



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

6 April 2025

From Rev Tom

On a few occasions in my previous Contact articles I mentioned the TV planned to be attached to the eastern wall of the church foyer. Promotional material of all the groups that utilise the church building will be displayed on the screen. I mentioned that this is part of the Neos work. It will be complemented by a shift in the content of the church website. The idea is the website and TV advertising will be community building, disparate groups will be held together by our Neos initiative. Naturally the content will include what the church is doing as well. So, hopefully what will be realised is that our efforts are not simply promoting ourselves but that our investment is in the whole community. So, not only is our advertising supporting individual church facility users, but it is creating a sense of connection between the groups. Those viewing the material will realise they are part of something larger, that they are part of a community of folk ... that they are a community. As the leadership were developing this idea we were informed that there is grant money from the presbytery. So why stop at the TV and Website!! The church council endorsed an application for \$10,000 per year for 3 years to help fund a Neos Communications Coordinator. This person will work one day a week (or about 8 hours per week, probably not all on the one day). Initially the coordinators role will be to contact the people hiring the church facilities (either individuals or groups) and work with them to develop promotion material for their activities. A person taking up this role will have skill in design, multimedia, and social media promotion. This role is ongoing as the different media platforms will need to be updated with news. Through the coordinator we will be developing relationships with the hiring individuals and groups. Further, given the advertising of a wide range of activities happening at the church, we will have further reach into the community with our platform. This also means our own activities, and messages will get greater exposure. At the same time, it is likely that our facility will become better known in the community and become under greater demand. As I was reflecting on this I remembered how churches were once responsible for creating hospitals and schools. That was our investment in the community. These days I would argue that what needs developing is community. I have just become part of a Research Action Team for the Hunter Community Alliance. The research area is "loneliness and isolation"! When the Alliance did their listening campaign, this was a big theme in what we heard. However, it is a notoriously difficult issue to address. One of the causes is the decline of real community, a loss of civil society. What we plan on doing with our future Neos mission is one small way of addressing this in the larger Charlestown area ... building community. Potentially, community with our church at the centre.

DIARY

Thursday 3 April

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

Saturday 5 April

7.00pm Family Fun Trivia Night & Auction – **CCEA SRE Fundraiser**

Daylight Saving finishes tonight – put clocks back one hour



Sunday 6 April – The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Monday 7 April

10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility Pastoral Care Visit

Tuesday 8 April

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 9 April

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 10 April

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

10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

Friday 11 April

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

1.00-2.00pm The Quiet Hour at The Willows (see notice further in Contact)

Saturday 12 April

8.00am A Men's Breakfast – Give me the Mountain - **With Guest Speaker David Stephenson Managing Director of YWAM**

10.30am Friendship Circle – trip to Maitland Art Gallery

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Kathy Stuart and Preacher: Rev Tom

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Tuesday 15 April

9.00am Needlework n Natter

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 17 April

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

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mike Warren
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Enid Power
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

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



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Waiting: Waiting is the ability to sustain a deep desire with patient hope or a shorter term frustration with equanimity.

Practice: When you end up waiting, practice letting go of your need to control. What happens? Notice what comes up while you wait and talk to God about it. You can use the time that is given— or you can waste it in fretting.

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

Holy Week and Easter Services



Palm Sunday 13 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Maundy Thursday 17 April

7.30pm at Garden Suburb Church

Good Friday 18 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Easter Day 20 April

9am at Charlestown Church

On 13th April a new song will be introduced. It is called "In your Hands" or variously "I'm so Secure"

If you have access to youtube, click on the link below to familiarise yourself with the new song.

Sheet music can be made available if you ask Laraine for a copy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv6Y8zMKN0Y>





Presbytery News

The Hunter Presbytery is undergoing some major changes in its structure following the completion of the Mission Statement last year.

Some of the changes include the employment of an additional Presbytery Minister (Growth and Mission), a Family and Children's Work Consultant, a Business Manager and collaboration with Synod for a Property Consultant.

This will provide major challenges for the Presbytery in finding sufficient funds to service the mission targets.

There is also conversation with the Margaret Jurd College on how Presbytery can collaborate with them in some issues that are common to the two organisations.

There are also major changes being considered in the Synod with a proposal being brought to the upcoming Synod meeting in July this year. The proposal, which is the outcome of over two years of discussions with representatives of the twelve presbyteries within the Synod, is to dissolve the twelve presbyteries and create three new presbyteries. Our presbytery, The Hunter, will join in with Sydney North Central Coast and all presbyteries to the Queensland border and the New England Presbytery to the west.

Reports on the Discernment Summits can be found on the Synod website from the link <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/blog/discernment-summit-4-towards-synod-2025/>

David Chegwiddden

YOUTH WORKER

New Lambton Uniting Church is seeking a passionate Youth Worker to join our Ministry Team to engage, mentor, and support young people within our congregation and the broader community. This role will involve leading faith-based programs, fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment, and helping young people explore their faith, values, and life purpose all while having fun together!

For a full description of the role please go to our website <https://newlambton.unitingchurch.org.au/children-youth/>

Or contact Marion Cardwell 0431 672 609



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 9th April

Will be held at Charlestown
Church from 10.00am

Come have a cuppa and join in
Fellowship with stories and a
laugh



Bring a
Friend!

With Guest Speaker

David Stephenson

Give me the Mountain

Stories of reaching Ukrainians and Syrians

Charlestown Uniting Church – 24 Milson Street

8am Saturday 12th April

Cost \$12 RSVP to Paul Russell

0411 236047 pmraus74@gmail.com By 9th April 2025

David Stephenson is the Managing Director of Youth With A Mission (YWAM's) operations in the Hunter.

YWAM locally have trained over 3000 missionaries since inception, and have provided over 600,000 Volunteer contact hours over the last ten years. They have been given the keys to the city, and were recently recognised by the City of Newcastle for their contribution to the people of Ukraine.



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 12 April

Maitland Art Gallery - With lunch to follow

We will leave the Church at 10.30am

All Welcome

@ The Willows
Warners Bay Uniting Church
342 Hillsborough Road,
Warners Bay

The Quiet Hour

Fridays 1pm to 2pm.

The Quiet Hour a time for everyone—regardless of faith, background, or beliefs.
A place to gather, reflect & put down your load.
Stay for an hour or as short a time as you want.
For Further information contact Stephen

Ph 0488 380 860



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>