



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

29 March 2026

From Rev Tom

It is nearly enough to put a bloke off going on holidays!

Here I am, a pleasant trip with my wife and daughter, admiring those things that are unique to what is a geologically newer country than Australia, with the signs of the great perturbation that created it still present, with sulphur hot springs, the Taupō Volcanic Zone – oh! And of course! The reason we went there – Hobbiton. This was Maree's holiday and we went to New Zealand to visit Hobbiton – the location of the filming of Lord of the Rings, and The Hobbit film trilogy.

But when we returned, it seemed the world had gone a little madder. War with Iran, and suddenly - or so the petrol companies would have us believe - the fuel that has been sitting in Australian storage tanks for months almost doubles in price. No doubt someone, somewhere, has a few extra dollars in their pocket!

In truth, the shock of what was happening began before we even got home. One night, at one of our accommodation stops, I watched the news and saw that Air New Zealand — the airline we were flying home with — was cancelling flights to reduce fuel use. As it turned out, not ours!

Well, as I, like the rest of us live within the context of news of uncertainty, perhaps our national trucking system running out of fuel, along with our farmers! And as I think about all this, I also find myself looking ahead to what lies before us in the Christian year. This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday. On that day the Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke his followers and make them keep quiet. But Jesus answers, "If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

There will be more to say as we move toward Easter, but even here, as we contemplate not only the chaos of the world but also the foundation of our faith, we are reminded that creation itself sings God's song and shouts God's praise. The mess we make in our humanness is undergirded by a foundation of goodness that cannot be silenced.

And where is that goodness? It is everywhere, but most significantly it is at the centre of your being — at your core — giving you life even now.

It is from that place that we can look out on the world and, rather than despair, find ourselves strangely carried by grace, and say with Jesus, "Father, forgive them — forgive us — for we do not know what we are doing." For from the deepest core of all things, love wins.

DIARY

Tuesday 24 March

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

Thursday 26 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm **Bible Study at Charlestown Church – ALL WELCOME**

Saturday 28 March

- 9.30am to 12.30pm **Exploring the Poetry of the Mystics** at the DoMN Library – see more details
see more details further in Contact

Sunday 29 March 2026 – Palm Sunday

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Cathy Beeton and Preacher Rev. Tom
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 21:1-11
- 3.00pm **Fundraising Concert at Adamstown Uniting Church** – see more details
further in Contact)



Tuesday 31 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 2 April – Maundy Thursday

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm **Bible Study at Charlestown Church – ALL WELCOME**

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service

Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday 3 April – Good Friday

- 9.00am Good Friday Service
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42



Sunday 5 April – Easter Day

- 6.00am Sunrise Service at Redhead Bluff
- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Monday 6 April

- 10.30am Memorial Service for June Locker

Tuesday 7 April

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 9 April

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

Our dear friend June Locker passed away on Saturday 21 March. A memorial service will be held at the Church on 6 April (Easter Monday) at 10.30am.

A Life well Lived



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)
- * Warren and Pam
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * June Locker
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- Easter Services
- 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
- 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



Thank you to all who donated towards the Easter Eggs for the hunt on the 31st March. Don't forget to pick up a flyer in the foyer & hand out to neighbours, families & friends.

Tomorrow the 26th, I will be running an SRE Easter Assembly at Charlestown East School, I will highlight the main points of Easter from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday using items from palms, donkey, crown of thorns, a cross, a crown, white linen & a cardboard stone (representing the stone rolled away) these assemblies depend on so many things going right, data, sound, mics etc, your prayers would be much appreciated for the assembly.

Blessings

Cathy

A colorful flyer for an Easter Egg Hunt. The title 'EASTER EGG HUNT' is written in large, bold, orange letters at the top. Below the title, there are several colorful Easter eggs in various patterns and colors (blue, purple, yellow, pink, green). A wicker basket filled with more eggs is on the right. The text on the flyer reads: 'ALL FAMILIES WELCOME', 'Tues. 31/3 from 3:15pm', '24 Milson St. bags provided', 'Charlestown Uniting Church', and '*Text or call to Book in: Piteeri 0493 094 231'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'Milson Street Hub' featuring a white dove in a blue circle and a red cross in a white circle.

Holy Week and Easter Services



Palm Sunday 29 March – 9.00am

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7.30pm

Good Friday 3 April – 9.00am

Easter Day 5 April – 9.00am



Milson Street *Hub*

Hi everyone 🙋 A quick update on what I've been up to. I started a weekly "PEOPLE IN CHARLESTOWN" feature for the Milson St. Hub facebook page, to highlight some of the people who use the space regularly & it's going well so far.

I've started using short little video clips for the foyer screen & the hall users have been enjoying the dog ones!

A big THANK YOU to Cathy for helping me get the word out & to all those who donated money for the Easter Egg Hunt!

We need 3 more volunteers to help with that event, from 1:30-4:30pm Tues. 31/3.

Please let me or Cathy know.

Am slowly meeting all the neighbours, some local business owners, volunteers (a shout out goes to Jan & Sue, such beautiful people), staff, & building a connection with some of the schools. St Joseph's was particularly welcoming.

I would like to meet more of the congregation, so please feel free to call or text me on 0493 094 231 (piteeri.m@outlook.com) & we can arrange a time for a cuppa when I'm free on a Tues. or Thurs.

A big thanks to Anne for initially welcoming & training me, Paul for helping me get set up & orientated, & also to Tom for his kind face, listening ear, & great tech knowledge.

Piteeri

MEDITATION/REFLECTION/SHARING

EXPLORING THE POETRY OF THE MYSTICS

Reading and listening to poetry before becoming silent and still. It engages the whole person-mind, heart and body. John Main wrote-" we soon pick up the currents of reality that give us direction and momentum...By stillness in the spirit we move in the ocean of God's love."

Saturday, March 28th 9.30am to 12.30

Location: DoMN LIBRARY

(Corner Tudor and Parry St, Hamilton. Parking behind Library off Tudor St and Sacred Heart Cathedral Car Park)

DONATION: \$10.00

Morning Tea Provided at 9.30

RSVP by March 23rd

annecuskelly@hotmail.com or 0407436808

Fundraising Concert

Proceeds of the concert will be shared between the following projects:-



Kiwaniis Beachside-Newcastle projects for children in local refuges and refugee children

Margaret Jurd College for Year 9-12 students needing extra support, well-being fund



Featuring



Sydney songstress Rachel Collis has been described by reviewers as no less than "prodigy", "sheer genius" (Australian Stage) and "a welcome jolt back to the time of Joni Mitchell and Carole King" (The Orange Press). Rachel is good old-fashioned songwriting, combined with whirlwind virtuosic piano and Celtic-like vocals. Rachel has released 4 studio albums which have grown Rachel a dedicated fanbase in Australia, the UK, the US and Canada. Her songs and stories explore the beauty and spirituality of everyday life. Beautifully-crafted and emotionally honest, each song is an invitation to find affinity and belonging in the simplest of moments. With a passion for social justice and inclusion, Rachel is also a champion for widening the tent of who is seen and heard in society. Through her stories of love, loss, shame, and messy, authentic faith, Rachel creates connectedness and a safe space for listeners.

"Momentum" is an "A Capella" group of eight people who greatly appreciate singing and love to harmonise. The group sings a range of songs from renaissance to contemporary, folk, gospel and mainstream; especially enjoying singing songs of devotion and hope.

They have been inspired by groups such as "The Idea of North", "Pentatonix", "Rajaton" and Tripod.



Concert Details:

Sunday 29th March, 2026 @ 3pm

Adamstown Uniting Church, 228 Bruncker Rd, Adamstown

Tickets via Trybooking \$25 each, concession \$15, families \$60.

Visit <https://www.trybooking.com/DJIHT> or click on QR code



Delicious afternoon tea provided

Contact details: Jennifer Burns 0474 496 168 or Rae Pidgeon 0407 921 277

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)

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>