

## Diary Dates

**Sun, 8 9am Tamworth City  
Worship with Rev Betty  
Stroud. Lent Wk2. Sunday  
School.  
10am Morning Tea in St  
Andrew's Room. Trading  
Table.**

11am Korean Reborn Church

**Mon, 9 9:30am KAIROS sewing JH  
10am-4pm Op Shop M-F  
10am-2pm Uniting StAR**

**Tue, 10 8am Meals on Wheels  
9am-2pm Church Office T-F  
9:30am Line dancing JH  
10am Pres Bookkeeping  
10:30am DIFOF @ Telstra  
7pm Lenten Studies in  
Wesley Room**

**Wed, 11 9am Op Shop Working Bee  
10am Compassionate  
Friends in St AR  
6pm Meditation in Chapel  
6pm New Vogue Dance JH**

**Thu, 12 10am Stepping Stones DH**

9:30am Yoga at StAR  
2pm Lenten Study in Wesley  
Room  
4pm Church Singers  
4:30pm Church Music  
6pm Emmaus Board in St AR  
8:30am Flourish Aust in StAR  
10am Senior Communion at  
the Village Hall  
6:30pm New Vogue DanceJH

**Fri, 13 8:30am Flourish Aust in StAR  
10am Senior Communion at  
the Village Hall**

**Sat, 14 9am-12noon Op Shop  
6pm Emmaus Trivia Night in  
Gunnedah**

**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



### 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

8 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.



## Preaching Plan

### Sunday, 15 March—Lent Wk3

9am Tamworth City Service with Rev Betty Stroud—Elder: J Archbold;  
Door: R & P Pryor, H McKenzie; PP: J Carthew;  
Organ: R Cathcart.

9:30am Tamworth Southside service with David Bissett

11am West Tamworth Service. Trading Table.



## *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](http://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](http://ucapeelvalley.org.au)*

*Email: [ucapeelvalley@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sun, 8 Mar**—8:30am Gowrie Service, 11am Hallsville Baptism Service. (NOTE: no service at West.)

**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.

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

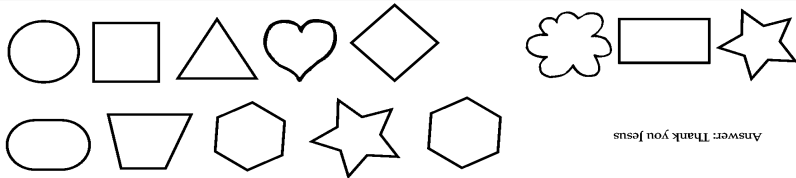
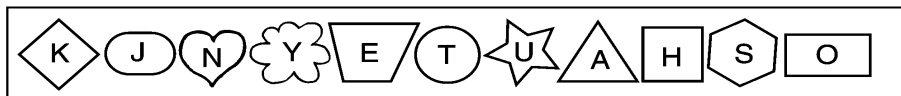
## Hidden Words

Colour the spaces that have these musical instruments. Some instruments are used more than once. Others are not used at all.



## Psalm 100:4

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name." Write the letter from each shape into the same shape below.



Answer: Thank you Jesus

## Lectionary Readings

Sun 8	Psalm 121*	Fri 13	John 4:5-30
Mon 9	Psalm 119:41-50	Sat 14	John 4:31-42
Tue 10	Exodus 17:1-7*	Sun 15	Psalm 95*
Wed 11	Romans 5:1-5	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 12	Romans 5:6-11		



## 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](http://www.lentevent.com) and videos at: [www.lentevent.com/be-inspired](http://www.lentevent.com/be-inspired)



## *Lent Event Study Wk 2*

### *WHEN ENEMIES BECOME FRIENDS*

READ LUKE 6: 27-42

The 2010 film *Of Gods and Men* tells the true story of a community of Cistercian monks living in a monastery high in the Atlas Mountains of Algeria. In the mid-90s, Algeria was in the grip of a civil war and the reclusive monastery got caught up in the crossfire. The monks, all French, were asked to leave by the Algerian military, but at the urging of the local community and as an act of their divine calling, decided to stay among the people they had been with for years and years. The film chronicles the intense pressure and strain they felt as they, together, came to the decision not to flee to safety. In a letter written before his eventual death, the Prior of the Abbey, Brother Christian de Charge, wrote the following:

*'In these thanks in which everything is said, by now, about my life, including also you, friends of yesterday and today, and you, friends of this earth, beside my mother and my father, my sisters and my brothers, a centuple given according to the promise! And you too, friend of the last moment, who did not know what you were doing.*

*Yes, for you as well, I want to foresee these thanks and this adieu. And that it may be given to us, blessed thieves, to meet again in Heaven, if God, our shared Father, so wishes, Amen!'* 4

'Friend of the last moment' is, of course, a reference to his killer, the one who, like those who crucified Jesus, 'did not know what you were doing.'

Here we see in moving and heart-breaking testimony the embodiment of Jesus' call to 'love your enemies'. At the point where the monks had every right to retreat into anger, hatred, condemnation and judgement, Brother Christian locates the love he himself has received in Christ and is able to call his enemy 'friend'. This is not naivete, nor a detached idealism – claims that Brother

### **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*

### **Stamp Collecting News**

*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.*

### **Reverse Parking**

*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.*

### **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.*

### **Housekeeping Item**

*Please report all incidents/accidents to the office, even if there is no further action. We need to keep a record for our insurance. Thank you.*

### **Food Hamper Sunday**

*Food Hamper Sunday is the 1st Sunday of the month. Bring along something to the office anytime. A shopping list might look like this: 2x1lt UHT milk, 500g sugar, 25 tea bag box, 50g coffee, 100gm tuna/sardines, 2xcuppa coup, 2xrice/pasta pack, 250g biscuits, tin baked beans/spaghetti (ring pull), tin steak & veg (or similar), 2minute noodles, small tinned fruit, small cereal. Thank you everyone.*

### **Wheelchair/Walker**

*There is a wheelchair and a walker available in the Vestry to assist in transporting those who require one to and from the church carpark. Please return to the Vestry.*

### **Screening Mammogram**

*Breast Screen NSW Hunter New England offers all women aged 50-90yrs are free Screening Mammogram for the early detection of breast cancer. Call 132050.*

## **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.

### **Dates to Note**

- 2nd 9:30am NENW Pres Standing Committee; 6pm Emmaus Board
- 3rd-5th Emmaus National Gathering at Lake Keepit
- 5th Palm Sunday. Daylight Savings Ends. Term end BBQ. Lent Event Stall
- Mark the Date: 15th May—Soup & Damper Trivia Night

## *Prayers*

### **Prayer Focus—Tamworth City**

Today we focus on the activities of the Worship, Evangelism, Property and Finance & Admin committees. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

### **Ecumenical Prayer Calendar**

Keep the people of Andorra, Austria, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marina and Switzerland 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.

Christian knows will be made about him. No, it's a conscious choice to let love conquer death and sin. His killers could take his life, but they could never take from him his freedom to let love finally triumph. Incredibly, he even associates himself with his captor as 'blessed thieves' who, he hopes, may meet again in heaven.

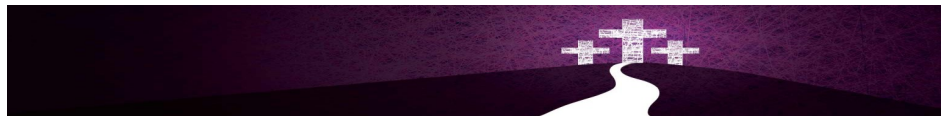
Such stories put many of the petty disputes churches are renowned for in the shade. We misdirect our attention to insignificant things while Jesus is desperately trying to re-direct us to the heart of God's Kingdom and its

outworking in the world. There is no 'other' more 'other' than our enemies. We have greater reason not to love our enemies than anyone else in the world. And still, Jesus says, no, you must love your enemies, turn the other cheek, bless those who curse you, because that is what Jesus himself does by dying on the cross. Through sin we became the enemy of God, and God loved us still. What we're called to see, like Brother Christian, is we are no less enemies of God than our enemies are. And if God loves them, then we too must follow in Jesus way and love without exception or qualification – even if it costs us our lives.

We can fail to love the 'other' in routine, day to day, interactions – others who are merely strangers, let alone loving our enemies which is the ultimate test of our calling in faith. Perhaps we need to start by looking at our most common relational engagements and asking ourselves what love requires of us here.

It is telling that our passage leads on from the command to love, to teaching about judgement. We live in a world where we are constantly invited to have opinions about people and events, but often with no connection or personal cost. Social media fuels outrage and indignation as we are invited to react without relationship.

Jesus' command to love requires more of us than this. Our every encounter with another is cloaked in the truth that we too are thieves with Brother Christian and his killer. But as Jesus says to the thief on



the cross, 'today you will be with me in paradise.' Easter is centrally about taking this way by faith—the way to the cross, the grave, the sky—the way of our dying and rising Lord with whom we too may die and rise, and be transformed into the heavenward way of being.

#### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (Luke 6:27-42)

1. Reflect on the picture of Jesus Luke is getting across in the Scriptural text.
2. Have you ever had any experiences where you've struggled to love someone, perhaps because of relationship breakdown or because you've been hurt in some way?
3. Have you ever had the experience of learning to love someone you started off disliking once you had a chance to get to know them?
4. Loving enemies is the ultimate test of faith, but it also says something profound about the strength of love. Love is often regarded as a 'soft feeling' kind of thing, yet the picture Jesus portrays of love is very different. How does this text help us reflect on the nature of love?
5. Why do we find loving in even the routine course of life so hard? What role does judgement (assumptions and opinions we harbour) have on this?
6. How is our Lenten journey informed by this story?
7. How do these reflections shape the way we think and speak about Jesus in worship and witness?

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **Rev Betty Stroud—leave week**

Rev Betty will be in Orange from 23—30 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.

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.

### **Flourish Australia Workshop**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room from 8:30am on Friday, 13 March.

### **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.

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### **New Vogue Dance Group**

Dancing in Jubilee Hall 6:30pm Friday, 13 March.

### **Emmaus Trivia Night**

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

## *Next Week & Beyond*

### **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.

### **Senior's Getting Together Fellowship**

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

### **WATCH LENT EVENT VIDEO 2: MARY AND ATTIKA**

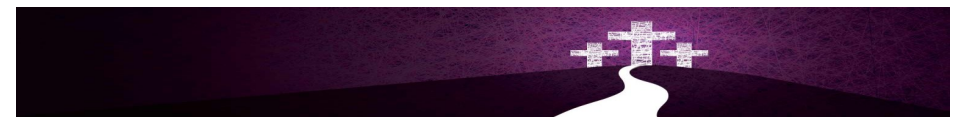
- What strikes you most deeply about this story of friendship between women who could easily have been enemies?
- Since this video was made, Attika's home was destroyed in a series of earthquakes that shook the island of Ambon in September 2019. Our church partners have been distributing emergency food and supplies to people living in Attika's area, and the Indonesian Government also has plans to help with rebuilding. Attika continues to sell homecooked snacks from the ruins of her home and is living under a tarp, as are many others, while she saves more money to try to rebuild. Check the Lent Event website for updates about her family.

### **PRAY TOGETHER**

- For those you hold in your hearts
- For your church and community
- For Mary, Attika and other members of the Waali community as they build peace together and recover from the Ambonese Earthquakes



*Attika in her shop before it was destroyed in the earthquake.*



## *Today's Information*

### **Worship on Sunday, 8 March—Lent Wk2**

9am Worship Service with Rev Betty Stroud. Introducing Jillian Cumberland, our Young Families Worker. Sunday School—Lent Event. Morning Tea. Trading Table.

### **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 [dottydoq@bigpond.com](mailto: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. Media release on Tuesday 10:30am at Telstra, donation of 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**

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.

### **Meals on Wheels**

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

### **Church Office**

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

### **Locomotive Line Dancing**

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

### **Lenten Studies**

Our Lenten Studies continue on Tuesday, 10 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.

### **Compassionate Friends**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 11 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.

### **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.

### **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)