



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation



12 July 2026

From Rev Tom

Tomorrow we will gather to celebrate the life of Geoff Greaves.

Having now served this congregation for nearly fifteen years, I realise that I have become part of its history myself. Because of that, I find I am increasingly aware of the passing of time and the seasons through which a congregation journeys.

When I first arrived, Geoff and Robyn were deeply involved in the life of this church. Robyn devoted herself to the children's ministries, and Geoff was always there, quietly supporting whatever needed to be done. Before my time, Geoff had also served as Chairperson of the Congregation, offering his leadership and commitment to this community.

Geoff's death reminds us both of the precious gift of life and of the gift of belonging to a community like this one. So many people who shaped this congregation—people whose names and faces many of you still remember—have now gone before us. Yet while we are still here, they remain part of us. The friendships we shared, the work we undertook together, the worship we offered, and the community we built have become woven into who we are. They are among God's gifts to us.

Our circumstances today are very different from those of years gone by. The world has changed, and so has this congregation. We no longer express the same kind of vibrancy that once characterised our life together. But that does not diminish what was. It was a season in the life of this community, and it deserves to be remembered with gratitude. Tomorrow we will celebrate one person's part in that larger story.

Yet our remembering is not an exercise in nostalgia or regret. As the Scriptures remind us, there is "a time for every matter under heaven." What once was had its season, and this season has its own calling and its own grace. We are still here to gather around Robyn and her family. We are still here to support one another, to encourage one another, and to continue seeking God's future together. This season includes saying goodbye. It includes saying, "Well done." It includes saying thank you for all that has been, and for all that still is.

Above all, we remember the one constant through every season of life: the faithful, creative love of God. It is in that love that we have always been held, and it is in that love that Geoff now rests. It is the same love that accompanies each one of us today and will hold us into eternity.

DIARY

Thursday 9 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
No Bible Study during School Holidays

11.30am Memorial Service for Geoff Greaves

Friday 10 July

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah



Sunday 12 July – Pentecost 7

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Kathy and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
Genesis 25:19-34 or Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 119:105-112 or Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Tuesday 14 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 16 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
No Bible Study during School Holidays

Saturday 18 July

10.00am **Walking the Way: Discerning Spirit, Telling Truth, Seeking Solidarity** at Toronto Uniting Church (see more details further in Contact)

Sunday 19 July – Pentecost 8

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: David Chegwiddden and Preacher: Rev. Chris Shepherd
Genesis 28:10-19a, Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24, Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

From: **SANCTUARY** – Singing Workshop + Twilight Service at Adamstown Uniting Church. (More information further in Contact)

Tuesday 21 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 23 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub

Sunday 26 July – Pentecost 9

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Beryl and Preacher: Rev. Tom
Genesis 29:15-28, 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Psalm 128, Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Tuesday 28 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 30 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub
3-4.30pm **Want to Save on Electricity Bills??** At the Milson St Hub – more information further in Contact

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * For the Greaves family after the death of Geoff on Monday
- * Tom's Mum as she recovers from her hip operation
- * Tom's family as they mourn the death of Tom's mother's sister
- * Pray for Marion Box
- * Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mert has moved to Narla Village – continue to pray for Mert and Pam
- * Jacqueline Fenwick now home
- * Rene Kelly
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED

Congregational Prayer Points

- Preparation of NREMA application being prepared by SFED and Church Council
- Piteeri
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Church profile and preparations for Tom's retirement
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Jesmond Park-Wallsend-Shortland
- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist the Principal
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Prayer for those in conflict zones in the world





It is with great sadness

that we announce the death of Geoff Greaves on Monday 29th June.

Our deepest sympathy and love are with Robyn and family.

A Memorial Service will be held at the
Milson St Hub, 24-26 Milson St, Charlestown, 2290

Commencing at 11.30am on Thursday 9 July

The National Assembly are delighted to welcome Catherine Pepper as Associate General Secretary, Strategy & Governance and congratulate Rev Dr Sunny Chen for his appointment as Director, Faith & Theology.

Catherine also brings a deep commitment to the life and mission of the Uniting Church. A lifelong member of the Church, she served for eight years on the Assembly Standing Committee and has made significant contributions to the Act2 process, the Assembly Net Zero Working Group and other national governance bodies.

Sunny joins the Executive Team after serving as National Consultant with the Assembly, where he has supported the Church's national work in a broad range of ministry and mission priorities. An ordained Minister of the Word, Sunny has also served as Presbytery Minister in the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra and as the Synod's equipping Leadership for Mission Presbytery Minister.

Learn more about Catherine and Sunny at the [Uniting Church of Australia website](https://www.unitingchurch.org.au).



Stamp Committee Continues Fundraising

The Stamp Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of NSW & ACT have been receiving donations of used or mint stamps since 1977 which are then sold to raise money to resource community projects. In 2025 grants totalling \$27,100 were distributed to 30 congregations as well as welfare food programs and assisting refugees to attend Synod 2025.

Our congregation recently received a thank you note from the Stamp Committee for our support of this fundraising ministry. The sales of stamps to date in 2026 stands at \$6,500 which is on track to nudge ahead of the total sales of 2025 which was \$12,250.

If you would like to take the time to cut around stamps you receive on a letter, cut it off the envelope with a 2cm surround or carefully trim with a 3mm paper surround and leave it in the stamp donation box in our foyer. If you are downsizing and would like to donate an old stamp collection, please speak to Margaret Barlow as they may be useful.

So, thank you to everyone who has continued to support this fundraising method through the decades..... it is still helping our congregations and communities.

Kerrie Dixon on behalf of Margaret Barlow



WANT TO SAVE ON ELECTRICITY BILLS?



THURS. 30/7
3-4:30PM

ALEC ROBERTS
Chairman of CleanS

24 Milson St.
Charlestown
Bring the kids!
Afternoon Tea provided

Text Piteeri to
book your spot:
0493 094 231



Save energy

This Inspiring Australian Initiative is supported by the Australian Government

- Kids, come & ride our bike that generates enough electricity to turn lights on!
- Switch from Gas to Electric and save \$2400-\$4000 p.a.
- Learn a bit about rebates, batteries & solar



An Australian Government Initiative



Inspiring AUSTRALIA



The Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group



CLEANaS



SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD INITIATIVE
LAME MACQUARIE



Milson Street Hub

Building Work at Charlestown

The building work at Charlestown is about to start - it includes replacing the three kitchen windows, Kahibah Room and Old Vestry windows and Kahibah Room doors, fascia and gutter over the kitchen windows - later work includes replacing the kitchen linoleum and installing a small split air conditioner.

This work will affect the kitchen availability from about 22 July. We will put crockery/ cutlery and supplies in the Dudley Room for people who usually use the kitchen tea and coffee making facilities.

Non kitchen work will commence 15/16th July and the windows will be delivered on 23/24 July to allow kitchen work to commence. Hopefully this phase will take no more than two working weeks - weather permitting.

The later work will follow on after a short break and hopefully we can schedule it to take less than one week.

Any questions - ask Paul Russell 0411236047



**NAIDOC
WEEK**
**50 YEARS
DEADLY**
5-12 JULY 2026

**Walking the Way:
Discerning Spirit, Telling Truth,
Seeking Solidarity**

Saturday 18 July, 10.30 - 2.30pm

Toronto Uniting Church, 118 The Boulevard, Toronto

Join us, with Aboriginal Christian leader Mikenzie Ling, to yarn about the spirituality of First Nations people.

An amazing opportunity to deepen our appreciation and understanding of culture, faith and practice.

Arrive anytime from 10.00am.

Program starts at 10.30am with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Registration is free, but please register to help us with preparations.

<https://tinyurl.com/bdz8p467>

Children & Family Worker Update

 **Uniting Church** **CULTURE of SAFETY Training**

CULTURE of SAFETY training is a 2 part course for leaders, including ministry team leaders, Elders, Church Council and all those who work in pastoral ministry or volunteer in roles that requires WWCC (NSW) or WWVP (ACT).

A combined Part 1 & 2 course is being held in-person at

Singleton Uniting Church
2 Church St, Singleton
Saturday 22nd August - 9:30am-3:30pm

Register online at
www.nswact.uca.org.au/support-services/culture-of-safety/culture-of-safety-training/
or scan here 

Uniting Churches	Other Churches
\$10 subsidised by Synod	\$40
Pay on the day	

BYOLUNCH
Please register as numbers are limited

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A combined Part 1 & 2 course is being held in-person at

Jesmond Park Uniting Church
15 Robert St, Jesmond
Saturday 15th August - 9am-3pm

Register online at
www.nswact.uca.org.au/support-services/culture-of-safety/culture-of-safety-training/
or scan here 

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There are 2 Culture & Safety Training (used to be Safe places) days coming up in August they are both face to face training, which has been hard to come by.

Most of our congregation did their last Safe Places Training in August 2024 & this needs to be renewed every 3 years so not necessary to be done this year.

I just thought I would put it up so if anyone was interested in getting the training done now while the training is face to face the option is there.

Or if anyone hasn't done this training & feels they would like to do the training then please consider one of these 2 days.

If you would like more information on anything involved with this training, I am happy to talk to you about it.

If anyone wanted to do the Training & the Singleton date suited you best, I can offer to take you up as I will be in Singleton that day for an SRE Encouragement Day.

Cathy



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

Communications Coordinator:

Piteeri Michail

M: 0493 094 231 E: Piteeri.m@outlook.com

Administration:

P: 4943 4019 E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson St, 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>

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