



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

23 November 2025

From Anne Threlfo

I recently completed the 12-week program "The Artist's Way". This program aims to unlock one's creative nature by helping participants to identify personal blockages and adopt practices to align them with the Creative God and encouraging them to respond accordingly. It's goal isn't to make you a painter, poet, musician or playwright, but to diminish the belief that you aren't creative.

Were you like me, told directly or indirectly that you couldn't draw or paint and should concentrate on doing something practical? Have you resisted the desire to express yourself creatively because you didn't have time, thought being creative was a waste of time or believed you didn't have a creative bone in your body? Yes? Me too!

The fact is that we are made in the image and likeness of God, the great Creative force of the universe. God performed a huge act of creativity, an emptying of Godself (kenosis) at the point of Creation and continues to do so. This creative force resides within us. We possess and express this creativity every day of our lives: in the way we dress, prepare meals, decorate our homes, converse with God and our friends, or style our hair. It is expressed in our working lives, as engineers, teachers, nurses, tradespeople or home makers. It is expressed in our leisure time through art, crafts, music, spiritual practices, in floral art, gardening and much more. Our entire lives are an expression of the creativity God imbedded in us.

Why do we resist expressing this innate creativity? We all have our own story here. For me it was connected to the false belief that being creative was only for a select few, or an indulgence to be considered only after the "real and responsible work" of life was finished.

For a long time, I thought that that even desiring to express creativity would take me further from the worthy and important things God was requiring of me. I would say now that the desire to express our creative nature comes from God and is drawing us closer to God. Indeed, perhaps when we respond to this creative force, God may be most present and alive in us.

This brings me to the story of Zacchaeus. His desire to see Jesus was so strong, that with ingenuity and creativity, he climbed the nearest tree to get a better view of Jesus as he passed by. By acting on this desire in his own creative way, Zacchaeus was seen by Jesus, spoken to by Jesus, and hosted Jesus in his home. This was far more that Zacchaeus could ever have imagined. How can our "yesses" provide God the opportunity to be creative through us in ways we cannot possibly foresee?

DIARY

Thursday 20 November

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

7.00pm **Synod COP 30 Prayer Vigil (see further details in Contact)**

Saturday 22 November

9am-Noon **Advent Peace 'A Quiet Morning Retreat'** at Warners Bay Uniting Church (see more details further in Contact)

Sunday 23 November – Pentecost 24

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: TBA and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

Tuesday 25 November

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

11.00am **Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship Christmas Celebration**

Wednesday 26 November

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

11.00am **Thanksgiving Service for Michael Smith at Charlestown Uniting Church**

Thursday 27 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 29 November

9.45-10.15am **UCA NSW/ACT Moderator Rev Mata Havea Hilliau** sharing story + Prayer on main stage. A few minutes between 9.45-10.15am at The People's Blockade, Newcastle. (See more further in Contact)

7.00pm **A Christmas Spectacular at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle** (see more further in Contact)

Sunday 30 November – Advent 1

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Cathy Beeton and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Monday 1 December

10.00am **Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**

Tuesday 2 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 3 December

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 4 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

6.00-9.00pm Pastoral Care 101 Workshop online with Rev. Dale Yardy (see more details further in Contact)

Friday 5 December

11.00am **Hunter Community Alliance** gathering at Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd, Hamilton North - **Public Land for Public Housing** (See more further in Contact)

In loving memory...

Michael Charles Cunningham Smith

Passed away 16 Nov, 2025

Aged 62 years.

A service of thanksgiving will be held at the
Charlestown Uniting Church, 24-26 Milson St, Charlestown, 2290

Commencing at 11am 26 Nov 2025



THE PRAYER PAGE



Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Enid Power very ill in hospital
- * Beryl (having more surgery this week)
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Mike Warren
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * June Locker
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Prayer is the Voice of Faith

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



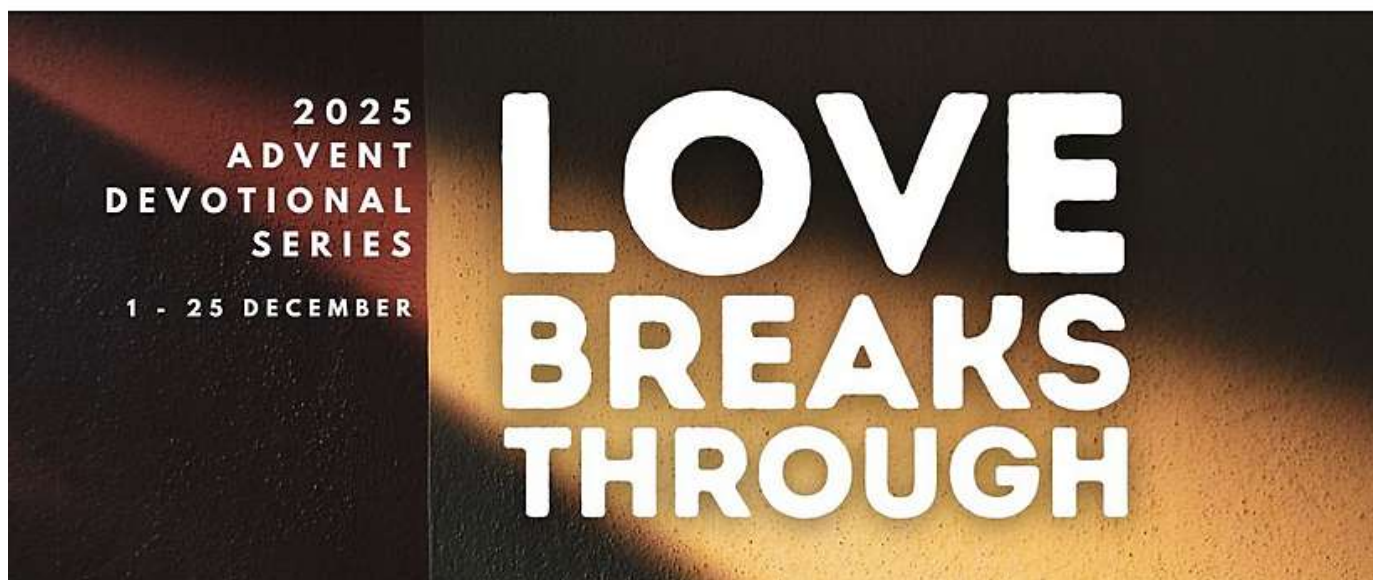
Job Description here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydfzd236>

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.

COMMON GRACE



This year's Advent series from Common Grace will reflect on the realities of our broken world along with the unshakable hope that love still breaks through; exploring how God's love disrupts, heals, and transforms - breaking through darkness, despair, and injustice to bring light, joy, and renewal; and reminding us that even in the darkest times, love is not absent. It pushes through cracks, defies despair, and insists on hope.

This Advent series comes through daily emails from 1-25 December. Sign up here:
https://www.commongrace.org.au/advent_love_breaks_through?utm_campaign=advent_2025_launch_formation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=commongrace



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Welcoming Prayer: is a way to detach from my need to be secure, liked and in control, and attach to the presence of Jesus instead.

Practice: - In the morning scan through your day. Anticipate the events and what will be good or hard. Welcome Jesus into these events before you enter your day and in the midst of the day.

These resources come from Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us (Transforming Resources). InterVarsity Press

This is the last of the "Spiritual Practice of the Week" series which has extended over the past year. Our New Year commences next Sunday, 30 November, the first Sunday in Advent. The Spiritual Formation, Education and Discipleship (SFED) group pray that you have found some new practices which have deepened your experience of God.

**PUBLIC LAND
FOR PUBLIC
HOUSING**

FRIDAY 5 December 2025, 11 AM
Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd
Hamilton North

Hundreds are sleeping rough. Thousands are waiting for social housing. Newcastle can't wait any longer.

The Broadmeadow redevelopment will bring 20,000 new homes - how many will be for those who need them most?

The NSW Government promised 30% social and affordable housing on public land.

We're calling for that same commitment to apply on land across the Hunter - starting with Broadmeadow!

CONTACT ERIN: ekillion@thehca.org.au
WWW.THEHCA.ORG.AU

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

**THE PEOPLE'S
BLOCKADE**

of the World's Largest Coal Port!
NOV 27 - DEC 2

MAKE HISTORY

Muloobinba/Newcastle
On the land & water of the Awabakal & Worimi Peoples

Join in and offer your support...
UCA NSW/ACT Moderator Rev Mata Havea Hilliau
Sharing story + Prayer on Main Stage
Saturday 29th November 2025
A few minutes between 9.45am-10.15am

Children & Family Worker Update



Here we are almost at the end of the year already where did this year go! I think back over all the activities I have been involved in & those still to come & I am amazed at what I have been able to fit into the year all thanks to your support & prayers.

Still to come -

SRE - I have 8 more lessons & 3 SRE Assemblies the last one being at Redhead on the 12th December. Could you please pray for the SRE Assemblies (which are presented by others) at Charlestown East, Garden Suburb & Valentine Schools, I will be presenting a special Christmas lesson at Redhead, Teralba & West Wallsend.

Sunday the 30th of November, 1st Sunday in Advent, will be an 'All Aged Service' I hope to have some children attend & be part of this service, it would be great if you could invite family & friends along to this special Advent All Aged Service, it would be good to have a full house enjoying the activities planned to celebrate the Advent Season.

Blessings Cathy



The Garden Suburb Family sincerely appreciate your attendance at our Service of Closure last Sunday. Tom, we were truly blessed by your heartfelt sermon which captured our church's spirit over the years. And the fellowship shared over morning tea was wonderful to see with many old friends catching up & enjoying shared memories.



8am Saturday 13 December
Milson St Hub (Charlestown Uniting Church),
24 Milson St
Cost: \$12

Guest Speaker

Pastor Kim Langford

Uniting Church Chaplain at University of Newcastle

“Spirit and Stardust”

University chaplaincy - caring for the whole person.

*What does Multifaith Chaplaincy look like in a secular, pluralistic environment?
What are the main concerns or issues that bring people to Chaplaincy and how does the context shape our work?*

Booking details



RSVP to Paul
pmraus74@gmail.com
by 10 December 2025

*Pick up a flyer in
the foyer*



The Uniting Church in Australia
NORTH LAKE MACQUARIE
Warners Bay | Boolaroo

PASTORAL CARE 101 WORKSHOP PRINCIPLES OF PASTORAL CARE BASED ON A CHRISTMAS CAROL



*Online
with Rev. Dale Yardy*

Join via link

<https://meet.google.com/wqn-kaxb-mku>

Scan or email registration to
DaleY@nswact.uca.org.au



Welcome to



Milson Street Hub
Community

We're making our foyer space
more comfortable and inviting!

There's some rearranging
happening!
Watch the space!



Advent Devotional Material

AVAILABLE SOON

- A donation of \$2 is requested to cover photocopying
- Large print copies are available. Contact Jenny

The poster for 'A Christmas Spectacular' has a dark, starry background with a large, glowing Christmas tree on the right. The title 'A Christmas Spectacular' is written in a large, elegant script. Below it, the word 'Featuring...' is followed by four performers: Orchestra Nova, Jade Riordan, Paul Tabone, and Waratah Girls Choir. Each performer has a small photo next to their name. At the bottom right, a box contains the event details: '7:00PM', '29TH', 'NOVEMBER', 'CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, NEWCASTLE', 'TICKETS STARTING FROM \$10PP', and a QR code.

Book tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.com/DFXFO>

SISTERS OF FAITH MEAL – 11 FEBRUARY 2026

Bookings for Our popular Sisters of Faith meal open on 24 November! Again, we are at Southern Cross Lounge, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, with our meal provided by Martha's Cafe, a Social Enterprise cafe.

And Yes, we are avoiding Lent, Ramadan- and the Housie! (therefore, more parking) If you attended last year, you will receive an invitation! If you were on someone else's ticket, please check with them.

Our Guest Speaker is Sister Helen- Anne Johnson who is a Josephite Sister, and is Founder of Mums Cottage at West Wallsend.

Mums Cottage has a Uniting Catholic management structure, for what I would call a Social Enterprise, supporting the local community.

What an amazing woman!

Since 2017, we have had our Annual Sisters of Faith meal, even during COVID days!

We have had amazing Jewish, Muslim and Christian women Speakers!
And we always have a waiting list!

Christine Sheppard.

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>