



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**12 April 2026**

## **From Rev Tom**

Kathy and I leave for the gym around 6:15am. At the moment it is just after sunrise. When driving up Prospect Rd, I could barely see! The sun was blazing. Kathy said, "Just as well it wasn't like that on Sunday!" On Sunday morning nearly 20 people gathering at Redhead Lookout for the sunrise service. Cloud filled the sky. There was cloud on the horizon, and then a break of clear sky then dark cloud continued toward us. I was leading the service so mostly looking west at where people were sitting. But as we listen to some music at different times during the service I had opportunity to turn around and gaze at the resulting glory that unfolded before us. The way the cloud softened the sun so that it welcomed us holding our unbroken attention. Beams of light of splayed across the sky. Those rays struck the water so there was a wonderful contrast between the dark and light, and where there was light the water shimmered. I have a saying that comes to mind at times like this, or perhaps it is a prayer, "Now you're showing off!" In churches we talk a lot. We say prayers, we read the Bible, I preach. I was hoping for something different. Rather than hearing the words of the rising of the son, I wanted us to have a whole-body experience – and it was! It became the centre point for a wonderful Easter week.

For some of us it began with a funeral. But it was a funeral that was itself a testimony of Easter. We said goodbye to Elaine Ross's son David. But the church was packed! Packed by people who Elaine and her daughter Christine had told me had become David's wider family. As they grieved, they celebrated the love that was David's in his life through the strong community of the Windale bowling club. It was evident even on that day and a powerful witness that loves wins!

Then we shared the Maundy Thursday service, where we explored the things did and said fit into the traditional Passover meal but gained new meaning as part of his journey to the cross. The next day we gave all our focus to the cross, the merciless punishment of Jesus, mindful as we gazed upon the terrible suffering, that even there God was achieving God's saving plan, even there God was doing good ... Good Friday. I have mentioned the sunrise service, but on Easter Sunday we read the whole of Matthew 28 which reminded us that even the resurrection was resisted, lied about by the leaders in the temple, and doubted by the disciples – yet the good news prevailed!

On Monday there was another gathering as we said our last goodbye to June Locker. It is another occasion where even in the sadness there was happiness, fondness of memories, gratitude for June's life.

Over the weekend I am reminded how close death and life are together – and that death does not deny life. It comes back to Sunday's theme – love wins – and love is the third force that holds everything together.

# DIARY

## Thursday 9 April

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square  
**No Bible Study during the School Holidays – will resume on the 23 April**
- 10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care

## Friday 10 April

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## Saturday 11 April

- 11.00am Friendship Circle – Lunch at Charlestown Bowling Club

## Sunday 12 April – Easter 2

The Divine Worship  
Leader: Kathy Stuart and Preacher: Rev Tom  
*Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31*

## Tuesday 14 April

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

## Thursday 16 April

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square  
**No Bible Study during the School Holidays – will resume on the 23 April**

## Saturday 18 April

- 8.00am **Men's Breakfast with Steve Dooker of Catholic Care – see more information further in Contact**

## Sunday 19 April – Easter 3

The Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom  
*Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Pt 1:17-23 Lk 24:13-35*

## Tuesday 21 April

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

## Wednesday 22 April

**Lake Mac Op Shops Bus Tour – see further in Contact for more details**

## Thursday 23 April

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square  
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

## Sunday 26 April – Easter 4

The Divine Worship  
Leader: Kerrie and Preacher: TBA  
*Acts 2:42-47 Ps 23 1 Pt 2:19-25 Jn 10:1-10*

## UPCOMING MAY EVENTS

### Saturday 2 May

- 11.15am **Friendship Circle Mother's Day Celebration at Hunter Wetlands – see further in Contact for more details**
- 7.00pm **Family Fun Trivia Night and Auction – CCEA SRE Fundraiser at Hunter Christian Church – see further in Contact for more details**

# 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)
- \* Robyn and Geoff Greaves (the latter being much improved)
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick in hospital
- \* Rene Kelly
- \* Nelda Marshall
- \* Glen and Marion
- \* Valmai
- \* Janice and Don Wright
- \* Kelly
- \* Tony Sellen
- \* Vicki
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Isabella
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Max
- \* Don Humphries

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### Congregational Prayer Points

- 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
- Pray for St Luke's Uniting Church Belmont
- 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



What a beautiful Easter we experienced in our church,

I pray your Easter was peaceful & full of love & chocolate.

Just a reminder that the children are now on school holidays for the next 2 weeks, they return to school on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Please be aware of children in your neighbourhood, watch for them on your streets as you drive, say hello to them in the shops, chat with their parents, a kind word is always appreciated.

Have a blessed week.

Cathy

## Children Are . . .

Amazing, cherish them.	Noble, esteem them.
Believable, trust them.	Open-minded, hear them.
Childlike, let them.	Precious, treasure them.
Divine, respect them.	Questioners, encourage them.
Energetic, nourish them.	Resourceful, support them.
Fallible, embrace them.	Spontaneous, enjoy them.
Gifts, unwrap them.	Talented, believe in them.
Here Now, be with them.	Unique, affirm them.
Innocent, delight in them.	Vulnerable, protect them.
Joyful, appreciate them.	Whole, recognize them.
Kindhearted, join them.	Xtra Special, celebrate them.
Loveable, love them.	Yearning, notice them.
Magical, fly with them.	Zany, laugh with them.

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## Financial Support for our Family and Children Worker 2026

**As you know**, Cathy Beeton is employed as our Family and Children Worker. Her role these days has evolved to be more teaching and supervising SRE in schools although she is still involved with family and children's activities here at church.

Some of our parishioners support the role of the Family and Children Worker with financial pledges each year.

Here we are in the second quarter of the year and have not followed up all supporters to see if they would like to continue. Please understand I will call soon.

If you would like to be a new supporter of Cathy's work, please whisper in my ear.

Kerrie Dixon

## 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)

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

**Journaling:** Journaling is a tool for reflecting on God's presence, guidance and nurture in daily coming and goings. Journals can be kept regularly or during time of transitions.

**Practice:** Keep a prayer journal: record requests, prayers, answered prayers.

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



**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**  
**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2026.**



**“FEASTING WITH FRIENDSHIP.”**

***An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother’s Day Outing.***

***The Place*** – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

***Date*** - Saturday May 2nd May 2026.

***Time*** –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea. An interesting talk will follow. Lunch will be at 12-30pm. To be bought at cafe.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402335410 if interested.

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Sue Warren on 0427737793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day, Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater know by phoning 0402335410 or 0428431169 to book your “Feasting with Friendship.” RSVP 23rd April 2026.

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the **“Mother’s Day Dinner, “Feasting with Friendship.”** on Saturday 2nd May 2026.

# FAMILY FUN TRIVIA NIGHT & AUCTION CCEA SRE FUNDRAISER

LET THE  
GAMES  
BEGIN!



BYO Snacks  
(Nut free zone),  
Drinks, Tea & coffee  
for Sale

SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 7PM AT  
HUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
20A HILLSCREST PRD, HIGHFIELDS

TABLES OF 8 OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE  
(\$20 PERSON - UNDER 16 FREE)

Enquiries & booking  
Contact : Merise Downey  
0413 886 796  
merise\_downey@aapt.net.au

Come and take part in a  
silent auction to raise money  
for SRE at  
Whitebridge High

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

Let's get a CHaGS table together!

# Lake Mac Op Shops - Bus Tour!

Wednesday, 22nd April 8.45am - 3.30pm

## \$36 per person includes:

- Visits to 7 different charity op shops
- Morning tea and bistro lunch
- Air-conditioned coach transport
- All are welcome (ladies, men etc)

## Bring:

- Own drinks (for the day)
- Comfortable walking shoes
- A large, soft bag (duffle, striped etc) for your shopping, clearly marked with your name (will be stored in the underneath compartment of coach)

## Tickets:

[www.trybooking.com/DJSJB](http://www.trybooking.com/DJSJB)



Seats are limited



Any profit made on the day will go directly to  
St Luke's Uniting Church mission projects. Enquiries: Alison 0435 653 531

## Some of our Church Contacts:

### Minister

Rev Tom Stuart  
M: 0427 625 502  
E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

### Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton  
M: 0409 445 933  
E: [Cath4858@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Piteeri.m@outlook.com)

### Administration:

P: 4943 4019  
E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto: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>