

## Diary Dates

**Sun, 24** 9am Tamworth City  
Worship with Rev Will  
Pearson. Sunday School.  
Morning Tea.  
11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch  
12noon Congregational  
Christmas Lunch at Dragon  
Palace

**Mon, 25** 9:30am Kairos Sewing JH  
10am-4pm Op Shop M-F  
10am Uniting in St A Room  
10am Donaldson Funeral

**Tue, 26** 9am-2pm T-F Church Office  
9:30am LLine Dancers JH  
10am Pres Bookkeeper

**Wed, 27** 9am Op Shop Sorting—Vest  
6pm Meditation in Chapel  
6-9:30pm New Vogue JH

**Thu, 28** 9:30am Stepping Stones DH  
9:30am Yoga in St AR  
2pm Advent Study 1  
4:30pm Church Music  
7pm Advent Study 1

**Fri, 29** 6:30pm New Vogue JH

**Sat, 30** 9am-12noon Op Shop

**Sun, 1** **Advent Week 1**  
9am Tamworth City  
Worship & Holy  
Communion with Rev Will  
Pearson. Food Hamper  
Sunday. Sunday School.  
Morning Tea.  
11:30am Korean Reborn  
Church & Lunch



## Preaching Plan

### Sunday, 1 December—Advent Wk 1

9am Tamworth City—Rev Will Pearson HC—Elder: A Ashworth, P  
Turner, E Sheppard, J Carthew, P Battle; Door: M Partridge, J  
Phillips, E Gevert; PPoint: M Miles; Organ: R Greer

9:30 Tamworth Southside

11am West Tamworth—Ross Davidson. Lunch to Follow.



### Contact Details:

- **Supply Minister:** Rev Will Pearson 0431 150 253  
pastorwill@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 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 Sharn Mason

24 November 2019

## Welcome to Tamworth City Uniting Church

We welcome all those worshipping with us today at Tamworth City. Rev Will Pearson will be leading our service. Please stay for a chat and morning tea.



# Advent Bible Studies

## Re-orienting your Christmas Compass...



### Introduction

Advent literally means 'arrival' or 'coming' and is the season in the church calendar leading up to Christmas when we remember the coming of Jesus. In our affluent and consumerist Western culture it is easy to be influenced by all those syrupy muzak carols we hear in the shopping malls, or worse, be seduced into spending lots of money on gifts people don't really need supposedly reflecting the generosity of the three wise men or even the original Saint Nicholas.



These four Bible studies, based on this year's lectionary readings (Year C), will help to re-orient your thinking and actions more in line with the hopes and values of the biblical writers. As someone who participates regularly in the sport of orienteering I have learned the hard way that to avoid getting lost it is essential to follow the map provided and trust in your compass. So often it seems easier just to follow other runners or what seem like the natural contours of the land only to find oneself confused and disoriented. So it is good to get back to our

# Southside Scene



**Worship:** 9:30am Sundays. HC 3rd Sunday. In recess 5pm Dec/Jan.

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

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

**Prayer Team:** 3pm Tuesdays.

**Lectionary Study & Worship**

**Preparation:** 4pm Tuesdays.

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

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

**Men's Choir:** 5:30pm on alternate

Thursdays.

**Men's Bowls:** 9:45am 2nd & 4th

Friday North Tamworth Bowling Club

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

**Hands & Hearts:** Fairtrade Sunday, 1 December from 11am.

**Carols on the Carpet:** 5:30pm on 15th December. Farewell for Sarah.

**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,

# 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, 24 Nov**—8:30am Markets at Hallsville, 8:30am Gowrie Service,

11am West Tamworth Service and Congregational AGM to follow.

**Fri, 29 Nov**—6pm Friday Family Church at Hallsville with Ross Davidson.

**Sun, 1 Dec**—11am West Tamworth Service with Ross Davidson. Lunch to follow service.

**Sun, 8 Dec**—8:30am Gowrie Service & 11am West Tamworth HC Service with Meg Mangan.



## Codes

Use the code to find what it says in John 10:10.

A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	L	M	N	T	U	V	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

8 3 1 10 5 12 7 1 12 12 7 5 15  
 10 1 15 7 1 14 5 9 8 6 5  
 1 11 4 7 1 14 5 8 12  
 1 2 13 11 4 1 11 12 9 15

Answers: I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

## Color

Color the spaces with dots all the same color. Then color the other spaces different colors.



## Lectionary Readings

Sun 24	Luke 1:68-79*	Fri 29	Matthew 13:45-51
Mon 25	Isaiah 2:1-5*	Sat 30	Matthew 24:36-44*
Tue 26	Isaiah 2:10-19; 4:2-6	Sun 1	Psalm 122*
Wed 27	Psalm 11	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings	
Thu 28	Romans 13:11-14*		

map (the Bible) and compass (the guidance of the Holy Spirit) as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

You're invited then to walk a more dangerous path through this season, one that is more gritty and challenging but more in keeping with the biblical witness. You'll need a Bible, some friends to journey with and an openness to what God might reveal about his purposes for your life and community.

Each study is split into two roughly equal parts, one focusing on an OT text and one on a NT text from the Gospel of Luke. Questions are provided to initiate and guide your discussion. The studies are designed to take approximately one hour but don't feel anxious if you don't cover every question. Overall you will need to allow 90 minutes so there is time for some sharing of your stories, for prayer and for encouraging one another.

### Week 1: What are you doing to prepare for Jesus?

#### Setting the scene – radical OT hope

According to scholar Walter Brueggemann, an important role of the OT prophets was to help the people imagine a different future. They were not trying to raise false hopes but rather to refocus the people's attention back to God and his promises. This was sometimes no easy task in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary – like the reality of cities overrun by invading armies or exile. But radical hope dares to believe and trust in God despite the apparent desperation of the situation. Think of the recent disasters in Samoa, Sumatra and the Philippines and the hope of the people in building a new future in the midst of death and destruction. Or perhaps think of the global groundswell of hope when President Obama was elected. Prophets bring a message of new possibilities.

In the Old Testament, God's people often faced tough circumstances, none more so than when Jerusalem was attacked and destroyed by the powerful Babylonian army with many of the



Jewish people sent into exile in Babylon. Even while the Babylonians were besieging the city, the prophet Jeremiah brought a prophecy of unexpected hope, which is recorded in Jeremiah chapter 33. Despite the corruption and unfaithfulness of the people, God promised to restore and heal the city in the future, to once again bring joy and prosperity. Moreover he promised to raise up a righteous Branch for David, a ruler to lead with justice and righteousness. Read Jeremiah 33:14-16. Note that the word 'branch' was understood as a messianic title, here and in related passages in Isa 11:1 and Zech 4:11-13.

### Questions for reflection and discussion:

- Recall a situation in the last twelve months when external circumstances appeared bleak. How did God's message of hope come to you in that situation?
- According to Jeremiah 33:19-21, God's promises are as sure as day following night. How can we hold out God's light for one another when faced by darkness and fear?
- The prophets often call the people to practice justice and righteousness. Compare with Micah 6:8. Try to describe in everyday language what these words mean and identify one practical step you can take this week to act justly and righteously.

### Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

Keep the people of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in your prayers this week.

### Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

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

### Presbytery Prayer Points

We continue to pray for life-sustaining rain to fall across our Presbytery and fire affected areas also. Our annual Preaching Workshop 7/8 February 2020.

### Scripture in Schools

Special thanks for those who lead classes in our high schools this year—Andrew, Ross, Belinda and Darrel. Funding from donations. If you would like to contribute: A/c name TSCEAI, BSB 032 621, A/c No. 372 372. Thank you.

### 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.

## Children & Young Families Ministry Coordinator



The Tamworth Uniting Churches are seeking to continue a Children & Families Ministry Coordinator in their ministry. 12-month position commencing 19 January 2020. The applicant will be a committed Christian who brings energy, creativity and enthusiasm to:

- **resource** ministry with children and families;
- **facilitate** the development and implementation of innovative and dynamic ministry;
- **assist** in the pastoral oversight for children and their families;
- **encourage** and **model** best practice in the area of children and families' ministry.

Registrations of interest in the position will close on Tuesday, 26 November. Contact the Uniting Church office on 6766 5311, email [tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com](mailto:tamworthcity.uca@gmail.com) for further information and job description.



## Senior's Communion

Our last monthly Senior's Communion for the year at the Uniting St Andrew's Village Community Hall from 10am on Friday, 13 December. Rev Mark Armstrong will be leading the service.

## Ben Mettham Drama Co

Using the Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 14 December from 9am.

## Worship on Sunday, 15 December - Advent 3

9am Worship Service, Youth Vision Presentations & Kids with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: J Bennett; D: W Purss, S Hardin, F Kerr; PP: J Carthew; O: R Cathcart. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea.

11am West Tamworth Service—Rev Will Pearson.

## Carols on the Carpet

Tamworth Southside are hosting Carols on the Carpet on Sunday, 15 December from 5:30pm. BBQ, carols and Sunday School Kids play, farewell for Sarah Wright. Everyone's welcome.

## Diary Dates to Note

- 16-19th December Christmas Appeal
- 17th 8am Meals on Wheels; AIR; Rainbow Cottage Concert
- 20th 10am Craft Group; 12noon Adult Fellowship Lunch

## 2020 Dates

- 6-11 January SU Chaffey Dam Watersports Camp.
- 8 January Rev Betty Stroud joining us.
- 11 January SU SUITE Talking your faith naturally.
- 13-17 January SU Outback Adventure Camp.
- 7/8 February NENW Presbytery Preaching Workshop.

# 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 during the week.

## Hope of Jesus' coming – a second time

Advent is the season for remembering the coming of Jesus. Our second passage focuses on the return of Jesus, an important but rarely preached on subject in our tradition of the church. The Uniting Church *Basis of Union* reminds us, however, that:

The Church...awaits with hope the day of the Lord Jesus Christ on which it will be clear that the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of the Christ, who shall reign for ever and ever. (*Para 1*)  
The Church lives between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which Christ will bring. (*Para 3*)

The apostle Paul sums up this NT hope in Phil 3:20-4:1 with a reminder that our true citizenship and loyalty lies with God's future kingdom. Jesus teaches at length about this in Luke chapter 21. The setting for this teaching is the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus initially speaks about the troubles and distress that will befall the world generally and also his disciples before the sacking of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24), an event that happened a generation after the death of Jesus in 66 CE. Jesus then speaks about his own return and how to prepare for it. *Read Luke 21:25-36, in a couple of translations if possible.*

Jesus uses his preferred and yet somewhat ambiguous title, the Son of Man, to refer to himself. Here it is a likely reference to the powerful figure in Daniel 7:13-14. He claims that he will return suddenly but very openly, with everyone aware of the event. Each person will stand before him (Luke 21:36), receiving redemption (Luke 21:28) or judgment. A similar scene is described in Revelation 20:11-12.

Rather than inducing fear or anxiety, this message aimed to show who



was ultimately in charge of history. The way to prepare for this glorious event is be alert and prayerful, living faithfully and not being distracted by the worries of life (Luke 21:34-36). Advent is therefore an invitation to us not just to remember the birth of Jesus but also to look forward to his return.

**Questions for reflection and discussion:**

- This passage may well have been written to those facing or experiencing active persecution for their faith (cf. China today). Our situation is quite different, living in a culture that often views Christian faith as harmless but irrelevant. Why then is Jesus' call for faithful living just as important for us?
- Luke here presents a very different take on the coming of Jesus than we normally consider during Advent. In what ways does this message directly challenge our culture's more typical approach to this time of year?
- How might this hope of Jesus' return affect how we live now in the everyday ongoing aspects of our lives? What is one attitude you can develop or one action you can take to be better prepared and ready?

*This resource is produced by the Centre for Theology & Ministry  
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**Coffee Cake & Carols**

Tamworth Choral Society invite you to their Coffee, Cake & Carols to round off their 70th Anniversary Platinum series of concerts we will be celebrating the 100th Birthday of Sir David Willcocks, famous for his arrangements of Christmas Carols. Our format this year will be that of the famous Nine Lessons & Carols. Sunday, 8 December from 7:30pm at St John's Anglican Church. Tickets \$10/head (\$20/family).

**Rainbow Cottage Xmas Rehearsals**

Commencing Tuesday, 10 December 10am-12noon each day until Concert on 17 December at 5pm.

**Stepping Stones Christmas Parties**

At our regular playgroups on Tuesday, 10 and Thursday, 12 December from 10am. Santa photos and fun.

**Church Council Meeting**

Our December Church Council meeting is coming up on Tuesday, 10 December from 7pm in the St Andrew's Room.

**Nursing Home Service**

9:30am Cottage Home service. Please join Rev Chris Wright as he leads the service.

**Christmas Blessings from the  
Uniting Churches in Tamworth**

*Merry Christmas from the Uniting Churches in Tamworth.  
We extend a warm welcome to you to worship with us:*

**Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts) Tamworth Southside (Op Golden Guitar)**

Each Sunday	9am	Each Sunday	9:30am and 5pm
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>11:30pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>8am</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>8am</b>

**Peel Valley**

2nd & 4th Sunday	8:30am at Gowrie
1st & 3rd Friday	6pm at Hallsville
Each Sunday	11am at West Tamworth
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>9am Hallsville (Manilla Rd)</b>



## Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service

You are invited to join the Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 4 December from 5pm in the Church followed by a light supper in the St Andrew's Room.

## 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 December.

## Adult Fellowship & Lunch n Chatter Christmas Lunch

Join us on Friday, 20 December from 12noon for our Christmas Lunch in the Dunn Hall. Please let Lorraine Furze (6761 7371) know you will be there for catering. Thank you. Sorry wrong date NOW 20 DECEMBER in DUNN HALL.

## Carols in Bicentennial Park

Everyone's invited to join in the Community Carols in Bicentennial Park on Saturday, 7 December from 6:30pm. Bring along a picnic blanket/chair and a lovely night under the stars singing carols.

## Worship on Sunday, 8 December - Advent 2

9am Worship Service and Baptisms with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: N Dezius; D: J Dezius, W Townsend & Kathy; PP: J Phillips; O: R Richardson. Sunday School. Morning Tea.



# Today's Information

## Worship on Sunday, 24 November

9am Worship Service with Rev Will Pearson. Sunday School. Morning Tea.

## Korean Reborn Church

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

## Congregational Christmas Lunch

Sunday, 24th November meeting from 12noon at the Dragon Palace.

## Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Phyllis Donaldson, who passed away during the week. The funeral will be held on Monday, 25th November at 10am here at Tamworth City.

## Mission Envelopes

You'll find a Mission Envelopes in your notice sheet today. Please give generously to our project this month—Joy Balazo's Peace Village in the Philippines. Thank you.

## UnitingWorld—Everything in Common Gifts

Gifts that fight poverty and build Hope. Gifts range from \$10 to \$500. Something for everyone. Grab a brochure at church today.

## With Love to the World

Would you like to receive this daily devotional? Or continue to receive it? Please contact the office. The cost will remain \$20/year (billed in January).

## Hospitality/Visitation

While Rev Will Pearson is here with us, he would like to visit as many people as possible. If you'd like to have a visit please let Will know (0431 150 253).

## 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. Keeping those affected by the bushfires in our prayers as well. Congratulations to Sue-Ellen on recognition of the great work she is doing.

### **Target/UnitingCare Christmas Appeal**

Do you know someone who'd appreciate some help this Christmas? Let the office know. You can buy a Bauble at Target or make a donation to the office. Wrap a box in readiness for our big drive from Monday, 16 December. Collection day is 19th December. Every little bit helps. This year we are including our DIFOF farmers, so it's all hands on deck!

## **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.

### **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.

### **Phyllis Donaldson Funeral**

Monday, 25 November at 10am in Tamworth City Uniting Church.

### **Church Office**

Regular office hours 9am-2pm Tuesday to Friday. *Nicolette*.

### **Locomotive Line Dancing**

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

### **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.

### **Meditation Service**

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

### **New Vogue Dance Group**

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

### **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.

### **Yoga Group**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursdays from 5 September 9:30am.

### **Advent Studies**

Rev Will Pearson has offered to take our annual Advent Studies commencing 28 November at 2pm and 7pm. The studies will be in the notice sheet each week so that everyone can join in.

### **New Vogue Dance Group**

Dancing in Jubilee Hall on Friday, 29 November from 6:30pm.

### **Hands & Hearts Fair Trade Downunder**

Cancelled due to road closures for leaders—to be rescheduled.

## **Next Week & Beyond**

### **Worship on Sunday, 1 December - Advent 1**

9am Worship Service and Holy Communion with Rev Will Pearson. Elder: A Ashworth, P Turner, E Sheppard, J Carthew, P Battle; D: M Partridge, J Phillips, E Gevert; PP: M Miles; O: R Greer. Sunday School. Food Hamper/Christmas Appeal Sunday. Morning Tea.

### **Property Committee Meeting**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 3 December from 4:30pm.

### **Friends of Nioka**

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

### **Bereavement Support**

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Wednesday, 4 December from 10am.