



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

8 February 2025

From Rev Tom

Although Lent is still weeks away, I came across a passage from Maurice Nicoll today that fits perfectly with its spirit of self-examination, confession, and preparation for the new life of Easter. Nicoll unpacks self-love as a core human drive fuelling negative emotions and hindering real inner change.

Self-love cloaks itself endlessly, like a wolf in sheep's clothing. It resents slights, despises mockery, refuses to laugh at itself, craves admiration in every situation, and masquerades as modesty, kindness, or humility when challenged. Always vigilant, it flares up easily when ignored, stays indifferent except toward those boosting its image, and pursues its own gain - even in grand public gifts like libraries, where the donor's reputation is the true aim.

The paradox is that developing our self-love is necessary for our early development, our education. We are rewarded for our humility, our competency, our effort – all good in themselves but underneath, are tied to the reward so demanded by self-love. It is the complaint that Jesus makes so frequently when referring to the pharisees. They performed real good, but Jesus exposed the motive: self-glorification. But he was pointing to something deep in human nature – the motivation is pandering to self-love. We spot it in our own sting when praise falls short.

Nicoll cites Philippians 2:21, where Paul laments that everyone "seeks their own," not Christ's concerns, showing self-love as a barrier to embodying Jesus' way. Likewise, 2 Timothy 3:7 describes self-lovers as "ever learning yet never reaching truth," trapped by ego over divine love.

The remedy is self-observation: watch self-love stir in reactions of delight at praise or irritation at neglect. Seeing it clearly lets us laugh at ourselves, cracking its shell and revealing Christ's deeper love within, flowing freer as the old guard weakens.

None of us get there but it is "the on the way" that counts – we followers of Jesus.

DIARY

Thursday 5 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm **Bible Study at Charlestown Church – ALL WELCOME**

Sunday 8 February 2026 – Epiphany 5

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: David Chegwidden and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5:13-20
2.30pm **SRE Dedication Service held at Cardiff Heights Baptist Church,
33-35 Main Rd Cardiff**

Tuesday 10 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 11 February

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 12 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility
1.30-2.30pm **Bible Study at Charlestown Church – ALL WELCOME**

Friday 13 February

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 14 February

2.00pm Friendship Circle at Charlestown Church to plan for 2026

Sunday 15 February 2026 – Epiphany 6

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Monday 16 February

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

Tuesday 17 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 18 February – Ash Wednesday

TBA Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday 19 February

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm **Bible Study at Charlestown Church – ALL WELCOME**

Saturday 21 February

8.00am Men's Breakfast at the Milson St Hub (Charlestown Church)

Sunday 22 February 2026 – Lent 1

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Sue Warren and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Family of Enid Power
- * Margaret, Barbara and Lily
- * Beryl
- * Rene Kelly
- * Nelda Marshall
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * 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 the ministry of our new appointment as Communications Coordinator for the Milson St Hub - Piteeri Michael who commences on 17th Feb.
- 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
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Prayer for the situations in Israel, Palestine and Ukraine

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church

BRING A
FRIEND!

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Guest Speaker

Rev Garry
Dodd

from Mission
to Seafarers



153 years of service in Newcastle

8:00 AM

SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2026

Milson St Hub (Charlestown UC), 24 Milson St Charlestown

RSVP Paul at pmraus74@gmail.com or 0411 236 047 by 18 February

Children & Family Worker Update



Last Monday I was part of the organising team of the **Hunter Christian SRE Expo** as I have mentioned previously, well the day went really well 120 participants came along enjoyed an encouraging speech by our keynote speaker from Christian SRE NSW, SRE workshops & information stalls from various organisations for SRE. If you have access to Facebook look up Hunter Christian SRE Facebook page for photos & a video of this. Thank you to those who prayed for us, your prayers definitely made a big difference.

The **SRE Dedication Service** which we have been advertising for this Sunday has a change of time from what we advised, please note it will **commence at 2.30pm on Sunday**. I hope you can make it along to support & encourage our SRE teachers across Newcastle & Lake Macquarie.

Cathy



SERVICE OF DEDICATION SRE TEACHERS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 | 2:30 PM

33 Main Rd, Cardiff Heights

- Hosted by Cardiff Heights Baptist Church
- Join us as we commit this important ministry, the teachers and the students to the Lord
- Afternoon tea will be provided after the service

All SRE teachers and supporters of SRE are invited to this service of dedication, as we prepare for a new year of classes in the local public schools

Lenten Quiet Morning

Living the Counter-Cultural Gospel

Heart Softening in Lent

9:30am - 12:30pm

Saturday 14 February

Warner's Bay Uniting Church
342 Hillsborough Rd, Warner's Bay

Morning tea will be provided
Optional donation of \$10

Please register by
12 February using
QR code or contact
the minister of one
of the organizing
congregations



A Collaboration of the Charlestown & Garden Suburb, North Lake Macquarie and Toronto UCA congregations

You are welcome to prepare for the Lenten time of reflection and spiritual renewal at this Quiet Morning. Please RSVP using the QR code, or this link: <https://events.humanitix.com/lenten-quiet-morning>, or by contacting Anne Threlfo.

MILSON ST HUB COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR.... REALLY SOON!

Our new worker in the position of the Milson St Hub Communications Coordinator begins work in mid-February. Piteeri Michail will be creating content for our foyer screen and for the new Milson St Hub website which is ready to go live. As she works with users of the Hub, including the congregation members, she will be forming relationships between users and build a sense of community which will be extended to the wider Charlestown community. Piteeri has a two day per week position with us and is also employed by Hamilton Uniting Church in a two-day position. While Piteeri will begin working with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays it is understood that she will work flexibly between the two churches to best meet the goals of both and meet as many people as possible.

It is an exciting new mission for us as Piteeri joins us to connect and care for our Charlestown community.

By Kerrie Dixon, Acting Chair ChaGS Church Council.



ADAMSTOWN
UNITING CHURCH

TAIZÉ

SANCTUARY
*an evening of prayer, silence and song
from the Taizé Community*

3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
BEGINNING 15TH FEBRUARY

SINGING WORKSHOP + TWILIGHT SERVICE

4-5pm: Song workshop - Learning the songs of Taizé
5:30pm-6:30pm: Twilight Service

228 BRUNKER RD ADAMSTOWN
TEA & COFFEE AVAILABLE BETWEEN WORKSHOP + SERVICE
NO NEED TO REGISTER, DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME



Ladies FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 11 February

Will be held at Charlestown Church
from 10.00am

You are welcome to come and join us for
morning tea and a chat every second
Wednesday of the month, during 2026.

ALL WELCOME

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF THE WEEK

Celebration: is a way of engaging in actions that orient the spirit toward worship, praise and thanksgiving. Delighting in all the attentions and never-changing presence of the Trinity fuels celebration.

Practice: Identify the place you most readily connect with God. Is it in nature? listening to Christian music? participating in corporate worship? solitude? Go to that place. What do you want to tell God about the joy you receive there?

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

Bible Study

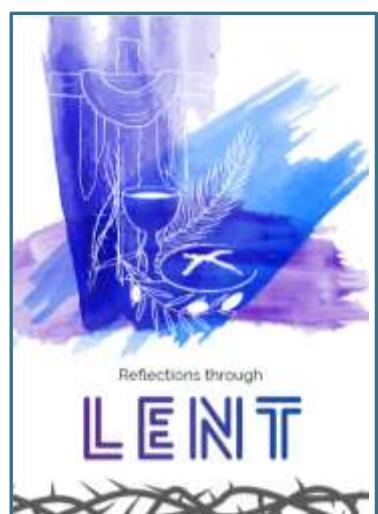
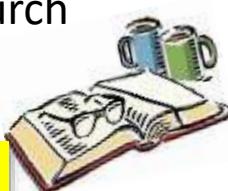
Thursdays @ 1.30pm

At Charlestown Uniting Church

Study on Hebrews

All Welcome

Contact Sue Warren for more
information



Lent is almost upon us!
Ash Wednesday is 18
February.

This lent devotional
resource is available to
download here:
<https://www.ltm.org.au/resources/downloadables>

There are also printed
copies available in the
foyer if you prefer.

NOTE CHANGE TO DATE AND TIME



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>