



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation



18 October 2026

From Rev Tom

One of the ways our congregation seeks to contribute to the wider community is through our membership of the Hunter Community Alliance, which is part of the NSW Community Alliance.

Community organising is based on a fairly simple idea: ordinary people, acting together through the organisations to which they already belong - churches, unions, community organisations, cultural groups and others - can have a meaningful voice in shaping our society. Democracy is more than casting a vote every few years. It is also about building relationships, participating in public life and ensuring that our political representatives hear the experiences and concerns of the communities they represent.

A recent NSW Community Alliance action demonstrated this particularly well.

On 23 September (when I was on Long Service Leave), more than 80 community leaders from the Sydney and Hunter Community Alliances went to NSW Parliament. Rather than holding a large public assembly on our own ground, small delegations went directly into Parliament and met with politicians.

During the day, Alliance leaders held 26 recorded meetings with 28 parliamentarians and five ministers. Housing and practical responses to the housing crisis were an important part of those conversations.

The results were significant. Twenty-two meetings resulted in a follow-up connection with a parliamentarian or staff member, 18 produced agreement to a specific request or practical next step, and 19 included recognition of the Alliance as a trusted civil-society network.

But perhaps the importance of the day goes beyond those numbers.

The Alliance brought into Parliament people from different faiths, cultures, unions and community organisations, demonstrating that ordinary citizens can participate positively and constructively in our political system. One parliamentary staffer commented that Parliament rarely felt so “vibrant and diverse” and that it should feel like that more often.

This is why our congregation’s participation in the Hunter Community Alliance matters. It connects us with people well beyond the Church who also seek the common good. Together we can listen to the experiences of our communities, develop practical proposals and build relationships with those who make decisions.

It is one small but important way in which we can help strengthen community—and strengthen democracy itself.

DIARY

Thursday 15 October

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

Friday 16 October

7.00pm Commissioning of Richard Moors at the Toronto Uniting Church (see more information further in Contact.

Sunday 18 October – Pentecost 21

(Communion Service will be held next week Sunday 25 October)

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more
11.30am information further in Contact

Monday 19 October

11.00am **Funeral Service for Glen Joyce at Charlestown Uniting Church**

Tuesday 20 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 22 October

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

Sunday 25 October – Pentecost 22

9.00am The Divine Worship – Communion Service
Leader: Margaret and Preacher: TBA
Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
10.45- **A month of Prayer for the Way Ahead** at the Milson St Hub – more
11.30am information further in Contact

Tuesday 27 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 29 October

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

Sunday 1 November – All Saints Day

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Revelations 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Monday 2 November

10.00am **Pastoral Care Visitation at the Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**

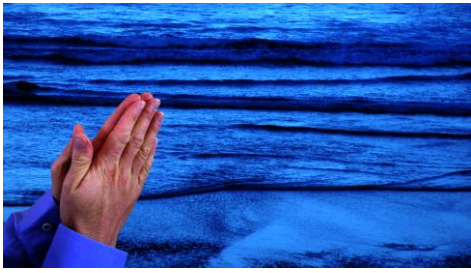
Tuesday 3 November

10.00am **Pastoral Care Visitation at the Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 5 November

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

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Pray for Marion Joyce and family after the death of Glen. Funeral is next Monday 19th October at 11.00am
- * Pray for Brian Cox who is in hospital
- * Gloria
- * Anne Hall
- * Jean Witherspoon
- * Pray for Janice Wright and family
- * Robyn Greaves and family
- * Marion Box
- * Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- * Mert and Pam
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Rene Kelly
- * Valmai
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

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Congregational Prayer Points

- Month of October, Prayer for the Way Ahead 10:45 am each Sunday
- NREMA application
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Church profile and preparations for Tom's retirement
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Churches to pray for this month are north Lake Macquarie, Port Stephen's, Raymond Terrace and Scone
- pray for Catherine Pepper who has recently been appointed Associate General Secretary, Strategy and Governance for the Assembly of the UCA. Pray that she may receive wisdom and grace as she fulfills her role which is involved with preparing the church for the future in the areas of strategy and governance.
- 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

Church Council Elections

Voting will take place this Sunday for the following positions
Only one nomination has been received for each role.

Church Council Chair - Kerrie Dixon

Treasurer - Lesley Clulow

Passionate Worship - Margaret White

Intentional Faith Development - Lorraine Pepper

Presbytery Representative - David Chegwidden



Children & Family Worker Update



Well, here we are the start Term 4, where did that year go?

Please pray for the schools, teachers, all students & especially for our SRE (scripture) classes as they return for the last term of the year. Term 4 is a busy term with so much to squeeze in before the end of the year, sometimes SRE is squeezed out, please pray that our SRE classes are considered when schools are planning their end of year activities.

Keep Charlestown East School in your prayers, at this stage I haven't been given any dates for our assemblies, I hope to be able to negotiate a couple of days when I speak with the principal this week.

I have attached a photo of a poster done by year 5/6 students in my Valentine class at the end of last term, we had been doing a unit on Daniel & I asked them to do a poster on Daniel's story. This is what 5 girls produced, I think it sums up Daniel quite well, what do you think?

Have a great week

Cathy



PLEASE NOTE:

Jenny will be working in the Office on **Thursday 22 October**, instead of the Wednesday, due to the ongoing work in the kitchen.



CHARLESTOWN & GARDEN SUBURB UNITING CHURCH

A Month of **PRAYER** *for* **THE WAY AHEAD**



DATE:

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

4 October – Walking in the neighbourhood or sitting on verandah – prayers for community

11 October – Moving around the building – MSH users, groups, worship, new staffing

18 October – Congregation Meeting – conversational prayer, relationships

25 October – Sitting at new picnic table – mission, car park users



TIME:

10.45AM – 11.30AM



VENUE:

Milson St Hub
24 Milson St, Charlestown

All are welcome!

The Way Ahead Prayer Month

Week 3

Apart from praying for next year and a clear sense of mission within the Milson St Hub, below are some prayer points for this week as we focus on our conversations as a form of prayer-

- * the Property Committee
- * the leadership
- * all that has been mentioned in the Congregational Meeting
- * pastoral care by the congregation members
- * new members of Church Council
- * the manse
- * NREMA
- * energy in Synod
- * Cameron Eccleston and the support from Presbytery and Synod

Other suggestions for prayer.



QUIET MORNING

Living Water

**A Time of Spiritual
Nourishment**

9am - 12.30pm

Saturday 14 November 2026



Milson St Hub, 24 Milson St, Charlestown

Optional Donation \$10 Light refreshments will be available

Please RSVP by 11 November using QR code

All are welcome to join in this peaceful morning of reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. Through quiet moments, Scripture, creativity and reflection, we will draw near to God and be refreshed by God's living water. Come and pause, be still, and allow your spirit to be nourished and renewed.

Register using the QR code, this link: <https://events.humanitix.com/living-water-a-time-of-spiritual-nourishment> or contact Anne Threlfo.

Advent **BIBLE STUDY** *Hope Peace Joy Love*

Thursdays 1.30pm - 2.30pm

12 November - 3 December

**Enquires:
Anne Threlfo**

**Dudley Room
Milson St Hub**

All Welcome

This is a 4-week Bible Study series for Advent. All are welcome.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Silence: Silence is a regenerative practice of attending and listening to God in quiet, without interruption and noise. Silence provides freedom from speaking as well as from listening to words or music. (Reading is also listening to words.)

Practice: Go into silence, placing yourself in the presence of God with the words "Here I am." • As distractions come to mind, let them go by imagining they are boats floating down a river. Let the current take the distractions away. Don't follow the distractions. Gently return to God repeating "Here I am." Let the current of God's Spirit carry you. • What is this like for you?

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



Life and Witness Consultation

Earlier this year our congregation participated in a Life and Witness Consultation conducted by a Presbytery team. The final report is very encouraging and strongly affirms both the life of our congregation and the direction in which we have been moving.

The consultation found that members overwhelmingly experience the congregation as a place where they are warmly accepted, spiritually nurtured and supported. It particularly recognised our growing engagement with the wider community through the Milson Street Hub, community outreach, NEOS, our shopping-centre morning teas, SRE in local schools, ministry in aged-care facilities and Project Reconnect.

The report also recognises the realities we face. We are an ageing congregation with fewer people able to carry leadership and voluntary responsibilities, and we have struggled to attract younger people into traditional congregational life. Nevertheless, the consultation team was impressed by the congregation's willingness to think creatively and missionally about the future.

Most importantly, the Presbytery team **strongly affirmed our mission direction and the development of the Milson Street Community Hub**, recognising Charlestown as a key area for the future mission of the Uniting Church in our region. It also affirmed the congregation's resilience through the lengthy property processes and the development of our Mission Plan.

Looking ahead, the report encourages us to continue planning for ministry following Tom's retirement. Its primary proposals are that we **continue developing the Milson Street Hub and our community-focused mission**, finalise the NREMA application, and develop a new Congregational Profile as we determine the shape of future ministry.

Overall, the consultation is a strong affirmation of what has been achieved while encouraging us to continue prayerfully and creatively discerning the next chapter of our life and mission.

An invitation for you to give thanks to God for loved ones who have died during the last year

ALL SAINTS' DAY

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026 AT 9AM

YOUR LOVED ONE WILL BE REMEMBERED WITH AN ESPECIALLY PREPARED CANDLE
WHICH YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER WILL BE INVITED TO LIGHT.

AS YOU ARRIVE IN THE FOYER, PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CANDLE FROM THE USHER.

Please contact Beryl
Gaul with the name
of your loved one, or
with any enquires.



Milson St Hub
24 Milson St
Charlestown



Hunter Community Alliance

From Risk to Readiness

A Community Resilience Workshop

Saturday 17 October 2026
9am - 4pm

Milson St Hub
24 Milson St, Charlestown

Use QR code to register and for more info



There's a super El Nino summer on the way, and with it the risk of extreme heat. When any disaster strikes a strong, prepared civil society makes a huge difference to how a community - and those most vulnerable within it - fare both short and long term. With that in mind we are getting prepared. Come to our Community Resilience Day - From Risk to Readiness.

A day of connection, honest conversation, and practical planning for Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Maitland.

To register and find further information, use QR code, or this link:

<https://events.humanitix.com/from-risk-to-readiness-a-community-resilience-workshop>

Contact person - Rev Tom Stuart

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 St, 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>