



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

30 October 2022



From Rev Tom

I read the gospel lesson for this coming Sunday. I did so knowing I don't have to come up with a sermon this Sunday. Rev Dr Rod Pattendon, who used to be the minister at Adamstown, and is now semi-retired and working part-time as the Presbytery "Strategic Mission Consultant", will be preaching.

So, when I read the gospel lesson I was in a much more relaxed disposition than I might otherwise. The passage is Luke 19:1-10. It is a recounting of when Jesus was passing through Jericho and came across Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus is described this way, "he was a chief tax-collector and was rich"! It is a well-known story of how Zacchaeus, short in stature, climbed a sycamore tree to get a bird's eye view of Jesus. This meant he also was visible and when Jesus spots him Jesus says, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today".

One thing that puzzled me, but I had to leave go because I could not come up with anything, was the question, how did Jesus know Zacchaeus' name? Did the writer of Luke mean to communicate something to us in telling the story with Jesus knowing the name of this chief of tax-collectors. We know well that tax-collectors were despised. Judah was occupied in the time of Jesus by the Romans. It seems that tax-collectors were despised even more than the Romans because they were Jews who worked against their own people, on behalf of the Romans, and then proceeded to enrich themselves even further, using their power from Roman authority. A turncoat would be term that some might know describing these tax-collector types.

But the thing that I wondered about on this occasion that has never occurred to me before is how many times had Jesus tried a line similar to the one he used on Zacchaeus but instead got a rebuttal? Do we get the story of the only occasion that Jesus invited himself to someone's home for a meal that was successful? There is one thing I notice about Jesus that is different to much of what I have seen in my lifetime in the church is that many churches are very good at caring and sharing, making and being friends with, people who are part of their church. But Jesus is always so reckless with his "affections". He would make a friend out of anybody. The Samaritan woman at the well! This wealthy tax-collector! He had a reputation of being friends with drunkards and prostitutes. Jesus connected with Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, who both were members of the Sanhedrin – pharisees! Noting this reckless abandon in his affections I ask myself again, how often did he get knocked back? We know that Jesus also experienced terrible rejection, but he is presented to us as unrelentingly, recklessly, open.

I must say, it is a challenge that I often sense in my day-to-day experience. Can I rise above my fears of rejection, fear of losing myself, and reach out those who I meet, whether they be of the apparently greedy wealthy, or someone who appears quite degenerate, or anywhere in between? It is the model given me by the one I desire to follow and replicate. Risky! We know on at least one occasion it brought about a wonderful transformation in another's life.

DIARY

Thursday 27 October

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at ()
1.30pm – 2.00pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
4.00pm Finance team meet on Zoom

Sunday 30 October – *Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost*

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader Rev Tom Stuart. Preacher – Rev Dr Rod Pattenden
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

Tuesday 1 November – *All Saints Day*

Daniel 7:1-3,15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1: 11-23, Luke 6: 20-31

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
3.30pm Church Council meet on Zoom

Thursday 3 November

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Sunday 6 November – *Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost*

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader and Preacher - Rev Tom Stuart
Dedication of Church Council

Haggai 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 145:1-5,17-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17, Luke 20: 27-38

Monday 7 November

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Age Care Visitation
7.30pm Girls' Night Out at Garden Suburb – 50th GNO evening!

Tuesday 8 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Wednesday 9 November

- 10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 10 November

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb
11.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Friday 11 November

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 12 November

- TBA Friendship Circle meet

Sunday 13 November – *Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost*

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader and Preacher – Rev Tom Stuart
Isaiah 65: 17-25, Isaiah 12, 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13, Luke 21: 5-19

Monday 14 November

- 10.00am Worship at Woodlands Village

Tuesday 15 November

- 9.30am – 11.00am Grandparents, Carers, Kids at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

Thursday 17 November

- 10.00 am Morning tea in the Community – Smelly Cheesecake Café at Charlestown Square
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Worship service on Sunday 30 October

Guest preacher: Rev Dr Rod Pattenden

You are invited to stay for morning tea following the service to chat with Rod, and with each other.



THE PRAYER PAGE

And so I urge you: carry on an ongoing conversation with God about the daily stuff of life, a little like Tevye in Fiddler on the Roof. For now, do not worry about 'proper' praying, just talk to God."

Richard J. Foster



Pastoral Prayer Points

- * John Trenholm
- * Nita
- * John Booth
- * Vivianne
- * Lillian
- * Enid
- * Jan Russell
- * Tony and Nan
- * Mert and Pam
- * Judith and family
- * Margaret Asplund
- * Ashley and Lorraine
- * Marion and Ron
- * Jean Townsend
- * Ken MacDonald
- * Wilma Birch
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Congregational Prayer Points

- Preparation for Neos
- GCK group and Holiday Kid's as we discern if or how these activities will proceed in 2023
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Tom and Kathy
- Cathy Beeton
- Worship Committee
- Men's Breakfast on 15th October

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Wilfreda's orphanage
- Those with financial difficulties in current conditions
- Protest movement in Iran for women's rights

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



Climate Action

You will recall that our congregational representatives made a commitment at the recent Hunter Community Alliance Assembly for our congregation to act on climate change in ways that are appropriate. Here are a couple of ideas of how you might choose to learn and act.

Investing in the Planet: Free Webinar

Changing where you **invest your money** could be the most effective action individuals can take to help combat climate change. This is because the **banks, superannuation funds, insurance companies and governments** that have custody of our money often use it to **bankroll fossil fuels** and **worsen climate change**.

That's why Uniting Climate have partnered with **Market Forces** to provide a free online information forum where you can learn more.

Thursday, November 3

7.00pm - 8.30pm on Zoom

Information and Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/investing-in-the-planet-tickets-440096499477>

Write to end NAB's Investment in Fossil Fuels

We know not everyone who wants to support a safe climate future issue is able to join a local team or has a local team near them. Another effective way you can be involved is to write a **short letter or email** to **NAB** calling them to **not fund coal mine expansions** by **Whitehaven Coal**. Tell them why you care about this issue and urge them to act (**#NotAnotherDollar**).

Drafting your own letter or email:

Short, personal letters or emails will work best. You can send an email through the [Move Beyond Coal website](https://www.movebeyondcoal.com/nab_stop_financing_coal): https://www.movebeyondcoal.com/nab_stop_financing_coal

We have also prepared a [sample letter](#) you could send to NAB CEO Ross McEwan you can use as a guide. Download it here: <https://uca.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=adea70bac92fd774a78077800&id=a442c8dd82&e=97af6ec838>

There is also a [resource](#) listing some of NAB's policy and commitments on climate change <https://uca.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=adea70bac92fd774a78077800&id=b4a45a100a&e=97af6ec838>

This information came from UCAN – Uniting Climate Action Network



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Children & Family Worker Update

Hi Everyone

As I sit in the sun writing this I feel Spring has finally hit & just maybe we can put away our woollies, praying that you are feeling the sunshine wherever you are.



GCKs group will not meet next week as the Grandparents will be away or enjoying a Melbourne Day Luncheon, next GCKs group will be the 15th November. I have added a photo of Esther & her dragon she made at our last GCKs morning.



Kids in Church, you will have seen our Savannah do a bible reading a couple of weeks ago & I think you will agree she did it wonderfully, Savannah is in year 2 at school.

You may wonder what we do when we are not out the front so I thought I would tell you, I usually take the children out to the back foyer area & we have a story, or as last week a video on my laptop, maybe a song & a prayer & return to the church to do our activity. I have attached a photo of Savannah, Sebastian & Angus quietly working last Sunday.

Our Advent Workshop is planned for 7th December 4pm till 7.30pm, in this time we will do some Christmas craft, play Christmas games, have a meal together & spend time reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas. There will not be a Santa to be found anywhere, not that I have anything against Santa but I think he already gets enough exposure. If you have children in your family or neighbourhood who may enjoy a Santa free afternoon let them know about our advent workshop, registration forms will be out by the end of the week.

SRE I am currently working on SRE Christmas Assemblies & will tell you more next time.

Cathy

There are only two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle."

– Albert Einstein



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

Charlestown Uniting Church

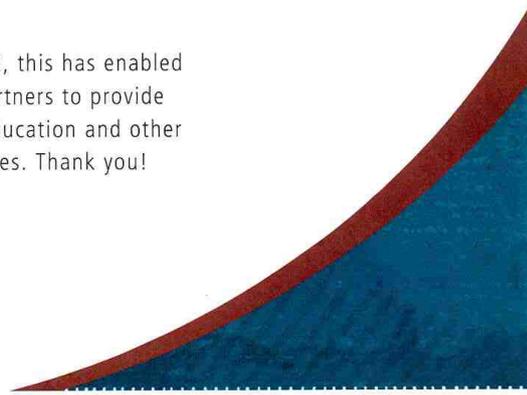
AND 6 OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS HAVE RAISED

\$3,555

During Financial Year 2022, this has enabled UnitingWorld and our partners to provide clean water, leadership, education and other projects that change lives. Thank you!



Dr Sureka Goringe
National Director
UnitingWorld



Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

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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

Administration:

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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>