### Diary Dates

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

11:30am Korean Reborn

Mon, 25 Rev Chris Wright on leave until 4 March.
9:30am Kairos Sewing JH
10am-4pm Op Shop M-F
10am UNITING in StAR
5:30pm New Vogue in JHall

Tue, 26 9am-2pm Church Office T-F 9:30am LLine Dancers JH 10am-1pm Pres Bkeep

Wed, 27 9am Op Shop Sorting
5pm Rainbow Cottage
Management Committee
6pm New Vogue in JHall
6pm Meditation in Chapel

Thu, 28 8:30am Prayer in Wesley Rm 9:30am Stepping Stones in Dunn Hall 9:30am Yoga in St AR 4:30pm Occasional Choir 4:30pm Worship Music 5pm Aikido Karate in JHall 10am World Day of Prayer at the Seventh Day Adventist Church

Fri, 1 8:30am Social Craft DunnH 5pm PRC in Glen Innes

Sat, 2 9am-12noon Op Shop 10am Line Dancing xtra JH

Sun, 3 9am Tamworth City
Worship Service and Holy
Communion with Mr Barry
Gillett. Sunday School. Food
Hamper Sunday.
Transfiguration Sunday.
Morning tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn
3pm Emmaus Reunion
Group in St Andrew's Room



# Preaching Plan

#### Sunday, 3 March—Transfiguration Sunday

9am Tamworth City with Barry Gillett, E: J Archbold, A Ashworth, R Hely, M Hobson, P Battle, D: R Barclay, M Honeyman, J Carthew, PP: M Miles. O: R Greer.

9:30am Tamworth Southside Service

11am West Tamworth Service Patrick Johnston. Lunch to follow

5pm Tamworth Southside Service





#### **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 tsucoffice @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

# Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today. Mr Peter Battle will be leading our service. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.



### Seasons of the Spirit

### Be Holy

Focus Scripture

Luke 6:27–38. Additional scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50, Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40, Genesis 45:3–11, 15.

Prayer

Merciful one, Holy God, inspire us to deepen our vulnerability so that we may be more merciful and holy in your image. Amen.

There is upwards of 800,000 words in our Protestant version of the Bible, and over 31,000 verses. It is a massive volume split into 66 books, with at least 40 different original human scribes. Is this book a guidebook to perfection? Does it have the rules to live by that will protect us from experiencing or inflicting pain? Are the people who read it more perfect than they were before they knew what was in it? What about the church – does this book have some magic formula that makes a community of people nicer to one another and more enlightened? Today's passages contain many instructions, given by various people to others who seek guidance. But we miss the point if we read their words as a simple formula for living rather than a vision for who God is in our midst.

Reflection

Luke 6:27–38 People get different things from the Bible. Part of this is because of the diversity in the Bible itself; part of this is influenced by what people are looking for when they approach it. Perhaps the reader wants to know about the history of God's people. Perhaps, the reader wants hope in a time of personal trial. The Bible gives a variety of narratives, advice, comfort, and challenge. Many of the passages are not new ideas but responses to the wisdom and events of the time in which they are written. This makes the Bible an interesting read when we look to its words for insight into our times.

How do we know that people read, related to, and used scripture differently? It's in the stories themselves.

What do we get throughout the Bible? Everywhere, we see God-fearing people quoting scripture and relating it to the context of their own lives. Jesus was a master of Hebrew Scripture and of contemporary wisdom. In Luke 6:27–38, Jesus relates to the wisdom of the day and interprets God's commandments for his time. Jesus teaches disciples that it's not enough to

### Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am & 5pm (Dinner Church 2nd) Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday.

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

**Stepping Stones:** 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tuesdays.

**Tuesday Lunch:** 12-1pm Tuesdays during school terms.

Prayer Team: 9:30am Thursdays.

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

Men's Choir: 5:30pm on alternate

Thursdays.

Bible Study: 2-3:30pm Thursdays.

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,



### Peel Valley Congregations

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 with Patrick Johnston.

**Sun, 3 Mar**—11am West Tamworth Service with Patrick Johnston. Lunch after worship.

**Tue, 5 Mar**—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth.

**Sun, 10 Mar**—8:30am Gowrie Service and 11am West Tamworth HC Service

### 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

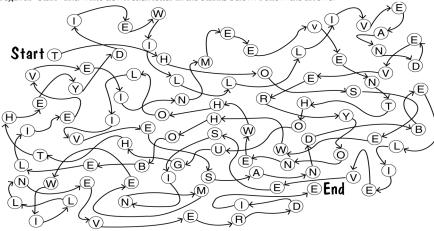


John Crossword			1						
John 10:9 "I am the 4"		2							
John 10:11 "I am the 1		3							_
·"									
John 11:25 "I am the						4			
and the 6 ."					5				
				6					
John 14:6 "I am the 5 and the 2 and the 6"	7								
John 15:1 "I am the <sup>7</sup> "									
John 15.1 Tant the									

#### John 11:25b, 26a

Begin at "Start" and write down each letter in the blanks below. Follow the arrows.

Fill in the crossword with the words from the above blanks.



nawer: Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

# Lectionary Readings

Sun	24	Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40*	Fri	1	Luke 9:28-36*				
Mon	25	Exodus 34:29-35*	Sat	2	Luke 9:37-43				
Tue	26	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Sun	3	Psalm 99*				
Wed	27	John 12:27-41	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings						

Thu 28 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2\*

love what is easy to love. We must love as God loves – as a gift freely given, regardless of the worthiness or response. Jesus continually pushes his followers to greater and greater depths of compassion and to higher and higher visions of love and inclusion.

Jesus understood scripture developmentally. He pushes us to move to the next stage of spiritual maturity. To hear stories and instructions with new ears, to meet characters with empathetic eyes. "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" is a call to delve into our own vulnerability to see our mutual need for forgiveness, healing, and restoration.

The line echoes earlier scriptural lessons to be holy because God is holy. That is a lofty vision. The imperatives of this Sermon on the Plain set high standards, but Jesus is not asking us to be perfect on our own. Our holiness cannot be achieved alone but only through a merciful relationship with one another. Holiness, as God has created as our birthright, is wholeness. We cannot do it apart from divine love.

"Come closer to me," Joseph says to the brothers who betrayed him but now seek his help in **Genesis 45:3–11, 15.** Mercy is not something given from afar. It is an act that requires coming to terms with our own vulnerability as well as our power as we draw back into intimate relationship with others. Joseph kissed and wept over his brothers as he offered mercy to reset their relationship. And then with Joseph as one of them again, they all talked as brothers. Sometimes the path to holiness, the way to offer mercy, is not by what we do but by what we do not do.

**Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40** reminds us to contain our reactivity. "Do not fret" over the actions of others, and refrain from anger when it is unproductive and not directed towards the reconciliation of those who shall live long and peacefully in the land.

**1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50.** God has planted a seed in all of us. We have yet to know the full beauty and perfection of the body into which this seed will grow.

"Be holy, be perfect" is only attainable for the whole of God's creation. In our vulnerability, we find holiness together. As we strive to grow into the people God imagines us to be, as we follow the commandments and the way of Jesus, let us remember that what we will become is more beautiful than what we can imagine because it is God who has created us.



### Today's Information

#### Worship on Sunday, 24 February

Epiphany Wk7 Worship service with Mr Peter Battle at 9am. Sunday School. Morning Tea.

#### **Korean Reborn Church**

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

#### **Rev Chris Wright Leave**

Rev Chris is on leave until 4 March. We pray for him a restful time. Thank you to Rev Henry Swindon, who will cover pastoral needs. Also to our lay preachers, Peter Battle and Barry Gillett, helping with services.

#### **Church Council Notes**

Our Church Council meeting was held last 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 barbecues planned.
- Finance & Admin—currently in deficit.
- Elders & Pastoral Partners—meeting coming up; ongoing checking of rolls.

#### **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.

#### **Tamworth Christian Men's Dinner**

Men are encouraged to attend the Men's Dinner at Gregory's on Goonoo Goonoo from 6:30pm on Friday, 15 March. Bill Jansen, a forensic accountant and company directory from Sydney will be our speaker with experience in both the Christian and corporate worlds. RSVP to <a href="mailto:tonyricho63ad@gmail.com">tonyricho63ad@gmail.com</a>

#### **Private Function**

Using the Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 16 March from 10am.

#### Worship on Sunday, 17 March

Lent Wk 2, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: P Battle, D: R & P Pryor, J Crosling, PP J Carthew, O: R Cathcart. Occasional Choir. Sunday School. Mission Envelopes. Morning Tea. Congregational Meeting to follow worship today.

11am West Tamworth—Rev Chris Wright.

#### **Diary Dates to Note**

- 19th 2pm Senior's Getting Together
- 20th 10am Bereavement Support Group; 7:30pm Pastoral Partners

# 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 the France and Germany in your prayers this week.



#### **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.

#### **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 and Baptism with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Lent Event. Elder: N Dezius, D: E Gevert, J Dezius, S Perkins, PP J Phillips, O: R Richardson. Sunday School. Morning Tea.

#### Meals on Wheels

Our next kitchen rostered day will be Tuesday, 12 March from 8am.

#### **Compassionate Friends**

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

#### **Lenten Studies**

Rev Chris Wright will be hosting our Lenten Studies commencing on Wednesday 13 March at 2pm and 7pm in the St Andrew's Room for four weeks. The studies will be in the notice sheets so everyone can join in.

#### **Elders Fellowship**

Our first gathering for 2019 will be on Wednesday, 13 March from 4:30pm in the St Andrew's Room.

#### **Nursing Home Service**

Rev Chris will be leading the Nursing Home Service at Cottage Homes on Thursday, 14 March from 9:30am. Helpers and Singers welcome.

#### **UCAF Meeting**

Presbytery UCAF meeting in Dunn Hall or Wesley Room from 11am.

- 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.

### 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.

#### **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.

#### **New Vogue Dance Group**

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

#### **Church Office**

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday. All hall bookings to be made via the office please Nicolette of Spirit" 5

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Rainbow Cottage Management Committee**

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

#### **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.

#### **Occasional Choir**

We will be presenting an item on Sunday, 17 March. Please come along to our practices on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm in the Church on 28 Feb, 7 Mar & 14 Mar. Everyone's welcome.

#### Yoga Group

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

#### **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.

#### **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.

# Next Week & Beyond

#### 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.

#### **Emmaus Reunion Group**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Sunday, 3 March from 3pm.

#### 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.