



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

12 January 2025

From Anne Threlfo

A new year often brings renewed resolve to adjust our life in some way, which generally lasts until about Australia Day! Or maybe that's just me! My resolve for this year is to read Isaiah and Jeremiah from start to finish, all 118 chapters.

One of the first verses to catch my attention has been Isaiah 6: 13:

As the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down,
so the holy seed will be the stump in the land.*

This reminds me of the oft quoted Isaiah 11: 1:

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Each new year brings with it a reminder of the constant truth that life is ever-changing. The past year brought its share of joys and challenges, certainty and uncertainty, just as this year will bring. In our own life, in the life of our congregation, and within the Uniting Church we can expect to be challenged to let go of ways of being which we have held close. Each time we listen to news, we are reminded of the upheavals in so many places around the world and closer to home. From where does our hope come?

The verses from Isaiah speak of hope in the midst of change and disruption. Though a tree may be cut down, the stump remains—a symbol of life, endurance, and the promise of new beginnings. In seasons of loss, uncertainty, or change, God assures us that God is not finished. From what seems lifeless, God will bring growth and renewal.

God is always at work, even in ways we cannot yet see or imagine, “*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*” (Isaiah 43:19). The holy seed holds life and possibility, offering us hope for the future. Green shoots will emerge. God is a God of restoration!

May this year be one of renewal, growth, and a deepening trust in the God who makes all things new, even, or maybe particularly when our own resolved begins to waiver.

Happy New Year!

* The terebinth tree is mentioned in several places in the bible. It is a resilient, long living deciduous tree abundant in the Middle East.

DIARY

Thursday 9 January

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

Friday 10 January

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Sunday 12 January – The Baptism of Our Lord

9.00am Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Dale Yardy
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Tuesday 14 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 15 January – Office is Closed

Thursday 16 January

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

Sunday 19 January – The Second Sunday of the Epiphany

9.00am The Holy Communion
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Dale Yardy
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Tuesday 21 January

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 23 January

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

Sunday 26 January – The Third Sunday of the Epiphany

9.00am Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Pastor Kim Langfield
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * The McLean Family after the death of Fay
- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Ange
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Cathy Beeton
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Enid Power
- * Max
- * Tom and Kathy
- * Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- pray for guidance and discernment
missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel, Lebanon and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





Tom and Kathy will be on holiday from 1 January to 12 February 2025

If you have any concerns during this time, please contact Julie Fenwick, or your Elder



Guest Preachers during Rev Tom's leave

5 January 2025	Rev Dr Peter Oliver
12 January 2025	Rev Dale Yardy
19 January 2025	Rev Dale Yardy
26 January 2025	Ms Kim Langford
2 February	Mrs Cathy Beeton / Mr Ben Waters (SRE)
9 February	Rev Dr Judy Redman

We now have a special box in the corner of the foyer, near the soft plastics box, especially for bottle tops - another way to do something for our environment. There is a photo on the side of the box if you're unsure what is suitable.



A HAMILTON UNITING CHURCH EVENT



EVERYONE HAS A STORY

SAVE THE DATE + DETAILS SOON



STORIES

Seeing Behind Prison Walls: Learn About Human Rights Violations
Why Jailing is Failing + Viable Alternatives to Incarceration in Australia



“Expressions of Abuse and Agency: Drawing Lived Experience of Incarceration”
Video Project + Research + Stories + Alternatives
+ Organisations engaged in these Issues + Q&A

15 MARCH 2025

FROM 4.30PM - 6.00PM

'AT "HAMILTON HIVE" 150 BEAUMONT ST, HAMILTON 2303

FIND OUT MORE www.hamiltonunitingchurch.com/stories/ EMAIL hamiltonuca@gmail.com

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Teachability : Teachability is a propensity and openness to learn from God no matter who the teacher or what the experience may be.

Practice: Become aware of your compulsions to let others know what you think. Notice when you're composing what you will say next rather than listening to the one who is speaking.

- When do you feel the urge to pontificate or otherwise hold forth?
- Ask God to give you a teachable heart and a will to listen.
- What do you learn about yourself ? about others? about what God values?

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

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>