

Diary Dates

- Sun, 17 Advent Week 3 9am**
Worship Service & Occasional Choir with Rev Chris Wright. Morning Tea. Christmas Appeal Set-up/ Food Hamper
 11am Rev Chris @ Hallsville for Peel Valley Service
 11:30am Korean Reborn Church service & lunch
- Mon, 18 4-5am** Wheely Bean-JH M-F
 9-2 Church Office M-Th
 9am Christmas Appeal present sorting/wrapping in St Andrew's Room
 10am-4pm Op Shop Mon-Fri
 4pm Weight W in DH
- Tue, 19 8am** Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster
 9am Christmas Appeal present finalisation
 10am Pres. Bookkeeper
 5pm Weight Watchers DH
- Wed, 20 9am** Op Shop Working Bee
 9am Hamper/Gift Collection

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 24 December 2017

- 9am Tamworth City—Rev Chris Wright E: A Ashworth, D: B Mills, D Cole, W Townsend, AV: J Phillips, O: R Richardson.
- 9:30am Tamworth Southside—Suzanne Holloway
- 11am West Tamworth—Meg Mangan
- 5pm Carol Crawl at St Andrew's Village
- 6:30pm Gowrie Christmas Eve Service—Meg Mangan
- 7:30pm Tamworth City—Rev Chris Wright, E:P Battle, D:F Kerr, M Cupitt, AV: J Phillips, O:R Greer.



- Thu, 21 4:30pm** Church Music Team
- Fri, 22 8:30am** Weight W. DH
 Op Shop Last Day 2017
- Sat, 23 8am** Weight Watchers DH
- Sun, 24 Advent Week 4 9am**
Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Morning Tea.
 11:30am Korean Reborn Church service & lunch
- Sun, 24 Christmas Eve**
 5pm Carol Crawl at St Uniting Andrew's Village (McKay House, Alblas Lodge, Community Hall)
 6:30pm Gowrie Carols and Supper
 7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship at Tamworth City
 11:30pm Christmas Eve Worship at Southside
- Mon, 25 Christmas Day**
 8am Worship at Tamworth City
 8am Worship at Southside
 9am Worship at Hallsville



Contact Details:

- **Minister:** Rev Chris Wright Ph 0427 633 657 Email chris@thewrights.com.au
- **Office:** 144 Marius St, PO Box 501, Tamworth 2340 Ph 02 6766 5311 Fx 02 6766 4390 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@aanet.com.au
- **Southside Lay Ministry Worker:** Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846 Pastoral Care Practitioner Galina Newcombe 0417 830 662
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason

Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today. Rev Chris Wright will be leading Worship with an occasional choir item. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.



Advent

Encountering Mark

Welcome to the lectionary year of Mark!

Mark is the only evangelist to call his work a “gospel.” In his first theme sentence, he names the one who embodies the good news: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Everything he writes after that is for the purpose of letting us know what those words mean.

Jesus is the only proper name in the whole batch. The other words are all titles of one kind or another, none of them unique to Jesus. While *Christ* is added to his name so often that some think it is his surname, it is actually a descriptor. Jesus is the anointed one, as were Saul, David, and Solomon before him. While translators have avoided the use of *Christ* for anyone in the Bible but Jesus, the root word *christos* means nothing more than “smeared on” or “anointed.”

... Mark has no apparent interest in the supernatural birth narratives with which Matthew and Luke launch their gospels. For Mark, it is enough that prophecy is fulfilled in the appearance of John the Baptizer. More than that, prophecy is *revived* with John’s appearance. The voice of God has not been heard so clearly in Israel for 300 years. The people have had to strain to hear even the “daughter of the voice” (*bathqol*), so that the noise John makes is both startling and welcome.

His themes are repentance and forgiveness, symbolized by a ritual bath that he offers to those who wish to be counted among the awake and aware. The bath itself is not innovative—Jewish law prescribes similar purification rites that involve cleaning with water—but both John’s name for it (baptism) and his context (gathering the elect) are. Those who line up for his baptism with water signify their willingness to be transformed. When the one who is more powerful than he comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit, the transformation will be complete.

Much is made of John’s eccentricity—his clothing, his diet, his wilderness address. Insofar as *eccentric* means “off centre,” his



Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am & 5pm Sundays.
HC 3rd Sunday.

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

Prayer Meeting: 3:30pm Tuesdays.

Worship Planning: 5:30pm Tuesdays.

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

Men’s Choir: 5:30pm on Thursdays.

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

Christmas Eve Worship: 11:30pm

Christmas Day Worship: 8am

www.tamworthsouthside.org.au or

Facebook: *Tamworth Southside
Uniting Church*

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



Peel Valley Congregations

Fri, 15 Dec—6pm Hallsville Friday
Family Church—Carol Service with
Margaret Crowell.

Sun, 17 Dec—11am Peel Valley
Congregational Worship at Hallsville
with Rev Chris Wright. Christmas
Lunch to follow.

Sun, 24 Dec—11am West Tamworth
Christmas Eve Service and 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Service & Supper at
Gowrie with Meg Mangan.

Mon, 25 Dec—9am Hallsville
Christmas Day Worship.

Note: Peel Valley Congregations in

recess from 31 December until 21
January for 7am Hallsville Gospel
Breakfast. All welcome.

GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

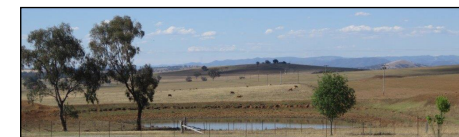
Our Goal “To be transformed communities,
experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of
the friendship of Jesus.”

Mission “Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve”

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

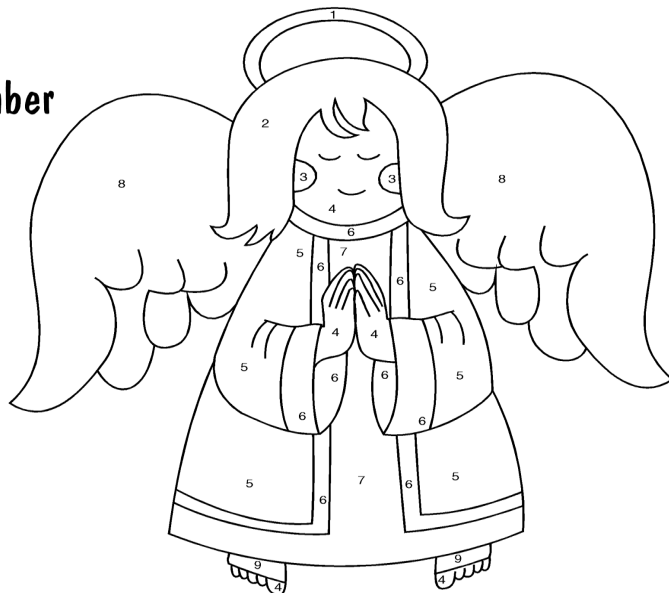
Contact: Margaret Crowell 6760 8323

Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369



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

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 17	Psalm 126*	Fri 22	Romans 16:25-27*
Mon 18	2 Samuel 7:1-11	Sat 23	Psalm 89:1-18
Tue 19	2 Samuel 7:12-17	Sun 24	Psalm 89:9-29
Wed 20	Mark 12:35-37	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 21	Luke 1:26-38*		

deviance is precisely the point. He does not dress as the priests in Jerusalem dress. He does not sound like they sound, nor does he comment their road to anyone. He is as far away from the temple as he can get and it is there—way out in the wilderness—that he is calling people to prepare the way of the Lord. Whatever else he and Jesus disagree about, they agree on this: that God’s way is an alternative to the ways of the world, including the religious ways of the world. The more “centered” we are in the present order the less likely we are to welcome eccentrics such as John, who renew the voice of God in the land.



In the context of Advent, John’s witness is a reminder that there is nothing automatic about the coming of the Lord. Human expectation, preparation, and repentance are all part of the mix. The Lord may be perfectly able to come without these things, but the odds of our recognizing him go way down.

I recently heard about a woman who got so tired of preparing for Christmas each year that she added a large closet with a door to her den. Inside the closet she set up a fully decorated artificial Christmas tree. Now, when the season arrives, she just opens the closet door. And when the season is over, she closes it again. The nice thing about entertaining John at this time of the year is that he simply will not put up with that. Before the woman knows it, he will plant an axe in that door and send wood ships flying all over the place.

Barbara Brown Taylor
Pulpit Resource, Used by permission

Prayer

In this holy season, join our hopes, dreams, and prayers for peace in our world with those of all humanity.
Bless us and strengthen us to serve others.
Amen.



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 17 December 2017—Advent 3

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright, occasional choir. Christmas Morning Tea including Marie's fruit cake, homemade shortbread and more in the St Andrew's Room. After norming tea set-up for Christmas Appeal Hamper preparations. 11am Rev Chris at Hallsville for Peel Valley service & lunch.

Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship and then the Jubilee Kitchen for lunch.

UnitingCare Target Christmas Appeal

We're now in full swing with help needed on Sunday, 17 December from 12noon for hamper preparations. The Tamworth East Scout Troupe will be joining us in this endeavour. Monday will see the sorting of the gifts in preparation for allocation. Tuesday we'll do a last check and then on Wednesday people will be calling at the office all day to collect their hamper and gifts. Thanks for taking part in this special outreach to our community.

With Love to the World

I am updating my order for With Love to the World. Would you like to continue to receiving your copy? Or would you like to take up a new subscription? Cost is \$20/year payable in Jan/Feb. Contact the office.



Third Sunday of Advent

Helping Syrian refugees to cope

Your gift can help fund mother support groups for Syrian refugee mothers so they can cope with their trauma and support their children. Please give hope this Christmas.

Give to the Christmas Bowl appeal.

FREECALL 1800 025 101
www.actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 64 493 941 795

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Children's Ministry, Christian Education, Scripture in Schools, Sunday School, Families and Youth, Mission Outreach 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

This week we pray for the leaders and activities of the St Peter's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, the NorthWest Church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Church on the Way, the Salvation Army, the Roman Catholic Churches and the Father's House.

Presbytery Prayer Points

Pray for congregations connecting with local communities and sharing God's love and abundant grace through this Christmas Season.

Scripture in Schools

Coming to a close for 2017. A well deserved break for everyone. Special thanks for those who have led classes in our high schools this year. As usual funding is solely 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.

Maintenance Items

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.



Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 31 December 2017

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright. NO Morning Tea.

New Year's Day

1 January 2018.

Summerfest

January 1-5 at Tamworth West Public School 9am-11:30am. A holiday program for kids and teens, 'Getaway Café' for adults. \$4 per child per day. Hosted by Trinity Church Tamworth. More information from Ross 0409 935 405.

Opportunity Shop

Re-opening on Tuesday, 2 January. Regular hours 10am-4pm. Changed keys arrangements until the office re-opens on 16 January.

Worship on Sunday, 7 January 2018

Worship service and holy communion with Rev Chris Wright. Light Morning Tea to follow.

Diary Dates

- 2018—8-13 SU Chaffey Camp Yrs7-12.
- 2018—13 January SUITE— How to engage naturally in conversation about Jesus—inter-church training event.
- 2018—21 January Hallsville's annual Country Gospel Breakfast.
- 2018—22-27 January Country Music Mission SU Tent.
- 2018—2/3 February annual NENW Presbytery Preaching with Paul: the Corinthian Correspondence. Flyers now available. Register at the office.

KYB Study Groups

Both Groups in recess until 29 January. There will be only one group in the new year at 1:30pm at the home of Paul & Lorraine Turner, 26 Upper St.

Church Council Meeting

Annual General Meeting was held during the week. All positions have been filled. Chairperson—Barry Gillett; Deputy Chairperson—Lloyd Johnston; Secretary—Edna Sheppard; Assist Secretary—Tony Winter; Treasurer—Paul Turner (my last year); Assist Treasurer—Annette Winter. Convenors: Evangelism—Edna Sheppard; Worship & Christian Education—Barry Gillett; Fellowship—Rob Duns; Special Missions—Judy Phillips; Elders & Pastoral Partners—Judith Archbold; Finance & Admin—Paul Turner; Property—Max Cathcart. Reps to Rainbow Cottage: Rev Chris Wright, Rev Tony Winter, Sandra Perkins, Edna Sheppard, Annabel Ashworth. St Andrew's Village Contact—Barbara McLean. Co-opted Member—Nicolette Willis. Meetings in 2018 will be held on 2nd Thursday each two months. AGM 13 Dec 2018. Notes from the general meeting include:

- Minister's Report—ratification of baptisms, copies of the pastoral letters from the Moderator and President of the UCA available.
- Evangelism Committee - busy with visits and Christmas Appeal.
- Worship & Christian Education - review of services all well received.
- Fellowship Committee—had a great Christmas Lunch with 50 people attending.
- Special Mission Activities—Op shop going well, Youth Vision distribution of funds \$2,000 Rainbow Cottage, \$2,000 PCYC, \$1,000 SU Camps, \$1,000 Secondary Christian Education, \$1,000 Tamworth Training Band.
- Finance & Admin—new system of accounting coming online, vote of thanks to Bryan Palin and Annette Winter for their assistance.
- Elders & Pastoral Partners—have had good meetings recently.
- Property—quotes received for plumbing to Church, work to proceed.
- Office closed from 22 December—16 January.

Water! Water! NO Water!

All water will need to be accessed from the St Andrew's Room for use in the Vestry.



This Week's Events

UnitingCare Target Christmas Appeal

It's getting busy—you can get involved by donating wrapping items of sticky tape and paper or donate a gift or buy a bauble at Target or make a financial donation to the appeal or help out on Sunday, 17 with food hampers, Monday, 18 with gift sorting and wrapping. Distribution will be on Wednesday, 20 December. Thank you for your support during this time.

Christmas Bowl

Envelopes have been distributed today. Prayerfully consider your donation and leave your envelope on the offering place on any Sunday during December and January. There will also be a retiring offering on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the Christmas Bowl.

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). Our last trading day this year will be Friday, 22 December reopening Tuesday, 2 January 2018.

Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 19 December from 8am.

Church Office

Regular hours 9am-2pm Monday to Thursday this week. Closed from Thursday, 21st December—reopening Tuesday, 16 January. *Nicolette*

Op Shop Working Bee

Sorting each Wednesday in the Vestry. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work and then a cuppa! Morning tea in the Office. All helpers welcome.



Christmas Blessings from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth



Merry Christmas from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth. We extend a warm welcome to you to worship with us:

Peel Valley

Friday, 15th 6pm Carol Service & Supper (*Hallsville—Manilla Road*)

Sunday, 17th 11am Peel Valley Congregational Service at *Hallsville (Manilla Road)*
Lunch to follow

Christmas Eve 11am West Tamworth
6:30pm Gowrie Service & Supper

Christmas Day 9am *Hallsville (Manilla Rd)*
(*Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts*)

Tamworth City

Christmas Eve 9am and 7:30pm

Christmas Day 8am

Tamworth Southside

(*440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd, Op. Big Golden Guitar*)

Christmas Eve 9:30am and 11:30pm

Christmas Day 8am

Worship on Sunday, 24 December 2017—Advent 4 (& Christmas Eve)

9am Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. No morning tea today.

5pm Carol Crawl at the St Andrew's Village commencing at McKay House, then on to Alblas Lodge and finally in the Village Community Hall. All are welcome to join in.

7:30pm Christmas Eve Worship with Rev Chris Wright.

Christmas Day Worship, Monday, 25 December

8am Christmas Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Elder: M Hobson, Door: J Crosling, R Barclay, M Partridge, AV: J Carthew, Organ: Ron & Rod.