



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**19 April 2026**

## From Rev Tom

I've mentioned before how, even well before Christmas, the music piped through shopping centres begins to sound familiar carols - *O Holy Night, Silent Night*... well, actually, that's not quite true anymore. More often it's *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town* or *Jingle Bells*. Still, the focus is squarely on Christmas Day.

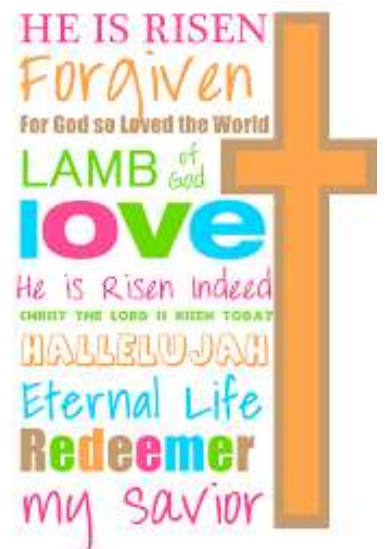
For us, though, the focus is different. We take time to reflect on the meaning of Jesus coming into the world, not simply to mark an arrival. We wait until Christmas Day to sing, "*Joy to the World, the Lord is come!*" And while after, the background music in the shops has already moved on, we keep singing. We keep reflecting. We continue to dwell in the mystery of Jesus' presence - God with us.

There is a similar pattern with Easter. In many ways, Easter has become even more secularised than Christmas. At Christmas, you might still glimpse a nativity scene somewhere, or the occasional carol. At Easter, however, the only thing commonly on display in shopping centres is chocolate eggs. While we may understand their symbolic connection to resurrection, that meaning is largely absent from the commercial setting.

And just as quickly as it arrives, it disappears. The day after Easter, it's all gone. The commercial moment has passed, and the decorations and merchandise give way to the next opportunity - school holiday promotions, ANZAC Day displays, winter sales.

But we are invited to do something different. We are invited to linger.

For fifty days, through to Pentecost, we remain with Easter. This is our time to contemplate what it means that Christ is risen, even as the world sought to extinguish perfect love. It is a season to reflect on what it means for God - and for us as followers of God - to continue loving amid the brokenness of the world. It is a time to embody the good news, even in the midst of disasters, wars, and turmoil: that love endures, that love persists—indeed, that love wins.



# DIARY

## **Thursday 16 April**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square  
**No Bible Study during the School Holidays – will resume on the 23 April**

## **Saturday 18 April**

8.00am **Men's Breakfast with Steve Dooker of Catholic Care – see more information further in Contact**

## **Sunday 19 April – Easter 3**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Pt 1:17-23 Lk 24:13-35*

## **Tuesday 21 April**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## **Wednesday 22 April**

**Lake Mac Op Shops Bus Tour – see further in Contact for more details**

## **Thursday 23 April**

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

## **Sunday 26 April – Easter 4**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader: Kerrie and Preacher: James Cox  
*Acts 2:42-47 Ps 23 1 Pt 2:19-25 Jn 10:1-10*

## **Tuesday 28 April**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square  
12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship at Wests Cardiff

## **Wednesday 29 April**

**Office closed**

## **Thursday 30 April**

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

## **Saturday 2 May**

11.15am **Friendship Circle Mother's Day Celebration at Hunter Wetlands – see further in Contact for more details**  
7.00pm **Family Fun Trivia Night and Auction – CCEA SRE Fundraiser at Hunter Christian Church – see further in Contact for more details**

## **Sunday 3 May – Easter 5**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: TBA  
*Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14*

## **Monday 4 May**

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

## **Tuesday 5 May**

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility  
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

# 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 hospital
- \* 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

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### Congregational Prayer Points

- the role of Piteeri, our new Communications Coordinator for the Milson St. Hub.
- 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 Black Hill Uniting Church
- 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

# Children & Family Worker Update



## SCHOOL SCRIPTURE Special Religious Education — it's a — good thing

'I encourage parents to choose Christian SRE for their child, because people with a faith generally do better on a range of clinical health issues, particularly in mental health.'

**Dr C Hollier, GP**



If you would like to know more about SRE in our local schools contact Cathy



'As a 10 year old my scripture teacher taught me about faith through Bible characters. These stories inspired me that with faith I too could conquer all doubt, rise above present circumstances and forge a future beyond my dreams.'

**Newcastle businessman, John Tuckerman**



[www.huntersre.org.au](http://www.huntersre.org.au)

## Lake Mac Op Shops - Bus Tour!

Wednesday, 22nd April 8.45am - 3.30pm

**\$36 per person includes:**

- Visits to 7 different charity op shops
- Morning tea and bistro lunch
- Air-conditioned coach transport
- All are welcome (ladies, men etc)

**Bring:**

- Own drinks (for the day)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- A large, soft bag (duffle, striped etc) for your shopping, clearly marked with your name (will be stored in the underneath compartment of coach)

**Tickets:**

[www.trybooking.com/DJSJB](http://www.trybooking.com/DJSJB)



Seats are limited



Any profit made on the day will go directly to St Luke's Uniting Church mission projects. Enquiries: Alison 0435 653 531

## Charlestown Uniting Church

# MEN'S BREAKFAST\*



8AM SAT. 18  
APRIL

\$12

RSVP: PAUL

0411 236 047

PMRAUS74@GMAIL.COM

GUEST SPEAKER  
**STEVE DOOKER** of  
CatholicCare will  
be talking about  
providing support  
when Gambling  
causes harm

24 Milson St.

(Please advise of special  
dietary needs, by Wed. 15/4)

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

**Practicing Presence:** Practicing the presence is an invitation to see and experience every moment as a gift of God. It is to live alive to union with the Trinity.

**Practice:** When a song comes to mind during the day, pay attention to it.

Could this song be a word of God to you? If it is, tell God what it means to you to have him come near you in this way. Or when a person comes to mind, take it as an opportunity to pray for them. Tell God for the goodness you desire for that person.

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



**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**  
**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2026.**



**“FEASTING WITH FRIENDSHIP.”**

***An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother’s Day Outing.***

***The Place*** – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

***Date*** - Saturday May 2nd May 2026.

***Time*** –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea. An interesting talk will follow. Lunch will be at 12-30pm. To be bought at cafe.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402335410 if interested.

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Sue Warren on 0427737793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day, Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater know by phoning 0402335410 or 0428431169 to book your “Feasting with Friendship.” RSVP 23rd April 2026.

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the **“Mother’s Day Dinner, “Feasting with Friendship.”** on Saturday 2nd May 2026.

# FAMILY FUN TRIVIA NIGHT & AUCTION CCEA SRE FUNDRAISER

LET THE  
GAMES  
BEGIN!



BYO Snacks  
(Nut free zone),  
Drinks, Tea & coffee  
for Sale



SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 7PM AT  
HUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
20A HILLSCREST PRD, HIGHFIELDS

TABLES OF 8 OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE  
(\$20 PERSON - UNDER 16 FREE)

Enquiries & booking  
Contact : Merise Downey  
0413 886 796  
merise\_downey@aapt.net.au

Come and take part in a  
silent auction to raise money  
for SRE at  
Whitebridge High

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

Let's get a CHaGS table together!

### PLEASE NOTE:

The Office will be closed on  
Wednesday 29 April – Jenny is away.  
(A small Contact may be sent out)



## Some of our Church Contacts:

### **Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

### **Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton

M: 0409 445 933

E: [Cath4858@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Piteeri.m@outlook.com)

### **Administration:**

P: 4943 4019

E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto: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>