



CONTACT

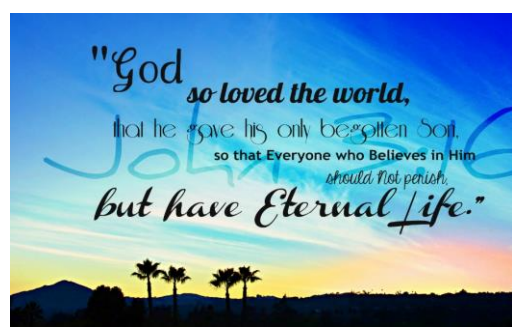
Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

4 September 2022



From Rev Tom

It is a bitter sweet day today. And there will be another tomorrow. Today we offered a final goodbye to Enid Hancock and tomorrow we will say our final goodbye to Catherine Roser. It reminds me, as I also think of the other members of this congregation who have departed from our midst over past months, that nothing stays the same. I remember at my induction, and had first opportunity to see a larger section of the congregation, I realised that it was a mostly older congregation. It wasn't long that I completely forgot that observation because after a while my thoughts were not about their age but about their character. I forgot about whether people were young or old in the fullness of relationship. After that there was a sense that time stood still. We lost members of the congregation, but it wasn't strictly old age that took them. Typically, it was cancer. I remember Mavis Jackson in particular in relation to this. Mavis was younger than many but tragically she was diagnosed with cancer and was not able to fight off her illness. So, as we all age together it is easy to forget the inexorable consequences of time, the aging process. I remember Lilian McLennan, and also Jacqueline Fenwick, both reporting to me, not so long ago how youthful they felt ... until very recently. Those who attended Enid's funeral today heard how Enid in all her work with the Seniors Luncheon, all the way up till she was 90, didn't count herself as one of the old ones, even as her children playfully goaded her saying she should be sitting at one of the tables being served. But time doesn't stand still, and change, whether noticed or not is always happening. Given that reality it would be madness for us to resist it. More still, it is much a part of God's good creation. I remember watching the movie Troy. I think it was Achilles (Brad Pitt) in the movie who described how the gods envy humans. The gods in their eternity had to work hard elevating to any specialness moments in their existence, knowing this was forever. But for humans, in their brief moment on this planet, there is a preciousness in every moment, as it is so fleeting. Certainly, as we recall Enid and Catherine this week, and those who died only in past months, and so many before, there is a preciousness. Their lives have been our lives. The love that we have known in our lives has been love shared with them. On days like today and tomorrow that preciousness, that love, those memories are brought alive in us, in the moment. We shed tears, tears of sorrow, but a sorrow that is remembering the joy, the glory of life. I don't pretend to have any insight into the wisdom God as to how and why things are this way. But I am confident that we are invited to embrace it all, and to allow God to look out from the centre of our own being, that we see as God sees, and glory in what was, what is, and what is to come. May I give witness to what I have seen as part of the Charlestown Congregation, for it is wonderful! Thanks be to God!



DIARY

Thursday 1 September

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 4th September *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am **Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev'd Tom

Children's Corner with Cathy

Job 38: 1-18, Psalm 104: 1-9,24-26, Ephesians 1: 3-10, Luke 5: 1-11

Monday 5 September

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 6 September

NO MORNING TEA TODAY at Lake Macquarie Fair

10.00am "Gathering" at Hamilton Hive
3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

Thursday 8 September

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
3.00pm Hunter Community Alliance meeting at Garden Suburb

Saturday 10 September

2.00pm Waratah Male Voice Choir at The Willows
2.00pm Friendship Circle to attend the Waratah Male Voice Choir at The Willows

Sunday 11th September *Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am **Worship Service** – Leader and Preacher – Rev'd Tom

Job 39: 1-8, 26-30, Psalm 104: 14-23, 1Corinthians 1: 10-23, Luke 12: 22-31

Monday 12 September

10.00am Worship Service at Woodlands

Tuesday 13 September

9.30am GCK (Grandparents, Carers & Kids) at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Mac

Wednesday 14 September

10.00am Ladies Fellowship – Maitland Art Gallery

Thursday 15 September

1.30pm – 2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 18th September – *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9.00am **Holy Communion** - Leader and Preacher - Rev'd Tom

Job 28: 20-27, Psalm 29, 1Corinthians 1: 21-31, Luke 8: 22-25

Monday 19 September

10.00am Pastoral Care visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 20 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Thursday 21 September

10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm – 2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb



THE PRAYER PAGE

"Lord, give me your eyes and ears today as I move about in my neighbourhoods. Show me your heart and help me to love those people around me who are my neighbours" Karina Kreminski



Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Enid Hancock's Family
- * Catherine Roser's Family
- * Ron Lees
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Avril Hill
- * Judith and family
- * Margaret Asplund
- * Margaret Drinkwater
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Vicki
- * John Cooper
- * Marion and Ron
- * Jean Townsend
- * Wilma Birch
- * Eileen
- * Enid Power
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max
- * Shirley
- * Olivia
- * Kelly
- * Dianne

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council Meeting 6th September
- Project Reconnect
- GCK group
- Worship Services
- Arrangements for lease of Whitebridge property
- Tom and Kathy
- Cathy Beeton

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Operation Hope – Northern Iraq Project
- Hunter Community Alliance meeting with Lake Macquarie Mayor Kay Fraser
- Gathering at Hamilton Wesley Uniting Church with Rev. Jon Owen as speaker 10am, 8th September

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



Meeting at The Willows
on 10th September at
2.00pm
to hear the Waratah
Voice Male Choir





On Wednesday 14 September

Ladies Fellowship are meeting at
Charlestown Church at 10am

to depart for the Maitland Art Gallery
and Café for lunch!!!

Contact Sue Warren if you need transport

Come and enjoy the fellowship!

Waratahs at the Willows

Come and enjoy

The Waratah Male Voice Choir

2pm Saturday on 10 September 2022

Warners Bay Uniting Church at

The Willows - 342 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay

Donation \$20

Supporting Christian SRE (Scripture) in our local high schools provided by the
Charlestown and Warners Bay Christian Education Associations Includes a
delicious afternoon tea, served at the conclusion of the performance.

Tickets are available at the door

OR Contact Paul on 0411 236 047



The Uniting Church in Australia - The Hunter Presbytery

Gathering

10am Tuesday 6 September

(morning tea from 9.30am, BYO Lunch)

“Hamilton Hive”

150 Beaumont St, Hamilton

(next to Hamilton Uniting Church)



Guest Speaker – Rev Jon Owen

Pastor & CEO – The Wayside Chapel





UCAN is hosting these events in coming weeks.
Everyone is invited to attend online



Move Beyond Coal Campaign Briefing

Thursday 8 September - 7pm-8.30pm

Register here for more info and for a Zoom link to be emailed to you:

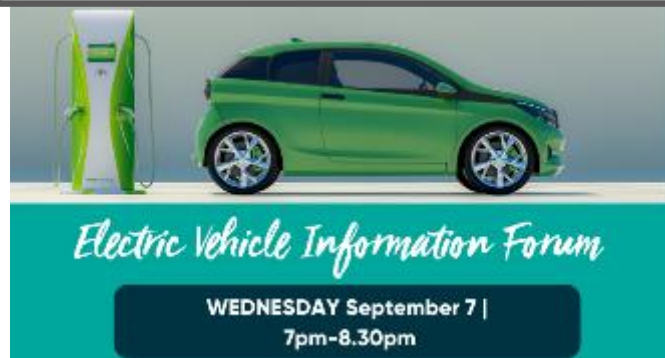
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/move-beyond-coal-ucan-campaign-briefing-tickets-404993034067>

Electric Vehicle Information Forum

Wednesday 7 September 7pm-8.30pm

Register here for more info and for a Zoom link to be emailed to you:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/electric-vehicles-are-they-a-viable-option-an-online-forum-tickets-383276599627>



Charlestown
& Garden
Suburb

Hunter
Community
Alliance



The Hunter Community Alliance has invited **Mayor Kay Fraser** to meet with the 22 member organisations of the Alliance in order to follow up commitments made by the Mayor prior to last year's Local Government elections. These commitments concern a number of initiatives addressing the homelessness and climate emergencies. The meeting will seek to identify ways the Alliance, Mayor and Council can work together to make the policy commitments come to fruition.

The meeting will take place on

Thursday 8 September at 3pm

at

Garden Suburb Uniting Church

You are invited to attend, lend your support and witness the Community Alliance at work.

For more information, contact Rev Tom Stuart or Anne Threlfo

The Hunter Presbytery

Celebration

Hope.

Saturday 15 October 2022

3pm refreshments

4pm Intergenerational Celebration

Hamilton Uniting Church

Further details to come – for more information contact Rev Rob Hanks

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

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

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

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>