



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

26 October 2025

From Rev Tom

Over recent weeks, I've become aware of a recurring theme — the sense of being strangers in our own land. It's a feeling that echoes Jesus' words: *"I am not of this world."* Yet as I speak of this, I'm conscious that I might sound like those right-wing voices who rail against immigration and demand that "real Australians" should defend some imagined European-Australian culture. These groups lash out at almost everyone — anti-Palestinian while being anti-Semitic, anti-Indigenous, anti-Asian, and anti-women — longing for a supposed golden age of white male privilege. Their rhetoric thrives on fear, especially fear of being "overrun" by newcomers. Perhaps that fear lingers in our collective memory because, deep down, we know what our own forebears, arrivals from overseas, did to this land's First Peoples. Until we find a just reconciliation, that unease will remain part of us.

But my own sense of alienation has nothing to do with immigration or cultural change. It arises, instead, from what those same far-right voices often champion — the harshest expressions of modern capitalism, or what we now call neoliberalism. This system gives free rein to competition, glorifies inequality, and reduces homes to financial assets. It weakens governments designed to serve the common good, erodes trust in law and institutions, and allows greed to reign unchallenged. In such a world, it's easy to feel like an exile — a stranger in a society that no longer values community, fairness, or compassion.

Recently, we read from **Jeremiah 29:4–7**, where God tells the Israelites, exiled in Babylon, to "build houses and live in them, plant gardens... seek the welfare of the city." It's a call to remain faithfully present — to live as God's people even in a foreign culture, maintaining identity while working for the common good.

That same spirit lies at the heart of our new initiative: employing someone to help us strengthen and serve our local community through the Charlestown Church complex. Even when society feels foreign, we are called to live creatively and generously, to replace competition with community — and to let our actions quietly express the love of Christ, who commands us to love others as ourselves.



To everyone who has sent messages of support,
provided food, flowers, prayed, phoned
and done countless other acts of kindness
over the last few months thank you.
May our loving Lord bless each of you.
Your support and care have helped ease
my pain and loss. Beryl Gaul

DIARY

Thursday 23 October

- 10.00am **Presbytery Gathering** Morpeth Uniting Church – meet Rob Floyd, National Director of Frontier Services (see more details further in Contact)
- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Sunday 26 October – Pentecost 20

- 9.00am **SRE Service**
Leader: Cathy Beeton with Guest Speakers
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
- 2.00-4.30pm **Sacred Songs of the Season: Advent and Christmas** with Trish Watts at the Adamstown Uniting Church (see more details further in Contact)

Tuesday 28 October

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
- 12noon Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 29 October

- 10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 30 October

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Saturday 1 November

- 10.00-1pm **Growing Young Workshop** (see flyer in Contact for more information)

Sunday 2 November – Pentecost 21

- 9.00am **All Saints Service**
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

Monday 3 November

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Pastoral Visit

Tuesday 4 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 5 November

- Church Office closed today
- 10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 6 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Saturday 8 November

- 5.00-7.30pm **Family Games Night at Charlestown Uniting Church**

Sunday 9 November – Pentecost 22

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Kerrie Dixon and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Haggai 1:15b - 2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Betty Bryant and family following the death of Fred
- * Beryl and family following death of Graeme
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Michael Smith – cancer diagnosis & in Hospital
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Mike Warren
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Enid Power
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- pray for guidance and discernment
missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots





A Mission of Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church
24 Milson St, Charlestown, NSW

Job Opportunity: Milson St Hub **Communications Coordinator**



Job Description here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydfzd236>

Questions and applications to
chairperson@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

or phone church office on 0249 434019

Please share this job opportunity with anyone who may be interested, and pray that God is preparing someone to join us in God's work in our community.

Children & Family Worker Update



Just a reminder that this Sunday is SRE Sunday in our church. SRE (special religious education) or scripture as it used to be known. As I said last week, I have organised to have two young SRE teachers to come along as guest speakers to tell us their experiences as new SRE teachers and I also have invited 4 children who will be telling us what they love about SRE. **Please join us as we celebrate SRE** in our public schools & pray that it continues.

Then stay on for morning tea with the teachers & students. We will love to see you there.

Praying you all have a great week.

Cathy

Please join us for the



GARDEN SUBURB
UNITING CHURCH

Service of Closure

SUNDAY |
NOVEMBER 16 | 9AM

2025-2026
Uniting Church
Lectionary
available now



The new lectionary
year A begins on 30
November.

To follow the weekly
readings, download
the lectionary here:

[https://tinyurl.com/mr3
redkw](https://tinyurl.com/mr3redkw)

Note that this will replace the usual 9am worship
service at Charlestown. Our apologies that live
streaming will not be available for this service.

**family
Game Night**

Join us for a night full of fun,
laughter, and friendly competition!

8th Nov. 5pm-7.30pm

Charlestown Uniting Church

RSVP: CATHY 0409445933

Pizza Included



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Prayer of Recollection: The prayer of recollection represents a specifically “restful attitude” of connecting with the reality that God is in me. As we let go of distractions, this prayer recalls the soul to its true centre and identity in Christ.

Practice: Find a quiet place where you can sit comfortably before the Lord. Take some deep breaths, relaxing your body and quieting your mind. Offer yourself to God. Ask him to gather up the fragments of your scattered life and recollect your soul. Rest before him. When distracting thoughts come up, write down one word that expresses your distraction. Let the thought go and return to your rest in God. • After ten minutes look at the words you have jotted down. What stands out to you? What anxieties do you see? Where is your identity centered? • Confess that you are not called to control all that disrupts your life. Return these concerns to the Lord. Let him hold the concerns of your heart as you rest in him.

ALL SAINTS SERVICE

Sunday 2 November at 9am

Charlestown Uniting Church

During the service we will be giving thanks to God for the lives of those who have died during the last twelve months.

Your loved one will be honoured with a special candle for you or a family member to light.

As you arrive in the foyer, please collect your candle from the usher.

Morning Tea will be served immediately follow the service.

Please contact Kerrie Dixon on dixonkw@gmail.com with the name of your loved one, or with any enquires.

**OFFICE
CLOSED**



The Church Office
will be closed on
Wednesday 5
November as Jenny
will be on an Annual
Leave day.

GROWING YOUNG WORKSHOP



November 1st, 2025. 10am-1pm
Note the change of date!

Fuller Youth Institute has done a lot of research into what helps a church to "grow young", to attract and keep young people. We will explore some of this, and perhaps you will be interested in doing the whole course. (Pulse is encouraging this).

We will meet via zoom, contact Richard for the zoom link - email richardm@nswact.uca.org.au or phone 0408446281

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: Cath4858@gmail.com

Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services

Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account

BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

For Offering please put Ref: Offering

Keep up to date with happenings and info:

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>

Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>

Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>