



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

7 April 2024

From Rev Tom

What is time? I am by no means a good philosopher so it is dangerous that I ask such questions? I will probably only prove my lack of ability in this to everyone else! However, this week I do wonder. This week we have experienced the passing of people who are significant to members of this congregation. Firstly, Ashley Pepper, then Nola Kennerly, and finally Edward Mordue. How did we get here? I only just arrived in Charlestown, three congregations, though Whitebridge was in the process of becoming one with Charlestown. I didn't know Edward back then but I certainly knew Ashley and Nola. And now, while I am in "this" moment all of them are gone! How does that happen? Hey, wait a minute? I am 12 years older too than when I first started work for this congregation! 12 years! Have I really noticed? Given that I mostly only ever have a sense of who I am at the moment I never really think about the fact that all that time has gone by. I just am! I have to start intentionally thinking about it to realise all the things that have filled up that time! The years of Ashley playing the saxophone in worship. Nola leading the Intercessory Prayers in worship. Edward Mordue tirelessly organising the Grandparents Day at Garden Suburb back in 2017. Then I notice that I am now well over 60! Does this happen to anyone else, wondering how I arrived here, today? And today is that three folk who have been part of us, to some degree or other, are now gone! I am guessing that it will be my turn sometime, else I guess I will be a very unusual specimen, as humanity goes. Will I be surprised when I arrive at that point? Were Ashley, Nola, and Edward surprised? It makes me wonder if I really grasp the possibility of my death. Come to think of it, I only have a consciousness of "being here". Obviously, as I didn't have a consciousness before I was born. On reflection, there are some very odd things about this thing called life, and what it is to be me. Whether I am 20, or 40, or 60 I am always just me, somehow different but always the same. It also gets me wondering about time because my only real experience is now, and now is simply a constant. "Now" certainly is rich and full.



DIARY

Thursday 4 April

11.30am Memorial Service for Ashley Pepper at Charlestown Church

Saturday 6 April

Change your clocks back one hour before going to bed!!!



Sunday 7 April – Easter 2

9.00am Worship Service. Leader & Preacher Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Monday 8 April

1.30pm SFED on Zoom

Tuesday 9 April

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

2.00pm Memorial Service for Nola Kennerley at Charlestown Church

Wednesday 10 April

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown Church

Thursday 11 April

10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care with Grahame Pricter

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

Friday 12 April

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 13 April

10.00am Friendship Circle trip to Maitland Art Gallery

Sunday 14 April – Easter 3

9.00am Worship Service. Leader & Preacher
Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48



Monday 15 April

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation

1.30pm SFED on Zoom

Tuesday 16 April

9.00am Needlework n Natter

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

11.00am Funeral Service for Edward Mordue at Garden Suburb Church

Thursday 18 April

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



[Charlestown Ladies Fellowship](#)

[Wednesday 10th April](#)

**Will be held at Charlestown
Church from 10.00am**

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

- * Family and friends of Edward Mordue
- * Family and friends of Nola
- * Lorraine Pepper and family following Ashley's death
- * Lesley having surgery on Friday afternoon
- * Judith Fuller battling cancer
- * Pam and Ken
- * Les as he recovers from heart surgery
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Peter
- * Tony
- * Graeme
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Janice Wright
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Mert
- * Judith and family
- * Enid Power
- * Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- pray for the successful sale of the Whitebridge property
- pray for guidance and discernment for missional use of buildings into the future
- 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
- pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- 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





The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

7 April 2024 – Black Hill Uniting Church

Black Hill Uniting Church meets every Sunday with a regular attendance of 10-12 people. We are a true rural church, with an operating cemetery and very strong community and historical ties to the community. We have a small hall, that is regularly used for congregation and extended church family events. We are looking toward increasing our connections to the wider community through more events. We have many people connected to us through family history, with many relatives laid to rest in our cemetery. Past events have shown us that our continued presence in the Black Hill community and contact with them is very important, with their support for us being very strong.

Prayer: We pray for the leaders and congregation of Black Hill Uniting Church as they continue to maintain the buildings, grounds, cemetery and historic significance of this rural church, whilst bringing the community together by continuing to be a place of welcoming hospitality and friendship to the wider community. Amen.

We mourn the passing of our dear friend

Nola Kennerley

and hold her loved ones in our hearts and prayers

A memorial service for Nola will be held on

Tuesday 9 April at 2pm

At Charlestown Uniting Church

We mourn the passing of our dear friend

Ashley Pepper

and continue to hold Lorraine and family in our prayers

A Memorial Service for Ashley will be held on

Thursday 4 April at 11.30am

At Charlestown Uniting Church

We mourn the passing of our dear friend

Edward Mordue

and hold his family and loved ones in our prayers

The Funeral Service for Edward will be held on

Tuesday 16 April at 11.00am

At Garden Suburb Church

The Hunter Community Alliance

Founding

Assembly

6.15 for 6.30pm

Food trucks 5.30pm

Wednesday 10th April

The Great Hall – University of Newcastle

**Over 100 people participating
from The Uniting Church so far
gather 6.15pm in The Great Hall
register for latest details**

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

T Shirts

pre-order closed 19th March

**Do you require
transport?**

**Can you offer
transport?**

**Add your name to
the sheet in the
Charlestown foyer,
or contact Kerrie
Dixon, Anne
Threlfo or Rev Tom
Stuart.**

Children & Family Worker Update

Holiday Kids Club will be held on the 24th April at Charlestown Church.



Registration forms are available in the church foyer or contact Cathy on 0409445933

Cathy

Being A Welcoming Church

Welcome

We're glad you're here!



Resources for hospitality and welcome



Is your church ready to welcome newcomers? Here is a workshop opportunity to develop principles and strategies that give welcome and hospitality to visitors to your church who may, in the future, become members. Led by experienced pastor Rev Neil Smith, this workshop will give you clear strategies that can be developed in your congregation that give real impact as a welcoming community of faith. Participants will be asked to attend a church of another tradition as part of their preparation and research, and to have the experience of being a newcomer themselves. This workshop will provide an excellent resource for church leaders and elders and help you turn your Sunday worship into a form of community engagement.

Saturday 27th April 2024

9.30am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.

East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Details and registration here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcoming-seminar-tickets-865180186227?aff=oddtcreator>

Hunter Community Alliance

Organising for the Common Good of the Hunter

Table Talks

A lead up to the Founding Assembly

Sunday 7 April, 10.45am to 12.15pm

Charlestown Uniting Church, 24 Milson Street, Charlestown

At the Table Talks we will be hearing about issues are taking action on at the Founding Assembly. We will share our stories of how these issues impact our lives, and the lives of those close to us.

After attending the Table Talk you will know what you want as outcomes of the Founding Assembly, and what commitments you want from Chris Bowen (Federal Minister for Climate Change) and Rose Jackson (Minister for Housing), as well as a chance to connect with each other before the big event!

The Hunter Community Alliance brings together non-government and public interest organisations, including churches, unions, community services and climate and environment groups, who share a commitment to the common good.

Table Talks are how we tune in to visions, hopes and concerns that are felt widely and deeply in the Hunter.

The program will be led by Natalia Soeters from the Hunter Community Alliance. Natalia is a member of the Alliance Climate Change research team.

Register at Humanitix:

<https://events.humanitix.com/hunter-community-alliance-table-talk>

listen

affordable housing

community

transition

stories

climate change

coming together

environment

sustainable future

This table talk event is convened by [Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church](#), a member of the [Hunter Community Alliance](#)



Notes from Church Council Chairperson

This week's Church Council meeting began with a reading about Resurrection faith. We considered our experiences of living as people of the Resurrection; as individuals and as a part of a community of faith. We then spent time in prayer for the congregation and each other.

The conversation at the meeting included the following:

- There have been positive responses from the New Lambton and Belmont congregations concerning mission conversations between our congregations. Tom, Julie and Anne will follow up about how we might meet initially in an informal manner to share the challenges and signs of life in our congregations.
- The draft budget will be considered at the June meeting of the Church Council.
- There was much discussion about our properties, and how they might be used to further the mission of our congregation. How might our buildings be used to serve the life and mission of our existing congregation? How might our building resources be reorganised to provide for the ongoing mission of God's work in our community? Do we continue a conversation with Reach Church in regard to leasing the Garden Suburb property? Do we apply to draw down a significant amount of money from the Whitebridge sale proceeds for maintenance or refurbishment costs of the Charlestown and /or Manse properties?

Please hold these matters in your prayers, particularly in regard to decisions about property. Please contact myself, or any member of the Church Council if you have any questions, or would like to provide comments or suggestions.

Anne Threlfo

Ph: 0439 754 376 Email: annethrelfo@gmail.com

You are invited
to join with the



On Saturday 13 April

With a trip to Maitland Art Gallery leaving the Church at 10:00am and meeting at the Gallery at 11:25am.

Lunch will be at 12:30pm

All welcome and for transport and numbers attending,

contact Sue Warren 0427737793.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE
MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION 2024



“REPAST WITH THE REPTILES?”

An invitation is issued to ALL members of the church to join us for our Annual Mother's Day Outing.

The Place – The Hunter Wetlands Centre – 1 Wetlands Place, Shortland.

Date - Saturday May 4th May 2024.

Time –11-15 am for 11-30 am for Morning Tea. There will be a new Art Exhibition for all to see on the day. There will be a demonstrated talk on reptiles during M/T. Lunch will follow ordered from the café with M/T.

For those interested, there is a guided tour at 10-30am for the energetic. There is an entry fee of \$5 to the Wetlands. Approximate duration of tour is 45 minutes. Please phone Grahame on 0402 335 410 if interested..

Consider Car Pooling. Meet at the church if you need a lift. Please notify Sue Warren on 4944 7793.

Please let your seasonal hosts extraordinaire for the day, Grahame Pricter and Noel Drinkwater, know by phoning 0402 335 410 or 0428 431 169 to book your “Repast with the Reptiles.” RSVP 28th April 2024

I/We, Will be//will not be attending the ***“Mother's Day Repast with the Reptiles”*** on Saturday 4th May 2024.



I've Spent Time in Prison!

Kairos Prison Ministry started in Australia in the early 1990's. It is an interdenominational Christian ministry to and for prison inmates and their families. The mission of Kairos in Australia is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

Our speaker Stuart Bell, active in Kairos since 2004 working in the Hunter to provide courses to inmates in Cessnock and St Heliers Prisons. Stuart will give an understanding of what this ministry is aiming to achieve for the inmates and their families.

A Men's Breakfast
at Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson St
8am Saturday 20th April
\$12 RSVP: Robert White whiterigg@westnet.com.au
or 4943 2096
Please advise of any special dietary requirements
By Wednesday 17th April 2024

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>