



# 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 Chegvidden 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

Maintained by SFED

### 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

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Guest Speaker  
Rev Garry  
Dodd  
from Mission  
to Seafarers

**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

BRING A FRIEND!

THE MISSION  
TO SEAFARERS  
153 years of service in Newcastle



## 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/len-ten-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 15<sup>TH</sup> 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

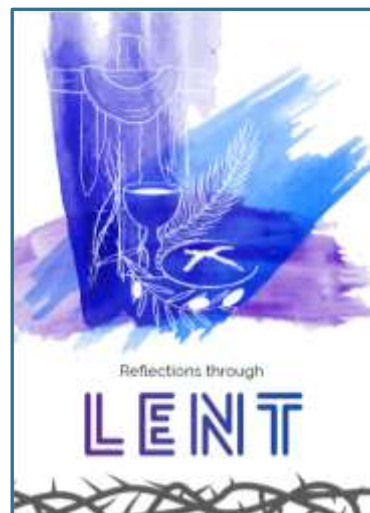
At Charlestown Uniting Church

*Study on Hebrews*

All Welcome



Contact Sue Warren for more  
information



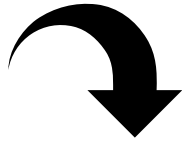
Lent is almost upon us!  
Ash Wednesday is 18  
February.

This lent devotional  
resource is available to  
download here:  
[https://www.ltm.org.au/re  
sources/downloadables](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



## Friendship Circle

Will meet at the Church on  
**Saturday 14 February at 2.00pm** for  
afternoon tea to make plans for 2026  
and to hear about Margaret and Noel's  
trip to Vanuatu.

All Welcome

### Some of our Church Contacts:

#### **Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart  
M: 0427 625 502  
E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

#### **Administration:**

P: 4943 4019  
E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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>