



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

11 October 2026

From Rev Tom

Your Leaders Team met yesterday, and there are three things I want to tell you about.

Mind you, this is not the official word! It is simply me telling the story as I experienced it and wanting to keep you up to date with the progress being made. There will be confirmation and further information about these matters at the Congregational Meeting on 18 October.

The first item of business was a report from the Presbytery Pastoral Relationship Committee, presented by Rev Stephen de Plater.

Stephen told us that the visiting team recognised the circumstances of our congregation - particularly that we are an ageing congregation and declining in numbers. At the same time, they encountered a congregation whose members have a strong sense of belonging, feel that their spiritual needs are being nurtured, and have a genuine desire to create a future for the Uniting Church in the greater Charlestown region, whatever form that future might take.

There was also a strong sense that the visiting team affirmed both the congregation and its leadership for the goodwill they encountered and for our determination to seek a way forward, particularly given the considerable financial and property resources with which we have been entrusted.

The second matter concerned the resignation of our Milson St Hub Communications Coordinator. The Leaders Team decided to begin the process of finding a new person for a revised role, with an updated job description and a new title: Milson St Hub Community Development Worker. This will be a position of 21 hours per week.

The third matter concerned pastoral ministry beyond my retirement. The Leaders Team decided to proceed with seeking either a half-time Minister of the Word or a Pastor.

While the day-to-day ministry of a Pastor may look quite similar in some respects to that of a Minister of the Word, the qualifications, processes for appointment, oversight and employment arrangements are quite different. The main reason for pursuing both possibilities is simply to maximise our chances of having someone able to take up a pastoral ministry role as soon as possible following my retirement.

Of course, these last two decisions are really only the beginning of a considerable amount of work for the Leaders Team. I hope you will join me in expressing our appreciation for those who are taking responsibility for moving these processes forward on behalf of the congregation.

DIARY

Thursday 8 October

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

10.30am **Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**

Friday 9 October

10.30am **Spring Fair at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**

6.00pm **Ladies Night at Kahibah**

Saturday 10 October

8.00am **Men's Breakfast at the Milson Street Hub** – The Nigerian Church, Persecuted Yet Vibrant – Why? See further in Contact for more information.

Sunday 11 October – Pentecost 20

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Grahame Pricter

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more

11.30am information further in Contact.

Tuesday 13 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 15 October

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

Friday 16 October

7.00pm Commissioning of Richard Moors at the Toronto Uniting Church (see more information further in Contact.

Sunday 18 October – Pentecost 21

(Communion Service will be held next week Sunday 25 October)

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more

11.30am information further in Contact

Tuesday 20 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 22 October

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 25 October – Pentecost 22

9.00am The Divine Worship – Communion Service

Leader: Margaret and Preacher: TBA

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more

11.30am information further in Contact

Tuesday 27 October

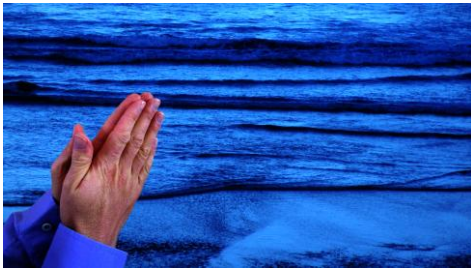
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 29 October

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

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Pray for Marion Joyce and family after the death of Glen
- * Pray for Brian Cox who is in hospital
- * Gloria
- * Anne Hall
- * Jean Witherspoon
- * Pray for Janice Wright and family
- * Robyn Greaves and family
- * Marion Box
- * Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- * Mert and Pam
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Rene Kelly
- * Valmai
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

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Congregational Prayer Points

- Month of October, Prayer for the Way Ahead 10:45 am each Sunday
- NREMA application
- 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

- Churches to pray for this month are north Lake Macquarie, Port Stephen's, Raymond Terrace and Scone
- pray for Catherine Pepper who has recently been appointed Associate General Secretary, Strategy and Governance for the Assembly of the UCA. Pray that she may receive wisdom and grace as she fulfills her role which is involved with preparing the church for the future in the areas of strategy and governance.
- 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

Uniting Aged Care



Myall Road



It is with great sadness

that we announce the death of Glen Joyce.

Our deepest sympathy and love are with Marion and family.

Funeral service will be held at the Milson St Hub, 24-26 Milson St, Charlestown, 2290

Commencing 11.00am on Monday 19 October



Church Council Elections

The following nominations have been received for the elections to be held after worship, 18th October:-

Church Council Chair - Kerrie Dixon

Treasurer - Lesley Clulow

Passionate Worship - Margaret White

Intentional Faith Development - Lorraine Pepper

Presbytery Representative - David Chegvidden

Unfortunately, we have not received nominations for remaining vacant positions –

Passionate Worship,

Radical Hospitality

and Risk Taking Mission and Service.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Secrecy: Secrecy is practicing the spirit of Christ reflected in hiddenness, anonymity, lack of display and the holding of confidences.

Practice: This week choose to do something for or give something to someone anonymously. Ask God to help you discover who you should choose. As you talk to people, pay attention to any need they might mention. Plan a way of following through on your desire without letting them know where the help or gift came from. • Talk to God about what this is like for you.

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



CHARLESTOWN & GARDEN SUBURB UNITING CHURCH

A Month of **PRAYER** *for* **THE WAY AHEAD**



DATE:

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

4 October – Walking in the neighbourhood or sitting on verandah – prayers for community

11 October – Moving around the building – MSH users, groups, worship, new staffing

18 October – Congregation Meeting – conversational prayer, relationships

25 October – Sitting at new picnic table – mission, car park users



TIME:

10.45AM – 11.30AM



VENUE:

Milson St Hub
24 Milson St, Charlestown

All are welcome!

The Way Ahead Prayer Month

Week 2 – Praying Around the Milson St Hub

Apart from praying for staffing for next year and for a clear sense of mission within the Milson St Hub, this week we invite you to spend some time moving quietly around the building and praying for its life – past, present and future.

As you move through the building:

- give thanks for all the worship, fellowship, service and ministry that has taken place here over many years
- remember with gratitude the people who have been part of the life of this place, including those who are no longer with us
- pray for the groups and activities that currently use the Milson St Hub
- pray for our worship and the continuing life of our congregation
- pray for the people from the wider community who come through our doors
- pray for the new staff who will become part of the Milson St Hub next year – that the right people may be found
- pray that our rooms and spaces might increasingly be places of welcome, belonging, friendship and community
- pray for openness to new possibilities and new ways in which this building might be used
- pray for a whole new future and life for the Milson St Hub
- pray for guidance in what God wants this place, and the people who gather here, to become

Other suggestions for prayer:

You do not need to visit every room. You might simply wander slowly and prayerfully through the building, stopping wherever you feel drawn to stop.

If you are unable to move easily around the building, find somewhere comfortable to sit. In your imagination, move through the different spaces, remembering what has happened here, giving thanks, and praying for what is yet to come.

The Nigerian Church, Persecuted Yet Vibrant - Why?

Michael Nwanguma, was born and raised in Nigeria before migrating to Australia in 2012. A Christian, he has lived in several regions of Nigeria, gaining firsthand experience of the country's diverse cultures and Christian traditions.

Michael will explore the remarkable growth of Christianity in Nigeria over the past 200 years, how resilient faith continues to shape Nigeria and influence communities around the world.



Men's Breakfast

Sat. 10th Oct. 8am

24 Milson St.
Charlestown



\$12 RSVP by Wed. 7th Oct:
Paul Russell
pmraus74@gmail.com
0411 236 047
*Please advise of any
special dietary
requirements



Milson Street Hub



QUIET MORNING

Living Water

A Time of Spiritual Nourishment



9am - 12.30pm

Saturday 14 November 2026

Milson St Hub, 24 Milson St, Charlestown

Optional Donation \$10 Light refreshments will be available

Please RSVP by 11 November using QR code

All are welcome to join in this peaceful morning of reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. Through quiet moments, Scripture, creativity and reflection, we will draw near to God and be refreshed by God's living water. Come and pause, be still, and allow your spirit to be nourished and renewed.

Register using the QR code, this link: <https://events.humanitix.com/living-water-a-time-of-spiritual-nourishment> or contact Anne Threlfo.



Commissioning



of

Richard Moors

as Next Generations Pastor in the Northern Presbytery

Working alongside congregations and communities across the Hunter,
Central Coast and Northern Sydney regions.

The service will be held on

Friday 16th October at 7pm

Toronto Uniting Church - 118 The Boulevard, Toronto

All are invited to attend. Supper will follow the service

Please **RSVP by Tuesday 13th October** to : torontouniting@bigpond.com or 49504077
(leave a message)

Invitation

Richard Moors who has been currently working as the Children and Family Ministry Consultant in the Hunter Presbytery, will be commissioned as a Next Generations Pastor in the Northern Presbytery, and working 20% time in the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery area and 80% in the Hunter area. His Commissioning will be held on Friday 16th October at 7pm at Toronto Uniting Church, 118 The Boulevard, Toronto, followed by supper. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP by Tuesday 13th October to : torontouniting@bigpond.com or 49504077 (leave a message)

Advent BIBLE STUDY

Hope Peace Joy Love

Thursdays 1.30pm - 2.30pm

12 November - 3 December

**Enquires:
Anne Threlfo**

**Dudley Room
Milson St Hub**

All Welcome

This is a 4-week Bible Study series for Advent. All are welcome.

An invitation for you to give thanks to God for loved ones who have died during the last year

ALL SAINTS' DAY

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026 AT 9AM

YOUR LOVED ONE WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH AN ESPECIALLY PREPARED CANDLE
WHICH YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER WILL BE INVITED TO LIGHT.

AS YOU ARRIVE IN THE FOYER, PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CANDLE FROM THE USHER.

**Please contact Beryl
Gaul with the name
of your loved one, or
with any enquires.**



**Milson St Hub
24 Milson St
Charlestown**

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 St, 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>