

Diary Dates

**Sun, 17 9am Tamworth City
Worship Service with Rev
Henry Swindon. Morning
tea.**

11am West Tamworth with
Rev Henry Swindon

11:30am Korean Reborn

**Mon, 18 Rev Chris Wright on leave 16
Feb-4 March.**

9:30am Kairos Sewing JH

10am-4pm Op Shop M-F

10am UNITING in StAR

5:30pm New Vogue in JHall

Tue, 19 9am-2pm Church Office T-F

9am AIR in St Andrew's Rm

9:30am LLine Dancers JH

10am-1pm Pres Bkeep

2pm Senior's Getting

Together in Village Hall

Wed, 20 9am Op Shop Sorting

10am Compassionate

Friends in St Andrew's Rm

6pm New Vogue in JHall

6pm Meditation in Chapel

Thu, 21 8:30am Prayer in Wesley Rm

9:30am Stepping Stones in
Dunn Hall

9:30am Yoga in St AR

4pm Family Worker Meeting

4:30pm Worship Music

5pm Aikido Karate in JHall

Fri, 22 8:30am Social Craft DunnH

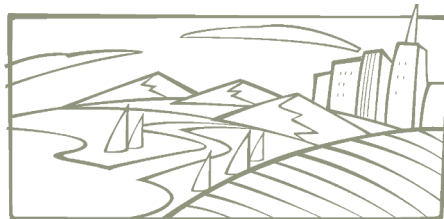
5pm PRC in Glen Innes

Sat, 23 9am-12noon Op Shop

9am Presbytery—Glen Innes

**Sun, 24 9am Tamworth City
Worship Service with Mr
Peter Battle. Sunday School.
Morning tea.**

11:30am Korean Reborn



The goodness of the Lord in
the land of the living.

Ps 27:13

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 24 February Epiphany Wk 7

8:30am Hallsville Markets

Gowrie with Meg Mangan

9am Tamworth City with Peter Battle, E: L Johnston, D: B Johnston, W

Purss, PP: J McClelland, O: R Greer.

9:30am Tamworth Southside Service

11am West Tamworth Service with Meg Mangan

5pm Tamworth Southside Dinner Church



17February 2019

Contact Details:

- **Minister:** Rev Chris Wright Ph 0427 633 657 Email chris@thewrights.com.au RDO Tuesday
- **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@gmail.com
- **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 "Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 1

Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

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

And all in the crowd were trying to touch him.

Luke 6:19



Seasons of the Spirit

Being Blessed

Focus Scripture

Luke 6:17–26; Additional scriptures Jeremiah 17:5–10; Psalm 1 and 1 Corinthians 15:12–20.

Prayer

Triune God, you are our giver, our gift, and our power to give. Be with us now as we unwrap the wonder of your word, and seek to be a blessing to the world. Amen.

While we all like to receive gifts, we sometimes respond uncomfortably to the idea of being blessed. Blessed can take on mixed connotations. To be blessed is to be given a gift unexpectedly and without strings. Under such freedom granted, it's easy to see how some people might mistake being blessed for being entitled, enabling the receiver to assume a higher status. Conversely, we can see blessings as burdens, requiring something of the receiver. The passages for today show us the unique status that being blessed is for human beings. A blessing can change the core of who we are.

Biblical Background

Luke 6:17–26 repeatedly intones “Blessed are you who.” What does it mean to be blessed? Is it necessarily a good thing? The film *Steel Magnolias* gives a lens into just how fraught it is to receive a “blessing” from someone. When Clairee Belcher and Ouiser Boudreaux dissect the flaws and misfortunes of each of Shelby’s wedding guests, then wipe away their bitterness with: “Bless her heart,” the gig is up for people who use this phrase as a smokescreen to discuss the most unfortunate events or salacious gossip. The Urban Dictionary defines “bless your heart” as “the most Southern insult there is” It is used at the end of a phrase to “nullify any cruelty.” Even a phrase like “count your blessings” can be levelled unkindly and dismissively. It functions in the same way the more contemporary “first world problems” does in an attempt to trivialize the painful reality of a person in the face of another. The laundry list of blessed-ness in Luke’s beatitudes holds within it a similar ambivalence. Blessed are the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated and excluded, says Jesus in Luke. This is not exactly a typical idea of having privilege over others. We often create a distance between us and people we deem as blessed or gifted, putting them in separate social circles or school classes. This creates a barrier for sharing gifts with each other. It creates disconnection whether we mean it to or not. Other translations are offered for the Greek term, *makarios*, which Luke uses. The Greek prefix

“Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit” 2

Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am & 5pm (Dinner Church) Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday.

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

Tuesday Lunch: 12-1pm Tuesdays.

Prayer Team: 3:30pm Tuesdays.

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

Men’s Choir: 5:30pm on Thursdays.

Moore Creek Pot Luck Dinner & Discussion: 6:30-9pm 1st Wed.

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

www.tamworthsouthside.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 and our community.*



Peel Valley Congregations

Fri, 15 Feb—Hallsville Friday Family Church from 6pm with Meg Mangan

Sun, 17 Feb—11am West Tamworth HC Service with Rev Henry Swindon. Trading Table.

Tue, 19 Feb—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth.

Sun, 24 Feb—8:30am Hallsville Markets. 8:30am Gowrie Service and 11am West Tamworth Services with Meg Mangan. Church Council meeting after worship at West.

Fri, 1 Mar—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church.

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”

Pastrl Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005



Word Scramble

Unscramble the names of the animals and write them on the lines below the words.

H R E S O

I N C C K H E

O C W

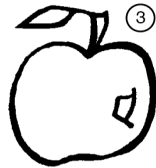
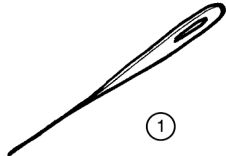
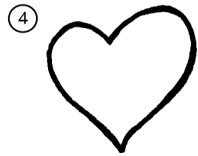
W O S

A O T G

E E S H P

Answer:
HORSE, CHICKEN, SHEEP

Decode the Message



Who was the man whom God asked to build an ark for the animals? To find out, write the first letter of each picture above in the correct space below.

①	②	③	④
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Answer:
NOAH

Lectionary Readings

Sun 17	Psalm 1*	Thu 21	1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Mon 18	Genesis 45:3-11, 15*	Fri 22	Luke 6:27-38*
Tue 19	Isaiah 55:10-13	Sat 23	Luke 6:39-49
Wed 20	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50*	Sun 24	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40*

* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings

“mak” means “to become long, larger.” Perhaps, God extends God’s benefits by extending us – making our hearts and circles of care larger than they once were. Connected to others or reconciled to one another, extends us beyond who we are. Imagine the wise proclamation as “Reconciled are we” or “Connected are we.” Could this be what it means to be blessed and to live into the future? The crowd gather around Jesus and reach out to him. To touch him was to be healed. “And he healed all of them,” says verse 19. In a crowd, they were healed together. This is what it means to be blessed and connected. After he heals the crowd, Jesus names all those who are blessed. Blessings do not set them above others or set them apart, or at odds with the rest. The blessing is to be reconciled, to enter a divine reign, to be filled, to laugh and express joy not as individuals but as a collective.

Psalm 1 offers two types of people in this life: the happy and the wicked. The happy have strong roots near an endless source of refreshment, but the wicked are unmoored and at the mercy of the wind.

Similarly, **Jeremiah 17:5–10** plays with the oppositional states of being cursed and blessed. To be cursed is to be cut off from God, from creation, from others, from time. It is to get caught up in the transience of this world and to let the frenetic pace of our modern lives, with all its desires, distractions and disasters, dictate our view of the future. To be blessed is to look for the long view, to feel oneself planted in an eternal stream of past, present, future, and infinity, and to trust that no mortal alone is in charge of our outcome. Verses 9–10 locate the heart as the receiver of our blessings or curses. Our hearts are influenced by what we do. Therefore, how blessed or cursed we feel can be a result not of what we receive in life but what we give from it.

Paul explains the radical blessing of Christ’s self-giving love in his death and resurrection to the church in Corinth, which wonders how to make theological sense of the narrative of Christ’s life. **1 Corinthians 15:12–20** reminds us that the blessing of Christ’s resurrection is that it is not just for Christ but for all of us. Christ transforms our present reality by taking away the power of death, so that we may not live in fear of death any longer, and so we may eschew the harm we do to ourselves and to others in attempts to avoid what we fear the most.

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Blessed are we who...There are many ways to consider ourselves blessed. But being blessed doesn’t stop at receiving a blessing. The blessing goes beyond the gift. Accepting Christ’s blessing is as much about giving as receiving. It changes the core of who we are. Christ is alive in us. Christ’s love and teachings are written in our hearts. The good news of the Sermon on the Plain is that our faith is not merely a call to ethics, it is a call to relationship with our communities, with our culture, and with the God who is ever-faithful to us as God’s beloved children.

Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 17 February

Epiphany Wk6 Worship service with Rev Henry Swindon at 9am. Mission Envelope Sunday. Morning Tea.

Rev Henry Swindon will take the service at West Tamworth at 11am.

Korean Reborn Church

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

Rev Chris Wright Leave

Rev Chris will be taking leave from 16 February until 4 March. We pray for him a restful time. Thank you to Rev Henry Swindon, who will cover pastoral and worship on 17 February. Also to our lay preachers, Peter Battle and Barry Gillett, helping with other services.

Church Council Notes

Our Church Council meeting was held during the week:

- Unfilled positions, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer to remain unfilled. Les Rae to fill in for Edna if she is unavailable and Gai Newby to complete data entry under Paul's supervision.
- Use of Church Premises for same gender marriage debated. Congregational meeting called for 17 March 10am.
- Response to Christmas Bowl excellent over \$2,500.
- Drought assistance—working with local communities with gift cards to spend in local areas, planning morning tea to help support people.
- Rainbow Cottage MOU documentations approved by Pres & Synod.
- Extension of sacraments for Peter Battle and Barry Gillett approved.
- Evangelism—50 visits/gifts at Christmas; 150 hampers and gifts at Christmas; working towards Easter outreach.
- Worship—new celebrations Pancake Day 4th March 10am and Ash Wednesday 5th March 8am. Studies x4 commencing 13 March.
- Fellowship—Christmas lunch well attended, over 50 people; term end

Senior's Communion

Monthly Senior Communion will be held in the St Andrew's Village community hall on Friday, 8 March from 10am with Rev Mark Armstrong. Contact Barb McLean for transport 6766 4039.

Worship on Sunday, 10 March

Lent Wk 1, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: J Archbold, A Ashworth, R Hely, M Hobson, P Battle, D: R Barclay, M Honeyman, J Carthew, PP M Miles, O: R Greer. Sunday School. Food Hamper Sunday. Morning Tea.

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, 15 February.

Diary Dates to Note

- 12th 8am Meals on Wheels
- 13th 10am Compassionate Friends; 2pm & 7pm Lenten Studies; 4:30pm Elder's Fellowship
- 15th 10am Craft Group; 6:30pm Christian Men's Dinner at Gregories
- 17th 10am Congregational Meeting

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

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

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of the Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain in your prayers this week.



Craft Group

Note: NO craft, lunch & DVD on Friday, 1 March. We will be attending the World Day of Prayer gathering.

World Day of Prayer

Annual World Day of Prayer gathering at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (Cnr Kent & Diane Sts) on Friday, 1 March from 10am. Everyone is welcome. This year's focus is the south central European country of Slovenia.

Worship on Sunday, 3 March

Transfiguration Sunday, Worship service and Holy Communion with Mr Barry Gillett at 9am. Elder: J Archbold, A Ashworth, R Hely, M Hobson, P Battle, D: R Barclay, M Honeyman, J Carthew, PP M Miles, O: R Greer. Sunday School. Food Hamper Sunday. Morning Tea.

One Door Mental Health Support Group

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

Adult Fellowship

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 5 March from 9:30am. An open day for all to come and celebrate Shrove Tuesday. All are invited to share in some delicious pancakes. More details below.

Shrove Tuesday Morning Tea

You are invited to share in the Shrove Tuesday morning tea on Tuesday, 5 March from 10am in the St Andrew's Room. The Adult Fellowship will host us for the morning. A gold coin donation to go towards Lent Event.

Friends of Nioka

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

Ash Wednesday Worship

Please join us in the Chapel for our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, 6 March from 8am. We will join in some time of prayer and reflection.

Fete Committee Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 7 March from 4pm. All stall holders and committee members are encouraged to attend.

barbecues planned.

- Finance & Admin—currently in deficit.
- Elders & Pastoral Partners—meeting coming up; ongoing checking of rolls.
- Property—plumbing, paving, fence now complete; Jubilee Hall air conditioning to proceed in two stages over two years; general upgrade and cleaning in Dunn Hall.
- Presbytery—meeting on 23rd; induction of Rev Paul Cosier at Narrabri on 2 March 2pm.
- St Andrew's Village—new facility planning in development stage.
- Family & Children's Ministry—new venue working very well, new families at both Tamworth City and Tamworth Southside.
- Fete—meeting 7 March; look at how we might support our event with child/family friendly activities.

Farmer Care Packages

We continue to work with 'Doing it for our Farmers' and Rural Aid to bring support and assistance to farmers in need. Currently we are supporting women on the land with water, food and a cuppa.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev Allen Taylor who died this week. I believe that he was a Probationer Minister in the Tamworth Methodist Circuit early in his ministry and has worked for many years in PNG.

This Week's Events

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. Recommencing Monday, 4 February.



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).

UNITING Support Group

UNITING Support Group meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm from Home & Community Care. Next Monday, 4 February.

New Vogue Dance Group

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall from 5:30pm– 8pm Mondays and 6pm-9:30pm on Wednesdays. Recommencing 4 February.

Church Office

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday. All hall bookings to be made via the office please. *Nicolette*.

Association of Independent Retirees

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 19 February from 9am.

Line Dancing

The Locomotive Line Dancers hiring the Jubilee Hall from 9:30am-12:30pm on Tuesdays for Line Dancing and Occasional Social Dances on a Sunday afternoon. Using the hall on the next couple of Saturdays for extra classes.

Senior's Getting Together Fellowship

Our first get-together for 2019 will be on Tuesday, 19 February from 2pm in the Community Hall at St Andrew's Village. Contact Marie McClelland 6765 7220.

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.

Meditation Service

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh will recommence on Wednesday, 6 February from 6pm.



Early Risers Prayer Group

Weekly prayer group meeting in the Wesley Room (Rev Chris' office) each Thursday morning from 8:30am. Recommencing 7 February.

Stepping Stones Play Group

Stepping Stones is not just a play group where the kids can come and play. It's a chance for you to connect with others who are experiencing the same ups and downs as you, to be supported, encouraged and cared for. Join us at Tamworth City Uniting Church from 10am-12noon on Thursdays in the Dunn Hall. Or at Tamworth Southside on Tuesdays 10am-12noon.

Yoga Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday mornings from 10am.

Young Families Worker

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday 21st February from 4pm.

Aidido Karate

We have a new Jubilee Hall hirer on Thursday evenings from 5-9pm.

Social Craft Group

The ladies who used to meet for weight watchers are now using the Dunn Hall on a Friday morning from 8:30-11am for a social craft group each week.

NENW Presbytery Meeting

Glen Innes Uniting Church will host the NENW Presbytery meeting on Saturday, 23 February. PRC will meet on the Friday evening.

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 24 February

Epiphany Wk7 Worship service with Mr Peter Battle at 9am. Elder: L Johnston, D: B Johnston, W Purss, PP J McClelland, O: R Greer. Note NO Sunday School. Morning Tea.

Rainbow Cottage Management Committee

Meeting on Wednesday, 27th February from 5pm at Rainbow Cottage.