



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

4 October 2026

From Rev Tom

When we hear the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20), it is easy to imagine them simply as a list of religious rules: “You shall...” and “You shall not...”. But they were given at a remarkable moment in Israel's story. A people who had lived as slaves were becoming a new nation. They had been given freedom, but now had to learn how to live fruitfully together. The commandments provided boundaries for that new community. Don't murder. Don't steal. Don't lie about one another. Respect relationships and family. Allow people time to rest. These are very practical instructions for building a community in which people can live together safely. But the commandments go deeper. They begin to address our attitudes: our desire for what belongs to someone else; our relationship with God; our recognition that neither our possessions nor our own desires are the centre of everything. The particular laws arose in an ancient world very different from ours. Yet perhaps we are experiencing a decline, not so much in obedience to the individual commandments, but in something at their heart.

We seem increasingly comfortable treating those who disagree with us with contempt. Public debate becomes personal attack. Business can put profit ahead of people. Social media rewards outrage and division. And we can easily begin to live as though *my* needs, *my* rights, *my* opinions and *my* happiness must come first. There are people who argue that the Ten Commandments should be displayed again in classrooms and public buildings. Perhaps there is another challenge for us.

What if we rediscovered their heart?

Imagine bringing that spirit into our political forums, our business meetings, our churches and our social media: treating one another fairly and with respect, recognising that we are not the centre of the universe, and living with gratitude before God. Perhaps that ancient wisdom is not so ancient after all.



DIARY

Thursday 1 October

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

Sunday 4 October – Pentecost 19

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20, Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 19, Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more details to
11.30am come.

Monday 5 October

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 6 October

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 8 October

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

Friday 9 October

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

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

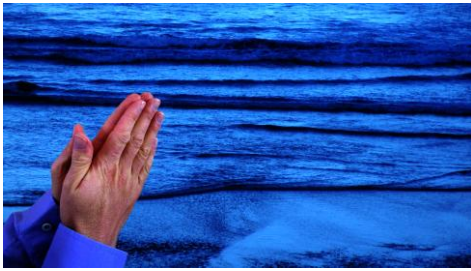
Tuesday 20 October

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

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Glen Joyce is rapidly deteriorating and not expected to leave hospital. Pray for Marion and family
- * 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

- Northern Presbytery, Millers Forest, Morisset and Muswellbrook congregations
- 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

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 Chegwiddden

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

Mindfulness: Mindfulness is a state of active, open, nonjudgmental attention to what is unfolding now in the moment in the presence of God.

Practice: Keep a record of your positive and negative judgments throughout the day. What do your judgments reveal? Talk to God about what you see.

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

Kitchen Update

The first stages of the Kitchen Renovation are complete with replacement of the windows in the kitchen, Kahibah room and Old Vestry - new doors on the Kahibah room and new split system air conditioner in the kitchen.

Now a few weeks wait until we have booked people to start at a time that suits us - pm Tuesday 20 - 23 October to remove old lino and mould and install the new lino. We still have to decide if we need blinds on the kitchen windows.

Any questions - ask Paul Russell 041 1236047





CHARLESTOWN & GARDEN SUBURB UNITING CHURCH

**WE BEGIN
THIS WEEK**

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 1

Apart from praying for staffing for next year and for a clear sense of mission within the Milson St Hub, below are some prayer points for this week as we focus on our neighbourhood and the Charlestown community –

- * give thanks for relationships with the neighbours
- * pray for the lonely and isolated in the neighbourhood
- * pray for who you see as you walk or occupants of the houses you pass
- * pray for relationships with the immediate neighbours
- * pray for our Morning Teas in the Community
- * pray for others in the community who are working for the good of the community
- * pray for guidance in what God wants us to do and be, in our neighbourhood

Other suggestions for prayer:

If you are unable to walk in the streets join in prayer by sitting quietly where you are and following these hints.



Congratulations to Dorothy and David Sumner
who are celebrating their

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

on the 1st October



The LORD bless you, and keep you:
The LORD make his face
Shine on you,
And be gracious to you

Numbers 6:24-25

The Nigerian Church, Persecuted Yet Vibrant - Why?

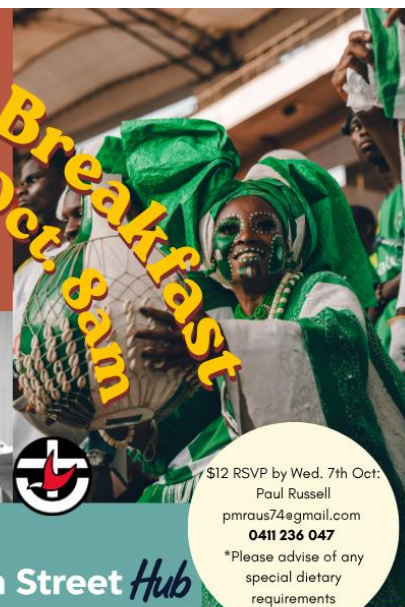
Michael Nwanguma, was born and raised in Nigeria before migrating to Australia in 2012. A Christian, he has lived in several regions of Nigeria, gaining firsthand experience of the country's diverse cultures and Christian traditions.

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



Milson Street Hub

\$12 RSVP by Wed. 7th Oct:

Paul Russell
pmraus74@gmail.com

0411 236 047

*Please advise of any
special dietary
requirements

CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

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

On Saturday 19th July the Presbytery Justice Committee hosted a presentation by the Synod's 1st Peoples Strategy Engagements Officer, Mikenzie Ling, at Toronto.

The day commenced with a smoking ceremony, and a welcome to country.

There were about 33 present: 30 women and three men.

The two-hour session before lunch was devoted to Mikenziel's story, and an hour after lunch to questions.

Mikenzie's Story

Born in Narromine, she left Narromine about 9 years old. and settled in Raymond Terrace, where she was associated with the Pentecostal Church. This was her first contact with Christianity. **Disconnected from Mob (Wiradjuri Nation)**, she became interested in becoming a minister. The Pentecostal Church told her that she could not proceed with her studies as her "aboriginality" interfered with the Church's theology

She later commenced study for a Master's Degree, being the only 1st Nation candidate of 300 doing the degree. Here she met with other people who managed to "marry" both beliefs. Connection with country meant she had always known Creation and Creator.

History was/is imparted by elders. There are "various layers" of understanding, one of the first layers is "frogs = greed". Other layers are revealed as maturity is reached, particularly the Sacred. Additionally, knowledge is given by God; LAND is SCRIPTURE, Creation is GOD'S GLORY, "Country" is THEOLOGY.

Mikenzie is now working with the UCA and World Council of Churches in Mission and Theological Spaces; how we do Church and Community.

Favourite scripture: Acts 2 – Pentecost: Revelation "every knee shall bow"; Ps 139; Jacob and Esau - wrestle – restoration: yomkipur plus Christ.

*Several references were made to "country". Relates to Why and How - all kept (revealed ?) in the Land (Country). It was very noticeable that reference is made as **"disconnected" from**, rather than **"connected" to**. One statement I remember being made: "ashes to ashes, dust to dust", hence association with COUNTRY.*

In her role as the Engagements Officer she comes into contact with the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). The Congress equates to the UCA Synod. It enables the Congress to self determination, and work reciprocally with the UCA

With "aboriginal" not being used now, the correct way of address is to be more specific; eg. Awakable, Worami. "Aboriginal" excludes the Torres Strait Islanders. Reference to "mob"

gives a geographical reference and possibly their language. "Country" was mentioned many times. It seems to be, without a written language, an unwritten history.

Social interaction with the populace is alarming. In many cases it has been brutal, shameful, intentionally diminishing: the Stolen Generation, the "yes" vote. There is growing racism, a rightwing influence. Expressed as Trans Generational Trauma, it has had an effect on the children over the last three generations with alcohol causing many drink deaths. Mikenzie expressed the solution as to "Go back and "unpack" and "repack". ALL Australia has caused Generational Trauma with ALL races, not just isolated to the UAICC.

The answer given by Mikenzie to Trans Generational Trauma struck a chord with Nelson Mandela's "telling the truth" hearings into apartheid, where the period was revisited from the beginning, unpacked (negative) and then repacked (positive).

I came away enlightened as to the meaning and importance of Country to our First Nation.

Robert



 **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.

Report – Northern Presbytery Retreat – September 2026

I attended the Northern Presbytery Retreat at Stuarts Point (North of Kempsey) from Thursday to Saturday 17th to 19 September. I was motivated by curiosity and wanting to meet people who we will be joining in the Northern Presbytery. It was well worth the long drive there and back.

The speaker was Pablo Nunez - Moderator elect – a Brazilian with a great sense of humour. At one point he asked us to turn to a reading in our bibles – and “if you haven’t got a bible sit next to a Christian.”

His first talk was about the past – reminding us that all we do is built upon what we have done in the past.

The second was about the present – as we realise what a dire situation we are in.

The third was about the future - passing on the baton before we are exhausted – the need to give faith not form – that Christianity is not dying – just changed its address to other countries (and they are sending missionaries to Australia) – legacy congregations (like us) who are planting new congregations where they are – and most importantly – that God is already where we are going.

We shared what we are doing across the Presbytery (A few are employing community workers) and later each Congregation was blessed. We also blessed Project Reconnect.

We had an introduction to Alpha with role playing – I was reminded of its effectiveness – just as good today as it was decades ago at Whitebridge. Another lesson was using the Discovery Bible reading method one on one.

I met members and ministers from many congregations – a surprising number have used Project Reconnect – which we were able to promote with pamphlets and a short video.

I met the Northern Presbytery Business Manager Matt Jones and the Administrator – both useful connections mainly with respect to Project Reconnect. Also, the Deacon from Gordon/Pymble with their work with young children.

I have only spoken about a few things – the singing was great and there were lots of prayers – the campsite was excellent – and I hope more of us will go to future retreats.

Paul Russell 20 September 2026



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.

Pride Faith Service

6pm, Sunday 25th October



A celebration and nourishment for one and all.

All sexual and gender identifications
and expressions - allies too.

All faith and spirituality expressions
- we really mean it: **ALL WELCOME!!!**

@ Adamstown Uniting Church

www.adamstownuca.org.au



ADAMSTOWN
UNITING CHURCH

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>



Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated, and older people are often targeted. Knowing what to look for — and what to do — can make a real difference.

Join Council on the Ageing New South Wales for a free community session in Charlestown on *Staying Safe from Scams*, where we'll share practical tips to help older people recognise scams, protect their information and know where to seek help. Stay and have a cuppa and chat as well.

Event Details:

- Date: Tuesday, 6 October 2026 📅
- Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (with light refreshments afterwards) 🕒
- Location: Community Hall, The Place: Charlestown Community Centre, Frederick St, Charlestown NSW 2290 📍
- Free event 🆓