



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**25 February 2024**

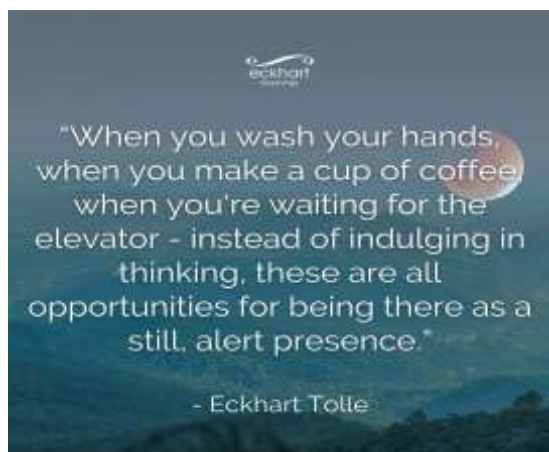
## From Anne Threlfo

If you are following the readings in “The Sanctuary for Lent” booklet, you may recall last Monday’s reading which asked what intention you will bring to Lent this year. The word “intention” has come up quite frequently for me in the last few days, which has led me to consider that “intention” may be my intention for Lent.

Let me attempt to untangle that sentence! How do we experience or be aware of the presence of God? It can only ever occur at this moment, right now. God is omnipresent, present in every moment of eternity and every place, but we humans are not, and don’t need to be. Whatever moment or place we occupy; God is right there with us. All we have to do is get out of our heads long enough to be aware of God’s presence, which is no easy task.

Spiritual practices help us to remember God. A spiritual practice could be anything that reminds us of God’s presence as we carry on our lives in this place, being fully present to the person, the situation, the food, the sounds around us, or anything that causes a break in the regular rhythm of our lives. A spiritual practice could be praying with words, praying in silence, or reading scripture. It could also be, as Eckhart Tolle suggests, being aware of God’s presence when washing one’s hands or making a cup of coffee. It might be listening deeply to another person, or feeling deeply heard and understood by another person. It may be listening to a piece of music, walking with awareness of your foot touching the ground, reading a story of someone’s life, or watching a movie that provides a new insight into what it is to be human. We can also be aware of God’s presence as we journal about something that has touched us, or we might draw a picture or take a photograph.

Taking photographs as a spiritual practice is something I often do, as you see below. On our recent holiday I was walking through trees and nestled in what seemed to be a dead branch I noticed this green shoot. The spiritual practice is in the intention to notice, it is not in the resulting photograph. The photo is a result of the practice, not the practice itself. I could go on to see this green shoot as a sign of God’s sustaining care for creation, or as a sign of hope in the world; that’s my thinking getting involved, which is fine, and kind of inevitable, but that’s not the practice either. The practice is simply (well, not so simple actually!), to hold the intention to be present to what is around me in each moment.



# DIARY

## **Thursday 22 February**

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

## **Sunday 25 February – Lent 2**

- 9.00am Worship Service Leader: Kerrie Dixon Preacher: D Yardy  
*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9*

## **Monday 26 February**

- 1.30pm SFED on Zoom
- 7.30-9.00pm Following Mark and looking for Jesus (see notice in Contact)

## **Tuesday 27 February**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
- 12.00pm Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## **Thursday 29 February**

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

## **Friday 1 March**

- 10.00am **World Day of Prayer at Charlestown Uniting Church**

## **Sunday 3 March – Lent 3**

- 9.00am Worship Service Leader: Anne Threlfo Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22*

## **Monday 4 March**

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation
- 1.30pm SFED on Zoom

## **Tuesday 5 March**

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

## **Thursday 7 March**

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

## **Friday 9 March**

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## **Sunday 10 March – Lent 4**

- 9.00am Worship Service Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21*

## **Tuesday 12 March**

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

## **Wednesday 13 March**

- 10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

## **Thursday 14 March**

- 10.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care
- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

# THE PRAYER PAGE



Please join with each other as a congregation, to commit to praying at meal times, for the needs mentioned below.

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Vivianne and especially Les as he undergoes heart surgery on Thursday
- \* Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- \* Praise that Peter is able to drive now
- \* Tony
- \* Graeme continuing recovery
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant home from hospital
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole in rehabilitation
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Nola in hospital
- \* Isabella
- \* Ashley has a broken nose after a fall
- \* Janice Wright
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert
- \* Judith and family
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## Congregational Prayer Points

- pray for each other as we experience the Lenten journey
- pray for the successful sale of the Whitebridge property
- pray for discernment in regard to our other properties
- World Day of Prayer on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am – our Church hosting it
- SFED
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- pray that HCA will be able to obtain attendance from political leaders to the Founding Assembly at the great Hall in April
- pray for Tom as he engages with other leaders from the community and other denominations, in his NEOS work.
- those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Thanksgiving for all orphanage children at school thanks to generous donations
- Rohingya people in Bangladesh where 7000 people homeless



# Children & Family Worker Update



*'What can we say.*

*We are extremely thankful for the donation of the stationary packs.*

*Please find attached the photos of the students who received a pack - all have permission to publish, so please share these with the church.*

*The students were so excited and happy to have the opportunity to receive these and share the experience with their friends.*

*A huge thank you again.*

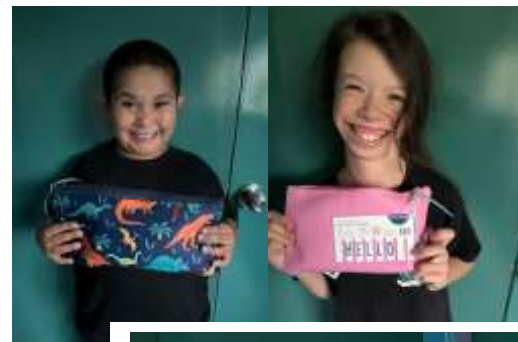
*Thanks*

***Aaron Carter, Deputy Principal'***

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to you all. Your support of the children of **Wiripaang School** is just Amazing.

33 Packs went to the school and the following photos are just a few of the happy children you have supported.

Have a good week. Blessings Cathy





# World Day of Prayer

Friday 1 March

10am

Charlestown Uniting Church

This year's prayer focuses on Palestine. The program was written by a group of ecumenical Christian Palestinian women in response to the passage from Ephesians 4:1-7.

*The artwork by Halima Aziz represents three Palestinian women praying together in nature in a peaceful place.*

## *A New Gathering for Spiritual Growth*

Do you see a need for

- + for some reflective space in your life?
- + a time to actively share some of your Spiritual Journey including your doubts and questions?

Come to an initial planning session to discuss ideas for the formation of such a group. Including when and where we should meet

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.**

Church Hall

Warners Bay Uniting Church

342 Hillsborough Road,

Warners Bay.



HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

6pm Wednesday  
10th April 2024  
The Great Hall,  
University of Newcastle

**YOU ARE INVITED**

Everyone in the Uniting Church across the Hunter is invited to participate in engaging National and State leaders to take action on these issues:

"Just" Energy Transition in communities  
Housing and Homelessness

Registration/Event details soon!!!

"This is the world as it is.  
This is where you start" Saul Alinsky



**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

<https://events.humanitix.com/hca-founding-assembly>

If you wish to attend, and do not have internet access, please speak to Rev Tom Stuart or Anne Threlfo

To see what went on at the **MEN'S BREAKFAST** that was held last Saturday with Guest Speaker John Lewis, Missional Communities Leader, with the topic -

**Community Changing Communities  
in Hamilton South and Windale**

go to the following link -

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/914274205>

**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

**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**

**Administration:**

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E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au)  
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**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>