



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

10 May 2026

From Rev Tom

I think dying gets too much bad press!!

Of course, there is all sorts of dying.

There is physical dying. There is the ending of passed routines and patterns. This includes employment, youthful vigour, health, institutions and organisations, cultural norms ... items of possession, like houses, cars ... you probably can think of more.

Am I right? Do we almost always consider this negatively. When something we have done for years comes to a conclusion – is that bad? Does it mean there was something wrong with it? Should we feel guilt, shame, a failure?

What about our own death? Was our life not worthwhile because it ends? And what about the journey toward death? What about surrendering the elements of whatever the dying includes (I am looking at my library of books and wondering what will happen to them as I retire, get older, die!). What is the process like?

Somehow, I feel like our superficial response is too much bad press!!

As I take items from my parents now to the waste disposal facility (we called it “the dump” once!) isn't there also a reckoning, a revaluation, and a remembering! Something very important is happening ... it is painful – but bad? I don't think so!!

The things left behind are reminding us of what is truly important – which maybe I didn't even realise at the time – those moments with my parents, with my family. And what about physical dying? Some of the most precious moments in my ministry, in my life, are when I sat with someone in the final days/hours of their life. Somehow in those moments perspectives are transformed ... what has to be done no longer matters ... the present moment and gratitude for what has been becomes tantamount!

Life is a spectacular journey ... sometimes incredibly painful but always resplendent with meaning, wonder, and the potential realisation of grace – that we are loved.

We are all for being born, beginnings, growing ... I want to put in a good word for dying! Everything is included.

DIARY

Thursday 7 May

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

Friday 8 May

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Sunday 10 May – Easter 6

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Beryl Gaul and Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Tuesday 12 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 13 May

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 14 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

Sunday 17 May – Easter 7

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev. Tom Stuart
Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Tuesday 19 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 21 May

10.00am **Biggest Morning Tea at Milson Street Hub** (see more details further in Contact)
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

Sunday 24 May – Pentecost

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Sue and Preacher:
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

The Report to Congregation

Will be presented and discussed at
a ***Congregation Meeting***
Following worship
on ***Sunday 10 May***



Please read the report, prepare your questions and comments and bring them along to the meeting

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Elaine Ross and Family
- * Family of June Locker
- * Pam and Mert (care facility placement being sought)
- * Robyn and Geoff Greaves (the latter being much improved)
- * Jacqueline Fenwick in rehab at HVPH
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * 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

- the role of Piteeri, our new Communications Coordinator for the Milson St. Hub.
- Tom and Cathy's trip to Parkes for Project Reconnect
- Tom's mother's 98th Birthday
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- H.C.A. Loneliness and Isolation Symposium in May – Milson St. Hub Ministry
- Pray for Bulahdelah and Caves Beach Uniting Churches
- 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

WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD books are now available in the foyer for those people that order them.

Children & Family Worker Update



Wishing all our Mums a wonderful day on Sunday.

May your day be filled with joy and laughter, surrounded by family & friends.

Cathy



It's Time to Update our Directory!

A lot has happened since our last Directory was issued in December 2023 - two church buildings sold and many people have moved house and/or changed to mobile only (no landline) - and have new or changed email addresses. No action is required from the people who have not changed their details and do not want to add/delete/change emails or phone numbers.

The Directory is only published in paper form to protect it from being exposed to search machines on the Internet. We only include details that people specifically tell us to put in - and do not use informally obtained information.

If you want to add your name to the Directory or alter any existing details in the Directory please complete one of the Change Forms available at the Church - the next time you are there.

Unless you object - your email address will be used to send the weekly Contact and other Church material.

You can also tell us about changes by email "signed" by yourself. In this case please put ALL the details you want in the directory not just your changed details

Surname - Street Address - landline phone number - and for each person - their name, email address and mobile number -

and email to office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au with subject line **2026 Directory**

Any questions - ask Paul Russell on 0411236047





Hi everyone,

This week I wanted to share my appreciation for the significant contribution that Anne Threlfo & Paul Russell have made to this church community, & also to my beginnings here 😊

Anne taught me how to use the foyer screen system & now I get to have fun creating lots of the slides. She also linked me with the Web Designer so I could be trained in how to design our new website.

I value that Paul is so active. He has helped me get orientated with the hall hirees, the building spaces, & just carries so much knowledge about a variety of things.

Thank you both!

Piteeri



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Retreat: Retreats are specific and regular times apart for quietly listening to God and delighting in his company. Retreats remove us from the daily battle into times of refreshing, retooling, renewing and unwinding.

Practice: Plan a day outside or in some other quiet setting where you can spend time with the Lord. Take only your Bible with you. • When your day is over, bring some small memento (a rock, a twig, a photograph) of your time with God. Let your retreat object remind you of your time with God.

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



Cancer Council
Australia's Biggest
Morning Tea

BIGGEST MORNING TEA
10am Thurs. May 21

Milson St Hub
24 Milson St,
Charelestown

BRING A DONATION!
for more info:
Sue Warren
0427 737 793

**Raise a cuppa to a
cancer free future.**

Unique ID: 265801792

Navigating Climate Grief:

Finding hope
in changing times

a workshop with Mandy Cox,
grief counsellor, educator, professional member of
Psychology for a Safe Climate

Conversation, connection and learning to
strengthen and help navigate the pain and
challenges of grief, stress and overwhelm that
confront us in our changing world.

10.30 am - 12.30pm
Sat 16th May
Toronto Uniting Church

*No admission charge but
donations are welcome*

Please Register:
<https://www.trybooking.com/DLGTD>

We feel and see the changes as our world warms and grieve the losses of species and glaciers and so much more. Find some help to navigate the change and the grief with Mandy Cox, outstanding grief counsellor on 16th May at Toronto Uniting Church, 118 The Boulevard.

Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1568817?>



Ladies FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 13 May

Will be held at Milson Street Hub
from 10.00am

You are welcome to come and join us
for morning tea and a chat

ALL WELCOME



SANCTUARY

*an evening of prayer, silence and song
from the Taizé Community*



3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

BEGINNING 15TH FEBRUARY

SINGING WORKSHOP + TWILIGHT SERVICE

4-5pm: Song workshop - Learning the songs of Taizé

5:30pm-6:30pm: Twilight Service

228 BRUNKER RD ADAMSTOWN

TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE BETWEEN WORKSHOP + SERVICE

NO NEED TO REGISTER, DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME

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>