

Diary Dates

Sun, 17 Lent Wk 2 9am Tamworth City Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School.

10am Congregational Meeting. Morning tea.

11am West Tamworth

11:30am Korean Reborn

Mon, 18 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 M-T

9am Assn Independent Retirees in St Andrew's Rm

9:30am LLine Dancers JH

10am-1pm Pres Bkeep

2pm Senior's Getting Tog.

Wed, 20 9am Op Shop Sorting

10am Bereavements

Support in St Andrew's Rm

2pm Lenten Study

6pm New Vogue in JHall

6pm Meditation in Chapel

7pm Lenten Study

Thu, 21 8:30am Prayer in Wesley Rm

9:30am Stepping Stones DH

9:30am Yoga in St AR

4:30pm Occasional Choir & Worship Music

5pm Aikido Karate in JHall

Fri, 22 8:30am Social Craft DunnH

10am Craft Group in St

Andrew's Room

6:30pm New Vogue Dance

Sat, 23 9am-12noon Op Shop

10am Line Dancing Extra

Sun, 24 Lent Wk 3 9am Tamworth City Worship Service and Baptism with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn



Preaching Plan

Sunday, 24 March—Lent Wk 3

8:30am Gowrie Service with Meg Mangan

9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Chris Wright (Baptism), E: M Cupitt (J Dezius), D: E Fairall, M & D Miles, PP: J McClelland, O: R Greer.

9:30am Tamworth Southside Service

11am West Tamworth Service with Rev Chris Wright.

5pm Tamworth Southside Service

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 16



"He fasted for forty days and forty nights..."

Lent

17 March 2019

Welcome to Tamworth City
Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today. Rev Chris Wright will be leading our service. Congregational Meeting to follow worship. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.

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 Sharn Mason "Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 1

Lent

Lenten Studies

Study 2—Repentance

The Lament over Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35 (NIV))

³¹ At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

³² He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁵ Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

A few thoughts

Whether or not the Pharisees have Jesus’ best interests at heart, one thing is clear from their words in the text – Jesus is heading for danger, of the fatal kind. Jesus brushes aside any fear of Herod. Instead, he instructs the messengers to tell “that fox,” that he is about his Father’s business, that of bringing in the Kingdom of God. (In the life and work of Jesus, the in-breaking of the Kingdom is already come, demonstrated in the healing of the sick and the release of the demon-possessed.) However, at no point does Jesus dismiss the threat of death; he only dismisses any fear of Herod.

Here, in Jesus’ words, Luke foreshadows his fate, with a subtle allusion to the three days he will spend in the tomb. Jesus as the prophet of God must die, but he will not die outside Jerusalem. The work to be completed lies both in the journey and the destination.

Death awaits Jesus in Jerusalem. In the Lukan narrative, it is no coincidence that Jesus, whose early life was marked by two significant events at the Temple, as an infant and as a twelve-year-old who stayed

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

Fri, 15 Mar—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church with Meg Mangan.

Sun, 17 Mar—11am West Tamworth Service with Rev Chris Wright.

Trading Table.

Tue, 19 Mar—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth

Thu, 21 Mar—2:30pm Study Group at West Tamworth.

Sun, 24 Mar—8:30am Gowrie Service and 11am West Tamworth Service with Meg Mangan.

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”

Pastor Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

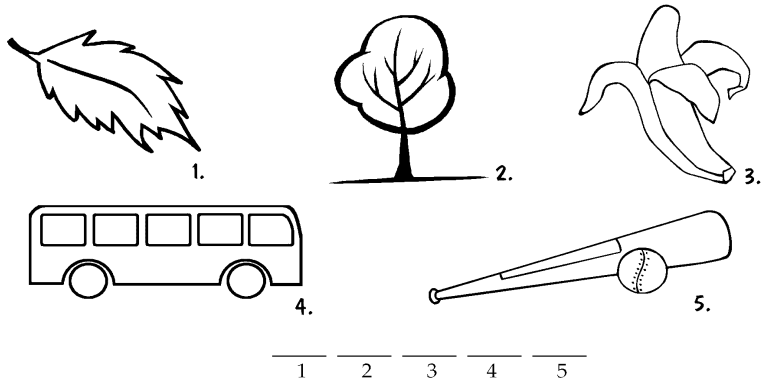
Contact: Margaret Crowell 0408 660 025

Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369



Letters

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



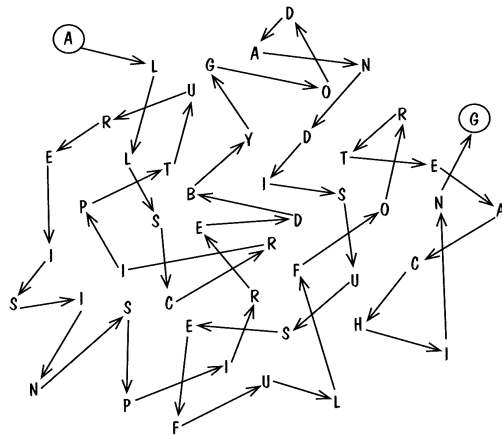
Write the letters above into the blank below.

A cheerful heart has a continual _____.

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	17	Psalm 27*	Fri	22	1 Corinthians 10:1-13*
Mon	18	Isaiah 55:1-9*	Sat	23	1 Corinthians 10:14-22
Tue	19	Psalm 63:1-8*	Sun	24	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
Wed	20	Luke 13:1-5	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings		
Thu	21	Luke 13:6-9			

behind to quiz the teachers in his Father's house, now sets his sights for this place once more. Jesus returns, one might say, to his spiritual home. He returns there to fulfil the words that Simeon and Anna spoke over him as a child. As he starts on his journey, Jesus laments over the city to which he will return.

He laments because God's people have refused his embrace. In the form of the prophets before him, and now in the life of Jesus, the brood rejects the hen. They have forgotten and scorned their identity and the one who gave it to them in the first place. Will we also reject and turn away from our Mother Hen? Repentance means turning home to the one who has claimed us and sought to cherish us.

The "house", the Temple, remains, but not for long. Jesus will approach it when he enters the city on the donkey to the chant, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord" (Lk. 19:38), the very words quoted here. We must not lose the irony. What at first seems triumph for Jesus will turn quickly to death; yet triumph for his tormentors will lead to the city's destruction. Returning home, for Jesus, means turning to his destiny – the consummation of his whole life, his death.

Jesus returns home to die. His death spells judgment for Jerusalem. The city does not recognise its saviour, so it will be thrown down. (Luke 19.41-44)

Repentance

How does this passage help our understanding of repentance?

In Jesus' own words, to go after him means to take up his cross and follow him. (Lk.9.23)

To repent, if it is to return home to God (Lk.15-11 ff) in a sense means walking towards our death. As they do the work of the Kingdom, proclaiming the good news to the world, Jesus' disciples walk towards an end greater than themselves. And our repentance, our turning from worldly lures and anxieties back to God, means walking towards our bodily death, knowing that our eternal being lies in God. Repentance means dying to the self. It means walking towards the fulfilment of God's Kingdom, which can mean dying like a prophet.

May we be those who find ourselves under the wings of God, nurtured by His love in this world and the next. May we, like Jesus, turn our face willingly to the place of death, so that the work of the Kingdom may be completed.

Notes

13:31 - The 'Herod' referred to here by the Pharisees is Herod Antipas who was the 'tetrarch' or ruler of Galilee and Perea and the son of Herod the Great who tried to have Jesus killed in Bethlehem while he was still an infant (Mt.2:16-18).

13:32 - Exorcism and healing are specifically Messianic signs in Jewish tradition.

13:34 - As the cultural and religious centre of the Jewish people, Jerusalem had developed a reputation as an unsafe place for those who brought divine messages of challenge and change (cf. Matt. 23:33-39).

13:35 - "Your house is left to you". Luke is writing after 70CE when the Temple was razed by the Romans, so his first readers are aware that it will not remain standing. See also Luke 19:43, where Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple, linking this with the refusal of God's people to recognise "the things that make for peace".

Questions

1. Jesus describes himself as longing to gather his people "as a hen gathers her brood under her wings", but they were not willing. In what ways are we unwilling to be embraced by God's love and calling?
2. When Jesus describes himself as a mother hen, he is using language that may be unfamiliar to some. How does this image compare to the pictures that you have in your head of who Jesus is and what he is like?

Reverse Parking

We've had a couple of near-misses recently. Would everyone using the car park please reverse park into parking spaces. This will mean that when it gets full it will be easier to get out and pedestrians will be safer. Thanks.

Library

We have a library of books/DVDs in the Vestry. Do you have any you no longer require of a religious nature to donate to our Library? Maybe you'd like to borrow a book. Talk to Peter Battle 6766 7455.



Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of the Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in your prayers this week.

Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the activities of the Community St Peter's Anglican Church, St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Northwest Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Church on the Way, Salvation Army and Roman Catholic Churches in our prayers.

Presbytery Prayer Points

We continue to pray for rain. My drive to Narrabri last weekend was very start with no water in any of the creek/river crossings! It was worth the drive to be part of the Induction of Rev Paul Cosier, an uplifting event.

Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who lead classes in our high schools this year—Andrew, Ross, Belinda, Alison and Dave. As usual, 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. In recess now until 2019. Donations still gratefully received.

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 or Rev Chris Wright 0427 633 657.

Maintenance Items

Hospital Visit

Are you scheduled to go into hospital? If so, you need to let us know if you want visitors (your Pastoral Partner, an Elder, or the Office). The current system at the Hospitals does not allow us access to this information easily.

Stamp Collecting News

Demand for \$1 stamps far exceeds supply at present. Funds raised support projects across the Uniting Church in NSW. Keep in mind that the stamps you receive today, our customers are anxious to buy tomorrow at the Synod Stamp Committee sales. Keep them coming in. Leave them at the church office for trimming/sorting.

"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 12

3. "Repentance means turning home to the one who has claimed us and sought to cherish us."

What connotations does the word repentance have for you?

In what ways have you heard it used?

Has it been helpful or harmful?

4. What does it mean to 'take up your cross' or 'die to yourself' as part of following Jesus?

What does this look like for us as individuals and communities?

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in silence reflecting on the idea of Jesus being like the Mother Hen who longs to gather her brood under her wings.

Ask God to help you see ways in which you might 'die to yourself'.

Pray for the courage to be able to embrace his challenging invitation to take up our cross as we build his Kingdom.



"Alive in Christ, Serving God, Empowered by the Spirit" 5

Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 17 March

Lent Wk 2, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. NO Sunday School. Mission Envelopes. Morning Tea. Congregational Meeting to follow worship today. 11am West Tamworth—Rev Chris Wright.

Congregational Meeting

Agenda item from Church Council meeting 14 February: Use of TCUC buildings for same Gender Marriage approved at Church Council that we make our buildings available for same gender marriages and that it be left up to the Minister during his initial visits with the couple prior to the wedding to decide whether to marry them or not in the church. Discussion and then a vote will be via secret ballot a simple 'agree' or 'disagree'.

Korean Reborn Church

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

Lent Event

Lent Event envelopes/booklets are available from today. Video's on the projects will be shown each week in worship. Please return envelopes on the plate from Palm Sunday, 14 April. Courageous Action—for more than 10yrs a courageous movement of people has been stepping up during Lent to help overcome the fears that accompany a world in need: Where is God when people suffer? Does my life really make a difference? What kind of planet am I leaving behind for my children? Since 2009 the Lent Event movements has raised more than \$3 million to end poverty and build hope for our overseas church partners. This year we focus on Timor Leste.

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. We've been invited to host a morning tea on 6 April 10am-12noon. If you can help out with cake, biscuits or slice for the morning, let Nicolette know in the office.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Val Whitten who passed away last week. We keep you in our prayers.

Lunch and DVD

Monthly lunch and DVD will be held on Friday, 5 April from 12noon. Gold coin donation for lunch. Phone Jim & Lorraine 6761 7371.

Farming Morning Tea

We are hosting a morning tea on Saturday, 6 April from 10am in the St Andrew's Room.

Daylight Saving Ends

At long last summer has ended and we can get that hour back that we are craving. Don't forget to put your clock back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, 6 April.

Worship on Sunday, 7 April

Lent Wk 5, Worship service and Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Food Hamper Sunday. Elder: M Weick, J Carthew, L Johnston, W Standen, P Battle, D: J Phillips, G Chaffey, B Mills, PP M Miles, O: R Greer. NO Sunday School. Morning Tea.

Birth Beat First Aid

Stepping Stones are hosting two Birth Beat First Aid courses on Sunday, 7 April at 9:30am and 1:30pm. See the office if you are interested in attending. Limited numbers for each session.

Bec's Reunion Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Sunday, 7 April from 3pm.

Diary Dates to Note

- 9th 8am Meals on Wheels
- 10th 10am Compassionate Friends
- 11th 9:30am Nursing Home Service; 7pm Church Council
- 12th 10am Senior Communion; School Term ends; Autumn Encounter

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 this week.

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 31 March

Lent Wk 4, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: R Hely, D: F Kerr, W Purss, M Partridge, PP M Akioka, O: R Richardson. NO Sunday School. Morning Tea.

Emmaus Board

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Sunday, 31 March from 2pm.

One Door Mental Health

Meeting in Dunn Hall on Monday, 1 April from 10am.

Adult Fellowship

Our monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, 2 April from 9:30am for coffee followed by our meeting. Everyone's welcome to join us.

City Property Committee

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 2 April from 4:30pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 2 April from 7pm.

Op Shop Morning Tea

We are having our annual Op Shop Morning tea in St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 3 April from 10am.

Young Families Worker Support Group

Meeting in Wesley Room on Wednesday, 3 April from 4pm.

Emmaus Board

Meeting in St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 4 April from 6pm.

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, 5 April.



Be Connected

A free government-sponsored computer course for over 50's who have never used a computer or have limited skills. St Stephen's Presbyterian Church is hosting this course throughout 2019 as a service to the community. Groups are no larger than four people and the usual progression is two sessions per week over five weeks. Booking or inquiries should be direct to Tracey Cattana on 0411 583 068.

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*.

Association of Independent Retirees

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

Locomotive Line Dancing

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 monthly getting together will be on Tuesday, 19 March from 2pm in the St Andrew's Village Community Hall. 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.

Bereavement Support Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 20 March from 10am.

Lenten Studies

Rev Chris Wright will be hosting our Lenten Studies (Wk 2) on Wednesday 20 March at 2pm and 7pm in the St Andrew's Room. The studies will be in the notice sheets so everyone can join in.

Meditation Service

Weekly meditation service lead by Rev John Marsh on Wednesdays evenings from 6pm.

Pastoral Partners

Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 20 March *has been postponed* to a date to be advised.

Early Risers Prayer Group

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

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.



Occasional Choir

We will be presenting an item on Sunday, 31 March (*note change of date*). Please come along to our practices on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm in the Church on 21 & 28 Mar. Everyone's welcome.

Aikido 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.

Private Dance Lessons

Using Jubilee Hall on Friday, 22 March from 6:30pm.

Worship on Sunday, 24 March

Lent Wk 3, Worship service and Baptism with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: M Cupitt & J Dezius, D: E Fairall, M & D Miles, PP J McClelland, O: R Greer. Sunday School. Mission Envelopes. Morning Tea.

Emmaus National Conference

Being held in Tamworth from 29-31 March. Using our Jubilee Hall on the Friday, then out to Lake Keepit Sport & Rec Camp, back for a meeting in St Andrew's Room on Sunday afternoon.

PRC Meeting

NENW PRC will meet at Manilla on Saturday, 30 March.

Emmaus Gathering

Emmaus Gathering - On Saturday 30th March at Southside Uniting Church. We will commence with a community lunch @ 12pm (please bring a plate of food to share). The National Conference delegates will join us for our Gathering at 2pm. After the service there will be an opportunity to join the delegates for a shared afternoon tea. It would be great to see everyone there! All welcome.

