



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

28 April 2024

From Rev Tom

“Lest we forget!” What does that mean? I have a hunch that it can mean several different things all at once. It can also mean different things in different contexts. “Lest we forget” is a phrase often used in the context of remembrance and commemoration, especially in relation to war memorials or memorial ceremonies. A dominant meaning is for us not to forget the sacrifices and contributions of those who have died in war or conflict. Often, we are invited to contemplate how things might be different for us if men and women didn’t in one way or another lay down their lives in the conflict of war. I must say I find a great sense of ambivalence in all this. On the one hand, there is no doubt about the selflessness of the people who left their jobs, their families and their lives, and risked everything for the ideal of protecting their country, the people, and the families they love. On the other side, history records that these people became like mince to a sausage machine. They are thrust into what is a humungous evil where soldiers become hapless pawns sacrificed for questionable causes. In more recent times we have seen soldiers return from Vietnam wondering what it was all for. And US servicemen and women feel duped into serving the mechanics of the industrial military complex which is looking after the self-interest and greed of multi-national corporations. In all of this, “Lest We Forget” invites us to remember those who lost their lives, who lost their limbs, who lost their health, both physical and mental. Indeed, our hearts must ache in our memory of the destruction of war. We also remember the height of human character for our willingness in self-sacrifice, and to place oneself in the place of danger for the sake of another. We don’t see this aspect as it can only be experienced first-hand, in the theatre of war itself. I do not doubt that soldiers experience qualities of human behaviour, of the good, that we would barely have the opportunity to discover in our ordinary lives. But there is a “Lest we Forget” that seems to be growing in importance in recent times. At the beginning of all wars, there seems to be a loss of sanity. There seems to be the acceptance of absolutely unacceptable circumstances. The further we go down the path the more inevitable the outcome becomes. I am not good at remembering the particularities of history, more the patterns. Both the First and Second World Wars began in ways that in one sense were unexpected, but are an outcome of all the previous behaviour from both sides. We are seeing this again in the Middle East. We see people taking sides, and in taking sides accepting unacceptable behaviour by the side they support. But of course, unacceptable behaviour is just that, and it invokes a response from the other side, which is found to be unacceptable by our side (because we are on the right side). So, one of the smallest nations in the world, with everybody else on the planet lined up for or against, has the power to trigger a world war. The insanity of the situation enters into its final, and inevitable, stage – unbridled violence takes over. In our contemporary context, the words “Lest We Forget” demand we not get caught up in the insanity. Not to take sides. To remember war is a poor tool for peace, and that the one we claim we follow invites us to turn the other cheek, and love our enemies. “Lest We Forget!”

DIARY

Thursday 25 April – Anzac Day

No morning tea in the Community on this day

Sunday 28 April – Easter 5

9.00am Worship Service. Leader & Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Monday 29 April

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 30 April

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 2 May

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Saturday 4 May

11.15am Friendship Circle Mother's Day outing at the Hunter Wetlands Centre

7.00pm Trivia Night at the Hunter Christian Church to support CCEA SRE

Sunday 5 May – Easter 6

9.00am Worship Service. Leader & Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Monday 6 May

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 7 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 8 May

10.30am Biggest Morning Tea at Charlestown Church

Thursday 9 May

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

10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

Friday 10 May

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Sunday 12 May – Easter 7

9.00am Worship Service. Leader: Kathy Stuart & Preacher: Rev Tom Stuart
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

Monday 13 May

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 14 May

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 16 May

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

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb





THE PRAYER PAGE

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Family and friends of Pat Foster
- * Family and friends of Edward Mordue
- * Family and friends of Nola
- * Lorraine Pepper in rehab at Shortland Hospital
- * pray for Lesley's recovery after surgery
- * Judith Fuller battling cancer
- * Pam
- * pray for Ken as he undergoes an operation on the 3rd May
- * pray for Lyn Benson following surgery
- * Family and friends of Vivianne
- * Les as he recovers from heart surgery
- * Sue Pepper
- * Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- * Gloria
- * 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

Please join with each other as a congregation, to commit to praying at meal times, for the needs mentioned below.

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 for victims of domestic violence and their families
- Praise for the attendance and results obtained from the Founding Assembly of HCA
- pray for victims and families affected by the recent tragedies in Sydney
- 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:

28 April 2024 – Cessnock-Bellbird Uniting Church

Cessnock Bellbird Congregation meets every Sunday at 9:30am followed by fellowship over morning tea. We have two worship centres (Cessnock and Bellbird) although services are held only at the Cessnock building. Reach up... reach out.... Reach in..... is our catch phrase. Our Innovations team meets to think up, plan and then carry out (with the help of congregation members) a whole bunch of energetic, innovative outreach ideas! (e.g. Christmas tree festival, Carols in the Bush, Seniors' Showcase). We have linked with Hunter Food Relief, Cessnock Rotary and Cessnock Lions clubs to offer meals and other help to homeless and vulnerable members of the local community. Our congregation numbers about 40 people, mainly over 70 years old. We are a happy and welcoming group, very encouraging of new members.

Prayer: Please pray for our new minister as she leads us into the future; for our innovations team and all congregation members as we venture more into the community; and for the groups working from our church hall to help the vulnerable and needy of the area. Amen.

Children & Family Worker Update



As this contact is being printed our **Holiday Kids Club** is taking place, our theme 'Come join the Circus' watch next week's Contact for a report & photos of the day.

This Sunday we welcome **Christopher & Rebecca** to our Charlestown Church for the baptism of their son **Oliver Neil**. We also welcome **Shane, Emily, Paul and Erin, Oliver's** godparents together with **Matthew, Grace, William and Nash, Oliver's** brothers and sister. May God's Blessing be on Oliver & his family today as they worship with us & his guidance be with them always.

Cathy



Donations gratefully requested for support of the Cancer Council

Bring your friends

Contact Sue Warren on 0427 737 793 for further details.

COMMON GRACE



This conference is being held on Ngunnawal & Ngambri Country, Canberra, 16 - 18 November 2024, and will be a unique opportunity to gather together with Christians from across denominations and backgrounds, to delve into crucial matters concerning First Nations and climate justice. Gain insights and tools necessary to engage with our nation's political leaders, advocating for tangible actions to see justice flow across Australia and beyond.

We have an incredible lineup of speakers including Dr Aunty Jean Phillips, Rev Canon Auntie Di Langham, Naomi Wolfe, Adam Gowen, Dr Byron Smith, and Dr Mick Pope presenting alongside Bianca Manning, Safina Steward and Gershon Nimbalker from the Common Grace team.

Early Bird Tickets are available until 21 June, 2024: <https://let-justice-flow-conference.raiselysite.com/>

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.

Small is Beautiful



Thriving as a small Church



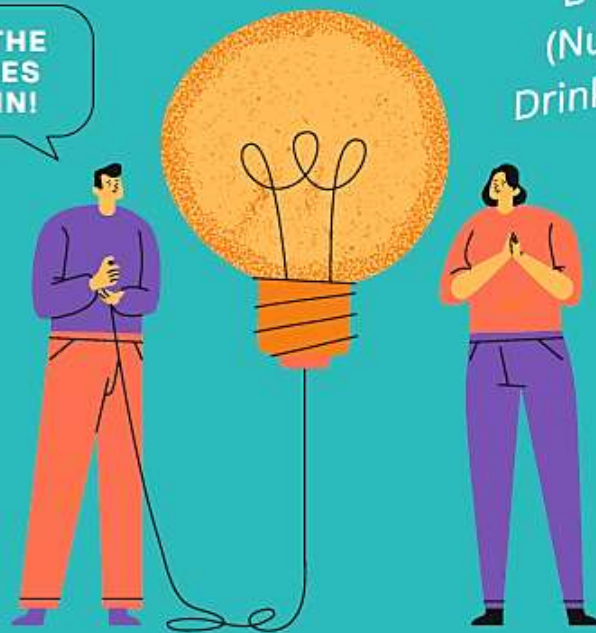
Presbytery Minister Graham Perry and Saltbush Scattered Community Minister Yvonne Ghavalas invite you to a time of deep listening and sharing together the challenges and opportunities of being a small church. Yvonne has worked extensively across intergenerational, multicultural, and depleted resource contexts as a social worker, high school teacher, and minister. She is passionate about creating authentic places of belonging through prayer, play, and ancient spiritual practices. Come and find inspiration together in this real and down-to-earth gathering which will include worship, Holy Communion, and sources of support for thriving small communities

Saturday 11th May 2024
10am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.
East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Details and registration here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-is-beautiful-thriving-as-a-small-church-tickets-865935605707?aff=oddtcreator>

FAMILY FUN TRIVIA NIGHT & AUCTION CCEA SRE FUNDRAISER

LET THE
GAMES
BEGIN!



BYO Snacks
(Nut free zone),
Drinks, Tea & coffee
for Sale

SATURDAY 4TH MAY AT 7PM AT
HUNTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH
20A HILLSCREST PRD, HIGHFIELDS

TABLES OF 8 OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE
(\$20 PERSON - UNDER 16 FREE)

Enquiries & booking
Contact Hunter Christian Church
02 4942 1351
info@hcc.org.au

Come and take part in a
silent auction to raise money
for SRE at
Whitebridge High

These masterclasses have relevance for those involved in various leadership roles in our congregation. Sessions are online and free. More information and registration here: <https://nswactuca.eventsair.com/min-masterclasses-2024/mm-reg/Site/Register>



You are warmly invited to *Ministry Masterclasses*, a free online monthly forum designed to support active ministry leaders by exploring contemporary perspectives and fostering networks of support and collaboration. *Ministry Masterclasses* are ideal for ministers and pastors who are keen to build networks and gain new insights from thought leaders.

The first Ministry Masterclass begins on **Wednesday 24 April**, 2:00pm-4:00pm, with a Preaching Refresher with Ockert Meyer, Lecturer in Theology and Preaching at United Theological College.

Other Upcoming Masterclasses

- **Wednesday 22 May** - Technology and Worship with Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister - Church Development at Port Phillip East Presbytery
- **Wednesday 19 June** - Evangelism Conversation with Ben Gilmour, Director of Vital Leadership, and Pablo Nunez, Minister at Ballina Uniting Church
- **Wednesday 24 July** - Music and Worship with Tash Holmes, Uniting Creative, and Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White, Ministry Leader, Leichhardt Uniting Church
- + more great sessions to come!

Please note all sessions will run from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Registration is free and sessions are run online via Zoom. You are warmly invited to register for as many sessions as you'd like to attend.

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>