can buy a Bauble at Target or make a donation to the office. Wrap a box in readiness for our big drive from Monday, 16 December. Collection day is 19th December. Every little bit helps. This year we are including our DIFO farmers, so it's all hands on deck!

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.

### Calrossy School

Offering the possibility of access to education at Calrossy for those who are struggling to afford attending through drought/fires. Access can be in person or through eCalrossy online setup. Do you know anyone who might benefit from this? Contact the principal, David Smith at [david.smith@calrossy.nsw.edu.au](mailto:david.smith@calrossy.nsw.edu.au).

### 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.



**Second Sunday of Advent** **Bringing peace to Sri Lankan refugees returning home**

When ethnic violence swept across Sri Lanka, the poorest and most vulnerable families fled to India. With the war now over, many of them wish to return to their homeland to live in peace and freedom, and to help rebuild their nation. Your gifts can help provide skills training and financial assistance, and can support welcome groups that help families to make the return home. **Please give 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

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# This Week's Events

## 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.

## UNITING Support Group

UNITING Support Group meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm from Home & Community Care. Last get together 11 December.

## Church Office

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

## Rainbow Cottage Xmas Rehearsals

Commencing Tuesday, 10 December 10am-12noon each day until Concert on 17 December at 5pm.

## Stepping Stones Christmas Parties

At our regular playgroups on Tuesday, 10 and Thursday, 12 December from 10am. Santa photos and fun. Then we'll break for the year. Farewell to Sarah at the Southside Carols on the Carpet 5:30pm on Sunday, 15 December.

## Church Council Meeting

Our December Church Council AGM and regular meeting is coming up on Tuesday, 10 December from 7pm in the St Andrew's Room.

## 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.

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## Meditation Service

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

## Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursdays 9:30am.

## Nursing Home Service

9:30am Cottage Home service 12th December. Please join their last service for the year.

## Advent Studies

Rev Will Pearson has offered to take our annual Advent Studies continuing 12 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.

## Senior's Communion

Our last monthly Senior's Communion for the year at the Uniting St Andrew's Village Community Hall from 10am on Friday, 13 December. Rev Mark Armstrong will be leading the service.



## **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>



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