



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

17 September 2023

## From Rev Tom

I received an invitation to be given a guided tour of the native garden at the Glenrock Scout camp. That tour happened yesterday. I went with Kathy and Rhonda White. Our guide was John Le Messurier (and his wife Pam had morning tea prepared for us at the end). I learned that John received the Australian Gardener of the Year by Gardening Australia in 2018 for his work. John has been working on the site for 47 years, transforming the barren 6.2-hectare former coal site at Glenrock Scout Camp into a native garden show piece. It was a truly remarkable experience. John's patient efforts are realised when seeing towering pines over 30 years old and almost every plant or tree with a stake and label at its base. I could not think of a more apt activity during this September period of Season of Creation. This evening when I had my typical Facebook time I came across a video of the famous physicist Brian Cox. I have transcribed here what he said. "Let's imagine that in our galaxy, 400 billion suns, there's just us that thinks, right? There are microbes all over the place, but in terms of things that think and can feel and in a very real sense bring meaning to the universe, all these things we talked about, the beauty of these galaxies, they're not beautiful if there's nothing there to perceive them. Right, they're just galaxies! So, if that's it in this galaxy then the decisions that we make now as a civilization have galactic implications. Right, if we destroy ourselves, for example, deliberately or through inaction then it's possible that we eliminate meaning, perhaps forever in a galaxy of 400 million billion stars. We have a tremendous responsibility in a sense not to do that." It was interesting that just this last Monday the SFED group were reading the book, "Rewilding the Church." The author of that book, Steve Austhorpe, said something very similar. Not everyone in the SFED group agreed with this perspective, however, there is no doubt that humans add something quite unique to all of creation. We can look back at the world, the universe and even ourselves (if there is a mirror around) and consider the value of it all, actually understand the beauty of it all. When Genesis says that we are made in God's image maybe that is one of the likenesses. Cynthia Bourgeault thinks this is true. Cynthia would say we add a level of consciousness that is unique and so we add something to the universe – this self-awareness, this capacity to know beauty, the ability even to be aware of spirit. These are not superfluous. If we were not around there would be something really missing that is now part of the very fabric of the universe. We are indeed in a symbiotic relationship with creation. We are neither above creation, nor superfluous to creation. We need the world and this world needs us. This is the way God has made things. It is all rather enthralling and as we wonder about the majesty of it all, the beauty of it all, and worship the creator of it all, we are being fully human, and a unique element that makes creation complete.



# DIARY

## **Thursday 14 September**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
11.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## **Friday 15 September**

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## **Sunday 17 September – Outback Sunday**

- 9.00am Holy Communion Worship Service - Leader and Preacher Rev'd. Tom  
*Joel 1: 8-10, 17-20; Psalm 18: 6-19; Romans 8: 18-27; Matthew 3: 13- 4: 2*

## **Monday 18 September**

- 10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care

## **Tuesday 19 September**

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

## **Thursday 21 September**

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

## **Sunday 24 September – River Sunday**

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader: David Chegwidan  
Reflections by Michael Smith, Lesley Clulow and Jean Page  
*Genesis 8: 20-22; 9: 12-17; Psalm 104: 27-33; Revelation 22: 1-5; Matthew 28: 1-10*

## **Tuesday 26 September**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie  
12.00pm Ladies Fellowship at Garden Suburb  
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at The White House

## **Wednesday 27 September**

**Kids Club – ‘The World Around Us’**



## **Thursday 28 September**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
**No Bible Study during the School Holidays**

## **Sunday 1 October – Animal Sunday**

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader: Michael Smith Preacher: Catherine Pepper  
*Genesis 2: 18-25; Psalm 148; Revelation 5: 11-14; Matthew 6: 25-29*

## **Monday 2 October**

- 10.00am Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care

## **Tuesday 3 October**

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

## **Thursday 5 October**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
**No Bible Study during the School Holidays**

# WHAT'S COMING UP?

# THE PRAYER PAGE



"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."

Mother Teresa

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Kerrieann (Tom's sister)
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Glenn Pepper and family
- \* Sharon MacDonald and family
- \* Gloria Booth and family
- \* Tony Sellen and family
- \* Anne
- \* Mac
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Peter Ferguson
- \* Nola
- \* Isabella
- \* Ashley in hospital with pneumonia
- \* Janice Wright
- \* Glenda O'Donahue
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert and Pam
- \* Judith and family
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Enid Power
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Tom and Kathy
- Pray for congregational members participating in the spirituality of Age exercises each week
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- Flooding in Libya
- Earthquake in Morocco
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- Preparations for Voice Referendum – truth telling will be an important priority
- 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



# Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

**This Tuesday afternoon** I will be presenting an SRE Assembly for the children at Charlestown East School, as I don't have the teachers to do a weekly SRE lesson, I do this SRE assembly once every term.



I will have around 160 children from years K to 6 at the assembly, please pray that all will go well & the children will come out with a clearer knowledge of who God is & just how much they are loved.

**Holiday Kids Club preparations** are underway. It will be held on Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> September & our theme is 'The World Around Us' registration forms are in the church foyer if you know of any school age children who would love to come or any parents looking for a day off, please pass a form on to them.

Cathy



## Walking Together Training

Hosted by The Hunter Community Alliance

At Toronto Uniting Church, 118 The Boulevard, Toronto

Thursday 21 September – 5.30pm to 8.45pm

Cost: \$15 including dinner OR FREE

In this half-day workshop, participants gain a deeper understanding of who we are as a nation and how to take meaningful action towards reconciliation. The content covers the importance of a Voice to Parliament, how individuals and organisations can play a role in ensuring it is established, and why reconciliation is an ongoing journey that requires action from us all.

You'll learn about:

- The invitation to all Australians in the Uluru Statement from the Heart
- The importance of Voice, Treaty and Truth
- A Voice to Parliament – to the referendum and beyond
- The concept of 'Makarrata'
- Accepting the invitation in the Uluru Statement with purposeful advocacy that advances reconciliation in Australia

Tickets and more information here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/walking-together-training-hunter-sep-21st-toronto-uniting-church>

## Church Council Election

Some of our council members have come to the end of their term. Kerrie Dixon (Passionate Worship) and Lesley Clulow (Extravagant Generosity) have agreed to being nominated for another term.

Vacancies currently exist for

"Risk Taking Mission and Service",

"Intentional Faith Development" and

"Radical Hospitality"



If you are considering serving in this way yourself or would like to encourage someone else, outlines of the focus of each of these areas of responsibility can be found on our website under the "About Us" tab, or speak to a member of Church Council.

Nomination forms will be available in the foyer.

*Julie Fenwick, Church Council Secretary*



What a lovely morning was had by all the ladies that came along to morning tea on Wednesday – it was so lovely to hear the chatter and laughter – if you've not been for a while and would like to come along, look out for the next get together in October!



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**WE NEED JOY AS WE NEED AIR.  
WE NEED LOVE AS WE NEED  
WATER. WE NEED EACH OTHER AS  
WE NEED THE EARTH WE SHARE.**

– DR. MAYA ANGELOU

**Some of our Church Contacts:**

**Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

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**Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton

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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>

## *Spirituality of Age Exercise*



## To What Are You Called?

Think of someone you've met personally, or in literature or history, who illustrates the notion of tikkun, the Jewish belief that it is the individual's task to retrieve shattered shards of goodness and light and bring their contribution back to help repair the world. What adjectives, qualities and characteristics best describe the essence of the individual you chose as someone who represents tikkun to you? Take a moment to make a list of these descriptors before reading on.

### ***Analysis***

The list you came up with says as much about you as it does about the person you selected. The particular words you chose to describe someone who represents tikkun give you a vivid, concrete profile of the aspirations you hold in regard to what you aspire to awaken to. Not every word you put on the list may apply to you, but the list – as a whole – will provide you with interesting insights about yourself and what gives your life meaning and purpose, regardless of the circumstances you may face over the coming years. In fact, when it comes to retrieving shards of light – doing the sacred work of tikkun – it could well be argued that the greater the shadows with which you are confronted as you age, the greater the contribution toward repair of the world you have the potential to make.