



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

29 October 2023

From Rev Tom

I found a rather detailed and interesting history of the festival called “Allhallowtide” on the internet. If you would like to read it I have included the link below. It says that “Allhallowtide is actually a kind of triduum: three days of commemoration that includes All Hallows Eve (October 31, shortened to Hallowe’en), All Saints Day (All Hallows Day, November 1), and All Souls Day (November 2). As with other major feasts, celebration of All Saints Day begins on the vigil, which is why secular culture celebrates Halloween on the night of October 31st, but then does nothing on the actual feast days that follow.” It sounds a lot like what has happened to Christmas! We now have Santa’s and sleighs but not so many nativity scenes. In any case, one of the things I discovered in reading the article, though it doesn’t say so explicitly, is that the common folk are the ones who have driven much of the ritual of the season over centuries of development. This is a popular festival. It reminded me of when Ross Neville, who at the time worked for the Board of Mission, took a video camera with him out into the small congregations of western NSW. He asked members to tell their stories of spiritual experiences. Ross took his camera back to the Synod Office and they viewed his recordings. They responded, “You can’t use these!” “Why not?” asked Ross. “They are theologically suspect!” was the reply. It seems that our living spiritual experiences don’t quite fit into the neat formulas of orthodox Christianity. In the process, the living experience of Christians is denied them. Instead of celebrating such experiences, and being enriched by them, we devalue them – perhaps even suggest that those people who tell such stories are a little bit weird. Over the period of my ministry, the most common reports of spiritual or “otherworldly” experiences relayed to me are stories of seeing loved ones who are now deceased. It might be just at the time of the loved one’s death, or some sort of apprehension of them perhaps even years later, or the loved one appearing in dreams. I connect this with Jesus’ words, “The kingdom of God (or heaven) is at hand”. If that is the case and we say that people go to heaven when they die, it seems to make sense that they are right near us. Reports of experiencing the deceased in some form sort of makes sense. Not that I have a clue how it all works, and it doesn’t seem we have any control over it. Though Cynthia Bourgeault says that there are thin places. These are places where we are more likely to have such experiences. Such a “place” Bourgeault says, is this season coming up, “Allhallowtide”, this time of All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. Perhaps it is the driving force of ordinary folk experiencing the closeness of their loved ones that is a big part of the reason for the continuation of this Christian season. What are your experiences?

The article:

<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2018/10/24/the-season-of-the-dead-the-origins-and-practice-of-allhallowtide/>

DIARY

Thursday 25 October

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

Sunday 29 October - Pentecost 21

9.00am Worship Service – Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom **Celebrating All Saints**
Revelations 7: 9-17; Psalm 34: 1-10, 22; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12

Monday 30 October

7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 4 weeks)

Tuesday 31 October

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at The White House

Wednesday 1 November

3.30pm Garden Suburb Property Meeting

Thursday 2 November

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

Sunday 5 November - Pentecost 23

9.00am Worship Service - Leader and Preacher Rev'd Tom
Baptism and Children's Corner

Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12

Monday 6 November

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit
7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 3 weeks)

Tuesday 7 November

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

Wednesday 8 November

10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Thursday 9 November

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

Friday 10 November

6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

Saturday 11 November

TBA Friendship Circle

Sunday 12 November - Pentecost 24

9.00am Worship Service - Leader Kerrie Dixson Preacher Rev'd. John Warham
Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13

Monday 13 November

7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 2 weeks)

Tuesday 14 November

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

Thursday 16 November

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

Sunday 19 November - Pentecost 25

9.00am Holy Communion Service – Leader and Preacher Rev'd Tom
Judges 4: 1- 7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30

Monday 20 November

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit
7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 1 weeks)

THE PRAYER PAGE



'Pray for our country as we continue to engage in conversations over the coming weeks.

Pray for truth-filled, gracious and compassionate conversations that are grounded in humility and respect.

May we stand together for love, compassion, inclusion and reconciliation.'

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Kerrieann (Tom's sister)
- * Ryan Walpole – recovering after his operation and pray for Sue as she supports Ryan during his recovery
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Anne
- * Mac
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Peter Ferguson
- * Nola
- * Isabella
- * Ashley
- * Janice Wright
- * Glenda O'Donahue who is very ill in hospital
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert undergoing operation on Monday
- * Judith and family
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Enid Power
- * Fred Bryant
- * Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- All Saints Memorial Service on Sunday and the families that will gather
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- HCA Delegates Assembly on 8 Nov
- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The victims and families of the earthquake in Afghanistan
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- Please pray for our First Nations People post Referendum that they will be comforted and encouraged to continue to find alternative ways to achieve reconciliation, equality and to be heard
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Fabian, children and Wilfreda suffering heart failure
- Tom and NEOS as he follows ideas and opportunities including connections with Wesley Mission at Windale



DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

HUNTER COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE

FOR THE COMMON GOOD
OUR STORY, OUR FUTURE

Wed 8 Nov
6:15pm-8:15pm
Newcastle West



RELATIONSHIPS * LISTENING * ACTION * TOGETHER!



You are invited to join others from across the Hunter in deliberation, listening, commitment and action. The goal of the evening is to build momentum towards the *Founding Assembly* in April 2024.

Learn about the Hunter Community Alliance and our agenda for action: affordable & social housing, renewable energy, and a fair energy transition for Hunter communities. Together we will endorse the issues & actions to take public in 2024.

Act: Prepare and take action as we head towards the Founding Assembly in 2024.

Agenda & More Info: Following registration you will receive an agenda pack.

Logistics

- Dinner will be available for purchase outside the hall between 5pm-6pm
- There can be limited street parking, nearest parking station is the Newcastle Interchange an 8-minute walk from the station.
- The car park at the venue will be reserved for accessible parking
- The meeting will start on time at 6:15pm and finish promptly at 8:15pm

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/hca-delegates-assembly> or use the QR code on the poster.

Trauma, Education and the Margaret Jurd College Vision to Change the World

Following on from the **Men's Breakfast** which was held last weekend, the following is the link to the recording of the presentation by Darren Twist, Principal of the Margaret Jurd College

<https://vimeo.com/876595419?share=copy>

Well worth a look!!

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 Street, 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>