



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

16 February 2025

From Rev Tom

Hello everyone!! I will be back to work tomorrow but am sneaking in a mostly personal Contact message as I get into work mode. It turns out I needed every bit of the time off as we moved from the minister's residence into our own home. Naturally, there was a lot of cleaning and tidying up of the house and yard of the residence, but when we got to our home we realised that having had tenants in our home for so long means a lot of maintenance needs to be done. That will be ongoing but we have settled even as we still wait for furniture we put on order not long before Christmas! I imagine that there are several people who know what we went through as people move into new stages of their life, often having to move residence as part of the process! Aside from the moving, we have been worried about our daughter Maree for some time. She was fading away to a shadow and often mysteriously reacting to stomach pain and other similar symptoms. Kathy and I wondered to each other on occasion as to how this was going to end. Well, finally Maree was given a diagnosis of Crohn's Disease. Maree has started the treatment and the transformation is remarkable. We now have a different daughter who seems to never stop eating and talking! That being said, the treatment meant we had to cancel a long-planned New Zealand trip, so we replaced that with a few days in the Blue Mountains. It was Maree's choice and I was a bit concerned she would not manage the walking that might be required, but despite the occasional protest she did remarkably well. Then in the midst of all that was the arrival of our 5th grandchild! His poor Mum, Anna, went through a torrid time during the delivery, with the birth finally taking place by Caesarean Section. Mother and son are wonderfully healthy and we are glowing in the joy of our expanded family. His name is Bear! So now back to work. Well, it begins a little early, as this afternoon I will be chairing the Hunter Community Alliance Council. This is the final council meeting before the Alliance Assembly where we meet with politicians with our "asks" for the Hunter community. At this afternoon's meeting we will decide on what those asks will be. That said, the asks are always likely to change in detail as the negotiation with the politicians start well before the Assembly. Neither politicians nor the Alliance want to have an Assembly where nothing is gained. So, the asks are continually reworked to ensure we get the most gains for the community that will be affirmed by those in power. In any case, beyond today's meeting, I look forward to catching up with everyone on Sunday and addressing the challenges and opportunities of the Charlestown and Garden Suburb Congregation in 2025! See you soon!



DIARY

Thursday 13 February

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

Friday 14 February

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 15 February

8.00am Men's Breakfast – The Camino

Sunday 16 February – The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am **The Holy Communion**

Leader and Preacher – The Rev'd Tom Stuart

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Cor 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

Monday 17 February

10.00am Pastoral Care Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

1.30pm SFED on Zoom

Tuesday 18 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 20 February

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 23 February – The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

10.00am **Divine Worship**

Leader: David Chegwidan

Preacher: Mr Darren Twist – The Principal of Margaret Jurd College

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38; Luke 6:27-38, 42-50

2.00pm **SRE Dedication Service at New Vine Beaches, Jewells cnr Ntaba and Dalrymple Sts and Halewood Close, Jewells**

Monday 24 February

1.30pm SFED on Zoom

3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at Teralba

Tuesday 25 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

12.00 noon Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday 6 March

6.00pm Hunter Community Alliance 2025 Assembly at The Great Hall, Uni of Newcastle

Friday 7 March

10.00am World Day of Prayer at Charlestown Church

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Ange
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * 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
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- World Day of Prayer on 7 March at Charlestown Church
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel, Lebanon and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





In response to the flooding in North Queensland, the Moderator's Disaster Appeal has been activated to provide people the opportunity to donate to the front-line efforts of our congregations and agencies in the affected areas.

Please note: donations are not tax-deductible.

Donate here" <https://ucaqld.com.au/give-online/disaster-relief/>

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Discernment: opens us up to listen to and recognize the voice and patterns of God's direction in our lives.

Practice: To discern where the Holy Spirit has been recently working in your life, answer the following questions:

- * For what am I longing?
- * What themes keep recurring in my life?
- * Where am I struggling?
- * What is most life-giving to me? What is least life-giving?

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



Children & Family Worker Update



What a busy week I have had, on Monday I was involved with **Hunter Christian SRE Coordinators Lunch** with over 50 people attending to catch up on the latest information & requirements needed with SRE in schools. **Tom Eastlake** travelled from Young to be our guest speaker, Tom works for Christian SRE NSW & is a wealth of information & encouragement for all people involved in SRE. This was followed up on Tuesday with Uniting in Books at Garden Suburb, a meeting with Garden Suburb School about SRE classes for the year & setting up for another Hunter Christian SRE event.

Tuesday evening 30 plus people from across SRE boards in the **Hunter/Newcastle & Lake Macquarie** area again Tom Eastlake was our special guest speaker. From the conversations I heard over dinner it was a very worthwhile event.

This Saturday I will be attending an **SRE Training event** as I need to update my SRE qualifications every 3 years.

My first SRE lesson will be next Wednesday at **Teralba School**, I appreciate your prayers as I start all my SRE classes over the next few weeks.

Stationary Packs are almost ready to go off to **Wiripaang School**, most of these packs have been covered from last years' donations, if you would like to help finalise these packs with a small donation I would appreciate it.

Blessings

Cathy

A HAMILTON UNITING CHURCH EVENT



EVERYONE HAS A STORY



STORIES

"Find out why Jailing is Failing: Despite the government spending 6 billion dollars a year on prisons, more people are being incarcerated and there is more recidivism."



Hear from a prison reformer, a person with lived experience of incarceration, and a researcher, about why jailing is failing and some viable alternatives. Includes presentations, video stories + Q&A + light refreshments

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET <https://tinyurl.com/5x7tn5ve>



15 MARCH 2025

FROM 4.30PM - 6.00PM

'AT "HAMILTON HIVE" 150 BEAUMONT ST, HAMILTON 2303

Contributors

Robert Tickner former Australian Minister in the Hawke and Keating governments, humanitarian, anti-nuclear campaigner and prison reform advocate.

Claude Robinson, Manager of the highly successful post release program, Rainbow Lodge, Sydney.

Dr Patricia Morgan, Senior Research Associate in the Justice Health program at the Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Sydney.

www.hamiltonunitingchurch.com/stories/ Email hamiltonuca@gmail.com

Book here: <https://tinyurl.com/5x7tn5ve>

2025

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

“ASSEMBLY”



Coming together as civil society for the common good
Celebrating commitments, change and hope

6th March 2025

6pm inside for briefing

6.30pm to 8.30pm Assembly

The Great Hall, University of Newcastle

TIME FOR THE UNITING CHURCH TO SHOW UP AGAIN!
SIGN UP TO ATTEND BY BOOKING YOUR FREE TICKET/S
HUMANITIX [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2VD6D5MS](https://tinyurl.com/2VD6D5MS)



Energy Transition, Affordable Housing,
Stretched Services and more....



You're invited to turn out and participate in God's mission

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nua9cb2>

STAMP COMMITTEE REPORT

From October 1977 to December 2024: \$909,992

Sales for 2024: \$23,088

Although 2024 was a challenging year, the support of volunteers in collecting, trimming and sorting stamps together with the donation of personal collections was very much appreciated. The Committee is pleased to advise that applications for grants to congregations for community grants involving volunteers are now open and details are provided with this newsletter (on the notice board)



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>