



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation



12 November 2023

From Rev Tom

On Monday evening I got a call from my niece to say that my sister's condition had deteriorated. The implication was that I should go to Parkes where my sister lives NOW! I headed off very early on Tuesday. As I travelled to Parkes I listened to a book called "Inside Out" by Robert Powell. I came to a chapter called "Hope and Despair". Powell started the chapter writing about the amount of despair that is in the population at this time. He gave numerous illustrations of the prevalence of despair. Then he said something I had never heard before. He described three types of hope. Two types, he says, can lead to despair and the one leads to true freedom. The first kind of hope is hope of "feeling". He says this is slavery. This is the hope of the ordinary emotions, a hope that things in our life will get better, that we will get what we want. Then there is hope of the body, he says amounts to disease. This is the hope that if we are healthy, and look like a fine specimen, then we will be attractive and so our life will be ideal. But since the body has a built-in obsolescence, then the future of this kind of hope is disease and death. Then there is hope of consciousness (I would suggest it could be called spiritual hope) and it is only hope of consciousness that will provide the strength that comes from being who we are in essence. He says, "Hope of consciousness is indicative of a mind that is turned toward something very fine, and energy that permeates one's being. This hope comes from understanding that true freedom can only come from service, of being a servant to something higher than ourselves." In more Christian language I would say hope of consciousness arises out of a growing awareness that our lives are in God and for God. So, everything in our lives is included. When I was at the hospital with my sister she decided she needed to go to the toilet. In the process, she fell. The result was I was on the floor with my sister cradling her in my arms, having pressed the call button, and waiting for the nurses to arrive. They seemed to take forever. As we waited I realised how the first two hopes were thoroughly jettisoned. Having just listened to that passage from Powel's book, I was aware in the chaos of that moment that somehow it is all included, as we empty ourselves into God's goodness – everything is okay – and those moments became sacred. A nurse arrived and then it seemed like half the hospital arrived in a matter of moments. They got my sister comfortably back into her bed and ensured she was injury-free. For me, there instilled a commitment to let go of two hopes for a better one. Power quotes from Alexander Pope's poem "An Essay on Man."

*"All are but parts one stupendous whole,
Whose body Nature is, and God the Soul."*

I pray I always remember so.

DIARY

Thursday 9 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
10.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Friday 10 November

- 6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

Saturday 11 November

- 10.30am Friendship Circle are heading to the Botanical Gardens for lunch



Sunday 12 November - Pentecost 24

- 9.00am Worship Service - Leader Kerrie Dixon Preacher Rev'd. John Warham
Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13

Monday 13 November

- 7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 2 weeks)

Tuesday 14 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Thursday 16 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 19 November - Pentecost 25

- 9.00am Holy Communion Service – Leader and Preacher Rev'd Tom
Judges 4: 1- 7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30



Monday 20 November

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit
7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 1 weeks)

Tuesday 21 November

- 9.00am Needlework n Natter
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Thursday 23 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 26 November – Christ the King

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader: Margaret White Preacher: Ben Waters
Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46

Tuesday 28 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship – Christmas celebration
4.00pm Worship Team Meeting at The White House

Thursday 30 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb



THE PRAYER PAGE



Pray that the Australian Church can model today, the example of the early Christians, in making space for all people to flourish in community.

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * June Locker
- * Tom's family as they support Kerrieann during her last days
- * Ryan and Sue Walpole are back in Newcastle with Ryan now in rehab.
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Anne
- * Mac
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Peter Ferguson
- * Nola
- * Isabella
- * Ashley back in hospital at the Mater
- * Janice Wright
- * Glenda O'Donahue who is very ill in hospital
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert's healing post operation
- * Judith and family
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Family of Lachlan who was baptised last Sunday
- Suzanne Holloway's mother died (minister at Cessnock)
- Church Council gathering on 14 November to discuss response to Act2
- Baptism Service for Lachlan this Sunday
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The victims and families of the earthquake in Afghanistan
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Fabian, children and Wilfreda suffering heart failure
- Tom and NEOS as he follows ideas and opportunities including connections with Wesley Mission at Windale



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD - ERRORS

There have been a couple of errors in the latest copy of the With Love to the World books –

The incorrect commentary for Tuesday 19 December was included – I have printed the correct commentary and a copy is available in the folder on the table in the foyer, for each person who subscribes to WLTW, to collect.

Also, there was an error in the compilation of some of the booklets where pages 9 – 16 and 57 - 64 are missing, if this is you, then either let Julie Fenwick or Jenny in the office know, and we can email those pages to you.



A reminder there will be a brief meeting of the congregation after worship this Sunday to elect councillors for positions due this year.

Nominations received are -

Lesley Clulow (Treasurer)

Kerrie Dixon (Passionate Worship)

Lorraine Pepper (Spiritual Direction and Education)

An additional vote is for Presbytery Representative - Les Butchers.



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 11 November

Leaving the Church at 10.30am for a visit to the Botanical Gardens. Bring a picnic lunch, picnic chair with opportunity to use café if required.

Please let

Sue Warren on 0437 737 793 know if you will be attending.

Transport can be arranged if needed.



Congregation Directory

It is time for a Directory Update - our opportunity to update your Directory details - especially phone numbers if you have given up your landline.

Please send an email to Paul Russell pmraus74@gmail.com - clearly stating the change - and signing with your name(s) as authorisation.

For brand new entries and if you do not have email access - please complete one of the Change Forms available in the foyer at Charlestown and give to Paul Russell or give to Jenny Cummings _ Admin Officer.

Any questions - ask Paul Russell 0411236047



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>