

Diary Dates

Sun, 3	Advent Week 1 9am Worship Service & Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning Tea. 11:30am Korean Reborn Church service & lunch 3pm Combined Churches Choir practice at St John's 7:30pm Coffee Cake & Carols @ St John's		7pm Friends of Nioka StAR 9am Op Shop Working Bee 10:15am Aged Care Services at St Andrew's Village 2pm Advent Study in St Andrew's Room 6pm New Vogue Dance JH 7:30pm Advent Study in St Andrew's Room
		Wed, 6	4:30pm Church Music Team
		Thu, 7	8:30am Weight W. DH
		Fri, 8	10am Senior Communion at St Andrew's Village 6pm Southside Carols on the Grass
Mon, 4	4-5am Wheely Bean-JH M-F 9:30am-3pm Kairos Outside Sewing Group in Jubilee HI 10am-4pm Op Shop Mon-Fri 10am One Door Mental Health Carer Support DH 1:30pm KYB at 26 Upper St 4pm Weight W in DH 5:30pm New V. Dance in JH		8am Weight Watchers DH 9am-12noon Op Shop 2pm Private Function in JH
		Sat, 9	
Tue, 5	9-2 Church Office Open T-F 10am Pres. Bookkeeper 10am Rainbow Practices JH Tuesday to Friday 5pm Weight Watchers DH		

Sun, 10 **Advent Week 2**
9am Worship Service, Kids & Youth Vision with Rev Chris Wright. Sausage Sizzle & Morning Tea.
11:30am Korean Reborn Church service & lunch

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 10 December 2017

9am	Tamworth City—Rev Chris Wright E: E Sheppard, D: C Sheppard, J Shottek, J Carthew, AV: J Phillips, O: R Richardson.
9:30am	Tamworth Southside—Rob Wood
11am	West Tamworth—Margaret Crowell
5pm	Tamworth Southside—Rob Wood



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

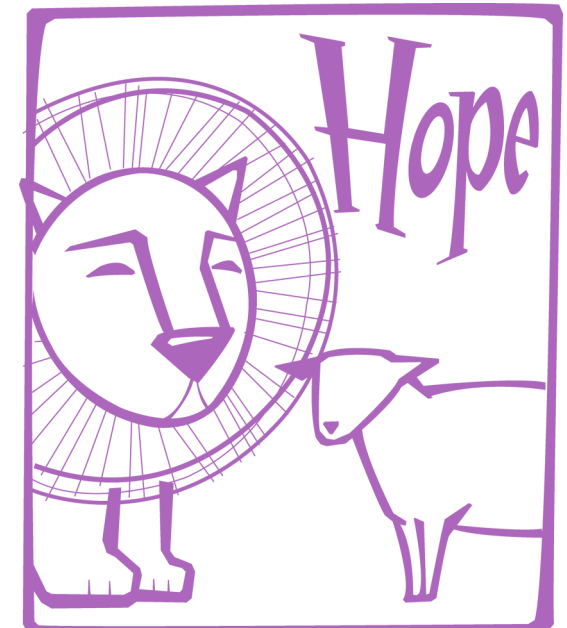
Other Useful Local

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 and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.



Advent Study 2

Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—

³*"a voice of one calling in the wilderness,*

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

⁴*And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.⁷ And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."*

In the passage set for this week 2 of Advent we have God under going some preparation that has been on the drawing board for almost 600 years. The author of Mark's Gospel quotes the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3 who foretold of a messenger who would prepare the way of the Lord, words of comfort for the people of God who were living under the dark storm clouds of being taken out of their promised land into exile in Babylon. These words reveal that God has a plan and that His plans and preparations are coming into play.

As a young fella, I used to suffer terribly from travel sickness. So when our family visited with my mum's family who lived on a citrus orchard at

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.

Carols on the Grass: Friday, 8
December from 6pm.

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.*

Mission Statements: *To build up individuals* and



Reel Valley Congregations

Fri, 1 Dec—6pm Hallsville Friday
Family Church with Meg Mangan.

Sun, 3 Dec—8:30am Gowrie HC
Service & 11am West Tamworth HC
Service with Meg Mangan lunch to
follow.

Tue, 5 Dec—10am Memory Lane
Morning Tea at West Tamworth
Church. Join us for a cuppa, meet
new friends, singalong, activities, &
more. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly.

Sun, 10 Dec—11am West Tamworth
Service with Margaret Crowell.

Fri, 15 Dec—6pm Hallsville Friday

Family Church—Carol Service with
Margaret Crowell.

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

Elders: Margaret Crowell, Ross Davidson,
Bruce Jarrett, Marie Meyer, Barbara



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.

<u>Peel Valley</u>		
Friday, 15 th	6pm Carol Service & Supper	(Hallsville – Manilla Road)
Sunday, 17 th	11am Peel Valley Congregational Service at West Tamworth	(Denison St)
	Lunch to follow	
Christmas Eve	11am West Tamworth	
Christmas Day	9am Hallsville	(Manilla Rd)
<u>Tamworth City</u>		(Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts)
Christmas Eve	9am and 7:30pm	
Christmas Day	8am	
<u>Tamworth Southside</u>		(440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd, Op. Big Golden Guitar)
Friday, 8 th	6pm Carols on the Grass	
Christmas Eve	9:30am and 11:30pm	
Christmas Day	8am	



Lectionary Readings

Sun 3	Psalm 80:8-19*	Fri 8	Matthew 11:12-19
Mon 4	2 Kings 1:2-18	Sat 9	2 Peter 3:8-15a*
Tue 5	Isaiah 40:1-11*	Sun 10	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13*
Wed 6	Luke 1:5-17	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 7	Mark 1:1-8*		

Tuggerah on the Central Coast, it was with considerable trepidation that I got into the car for the 80 mile journey from Sydney to Tuggerah up the old winding Pacific Highway, long before the initial short tollway was constructed and the M1 was still a dream. Oh how I wished the paths had been made straight and the hills and valleys leveled.

I don't think God, the prophet Isaiah or John the Baptist who spoke those words so long ago, was talking about actual highway construction, but about a preparation of mind, heart and emotions to be in tune with a new thing God was about to do. That new thing was God's return to be with His people of Israel.



Mark and Matthew both identify John the Baptist as the voice from Isaiah 40:3. In the Gospel of John, the Baptizer himself says he is that voice (John 1:23).

John the Baptist is the foretold messenger, who just happens to also be Jesus cousin. He has the task of preparing the way for the commencement of Jesus ministry. Making the valleys rise up and the mountains and hills low and the rough ground shall become level and the rugged places a plain (Isa 30:4). John is to remove obstacles in people's lives in preparation for the beginning of Jesus ministry.

Based on this pattern of calling for "leveling and straightening" in areas specific to one's opportunities, resources, and roles, we can assume that if John were addressing us, he'd tailor his directives to the actual circumstances of our lives as well, so that the highway for Christ to come to us is unobstructed. This is not to suggest that we build our own highway to Christ—that is the work of God, but we can often force him to travel some significantly bumpy, potholed, and difficult ways along the road to us.

For example, some of the hills and valleys on our spiritual road can be such things as a lack of generosity; failure to love our neighbours as we love

ourselves; a failure to love ourselves!, behaviours that don't align with God's expectations of His people; blindness to the needs of those around us; silence when our Christian testimony would help others in their spiritual journey; unchecked anger; failure to follow through on promises; sins of omission; halfhearted commitments; belittling remarks to loved ones; and so on. With a little thought, most of us can come up with our own list of places where we need to do some leveling and straightening as we prepare this Advent season. John the Baptist tells us v8, "that he baptizes with water, but the coming one will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." This brings to mind Galatians 5:22-23 that talks of the fruit of the Spirit that we receive as Christ comes into our lives. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."



Some Questions to Ponder

1. What kinds of leveling and straightening do you need to do? What obstacles to your full discipleship need to be addressed prayerfully with God?
2. As you read the list of the fruit of the Spirit, is there a fruit that you desire to be riper in your heart?

What actions might you take to develop that particular spiritual fruit?

3. Do you find it reassuring that God's plans are continuing to be fulfilled?

A Child is Born

Luke 2:7 is part of the Christmas story. Use this code to discover these verses.

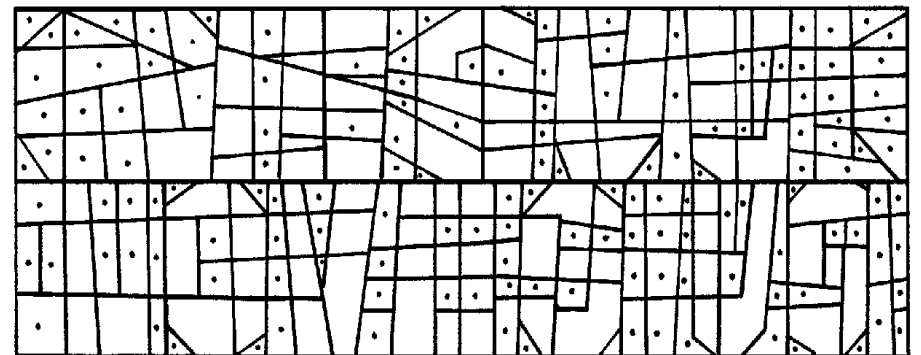
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Answer
 and she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Saviour

We also know Jesus is God's Son and our Saviour. Jesus is called our Saviour because he saved us from being separated from God by our sins. He was even willing to die on the cross for us. Why did he do that? Color in the shapes with a dot in them to find out.



Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

This week we pray for the leaders and activities of the C3 Church, Scripture in Schools, Oxley Vale Anglican Church, the Lutheran Church, Cornerstone Church, Scripture Union, and St John's Anglican Church.

Presbytery Prayer Points

Pray for the various outreach programs in this Advent Season. Connecting with our local communities and sharing God's love and abundant grace.

Scripture in Schools

Keep in your prayers the Tamworth Secondary Christian Education Teachers from around our High Schools (Andrew Wilcher & Ross Fotheringham—Farrer volunteers, Belinda Gonsalves—Oxley 3 days, Alison Holder—Peel/Manilla 2 days, and Dave Tankard—Tamworth 2 days).

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

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.

Kairos Outside Sewing Group

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

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.

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,

4. Have you had times when you were especially aware that Christ had come to you? If so, what did you take away from those experiences?
5. If you've not had that awareness, does that mean that Christ has not been present with you? Why or why not?
6. How does Christ help in your relationship with God?
7. When you pray, what do you hope will happen?
8. What steps will you take to make Advent more than simply a get-ready-for-Christmas period?

Prayer

Examine me, God! Look at my heart!

Put me to the test! Know my anxious thoughts!

***Look to see if there is any idolatrous way in me,
then lead me on the eternal path!***

(Psalm 139:23-24)



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 3 December 2017—Advent 1

Worship service and Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright. Christmas Bowl Envelopes OUT NOW. Sunday School. Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Christmas Visits

The Evangelism group would like to that all those who have volunteered to make some Christmas visits. Don't forget to see Edna and Fran this morning to pick up a small gift to share as you visit.

Korean Reborn Church

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

Combined Churches Choir

In preparation for the Carols in the Park there will be a Combined Churches Choir practice on Sundays 3 & 10 December 3-4pm at St John's. All welcome.

20th Coffee Cake & Carols

The Tamworth Choral Society would like to invite you to their annual Coffee Cake and Carols at 7:30pm on Sunday, 3 December in the St John's Church.

Mission Envelopes

Mission Envelopes focus for October and November 2017. Supporting another Joy Balazo project at the Peace Village in the Philippines. The church council have underwritten to pay \$1,000 to buy 100 Poultry Layers. Thank you for your donations, we raised over \$700.

Occasional Choir

We are getting together an Occasional Choir to sing some Australian Christmas Carols on Sunday, 17 December, Advent 3. Everyone's welcome to join in (men and women). Practices will be on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm in the Church.

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.

Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

See earlier plea for assistance. Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 19 December from 8am.

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

9am Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

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.

Diary Dates

- 2018—21 January Hallsville's annual Country Gospel Breakfast.
- 2018—2/3 February annual NENW Presbytery Preaching with Paul: the Corinthian Correspondence. Flyers now available. Register at the office.

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Pastoral the Uniting Church in Australia, ordained ministry, Councils of the Church, those who deliver and receive home communion today. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone in your prayers this week.

Rural Home Nursing

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 14 December from 12noon.

Craft Group

The Craft Group is held on the first and third Friday each month. Bring along your craft and we'll share in some chit chat, morning tea, and get a bit of craft done too. Contact Lorraine Turner 6766 6891. Next on 15 December.

School Term 4 Ends

Friday, 15 December.

Hallsville Carol Service

Join the fun and sing-a-long at the Hallsville Carol Service on Friday, 15 December from 6pm. All are welcome.

Private Function

Family gathering in Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 16 December from 2pm.

Bendemeer 150th Anniversary/Christmas Celebration

Note change of date for the Bendemeer 150th Anniversary Celebrations, NOW FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER from 6pm in Bendemeer. Everyone's welcome to join in the celebrations on this special occasion.

Carols in the Park

Join the local community for Carols in the Park on Saturday, 16 December at 6pm in Bicentennial Park, Tamworth.

Worship on Sunday, 17 December 2017—Advent 3

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright, occasional choir. Morning Tea 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.

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

Water! Water! NO Water!

We have capped the old rusted water line to the Church for the time being. All water will need to be accessed from the St Andrew's Room.

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.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

We regularly participate in the Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster every 4 weeks. It's an early start at 8am but a most enjoyable morning (we might even have coffee when we're done). Looking for volunteers to assist on a roster each month. If you can spare a few hours every other month, please contact Jim & Lorraine Furze 6761 7371.

This Week's Events

One Door Mental Health Carer Support

Meeting in the Dunn Hall on Monday, 4 December from 10am.

KYB Study Groups

One group meets at 1:30pm at 26 Upper Street (Lorraine Turner 6766 6891). The 10am group will be joining the Advent Studies on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm (no more Mondays) next 6 December.



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).

Church Office

Regular hours 9am-2pm Tuesdays to Fridays. *Nicolette*

Rainbow Cottage Practices & Concert

Rainbow Cottage will have some practices for their end of year concert in the Jubilee Hall each day 10am-12noon Tuesday 5th to Friday, 8th. Their concert will be on Tuesday, 12 December from 5pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room from 7pm on Tuesday, 5 December.

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.

Aged Care Services

Rev Chris Wright will be leading our monthly Aged Care Services on Wednesday, 6 December from 10:15am at McKay & Alblas. All helpers and singers most welcome.

Advent Studies

Rev Chris Wright will be leading the next Advent Study on Wednesday, 6 December. Two sessions—one at 2pm and one at 7:30pm. The studies will also be available in the notice sheet each week. Come and join a group to share your study with others.

Senior's Communion Service

Our monthly Senior's Communion Service will be held on Friday, 8 December from 10am in the St Andrew's Village Community Hall led by Rev Chris Wright. Contact Barbara McLean on transport 6766 4039.

Southside Carols on the Grass

Join the Tamworth Southside Congregation as they sing carols and enjoy a BYO picnic tea on the grass outside the Church on Friday, 8 December from 6pm. Everyone's welcome to join in.

Private Function

Family gathering in Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 9 December from 3pm.

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 10 December 2017—Advent 2

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright, Children and Youth Vision supported Projects. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Carols in the Corridors

Annual Carolling in the Tamworth Base Hospital. Meet at the Chapel at 5:30pm and join a light supper after.

Rainbow Cottage End of Year Concert

Jubilee Hall on Tuesday, 12 December from 5pm. A wonderful connection with our local Child Care Facility and Community.

Church Council Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday, 12 December from 7:30pm. AGM will be followed by a cool drink/nibbles then our usual meeting. Thanks everyone.

Compassionate Friends

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room from 10am on Wednesday, 13 December.

Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service

You are invited to attend the Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 13 December from 6pm in our church. The service will be led by Rev Jim Furze. A light supper will follow.

