



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

30 November 2025

From Rev Tom

This coming Sunday our service will take a different shape. Many people call this style of gathering “intergenerational worship,” but the heart of it is simple: worship that is accessible and meaningful for people of every age, from the very youngest to the oldest among us.

Intergenerational worship invites us to participate with our whole selves. All worship is meant to be participatory, yet in this form it becomes far more visible. Over the years I've taken part in services where we painted together, made simple craft items, or used basic percussion instruments to create rhythm and energy. Activities like these help engage our youngest worshippers, for whom long stretches of talking can wash right over their heads. Worship becomes something you can touch, make, smell, and discuss. But these elements are not *just* for the children. They draw all of us into a fuller, embodied encounter with God.

For generations, thoughtful voices in the church have warned us that Christians too often worship “from the neck up”—as though worship were simply a matter of thinking or listening. It's worth remembering that in the early church there was no seating arranged in rows. People stood, moved, and gathered around a shared meal. That meal mattered deeply: it ensured that everyone, especially the poor, had enough to eat; it reminded the rich and the marginalized that they belonged to one another; and it proclaimed that the food they shared was a sign of heaven's abundance—the bread of life, the body of Christ. This was worship you could taste and feel, worship that welcomed everyone because it engaged the whole person.

Somewhere along the way, much of that physicality faded, and worship became more passive for many. Today we are having to relearn what earlier generations simply lived: how to worship in ways that truly include and engage all people.

That is what we are practicing this Sunday. We are learning again how to worship together—mind, body, and spirit—in ways that open space for everyone and help us rediscover a more whole, embodied form of praise.



DIARY

Thursday 27 November

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Saturday 29 November

9.45-10.15am **UCA NSW/ACT Moderator Rev Mata Havea Hilliau** sharing story + Prayer on main stage. A few minutes between 9.45-10.15am at The People's Blockade, Newcastle. (See more further in Contact)

7.00pm **A Christmas Spectacular at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle** (see more further in Contact)

Sunday 30 November – All Age Advent Service

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader: Cathy Beeton and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

Monday 1 December

10.00am **Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility**

Tuesday 2 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 3 December

10.00am Wednesday Reflective Services at Adamstown Uniting Church

Thursday 4 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

6.00-9.00pm **Pastoral Care 101 Workshop online with Rev. Dale Yardy** (see more details further in Contact)

Friday 5 December

11.00am **Hunter Community Alliance** gathering at Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd, Hamilton North - **Public Land for Public Housing** (See more further in Contact)

Saturday 6 December

12noon **Friendship Circle meeting for lunch at the Seaview Malaysian at Redhead**

Sunday 7 December – Advent 2

9.00am The Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Tuesday 9 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 10 December

10.00am **Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown – A Special final gathering for the year**

Thursday 11 December

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Garden Suburb Bible Study

Friday 12 December

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 13 December

8.00am Men's Breakfast with Pastor Kim Langford "Spirit and Stardust"



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Family and friends of Michael Smith
- * Enid Power very ill in hospital
- * Beryl
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Mike Warren
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * June Locker
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

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
- Tom and Kathy
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots

COMMON GRACE

2025
ADVENT
DEVOTIONAL
SERIES
1 - 25 DECEMBER

LOVE BREAKS THROUGH

This year's Advent series from Common Grace will reflect on the realities of our broken world along with the unshakable hope that love still breaks through; exploring how God's love disrupts, heals, and transforms - breaking through darkness, despair, and injustice to bring light, joy, and renewal; and reminding us that even in the darkest times, love is not absent. It pushes through cracks, defies despair, and insists on hope.

This Advent series comes through daily emails from 1-25 December. Sign up here:
https://www.commongrace.org.au/advent_love_breaks_through?utm_campaign=advent_2025_launch_formation&utm_medium=email&utm_source=commongrace



All Age Advent Service

Peace

9am
30 November 2025
Charlestown Uniting Church



All Welcome

We apologise that since this service will involve small group discussions, we'll be unable to livestream.



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 10 December

**A Special final gathering for the year
will be held at Charlestown Church
from 10.00am**

**Come have a cuppa and join in
Fellowship with stories and a laugh**

ALL WELCOME



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 6 December

Christmas Lunch

12noon at Seaview Malaysian at Redhead

**Contact Sue Warren on 0427737793 if you would
like to come.**

Transport can be arranged.

All Welcome



PUBLIC LAND FOR PUBLIC HOUSING



FRIDAY 5 December 2025, 11 AM
Cnr Griffiths and Chatham Rd
Hamilton North

Hundreds are sleeping rough. Thousands are waiting for social housing. Newcastle can't wait any longer.

The Broadmeadow redevelopment will bring 20,000 new homes - how many will be for those who need them most?

The NSW Government promised 30% social and affordable housing on public land.

We're calling for that same commitment to apply on land across the Hunter - starting with Broadmeadow!



CONTACT ERIN: ekillion@thehca.org.au

WWW.THEHCA.ORG.AU



HUNTER
COMMUNITY
ALLIANCE

2025-2026
Uniting Church
Lectionary
available now



The new lectionary
year A begins on 30
November.

To follow the weekly
readings, download
the lectionary here:

[https://tinyurl.com/mr3
redkw](https://tinyurl.com/mr3redkw)



Bring a
friend!

8am Saturday 13 December

Milson St Hub (Charlestown Uniting Church),
24 Milson St

Cost: \$12

Guest Speaker

Pastor Kim Langford

Uniting Church Chaplain at University of Newcastle

"Spirit and Stardust"

University chaplaincy - caring for the whole person.

What does Multifaith Chaplaincy look like in a secular, pluralistic environment?

What are the main concerns or issues that bring people to Chaplaincy and how does the context shape our work?

Booking details



RSVP to Paul
pmraus74@gmail.com
by 10 December 2025

*Pick up a flyer in
the foyer*



The Uniting Church in Australia
NORTH LAKE MACQUARIE
Warners Bay | Boolaroo

PASTORAL CARE 101 WORKSHOP PRINCIPLES OF PASTORAL CARE BASED ON A CHRISTMAS CAROL



Online
with Rev. Dale Yardy

Join via link

<https://meet.google.com/wqn-kaxb-mku>

Scan or email registration to
DaleY@nswact.uca.org.au



Welcome to



Milson Street Hub
Community

We're making our foyer space
more comfortable and inviting!

There's some rearranging
happening!
Watch the space!



Advent Devotional Material

AVAILABLE SOON

- A donation of \$2 is requested to cover photocopying
- Large print copies are available. Contact Jenny



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>