

Diary Dates

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

11:30am Korean Reborn

Mon, 25 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 M-T

9:30am LLine Dancers JH

10am-1pm Pres Bkeep

Wed, 27 9am Op Shop Sorting

2pm Lenten Study

6pm New Vogue in JHall

6pm Meditation in Chapel

7pm Lenten Study

Thu, 28 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, 29 8:30am Social Craft DunnH

10am Craft Group in St

Andrew's Room

6:30pm New Vogue Dance

Sat, 30 9am-12noon Op Shop

10am Line Dancing Extra

Sun, 31 Lent Wk 4 9am Tamworth City Worship Service with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 31 March—Lent Wk 4

9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Chris Wright, E: R Hely, D: F Kerr, W Purss, M Partridge, PP: M Akioka, O: R Cathcart.

9:30am Tamworth Southside Service

10am Peel Valley Church on a Bus

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, 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, Website www.tsuc.org.au
- **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. Rev Chris Wright will be leading our service and the Sacrament of Baptism. Please stay for a chat and morning tea afterwards.



Lenten Studies

Study 3—From Roots to Fruits

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree Luke 13:6-9 (NIV)

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

A few thoughts

If Jesus’ parables were songs, I don’t think that the parable of the barren fig tree would have made it in onto his ‘Greatest Hits’ compilation. Its tone and trajectory often make people uncomfortable. Reading it through Western eyes in the twenty-first century, in particular, makes it ripe for misinterpretation. It’s hard to look past our first impression — that this is a story about a man who is angry at a tree.

But it’s so much more than that.

To begin with, fig trees were often used as a symbol of the nation of Israel, just as poets might write of a shamrock to represent Ireland or a rose to represent England. So, Jesus’ audience would not have had to dig deep to figure out what he was talking about. This is a parable about his people, their purpose and their potential. The vineyard owner represents God, the gardener represents Jesus, and the three years of barrenness can be taken to refer to the three years between Jesus’ baptism and his death. So the time for fruitfulness is getting short!

While one might get the impression that the vineyard owner is obsessed with efficiency and productivity, if he were, he would not have planted a fig tree in a vineyard in the first place. Fig trees have big branches and deep

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.

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 and our community.*



Peel Valley Congregations

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

Sun, 31 Mar—Peel Valley Combined Service will be held at Hallsville at 11am. Lunch to follow. \$10/head. Contact Meg if you need a lift.

Tue, 2 Apr—10am Memory Lane at West Tamworth.

Fri, 5 Apr—6pm Hallsville Friday Family Church with Jim Newton.

Sun, 7 Apr—11am West Tamworth

Service with Jim Newton. Lunch to follow.

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”

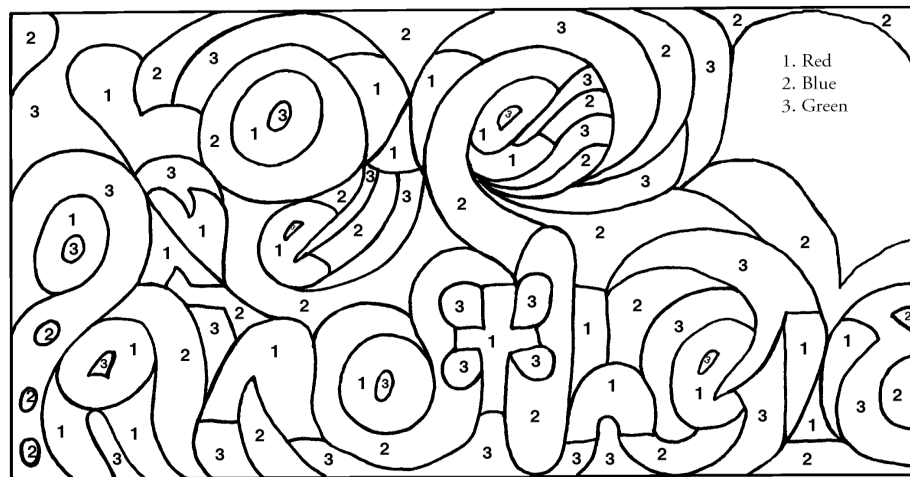
Pastor Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Contact: Margaret Crowell 0408 660 025



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	24	Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9	Fri	29	John 7:25-31
Mon	25	Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12	Sat	30	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*
Tue	26	Joshua 5:9-12*	Sun	31	Psalm 32*
Wed	27	2 Corinthians 5:16-21*	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings		
Thu	28	John 7:1-14			

roots that require space and nourishment. The owner wants the fig tree to be there. He creates space for it and wants it to flourish, just as he wants that for us.

But his frustration is well-founded. Year after year he has returned to the fig tree only to find that this deeply rooted tree that draws sustenance, water and nutrients from his ground uses all this energy and yet never turns it into anything that might nourish others - however much the gardener cares for it.

When we understand the world in which Jesus was speaking, what seems like an unreasonable outburst from a disgruntled landowner becomes a dynamic conversation between the one who owns the land and the one who tends to it about how to remedy the imbalance between what the tree absorbs and what it has the capacity to produce.

It's a conversation that I sometimes wonder whether God the Father and Jesus might have about me — and perhaps about all of us.

It can be so easy to focus on where we are planted and to define ourselves by the places in which our roots find sustenance — roots like my socio-economic background, my family, my educational opportunities and my supporting community. Repentance invites us to shift our focus from what we consume and where we are planted to what we produce and where we are called. When Jesus told this parable, he was looking around at the Jewish people and inviting them to return to their original blessing and calling.

God promised Abraham to make his descendants a blessing to all nations. They were not blessed to the exclusion of the rest of the world but for the sake of the world. And so are we.

Notes

13:6 - The fig tree is the third tree to be mentioned in the Bible. The first two are the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. Once Adam and Eve have eaten from the tree of knowledge, they see their nakedness and cover themselves with fig leaves. (Genesis 3)

13:7-9 - The conversation between the landowner and the gardener

mirrors God's conversation with Moses after Israel had turned away from God and worshipped the golden calf in Exodus 32. Taking these two passages together, we can see Jesus as the gardener and like a new Moses, interceding on behalf of the people and revealing his patience, grace and mercy.

Questions

1. What was your first reaction when reading this story? How did you feel about the landowner's attitude to the fig tree? What about the gardener's response?
2. Do you think you experience an imbalance between what you receive from God and what you give to the world? In what ways are you challenged to examine what your life produces?
3. In what ways do we as churches and people of faith receive sustenance, energy or resources that don't become a blessing to the world around us?
4. In light of this challenging passage, what could repentance look like for you?
5. What practical resolutions could you make this Lent to share the ways in which you have been blessed with your community?

Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who lead classes in our high schools this year— Andrew, Ross, Belinda, Alison and Dave. 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

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.

Transport to Church

Can you help with transport to church? Maybe you've got a spare seat and can pick someone up from nearby on your way. Contact the office on 6766 5311.



Worship on Sunday, 14 April

Palm Sunday, Worship service with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Elder: E Shepheard, D: C Shepheard, B Mills, H Fergus, PP J Phillips, O: R Richardson. Lent Event Stall. Morning Tea.

Tamworth Choral Society 70th Anniversary Concert

You are invited to join the Tamworth Choral Society's 70th Anniversary Concert "Down Memory Lane" on Sunday, 14 April 2:30pm in the Carinya Performing Arts Centre, 25 Boronia Drive, Calala. Cost \$15 single or \$30 family. Tickets available from choir members or at the door. A lovely afternoon tea to follow.

Diary Dates to Note

- 15-17th 8am Holy Week Services
- 16th 2pm Senior's Getting Together
- 18th 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- 19th 9am Good Friday Worship

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 this week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of the China, Hong Kong and Macau in your prayers this week.

Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

We keep the activities of the Father's House Church, Trinity Church, Tamworth City, Tamworth Southside and Peel Valley Uniting Churches, the Hope of Glory Church and Carinya Christain School in our prayers.

Presbytery Prayer Points

We give thanks for the rain that fell last weekend and continue to pray for more rain.

Prayer

Spend a few minutes in silence reflecting on all the things that you have been given that you feel grateful for.

Thank God for all that you have received and for all the ways in which he has been active in your life.

Pray that God would give you the compassion and desire to share your blessings with others.

Ask for him to guide you and your community to bear fruit in a way that reveals his love, goodness and care for the world.



Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 24 March

Lent Wk 3, Worship service and Baptism with Rev Chris Wright at 9am. Sunday School. Mission Envelopes. Morning Tea.

Korean Reborn Church

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

Congregational Meeting

At our meeting last week it was voted by secret ballot by 70% to agree with the Church Council's decision to allow the use of TCUC buildings for same gender marriage at the discretion of the minister.

Lent Event

Lent Event envelopes/booklets are available. Video's on the projects will be shown each week in worship. Please return envelopes on the plate from Palm Sunday, 14 April. Courageous Living—Tuberculosis kills thousands in Timor Leste every year, but with the support of our local partner clinic in the mountainous interior of the country, Marie defied the odds. She and her six children welcomed us into their home to tell a tale of determination and courage, fuelled by the love of family and the knowledge of a God who does not walk away. 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.*

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

Please save your bread tags—they can be recycled to fund wheelchairs in South Africa. Bread Tags for Wheelchairs has been recycling bread tags in South Africa since 2006. They currently collect about 500kg/month, which funds 2-3 wheelchairs. Now collecting in Australia too! Leave in the office.



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.

Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster

Our next rostered day will be Tuesday, 9th April from 8am.

Organ Tuning Wednesday, 10 April.

Compassionate Friends

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

Nursing Home Service

Our next service at Cottage Homes will be on Thursday, 11 April from 9:30am led by Rev Chris Wright. All singers and helpers most welcome.

Church Council Meeting

Our bi-monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, 11 April from 7pm in the St Andrew's Room.

Senior's Communion

Monthly Senior's Communion at the Village from 10am on Friday, 12 April.

School Term 1 Ends on Friday, 12 April.

Church Missionary Society of Australia

Invite you to their Autumn Encounter "Blessing all the Nations" 12-13 April at Calrossy Anglican School. Guest Speaker will be Andrew Lubbock, senior minister of Arundel Presbyterian Church and former CMS Missionary in Italy. Register at cms.org.au/event/autuymencounter or phone 07 3171 3020.

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.

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. Help with catering and just being there on the day.

Retreats

Kate and Richard Penrose are hosting retreats throughout 2019. Flyers are available at the back of the church. The first one will be held on Saturday, 6 April for a half-day 9am-12noon. Is spiritual rest something more than just taking a day off on Sunday? Come along and enjoy a morning set aside to rest in God's presence, and perhaps experience some new ways of reflecting on the bible and connecting with God. More courses in May August and October. Contact 0429 43 556 or rkpenrose@gmail.com website: www.retreatchristianministries.com.au

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.



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*.

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.



Lenten Studies

Rev Chris Wright will be hosting our Lenten Studies (Wk 3) on Wednesday 27 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.

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. Please come along to our practices on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm in the Church on 28 March. Everyone's welcome.

Aikido Karate

Meeting in the Jubilee Hall on Thursday evenings from 5-9pm.

Social Craft Group

Meeting in the Dunn Hall on Friday mornings from 8:30am.

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.

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 is invited to join the fellowship group from 11am in the St Andrew's Room for our guest speaker, coming to talk to us about strokes. Following the talk we will provide a light luncheon. We would love to have to join us for this informative and friendly morning.

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.

