



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

11 May 2025

From Rev Tom

Living Between Two Worlds

Over the past two weeks, our Scripture readings have included passages from the Book of Revelation. I was deeply struck by John's vision of glory, the shimmering of the movement of the heads of the faithful as far as the eye could see, and the glistening of wings of angels as a reflection of cleansing white—it spoke to me as more than just a glimpse of the future. It felt like an invitation: to live in that glory now, and for it to be the primary impetus in how we live in the midst of our everyday circumstances.

John of Patmos, the seer of Revelation, lived in exile—cut off from his community, cast out by empire, alone on a rocky island. Yet even there, in that place of suffering and suppression, he was “in the Spirit.” He was given a vision—glorious, strange, and breathtaking. It was a vision of a world ablaze with worship, with angels and elders around the throne, and the Lamb victorious at the centre of it all.

This means John lived in **two worlds at once**. One was harsh, unjust, and isolating. The other was majestic, radiant, and alive with meaning. And rather than escape the first world, John was given a new way to live *within* it—rooted in the joy and truth of the second.

What John experienced wasn't just for him. The vision was sent to the churches: small communities of faith under pressure—socially excluded, economically vulnerable, tempted by compromise, and worn thin by waiting. But now, through the Spirit, they too could see more clearly. They could hold that radiant vision within them—not as wishful thinking, but as a way of being.

In that sense, Revelation is not a map of the end times—it's a manual for living now. It gives us a contemplative consciousness: a way to see this world in the light of God's world, and to live the reality of heaven into the fabric of our daily lives.

Even in hardship, we are not only victims of our time. We are bearers of a deeper story. The world around us may look like Babylon, but the Lamb is still on the throne. And worship—true, Spirit-born worship—gives us eyes to see that truth and strength to live it.

May we, like John and those early churches, live between two worlds—for all the challenges of our immediate circumstance may we be anchored in grace, alert to God's voice, and faithful in love.

DIARY

Thursday 8 May

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

10.30am [Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility](#)

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

Friday 9 May

6.00pm [Ladies Night at Kahibah](#)

Saturday 10 May

8.30am [Walking on Country, Staples Lookout, Woy Woy Bay \(See attached PDF\)](#)

Sunday 11 May – Easter 4

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

Tuesday 13 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 14 May

10.00am [Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown](#)

Thursday 15 May

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

Saturday 17 May

2.00–4.00pm [Saving Energy Costs at Charlestown Uniting Church](#)

(Please page 4 for further details)

Sunday 18 May – Easter 5

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelations 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

Monday 19 May

10.00am Garden Suburb Aged Care Pastoral Visitation

Tuesday 20 May

9.00am [Needlework 'n' Natter at Garden Suburb](#)

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 22 May

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

Sunday 25 May – Easter 6

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Margaret and Preacher: Gordon Preston from Frontier Services

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Tuesday 27 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mike Warren
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * 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
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

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
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots



Saving Energy Costs

Assessing your Home
Smaller electricity bills
Electrify your home

Day 1 Saturday 17 May 2 - 4pm

Cost: \$10 (Concession \$5)

Solar Panels and Batteries

Day 2 Saturday 31 May 2-4pm

Cost: \$10 (Concession \$5)

Charlestown Uniting Church Hall, 24 Milson St, Charlestown

Organised by Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

For more information see Humanitix



URL for "Saving Energy Costs"

https://events.humanitix.com/saving-energy-costs-95t5twrt?hxchl=mkt-sch&_gl=1*t69fug*_gcl_au*MTkyNTgxMTk3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU3*_ga*MTYzOTA2MjI3Ny4xNzQwMzQ3MzU4*_ga_LHKW5FR9N6*MTc0NTM4MjM0My4yMy4xLjE3NDUzODIzNzAuMzMzMUMC4w



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 14 May

Will be held at Charlestown
Church from 10.00am

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



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Discipling: is the process of equipping, training and encouraging another in his or her apprenticeship to Jesus. It means journeying with and helping another to grow in knowledge as well as in the virtues and character of Christ.

Practice: How would you describe the people who have helped you grow in your spiritual journey? What particular gift did they give to you? What have you learned from them about yourself and God? • What do you want to say to God about each person? • How can you express your thanks to each of these people?

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

**Wednesday 28 May at
10.00am**

Entry by Donation



Donations gratefully requested for support of the
Cancer Council

Bring your Friends

Contact Sue Warren on 0427 737 793 for further details.

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

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Administration:

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Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton

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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>