

Diary Dates

**Sun, 15 9am Tamworth City
Worship with Rev Betty
Stroud. Lent Wk3. Sunday
School.
10am Morning Tea in St
Andrew's Room. Trading
Table.
11am Korean Reborn Church**

**Mon, 16 9:30am KAIROS sewing JH
10am-2pm Uniting StAR**

**Tue, 17 9am-2pm Church Office T-F
9am Assn Independent
Retirees in StAR
9:30am Line dancing JH
10am Pres Bookkeeping
2pm Senior's Getting
Together at Village Hall
7pm Lenten Studies in
Wesley Room**

**Wed, 18 9am Op Shop Working Bee
10am Bereavement Support
in the StAR
6pm Meditation in Chapel
6pm New Vogue Dance JH**

**Thu, 19 10am Stepping Stones DH
9:30am Yoga at StAR
9:30am Cottage Homes
Service
2pm Lenten Study in Wesley
Room
4pm Church Singers
4:30pm Church Music**

Fri, 20 10am Craft Group in StAR

**Sat, 21 1pm Festival of Song
Workshop at McCarthy Col.**

**Sun, 22 9am Tamworth City
Worship with Rev Betty
Stroud. Lent Wk4. Sunday
School.
10am Morning Tea in St
Andrew's Room. Trading
Table.
11am Korean Reborn Church
1pm Festival of Song Concert
at McCarthy College
2pm Cameron Memorial
Organ Recital (100yrs)**

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 22 March—Lent Wk4

8:30am Hallsville Markets & Gowrie Service
9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Betty Stroud—
Elder: P Turner; Door: M Honey man, H Fergus, D
Cole; PP: D Grant; Organ: R Greer.
9:30am Tamworth Southside service
11am West Tamworth Service



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:

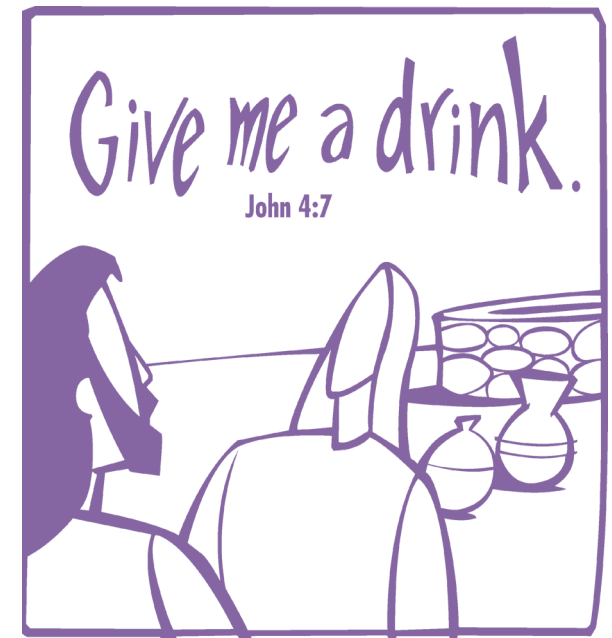
- **Southside Office:** Ph/Fx 6765 3714 PO Box 5101, South Tamworth 2340, Email tsuoffice@gmail.com, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **Southside Lay Preachers:** David Bissett 0400 186 723; Rob Wood 0447 425 411; John Nash 0428 333 358
- **Young Family Worker:** Jillian Cumberland 0402 341 684 Email: jillian.steppingstones.uca@hotmail.com
- **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

15 March 2020

Second, 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. Please stay for morning tea after worship in the St Andrew's Room.





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, 13 Mar—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church with Meg Mangan

Sun, 15 Mar—11am West Tamworth Service with Meg Mangan. Trading Table.

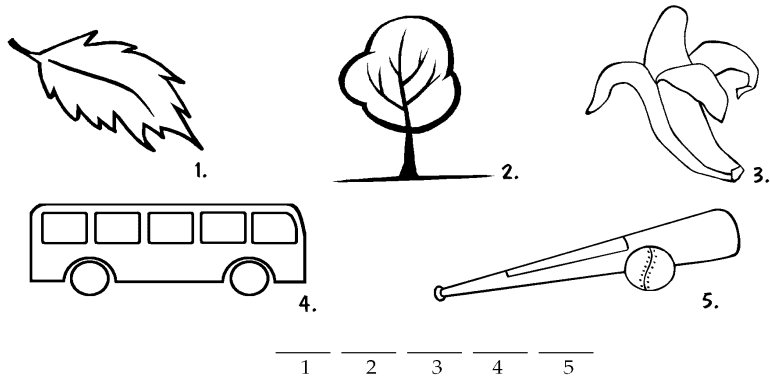
Tue, 17 Mar—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth.

Sun, 22 Mar—8:30am Hallsville Markets. 8:30am Gowrie Service, 11am West Tamworth Service.

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

Letters

Write the last letter of each picture in the correct space below.



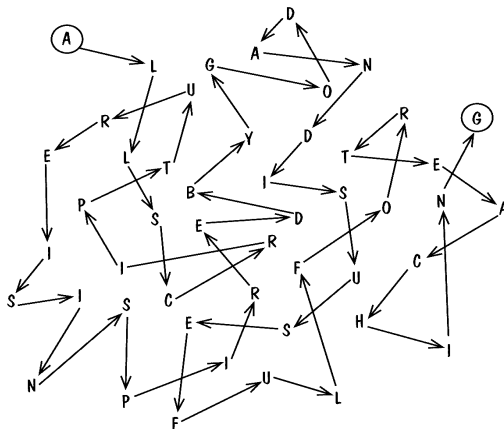
Write the letters above into the blank below.

A cheerful heart has a continual _____ . Proverbs 15:15b

Answer: feast

The Good Book

We can learn a lot from reading the Bible. Start at the circled A and follow the arrows to the circled G. Write each letter in order in the blanks below.



Answer: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching.

2 Timothy 3:16

Lectionary Readings

Sun 15	Psalm 95*	Fri 20	John 9:1-23*
Mon 16	1 Samuel 16:1-13*	Sat 21	John 9:24-41*
Tue 17	Ephesians 4:17-32	Sun 22	Psalm 23*
Wed 18	Ephesians 5:1-14*	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 19	Ephesians 5:21-32		



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 3

THE GOOD SAMARITAN? THE CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS OTHER...

READ LUKE 10: 25-37

'Who is my neighbour? Is a central question in the church and in congregations today.' 5

I went to a church which was generally welcoming and loving and sought to live as a community of Christ as faithfully as it could. It was predominantly Anglo-Celtic. In a meeting, one of the members asked the council for support (financial and otherwise) for an African family based well beyond the bounds of the parish. This parishioner worked with communities in a part of the city where ethnic, racial, religious, and economic challenges were very prominent.

Quick as a flash, one of the older members said, 'Well, why would we help them? They're nothing to do with us?' The Pastor, in response, said, 'Because they have a need and our friend is aware of it and we're her church. She has brought this to our attention. Why wouldn't we help them?' A kind of uneasy silence filled the air at that moment until it was agreed that we should see what we could do, and the conversation went on.

We see here a clash of attitudes about how we might relate to those who are different from us. Although it was only the one dimension of 'otherness' that was named explicitly – that the African family were not 'of our parish' – likely there were also other aspects tied up in the old lady's response as well.

The story opens the question of what it means to follow Jesus in a context where vast differences of belief, ethnicity, age, sexuality, gender, culture, and other aspects of our humanity abound and often engender suspicion, fear, hostility and conflict. We have considered

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

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

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Myanmar and Thailand in your prayers this week.

Presbytery Prayer Points

Cameron Memorial Glen Innes Church 100th Celebrations this year. PRC Meeting in Manilla 28th March. Standing Committee meeting in Tamworth on 2nd April.

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

Free Prostate Cancer Support

Counselling and information provided at Tamworth Hospital. Helping with Risk factors, testing diagnosis, treatment and recovery. Phone 1300 881 826.

Emmaus National Gathering

Friday 3 April to Sunday, 5 April at Lake Keepit.

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, 3 April.

Lunch & Chatter

Our monthly Lunch & Chatter will be on again on Friday, 3 April from 12noon. Please bring a plate to share.

Behold the Lamb Retreat

Make time this Easter to truly "Behold" the beauty of our Lord Jesus. Experience afresh the wonder of the gospel message through a variety of spiritual formation exercises based on John's gospel and the Psalms. Saturday, 4 April 9am-3pm at 'Retreat' (Rev Chris Wright will be attending if you'd like a life—0427 633 657). Bring a bible, pen and journal, BYO finger food to share for lunch. RSVP 0429 432 556.

Daylight Savings Ends

3am Sunday, 5 April, put you clock back one hour.

Worship on Sunday, 5 April—Palm Sunday

9am Worship Service and Baptism with Rev Betty Stroud. Elder: M Cupitt (M Hobson Baptism); D: B Mills, S Hardin, R Barclay; PP: M Miles; O: R Greer. Sunday School—Lent Event. Food Hamper Sunday. Morning Tea, BBQ and Lent Event Stall. ELDERS NOTE: No HC this week, we will celebrate together on Easter Sunday, 12th.

Dates to Note

- 6th 8am Holy Week Devotion (N Willis)
- 7th 8am Holy Week Devotion (Rev B Stroud), 8am Meals on Wheels, 9:30am Adult Fellowship, 4:30pm Property Committee
- 8th 8am Holy Week Devotion (D Miles)
- 9th 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship (St Andrew's Room)
- 10th 8am Good Friday Worship
- 12th Easter Sunday Worship & Holy Communion
- Mark the Date: 15th May—Soup & Damper Trivia Night

before what it means to follow a Saviour who is 'other' to us. But what does it mean to be a follower of Christ in a world where the neighbour next door may be Muslim or Sikh, a refugee or recent immigrant who cannot speak English? Where does the call of love take us to in such a context? What does the Lord require of us?

Jesus tells the story in response to a question from an 'expert in the law' about inheriting eternal life. The expert had summarized the law correctly – love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself, but he wants to justify himself and so probes further. 'And who is my neighbour?'

Implicit in this question is whether there are categories or limits to who may be a 'neighbour' that might decide how we 'love' them. The Old Testament implies that neighbour could mean 'fellow Israelites' or include 'strangers and sojourners' (Leviticus 19: 33-34). Thus 'loving your neighbour' becomes a more complex question.

In Jesus' story, the Priest and the Levite know they should go over to help their fellow Israelite who had been accosted, beaten, and left for dead. Yet they don't. It is the Samaritan who risks attending to the man. The Samaritan is the religious 'other'. Jews and Samaritans, though having much in common historically, had, grown hostile towards each other. Enmity and mutual discord characterized the relationship and Jews considered Samaritans theologically misguided and inferior.

In Richard Lischer's formulation it runs, 'Are you ready to concede that the example of one 'unlike' you, might prove redemptive for you?'⁵ The actions of the Samaritan don't just see him crossing a physical boundary (the road), but a number of cultural and religious ones too. He crosses these boundaries in order to show the neighbourliness and love the expert in the law had rightly identified as sitting central to the Jewish law.

The Samaritan's actions risk his personal safety. It's a dangerous road, demonstrably beset by brigands and thieves. He risks rejection and judgement from his own people as well as the 'other'. He risks appearing foolish. Yet he makes himself vulnerable in order to care for another.

When Jesus finishes the story he doesn't ask, 'Now do you see who your neighbour is?' He turns it around: 'Which of these was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' He makes 'being a neighbour' a vocation for everyone who would heed the call of God, rather than a culturally or religiously defined identity which may mark the limits of kindness. As Mary Hinkle Shore says, 'Jesus defines "neighbour" not as someone worthy to receive love but as someone able to offer it.'

Implicit here is the thought that we all might learn and grow and have our vision of God and life enlarged by being a neighbour to those who are different to us on the one hand and accepting neighbourliness from those who are different to us on the other. The dangerous road on the way to the cross may well bring us face-to-face with situations where we might be called to risk neighbourliness for the sake of a potentially new understanding of God, others, and even ourselves.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (Luke 10:25-37)

1. Reflect on the picture of Jesus Luke is offering in the text.
2. Place yourself as the different characters in the story – Priest/Levite, man in the ditch, Samaritan, inn keeper. How does imagining yourself as one or other of these characters change your perspective on faith, life, church, neighbours?
3. Have there been times when the witness and example of those unlike you have given you a new insight or wisdom into who you are in faith? God? Jesus? How?
4. How do these reflections shape the way we think and speak about Jesus in worship and witness?

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.

Rev Betty Stroud—leave week

Rev Betty will be in Orange from 23—30 March.

National Advance Care Planning Week

Workshop by Advanced Care Planning Australia at Johnston House, Tamworth Community Health Centre, Dean Street on Monday, 23 March from 2:30-4pm. Afternoon tea provided. Contact Merryl Chaffey on 67676 8100 by Friday, 20 March.

Flourish Australia Workshop

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 24th and Wednesday, 25th March from 8:30am-4pm.

Colin Buchanan Family Concert

Trinity Church are hosting a Colin Buchanan Family Concert on Tuesday, 24 March from 8pm in their new Church on Craigends Lane. A Kids Concert is also planned for Wednesday, 25 March at 4pm. All welcome.

Worship on Sunday, 29 March—Lent Wk5

9am Worship Service with Mr Peter Battle. Elder: M Hobson; D: J Crosling, G Chaffey, C Sheppard; PP: M Akioka; O: R Richardson. Sunday School—Lent Event.

Op Shop Volunteers Morning Tea

Getting together in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 31 March from 10am. BYO plate to share. Meet some of the other volunteers that work in our Op Shop, update on closure.

NENW Presbytery Standing Committee Meeting

Meeting at Tamworth Southside on Thursday, 2 April from 9:30am.

Emmaus Board Meeting

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 2 April from 6pm.

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.

Nursing Home Service

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

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, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd) and Good Friday (Here Hangs a Man Discarded). We are practicing on Thursday, 19 March at 4pm in the church. Each Thursday until 2nd.

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.

Festival of Song 2020

Workshop with David Hood on Saturday, 21 March from 1-5pm. Cost \$10. Learning a number of pieces to perform at the concert on Sunday. Ability to read music not essential, willingness to learn and a love of singing a must. Concert featuring the massed choir and local choirs on Sunday, 22 March from 1pm in the Rosary Centre, McCarthy Catholic College, \$10/head.

Next Week & Beyond

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. Morning Tea. Trading Table.

WATCH LENT EVENT VIDEO 3: Petrus and Nyoman

- There is no social security for people with disabilities like Petrus and Nyoman in Ambon and employment is already scarce. As neighbours who belong to groups previously involved in deadly conflict, Nyoman and Petrus could easily have competed over scarce resources. Why do you think vulnerability sometimes leads to openness and generosity, and at other times to suspicion and resentment? (attitudes we see all the time in Australia).

PRAY TOGETHER

- For those you hold in your hearts
- For your church and community
- For Nyoman, Petrus and people with disabilities in difficult circumstances everywhere



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 15 March—Lent Wk3

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Sunday School. Morning Tea. Trading Table.

Korean Reborn Church

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

Corvid-19

Everyone will be aware of the current climate with the spread of the Corona Virus. We encourage everyone to be aware of their personal hygiene to help protect each other.

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 dottydoq@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. Focusing on women and children in March. Lovely photo in the paper this week (front page no less). Thank you to Telstra who have supported us with \$9,000 in Farmer Bob's vouchers.

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—Closed for the Time Being

Due to concerns raised by some of the volunteers, our Opportunity Shop is closed until further notice. Protecting our volunteers and customers in this current climate is important to us. 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.

Assn. Independent Retirees

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

Locomotive Line Dancing

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

Senior's Getting Together Fellowship

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

Lenten Studies

Our Lenten Studies continue on Tuesday, 17 March from 7pm in Wesley Room (Rev Betty's Office). 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.

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.

Bereavement Support

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

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.