

Diary Dates

Sun, 1	9am Tamworth City Worship and Holy Communion with Rev Betty Stroud. Lent Wk1. Sunday School. Food hamper Sunday. 10am Stories that Give Life & Morning Tea in Jubilee Hall. 11am Korean Reborn Church		6pm New Vogue Dance JH 7pm City-wide Prayer meeting in St Andrew's Rm
Mon, 2	9:30am KAIROS sewing JH 10am-4pm Op Shop M-F 10am-2pm Uniting StAR	Thu, 5	10am Stepping Stones DH 9:30am Yoga at StAR 2pm Lenten Study in Wesley Room 4:30pm Church Music
Tue, 3	9am-2pm Church Office T-F 9:30am Line dancing JH 10am Pres Bookkeeping 7pm Lenten Studies in Wesley Room 7pm Friends of Nioka in St Andrew's Room	Fri, 6	10am ACW World Day of Prayer at Baptist Church 10am Craft Group in St AR 12noon Lunch & Chatter at Tamwell.
Wed, 4	9am Op Shop Working Bee 10am Flourish Waterless Car Wash Opening 6pm Meditation in Chapel	Sat, 7	9am-12noon Op Shop
		Sun, 8	9am Tamworth City Worship with Rev Betty Stroud. Lent Wk2. Sunday School. 10am Morning Tea in St Andrew's Room. 11am Korean Reborn Church

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 8 March—Lent Wk2

8:30am	Gowrie Service
9am	Tamworth City Service with Rev Betty Stroud— Elder: R Duns; Door: M Duns, J Carthew, S Perkins; PP: J Phillips; Organ: R Richardson.
9:30am	Tamworth Southside service
11am	Hallsville Baptism Service (No Service at West)



Contact Details:

- **IIM Minister:** Rev Betty Stroud 0419 687 181
dottydog@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 tsuoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Preachers:** David Bissett 0400 186 723; Rob Wood 0447 425 411; John Nash 0428 333 358
- **Young Family Worker:** Jillian Cumberland 0402 341 684 Email: jillian.steppingstones.uca@hotmail.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

1 March 2020

First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to Tamworth
City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us at Tamworth City today. Rev Betty Stroud will be leading our service and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please stay for our Stories that Give Life and morning tea after worship in the Jubilee Hall.





LENT EVENT BIBLE STUDIES 2020

Jesus the Other – Embracing Difference

This year's Lent Event is set in the Indonesian province of Ambon, a place of beauty and hope despite significant poverty and a legacy of violence and misunderstanding. In some ways, Ambon is a microcosm of the problems we see worldwide – and a community that demonstrates what we can achieve when we dream and work for a world reconciled.

Christians and Muslims are working together here to build lives of dignity, finding solutions to poverty and seeing each other first as brothers and sisters, despite their differences.

The Bible studies this year are written by Rev Michael Earl, the Minister of Bowral/Kangaloon Uniting Church. They reflect on the theme of 'Jesus the other' – what happens when we are confronted by those who are different; the face of Christ in unexpected people and places; the transforming possibilities of grace.

Together as we build peace and beat poverty, *The Lent Event Team*.

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 2



Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday.

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

Stepping Stones: 10am-12noon in Acacia Room on Tuesdays, school terms.

Motor Bike Ride: 9am 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Men's Choir: 5:30pm on alternate Wednesdays.

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

Prayer Team: 3:30pm Thursdays.

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

Website: 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 and teams, empowered by the Holy Spirit, using our spiritual gifts to serve each other & our community.*



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

Email: 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.

Fri, 28 Feb—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church

Sun, 1 Mar—11am West Tamworth Service. Lunch to follow.

Tue, 3 Mar—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth

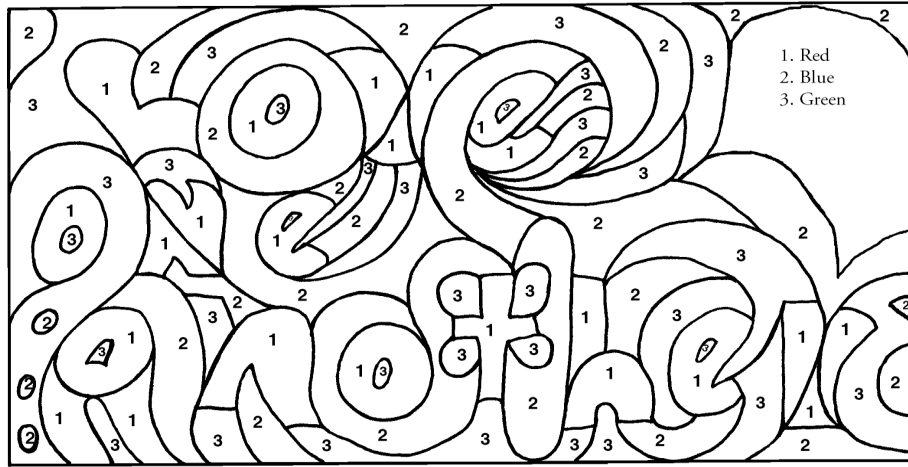
Sun, 8 Mar—8:30am Gowrie Service, 11am Hallsville Baptism Service.

(NOTE no service at West.)

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 15

The 10 Commandments

Color the numbered spaces to reveal one of Jesus' commandments (John 15:17).



Answer: Love one another.

Mystery Message

Paul's letters give lots of good advice. Unscramble each word to understand his message. (Read 2 Corinthians 13:11 if you need a hint.)

“
 _____ ,
 r a e g e h t i w n e o n t e r h o a
 _____ ;
 l e v i n i e c e a p n a d

 h e t o g d f o v l e o

 d n a a p c e e i l l w
 _____ .”
 e b i h t w o u y



Answer: "Agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Lectionary Readings

Sun 1	Psalm 32*	Fri 6	John 3:1-17*
Mon 2	Genesis 12:1-4a*	Sat 7	Psalm 120
Tue 3	Genesis 12:4b-20	Sun 8	Psalm 121*
Wed 4	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 5	Romans 4:18-25		



About UnitingWorld

UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. We work for a world where lives are whole and hopeful, free from poverty and injustice.

We connect people and communities in Australia, the Pacific, Asia and Africa to be effective global partners who are passionate about God's mission in the world and their role in it.

Lent Event

For more than a decade, Lent Event has invited the Australian Church into a deeper understanding of where God is working in the world to overcome poverty and injustice.

Our theological reflections, videos, worship resources and prayers provide a catalyst for people to connect with the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, to listen to their voices and learn from their experiences.

Our prayer is that along the way you'll be challenged and inspired to live simply and act to end poverty.

Study Resources

All of the resources for this Bible Study are available online at: www.lentevent.com and videos at: www.lentevent.com/be-inspired



Lent Event Study Wk 1

IN HIS OWN STRANGE WAY? JESUS THE OTHER

READ LUKE 4: 14-30

'The truth of God is found in rebellion against the repressive clichés of the world.' 1

In C.S. Lewis' wonderful children's book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, there's a telling exchange between the children who have found their way into the magical world of Narnia, and Mr and Mrs Beaver.

"Aslan a man!" said Mr Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. ... Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh" said Susan.

"I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe.

But he's good. He's the King, I tell you." 2

Aslan is not safe, but he's good. In the stories Aslan clearly holds metaphorical significance as a Christ figure. He is the one who gives his life selflessly for the traitor Edmund on the stone table, he is 'brought back to life' by the deeper magic, he breathes new life into the characters the Witch has turned to stone, and he defeats the reign of the evil queen freeing Narnia from the grip of winter. But Aslan is not a 'tame' lion.

Aslan is not the special friend or particular ally of anyone. He does not affiliate with any one person or group any more than others. He cannot be appropriated or manipulated to any end other than his own.

Jesus, likewise, doesn't belong to anyone. He is not on anyone's 'side' in the sense of a preference for this group or that, this person or that, this cause or that – even (perhaps it would be better to say 'especially?') the Church. He is only on the side of truth, God's truth, which he reveals

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of France and Germany in your prayers this week.

Presbytery Prayer Points

Cameron Memorial Glen Innes Church 100th Celebrations.

Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who led classes in our high schools this year—Belinda and Darrel. 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.

School Chaplains

For 2020 we have Parry, Walhallow, Walget, Oxley Vale, Quirindi, Mullaley, Tamworth Public (we financially support), Curlewis, Nyngan, Narrabri, Attunga, Duri and have gained Moonbi, Kootingal, Tambar Springs, Werris Creek, Carinya and Liberty. Keep these chaplains in your prayers.

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

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

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.

Line Dancing

The Locomotive Line Dancers will be hiring the Jubilee Hall from 9:30am-12:30pm on Tuesdays for Line Dancing.

New Vogue Dance Group

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

Senior's Getting Together Fellowship

Monthly gathering on Tuesday, 17 March from 2pm in the Uniting St Andrew's Village Community Hall.

Bereavement Support

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 18 March from 10am.

Nursing Home Service

Monthly Nursing Home Service at Collage Homes on Thursday, 19 March from 9:30am..

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, 20 March.

Worship on Sunday, 22 March—Lent Wk4

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: P Turner; D: M Honeyman, H Fergus, D Cole; PP: D Grant; O: R Greer. Sunday School—Lent Event.

Glen Innes Organ Recital

The Cameron Memorial Church in Glen Innes is celebrating 100yrs. They will hold an Organ Recital on Sunday, 22 March from 2pm in the church.

Dates to Note

- 23-29th Rev Betty in Orange
- 23 & 24th Flourish Aust in St Andrew's Room
- 28th PRC meeting in Manilla

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on 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.



magnificently and sorrowfully in his life, death, and resurrection.

We tend to focus, these days, more on Jesus' humanity than his divinity. Jesus is the one born in our flesh, who had friends, who had emotions, who wept when he was upset, who washed people's feet, who needed food for nourishment and survival. In all these ways, Jesus feels very familiar to us – he is human. This is a powerful truth, God stooping down to our level, entering into our human brokenness; Emmanuel – God with us.

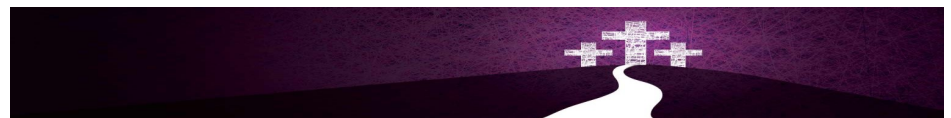
But perhaps there's a danger of assuming we can put Jesus in our pocket. It can be tempting to domesticate Jesus as a kind of sentimental personal friend ready to affirm our preferences. Or that he is in the trenches with us fighting back the oncoming wave of skepticism. We run the risk of assuming we have control or even understanding – that Aslan is a 'tame lion.'

The Uniting Church Basis of Union declares that Jesus 'constitutes, rules, and renews' the Church, 'in his own strange way'.³

This reflects the distance between us—what we expect, what we want, the norms of personhood and relationship to which we default—and the kind of God Jesus reveals. It is only 'strange' because, as the voice of the Lord from the book of Isaiah spoke long ago, 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55: 8-9). If we could see as God sees, we might see that Jesus' 'strange' way is actually the deepest truth of life. It's only 'strange' because we're so bad at looking on the world and each other as God does.

The reading set down for today from Luke 4 shows Jesus is not beholden to anyone, nor possessed by any group. While he is received well to begin with, the tide quickly turns when the crowd realizes his words strangely do not confirm their own biases.

Jesus is the one who will, 'proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind.' When we've woken up to a sudden light in a dark room, it is disorientating and unsettling before our eyes adjust to the new light, the new reality, and begin to see clearly. This is Jesus. Are we prepared to be redeemed by one who disrupts our easy assumptions? Who is beyond our imaginings and confounds the shape of our desires in order to re-order them? Who was 'despised and rejected by others, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief'? (Isaiah 53:3). And yet



who loves us with a love of which we can only barely scratch the surface?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (Luke 4: 14-30)

1. Have you ever suddenly seen a familiar situation through the eyes of an outsider, and the shift in perspective giving you a flash of insight and clarity?
2. What is the point Luke is making about Jesus' identity in vs 14-20?
3. Jesus tells a story in vs 24-27; what do you hear Jesus saying through this story?
4. What was so controversial about Elijah being sent to a widow in Sidon?
5. Why is a prophet not accepted in his hometown?
6. Who do you think are the prophetic voices speaking to our church right now?
7. What are they saying? Are we listening? What barriers have we built up to shut out the voices?
8. How have we created spaces and places to open ourselves up to hear the outsider prophets? What more do we need to do?
9. What does a picture of Jesus who comes to us with the face of 'the other' (a different and unsettling presence) mean for living our faith in a secular, cross-cultural, multi-faith, skeptical world?

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 8 March—Lent Wk2

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Introducing Jillian Cumberland, our Young Families Worker. Elder: R Duns; D: M Duns, J Carthew, S Perkins; PP: J Phillips; O: R Richardson. Sunday School—Lent Event.

Meals on Wheels

Our next Kitchen Rostered day is Tuesday, 10 March from 8am.

Compassionate Friends

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 11 March from 10am.

City Church Singers

Calling all singers—anyone interested in singing—come and join us for some items we're presenting on Palm Sunday (A Cheering, Canting, Dizzy Crowd) and Good Friday (Here Hangs a Man Discarded). We'll have some practices starting Thursday, 12 March at 4pm in the church. Each Thursday until 2nd.

Emmaus Board Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 12 March from 6pm.

Senior Communion

Monthly Senior Communion at the UNITING St Andrew's Village Community Hall on Friday, 13 March from 10am with Rev Henry Swindon. Contact Barb McLean 6766 4039.

Emmaus Trivia Night

Night of fun and frivolity on Saturday, 29 February from 7pm in Gunnedah. Contact Bec Wright 0479 016 967.

Worship on Sunday, 15 March—Lent Wk3

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: J Archbold; D: R & P Pryor, H McKenzie; PP: J Carthew; O: R Cathcart. Sunday School.

Assn. Independent Retirees

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 17 March from 9am.

Flourish—Waterless Carwash Opening

A Flourish Australia Community Business grant opening of Tamworth's first Waterless Carwash on Wednesday, 4 March 10am-12noon at 131 Bridge Street. Come along and support a new sustainable business.

New Vogue Dance Group

Dancing in Jubilee Hall 6-9:30pm Wednesdays.

Meditation Service

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

Minister's Fraternal Tamworth City-Wide Prayer Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 4 March from 7pm. All are welcome to join in.

Stepping Stones Play Group

Join us at Tamworth City from 10am-12noon on Thursdays in the Dunn Hall. Or at Tamworth Southside Tuesdays 10am-12noon. Come along and support Jillian on Thursday mornings, help make a cuppa, chat to the mums.

Yoga Group

Thursdays in St Andrew's Room 9:30-11am from 6 February.

ACW World Day of Prayer

The Australian Church Women invite you to join them for their World Day of Prayer on Friday, 6 March from 10am at the Baptist Church, Hillvue Road. The theme is set by the women of Zimbabwe this year "Rise! Take your mat and walk." Morning tea to follow service.

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, 6 March.

Monthly Lunch & Chatter

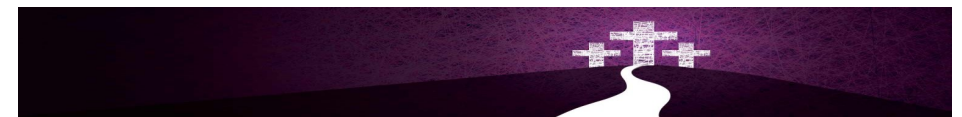
Friday, 6 March we're going to have lunch at Tamwell, Barton Lane from 12noon. Everyone's welcome to join us. Let Lorraine know 6766 6891.

WATCH LENT EVENT VIDEO 1: BUILD PEACE, BEAT POVERTY

- What have you learnt about our neighbours in Ambon, Indonesia, from this introductory video?
- What does Jesus have to say to us through the life and witness of the Church in Ambon?

PRAY TOGETHER

- For all those you hold in your hearts
- For your church and wider community
- For Rev John Beay and the people of Tial, Ambon



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 1 March—Lent Wk1

9am Worship Service and Sacrament of Holy Communion with Rev Betty Stroud. Food Hamper Sunday. Sunday School—Lent Event.

Stories that Give Life and Morning Tea in Jubilee Hall after worship.

Stories That Give Life

A time to share the things that we have experienced in the life of this congregation that have brought life and hope to our community of faith.

Following worship on 1st March, we will gather in the Jubilee Hall for morning tea and a time of sharing our stories. Everyone is encouraged to attend as we begin the process of discerning the way ahead for our congregation. Please take time over the next few weeks to think about what you might share.

A question to get you started: 'What do your friends and neighbours think are the strengths of Tamworth City Uniting Church?' You may have had people make a comment to you about this congregation OR you might need to ask them!

We will finish by 12.15pm at the latest (earlier if you come well prepared!).

Korean Reborn Church

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

Rev Betty Stroud

Generally Betty will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays when she is in Tamworth. Contact Betty on her mobile 0419 687 181 or email dottydog@bigpond.com to arrange a time to meet.

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. Focussing on Supporting women and families in March.

February Frontier News

Out Now!

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.

Op Shop

Our Opportunity Shop is located at 24 Darling Street. Normal hours 10am-4pm Mondays to Fridays and 9am-12noon on Saturdays. Contact Lorraine Furze (0401 762 463) or Judy Phillips (0418 662 081).

UNITING—Home & Community Support

Gathering in the St Andrew's Room on Mondays from 10am-2pm.

Church Office

Office hours 9am-2pm Tuesdays to Fridays. Don't forget to book meetings and check availability of halls. Thank you. Nicolette.

Adult Fellowship

No meeting on Tuesday, 3 March. We enjoyed pancakes on 25th Feb.

Locomotive Line Dancing

Tuesdays from 9:30am-12:30pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Lenten Studies

We will have our Lenten Studies, commencing Tuesday, 3 March from 7pm in Wesley Room (Rev Betty's Office) for 5 weeks. We will be using the Lent Event Bible Studies "Jesus the Other—Embracing Difference". Looking at how Christians and Muslims in Ambon, Philippines, work together to build lives of dignity. An alternate session is offered Thursday afternoons at 2pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 3 March from 7pm.

Op Shop Working Bee

Wednesdays from 9am. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work, then a cuppa!. All helpers welcome. A very industrious morning.