

Diary Dates

Sun, 26 Christ The King Sunday
9am Worship Service with
Rev Chris Wright. Sunday
School. Morning Tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn
 Church service & lunch

3pm Combined Churches
 Choir practice at St John's

Mon, 27 4-5am Wheely Bean-JH M-F

9:30am-3pm Kairos Outside
 Sewing Group in Jubilee HI

10am-4pm Op Shop Mon-Fri

1:30pm KYB at 26 Upper St

4pm Weight W in DH

5:30pm New V. Dance in JH

Tue, 28 Church Office Closed

10am Pres. Bookkeeper

10am Bereavement Support
 Group in St Andrew's Room

5pm Weight Watchers DH

Wed, 29 9-2 Church Office Open W-F

9am Op Shop Working Bee

2pm Advent Study in St
 Andrew's Room

6pm New Vogue Dance JH

7:30pm Advent Study in St
 Andrew's Room

Thu, 30 4:30pm Church Music Team

Fri, 1 World Aids Day

8:30am Weight W. DH

10am Craft Group in St A's R

12noon Craft Group & Adult

Fellowship Christmas Lunch
 in St Andrew's Room

Sat, 2 8am Weight Watchers DH

9am-12noon Op Shop

2pm Private Function in JH

6pm Bendemeer UCA 150th
 Celebrations

Sun, 3 **Advent Week 1**

9am Worship Service & Holy

Communion with Rev Chris
Wright. Sunday School.

Morning Tea.

11:30am Korean Reborn
 Church service & lunch

3pm Combined Churches

Choir practice at St John's

7:30pm Coffee Cake &

Carols @ St John's

Preaching Plan

Sunday, 3 December 2017

3:30am Gowrie—Meg Mangan HC

9am Tamworth City—Rev Chris Wright HC E: R Hely, M Weick, M
 Hobson, J Carthew & P Battle, D: D Miles, H Fergus, R Barclay,
 AV: A Winter, O: R Greer.

9:30am Tamworth Southside—David Bissett

11am West Tamworth—Meg Mangan HC Lunch to follow

5pm Tamworth Southside—David Bissett

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



Welcome to Tamworth City

We welcome all those worshipping with us today. Rev Chris Wright will be leading 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
- **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@aanet.com.au
- **Southside Lay Ministry Worker:** Suzanne Holloway 0438 608 373
- **Peel Valley:** Margaret Crowell Mb 0408 660 025
- **UNITING St Andrew's Village** 1800 864 846 Pastoral Care Practitioner Galina Newcombe 0417 830 662
- **UNITING Rainbow Cottage** 6766 7655 Sharn Mason



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

Advent Study

Advent 1

Welcome to the season of Advent. There are 4 Sundays in Advent but for logistical reasons we will be only engaging with 3 studies that will be based on the Gospel reading for each of the Sundays as set in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Advent has historically, in the Christian Church, been a time of preparation like the season of Lent that leads up to Easter. Christmas whilst a major significant event in the Church, believe it or not, does not hold the same significance as that of Easter. The date of the 25th December to celebrate the feast of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus, was not locked in until around the end of the 4th and early 5th century, unlike Easter which is locked into the lunar calendar and the Jewish Passover. The 25th December is the Northern Hemisphere's winter solstice (the shortest day) and was historically the date to celebrate the birthday of the unconquered sun that the early Church chose to spiritualise and in due course became the celebration of the birth of Christ who, as John's Gospel words it, is the light who shines into the darkness. No one really knows the exact date of Jesus birth, but I think there is wisdom in the early church fathers choosing the winter solstice as the light begins to increase day by day.

Again, whilst Christmas is a significant Christian festival, it needs to be noted that only 2 of the 4 Gospels, Matthew and Luke, has a nativity narrative. Mark's gospel, which is the set reading for the first two Sundays of Advent, starts off with the introduction of Jesus and his ministry and John's Gospel comes at Jesus birth with 14 verses that outlines Jesus divinity and that he has no beginning and end. When compared to the passion of Christ that consumes almost a third of all four gospels, one soon starts to see where the emphasis lies between the birth and death of Jesus.

Never the less, the Church has encouraged believers for centuries to use Advent as a time of preparation which is not easy for us in a 21st century

Southside Scene

Worship: 9:30am & 5pm Sundays.
HC 3rd Sunday.

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

Prayer Meeting: 3:30pm Tuesdays.

Worship Planning: 5:30pm Tuesdays.

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

Men's Choir: 5:30pm on Thursdays.

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

Carols on the Grass: Friday, 8
December from 6pm.

www.tamworthsouthside.org.au or

Facebook: *Tamworth Southside
Uniting Church*

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*



Peel Valley Congregations

Fri, 24 Nov—6pm Hallsville Friday
Family Church with Pat Johnston.

Sun, 26 Nov—8am Hallsville Markets;
9am Hallsville Service and 11am West
Tamworth Service with Pat Johnston.

Fri, 1 Dec—6pm Hallsville Friday
Family Church with Meg Mangan.

Sun, 3 Dec—8:30am Gowrie HC
Service & 11am West Tamworth HC
Service with Meg Mangan lunch to
follow.

Tue, 5 Dec—10am Memory Lane
Morning Tea at West Tamworth
Church. Join us for a cuppa, meet

new friends, singalong, activities, &
more. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays monthly.

GOWRIE, HALLSVILLE & WEST TAMWORTH CONGREGATIONS

*Our Goal "To be transformed communities,
experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of
the friendship of Jesus."*

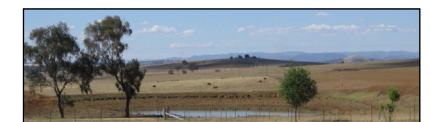
Mission "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve"

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0466 337 005

Contact: Margaret Crowell 6760 8323

Preaching: Ross Davidson 6760 8369

Elders: Margaret Crowell, Ross Davidson,
Bruce Jarrett, Marie Meyer, Barbara



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:
Peel Valley*

**Friday, 15th: 7:30pm Carol Service & Supper
(Hallsville)**

Sunday 17th: 11am West Tamworth (Denison St)

**Saturday, 23rd: 6:30pm Carol Service & Supper
(Gowrie)**

Christmas Day: 9am Hallsville (Manilla Rd)

Tamworth City (Cnr Marius & Bourke Sts)

Christmas Eve 9am and 7:30pm

Christmas Day 8am

**Tamworth Southside (440 Goonoo Goonoo Rd, Op. Big
Golden Guitar)**

Friday 8th 6pm Carols on the Grass

Christmas Eve 9:30am, 5pm and 11:30pm

Christmas Day 8am

Lectionary Readings

Sun	26	Psalm 100*	Fri	1	1 Corinthians 1:3-9*
Mon	27	Zephaniah 3:1-9	Sat	2	Psalm 80:1-7*
Tue	28	Isaiah 63:15-19	Sun	3	Psalm 80:8-19*
Wed	29	Isaiah 64:1-9*	* Denotes Sunday lectionary readings		
Thu	30	Mark 13:24-37*			

western society. We live in an environment where most of the preparation going on around us is about presents, food and holidays. There is not much recognition of Advent and spiritual preparation. Most of society will start to celebrate Christmas right through December and for us in the Church in our liturgical year we will continue celebrating Christmas for a number of weeks following Christmas day but the vast bulk of the community will have moved on to the Boxing Day sales and have their eyes set on News Year Day celebrations. We are kind of out of sync with society around us and it is not easy for us as followers of Jesus to remain focused on the Birthday Boy with all this going on around us, it will call on us to be disciplined as we seek to prepare spiritually in this Advent season and I believe God will richly bless us as we sacrifice time to spend with Him and allow Him to search and renew our hearts. As we paddle along together through Advent and for some of us as we meet together to discuss these questions and others reflect on them individually, please be encouraged that there are no right or wrong answers. This is a journey of reflection and preparation for each of us and we are all different and at different points in our Christian journey as we look forward to celebrating the event of Christmas when God came into His own creation as one of us and we anticipate His coming again.



The word advent comes from the latin word "adventus" which means coming. Advent is a time of expectation and preparation of the coming of Jesus. We prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas, Jesus coming amongst us, but we also prepare ourselves for his second coming which helps to explain the set reading for next Sunday Mark 13:24-27:

²⁴ "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

²⁶ "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is

near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.



³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

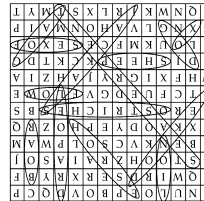
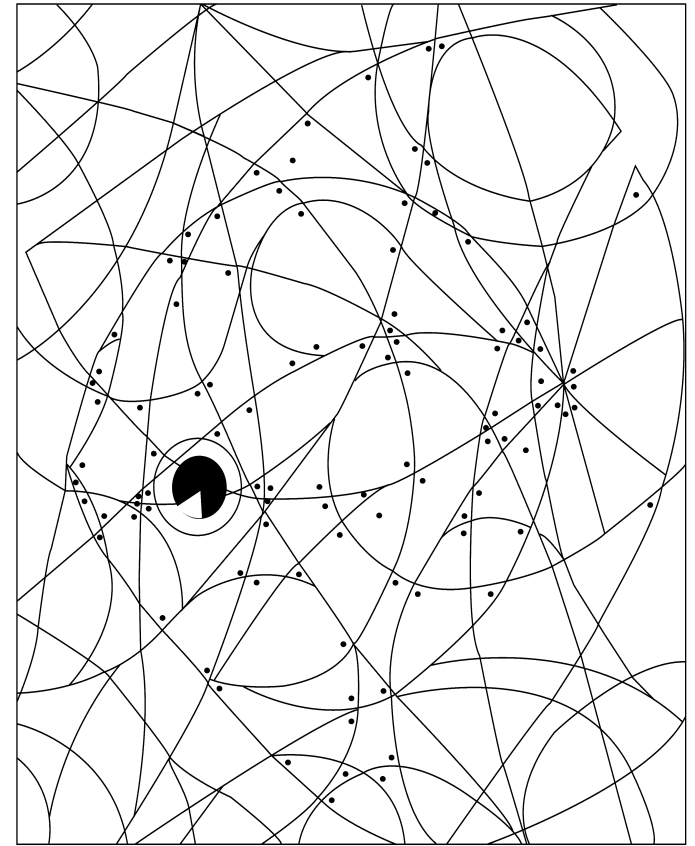
The focus of the reading is very much on the future. It uses what is called apocalyptic language or style that is used in the book of Revelation and parts of Daniel. It is very symbolic and visionary and is best read that way and not taken literally. The readings over the past weeks have been about being prepared, such as the parables of the Wedding Banquet, the 10 virgins, the talents, the sheep and the goats etc. Be prepared, be alert and be ready for the unexpected.

The picture painted in this passage of Jesus 2nd coming is very different to when he 1st came to dwell among us. Rather than a humble child in a manger where live stock were housed we will see Jesus coming in the clouds with great power and glory surrounded by the angels so everyone will know he has returned. The timing of this event is unknown by everyone but God the Father, so we need to be ready, watch.



Color

Color the spaces with dots to find one of God's creations.



Word Find Answers:

Word Find

Find what animals are in the Bible verses.

- Isaiah 31:4 _____
- Jeremiah 9:11 _____
- Ezekiel 34:20 _____
- Numbers 22:28 _____
- Daniel 8:5 _____
- Jeremiah 5:6 lion, _____
- Deuteronomy 25:4 _____
- Judges 15:4 _____
- Job 39:19 _____
- Amos 9:3 _____
- Psalms 80:13 _____
- Lamentations 4:3
jackals, _____
- Ecclesiastes 9:4 _____, lion

A	N	U	L	O	E	P	B	O	V	D	Q	C	P
D	Q	W	I	R	D	S	E	R	X	R	Y	B	F
G	S	T	O	O	H	Z	R	A	I	A	S	O	J
U	B	E	N	K	V	C	S	O	L	P	W	A	M
N	X	K	A	O	D	Y	E	P	H	O	Z	R	Q
A	E	R	O	S	T	R	I	C	H	E	S	B	S
Y	T	C	F	U	E	D	G	V	F	L	O	W	E
W	H	F	X	I	G	R	Y	J	A	H	Z	I	A
B	D	J	S	H	E	E	P	K	C	K	T	D	G
E	L	O	U	K	M	F	C	E	S	E	X	O	F
G	X	N	G	L	V	A	H	O	N	M	A	I	P
J	Q	N	W	K	J	R	L	X	S	T	M	Y	T

Answers: lion, jackals, sheep, donkey, goat, wolf, leopard, ox, foxes, horse, sa serpent, bear, ostriches, dog.

Prayer Diary—Tamworth Churches

This week we pray for the leaders and activities of the Tamworth City, Southside and Peel Valley Uniting Churches, Hope of Glory Church, Carinya Christian School, Moonbi/Kootingal Anglican Church and the Baptist Church.

Presbytery Prayer Points

Pray for the various outreach programs in this Advent Season. Connecting with our local communities and sharing God's love and abundant grace.

Scripture in Schools

Keep in your prayers the Tamworth Secondary Christian Education Teachers from around our High Schools (Andrew Wilcher & Ross Fotheringham—Farrer volunteers, Belinda Gonsalves—Oxley 3 days, Alison Holder—Peel/Manilla 2 days, and Dave Tankard—Tamworth 2 days).

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.

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

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.

Venture Christian Bookshop—Quirindi

108 George Street, Quirindi 6746 1065. Serving Christ in the community since 1985. Cards for every occasion, bibles, music CD's, DVD's, adult and children's books, giftware also available. They are happy to order in special requirements. Email: vcbquirindi@bigpond.com

Sunday Trading Table

Our bring-and-buy table is selling anything from handiwork to cooking, produce to jams. Stop and buy something this week and donate something another week. After church with the morning tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Some questions to reflect on.

1. What does being alert or watching and waiting for Jesus return mean for you?
2. In 1 Thess 5:2, the Apostle Paul speaks of Jesus coming unexpectedly like a thief in the night.
3. If we put a twist on this, what would you like Jesus to steal and remove from your life? Eg: excessive possessions that weigh us down, unresolved pain and grief ...
4. In our preparations for Jesus return, if you had a magic wand, what would you like to change in our society that grieves your heart?
5. What changes can you make in your own life that may contribute towards those wished for changes in society?
6. At times things around us seem out of control and in a downward spiral. What does the sentence in v32, that, "no one knows about that day or hour.... But only the Father" mean for you? Does it unsettle you or give you assurance or neither?

Prayer

During this Advent season, O God, may you prepare our hearts to make room for you. May this be a time of preparation and anticipation to ready our hearts and lives for the arrival of the King. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Today's Information

Worship on Sunday, 26 November 2017—Christ the King

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Southside Hands & Hearts

Everyone's welcome to join Southside with their Fair Trade Markets from 11am this morning. Do some Christmas shopping... 'Their handiwork will make your world a little more beautiful; your purchases will make their lives a little more liveable.' Support those in need.

Korean Reborn Church

11:30am Sundays for worship and then the Jubilee Kitchen for lunch.

Combined Churches Choir

In preparation for the Carols in the Park there will be a Combined Churches Choir practice on Sundays 26 November and 3 & 10 December 3-4pm at St John's. All welcome.

Congregational Christmas Lunch

Wasn't lunch delicious yesterday! Thank you everyone. A great day.

UnitingCare Target Christmas Appeal

Thank you everyone for your support of our launch last Monday. It was a very special and happy occasion. Let's share God's love with those around us at this Christmas time.

Mission Envelopes

Mission Envelopes focus for October and November 2017. Supporting another Joy Balazo project at the Peace Village in the Philippines. Looking to raise over \$1,000 to buy 100 Poultry Layers. Please give generously. Envelopes can be left on the plate each Sunday.



Private Function

Family gathering in Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 16 December from 2pm.

Carols in the Park

Join the local community for Carols in the Park on Saturday, 16 December at 6pm in Bicentennial Park, Tamworth.

Worship on Sunday, 17 December 2017—Advent 3

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright, occasional choir. Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room. After morning tea set-up for Christmas Appeal Hamper preparations.

Looking Ahead Dates to keep in mind

- 18th 9am Christmas Appeal present sorting/wrapping, 9am office open Monday-Thursday this week
- 19th 8am Meals on Wheels Kitchen Roster, 9am Christmas Appeal
- 20th 9am Christmas Appeal hamper/gift collection

Diary Date

- 2018—2/3 February annual NENW Presbytery Preaching with Paul: the Corinthian Correspondence. Flyers now available. Register at the office.

Prayers

Prayer Focus—Tamworth City

Today we focus on Pastoral Partners, Elders, St Andrew's Village, Fellowship Committee, Hospital Visitation and the Opportunity Shop. Please uphold these in your private prayers during the week.

Ecumenical Prayer Calendar

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



Private Function

Family gathering in Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 9 December from 3pm.

Worship on Sunday, 10 December 2017—Advent 2

Worship service with Rev Chris Wright, Children and Youth Vision supported Projects. Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Carols in the Corridors

Annual Carolling in the Tamworth Base Hospital. Meet at the Chapel at 5:30pm and join a light supper after.

Rainbow Cottage End of Year Concert

Jubilee Hall on Tuesday, 12 December from 5pm. A wonderful connection with our local Child Care Facility and Community.

Church Council Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Church Council will be held on Tuesday, 12 December from 7:30pm. AGM will be followed by a cool drink/nibbles then our usual meeting. Thanks everyone.

Compassionate Friends

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room from 10am on Wednesday, 13 December.

Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service

You are invited to attend the Compassionate Friends Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 13 December from 6pm in our church. The service will be led by Rev Jim Furze. A light supper will follow.

Craft Group

The Craft Group is held on the first and third Friday each month. Bring along your craft and we'll share in some chit chat, morning tea, and get a bit of craft done too. Contact Lorraine Turner 6766 6891. Next on 15 December.

School Term 4 Ends

Friday, 15 December.



Occasional Choir

We are getting together an Occasional Choir to sing some Australian Christmas Carols on Sunday, 17 December, Advent 3. Everyone's welcome to join in (men and women). Practices will be on Thursday afternoons from 4:30pm in the Church.

Water! Water! NO Water!

We have capped the old rusted water line to the Church for the time being. All water will need to be accessed from the St Andrew's Room.

UnitingCare Target Christmas Appeal

We have been working hard since 1999 to make Christmas a little easier for those who are struggling in our community. You can get involved by donating wrapping items of sticky tape and paper or donate a gift or buy at bauble at Target or make a financial donation to the appeal or help out on Sunday, 17 with food hampers, Monday, 18 with gift sorting and wrapping. Distribution will be on Wednesday, 20 December. Thank you for your support during this time.

This Week's Events

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).

KYB Study Groups

One group meets at 1:30pm at 26 Upper Street (Lorraine Turner 6766 6891). The 10am group will be joining the Advent Studies on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm (no more Mondays) commencing 29 November.

Church Office

NOTE—Closed Tuesday, 28 November. Regular hours 9am-2pm Tuesdays to Fridays. *Nicolette*

Bereavement Support Group

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Tuesday, 28 November from 10am.

Op Shop Working Bee

Sorting each Wednesday in the Vestry. Lots of chit-chat with your hard work and then a cuppa! Morning tea in the Office. All helpers welcome.

Advent Studies

Rev Chris Wright will be leading a three-week Advent Study commencing on Wednesday, 29 November. Two sessions—one at 2pm and one at 7:30pm. The studies will also be available in the notice sheet each week. Come and join a group to share your study with others.

Craft Group

The Craft Group is held on the first and third Friday each month. Bring along your craft and we'll share in some chit chat, morning tea, and get a bit of craft done too. Contact Lorraine Turner 6766 6891. Next on 1 December.

Craft & Fellowship Christmas Lunch

Join us on Friday, 1 December from 12noon for a Christmas lunch in the St Andrew's Room. \$10/head for lunch. Contact Jim & Lorraine Furze 6761 7371. Everyone's welcome...

Private Function

Using our Jubilee Hall on Saturday, 2 December from 2-10pm.

Bendemeer UCA 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Join the Bendemeer Community in celebrating 150years of the Uniting Church in Bendemeer on Saturday, 2 December from 6pm. Come & join in.

Next Week & Beyond

Worship on Sunday, 3 December 2017—Advent 1

Worship service and Holy Communion with Rev Chris Wright. Sunday School. Morning Tea in the St Andrew's Room.

Christmas Visits

The Evangelism group will be looking for visitors to distribute gifts and a Christmas chat to about 65 folk. A most enjoyable experience. Say you'll help out. Talk to Edna Sheppard or Fran Kerr.

20th Coffee Cake & Carols

The Tamworth Choral Society would like to invite you to their annual Coffee Cake and Carols at 7:30pm on Sunday, 3 December in the St John's Church.

One Door Mental Health Carer Support

Meeting in the Dunn Hall on Monday, 4 December from 10am.

Rainbow Cottage Practices & Concert

Rainbow Cottage will have some practices for their end of year concert in the Jubilee Hall each day 10am-12noon Tuesday 5th to Friday, 8th. Their concert will be on Tuesday, 12 December from 5pm.

Friends of Nioka

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room from 7pm on Tuesday, 5 December.

Aged Care Services

Rev Chris Wright will be leading our monthly Aged Care Services on Wednesday, 6 December from 10:15am at McKay & Alblas. All helpers and singers most welcome.

Rural Home Nursing

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 7 December from 12noon.

Property Committee

Meeting in the St Andrew's Room on Thursday, 7 December from 4:30pm.

Senior's Communion Service

Our monthly Senior's Communion Service will be held on Friday, 8 December from 10am in the St Andrew's Village Community Hall led by Rev Chris Wright. Contact Barbara McLean on transport 6766 4039.

