



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

7 December 2025

From Rev Tom

Erin Killion is the current community organiser for the Hunter Community Alliance (HCA). Erin gave me a call last week to tell me about where they are at to address the housing crisis in the Hunter. In particular Erin spoke about the Broadmeadow housing redevelopment project. The plan is to build 20,000 new homes in that vicinity!!

The NSW Government promised that 30% of those homes would be social and affordable housing on that public land. Those who went to the HCA Assembly will have heard what sounded like a renewed commitment to that goal. Well, since then there has not been a word mentioned about social or affordable housing as part of the plan.

Now, after mentioning all this Erin got a bit deeper and my memory of what she said gets more sketchy. The Alliance Housing Research Action Team has continued researching the behind-the-scenes activity on the subject. What they discovered is that, all the funding to achieve the 30% goal is in place from both the state and federal governments.

However, and unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, I am unable to relay the detail here, but the big problem is red-tape. We often hear about red-tape in bureaucratic systems and it seems it is streaming through the whole housing issue. Well, it seems that now is the time to give our governments a prod to make good on their promises and clear a pathway to address what is described by the majority of Australians as our leading national concern.

Community organising uses many strategies to achieve the greater good. Most of the time it is a consultative process. But when that gets stuck it pulls another arrow from the quiver - public action. Politicians are very sensitive to ordinary citizens getting out there in public to voice their concerns. So, the HCA has organised a public gathering this Friday 5th December at 11am Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd, Hamilton North (there is a park there).

This event has already been reported in the media at it seems that just on that news one local politician has contacted the Housing Research Action Team to organise a meeting. But to make a difference we need to get communication going with both state and federal representatives. So, a large gathering on Friday will go into the news, with a reminder of promises not fulfilled.

So, this is first to simply let people know the back story. But it is also a call for whoever can get there on Friday. I believe it is going to be hot so Rob Hanks is making sure there is plenty of water, and people are advised to bring an umbrella (that makes for an even greater visual impact). There is a program that will take about 45 minutes, with some personal stories, and some experts explaining what needs to be done to achieve the agreed goal. So, it will be great if you can get there ... and a prayer for the occasion and a change in direction is just, if not more, essential!!

DIARY

Thursday 4 December

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study
- 6.00-9.00pm **Pastoral Care 101 Workshop online with Rev. Dale Yardy (see more details further in Contact)**

Friday 5 December

- 11.00am **Hunter Community Alliance** gathering at Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd, Hamilton North - **Public Land for Public Housing** (See more further in Contact)

Saturday 6 December

- 12noon **Friendship Circle meeting for lunch at the Seaview Malaysian at Redhead**

Sunday 7 December – Advent 2

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew



Tuesday 9 December

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

Wednesday 10 December

- 10.00am **Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown – A Special final gathering for the year**

Thursday 11 December

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Friday 12 December

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 13 December

- 8.00am Men's Breakfast with Pastor Kim Langford "Spirit and Stardust"

Sunday 14 December - Advent 3

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Anne Threlfo and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11



Monday 15 December

- 10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 16 December

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

Thursday 18 December

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Sunday 21 December - Advent 4

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Family and friends of Michael Smith
- * Enid Power going in to Care
- * Beryl
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * 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
- * Pam and Mert
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- Prayer for discernment re ongoing mission for the Milson St Hub into 2026
- Employment of a Communications Coordinator
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- 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 the situations in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 10 December

**A Special final gathering for the year
will be held at Charlestown Church
from 10.00am**



**Come have a cuppa and join in
Fellowship with stories and a laugh**

ALL WELCOME



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 6 December

Christmas Lunch

12noon at Seaview Malaysian at Redhead

**Contact Sue Warren on 0427737793 if you would
like to come.**

Transport can be arranged.

All Welcome



Sisters of Faith Dinner

You are warmly invited to our *Sisters of Faith Dinner* an evening of friendship, reflection, and inspiring conversation that nourishes both heart and soul.

Details

Wednesday 11th February 2026

6:30pm - 9pm

Victor Peter Suite

841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

Cost: \$35

RSVP: 1st February



Guest Speaker:
Sr. Helen Anne

Registration now open scan the QR code or use the link
<http://sisters-of-faith-dinner2026.eventbrite.com.au>



This event is very popular and always books out, so ladies, buy your ticket soon.

2025-2026 Uniting Church Lectionary available now



The new lectionary year A begins on 30 November.

To follow the weekly readings, download the lectionary here:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3redkw>



8am Saturday 13 December
Milson St Hub (Charlestown Uniting Church),
24 Milson St
Cost: \$12

Guest Speaker

Pastor Kim Langford

Uniting Church Chaplain at University of Newcastle

“Spirit and Stardust”

University chaplaincy - caring for the whole person.

*What does Multifaith Chaplaincy look like in a secular, pluralistic environment?
What are the main concerns or issues that bring people to Chaplaincy and how does the context shape our work?*

Booking details



RSVP to Paul
pmraus74@gmail.com
by 10 December 2025

*Pick up a flyer in
the foyer*



Charlestown & Garden
Suburb Uniting Church

Celebrate Christmas

Here at the Milson St Hub

Christmas Eve - 6.30pm

Christmas Day - 9.00am

Celebrate God's gift of love come to us!

Milson St Hub, 24 Milson St, Charlestown

Welcome to



Milson Street Hub
Community

We're making our foyer space
more comfortable and inviting!

There's some rearranging
happening!
Watch the space!





CHAIRS REPLACING PEWS



Heads up.... There are some changes coming to the seating furniture in the church space!

Our Milson St Hub is used by a number of groups, renting the varied spaces we offer. **Their presence is integral to our mission to build a community where creativity, justice and spirituality are valued and available to all.** In a more pragmatic view, their presence also helps maintain financial viability of our premises.

Groups using the worship space have various needs; performance, rehearsals, contemplation, and need to be able to move some of the seating. We have found the church pews to be very awkward and heavy to reposition.

The plan is to bring over the chairs from Garden Suburb to begin the transition to flexible seating. As more chairs are acquired, more pews can be replaced. To ensure comfort and mobility, there will be some with arms and some without.

We hope our congregation will find the new seating comfortable and convenient.

Kerrie Dixon

Acting Chair of Church Council



The old pews are available to anyone who might like one, or two – just let one of the Committee members know.

Advent Devotional Material



- A donation of \$2 is requested to cover photocopying
 - Large print copies are available.
- Contact Jenny in the office



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>