



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation



26 July 2026

From Anne Threlfo

Where is God?

I've been mulling over this question in recent days partly in response to something I've been reading, and also reflecting on the words quoted by Christine Shepherd last Sunday from Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn:

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart—and through all human hearts.

It can be a comforting illusion to view the world as neatly divided between good and evil; an illusion fed to us constantly in the nightly news, the political arena and through entertainment. The parable of the weeds shows us that the division is rarely so simple. It is unsettling to realise that good, evil and everything in between, flourish in intimate proximity to each other within us. Sometimes we can't even tell the difference and perhaps any strict line between the two extremes is an illusion anyway.

If we are not on the path of self-reflection and growth of experience and understanding of God and ourselves, our instinct is to externalize evil, blaming "the other" for the darkness in the world. However, externalising evil comes at a high price. If we push everything outward, we are also risk externalising God. When we do that, God becomes a distant judge, residing only in specific buildings, traditions or select groups of people.

In reality, God is a living presence within every person and all of creation. God's intention is not retribution, but healing and reconciliation. This presence is a gentle, ongoing pull toward a realization of our oneness with God and, consequently, our oneness with each other.

True self-knowledge requires the courage to own both sides of Solzhenitsyn's line. When we acknowledge our capacity for darkness, we stop judging others so harshly, and the illusion of separation dissolves. We discover that God's presence within us is the very thing that connects us to everyone else.

Self-reflection and spiritual practices ultimately lead us away from division and back to the deeper truth: we are not isolated islands of good and bad, but a single, flawed, and deeply loved humanity, constantly being invited back into wholeness.

So where is God? God is in me, you, a tree, a shower of rain, a work of art, a beautiful song and in every single person you will ever lay eyes on.

DIARY

Thursday 23 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub

Sunday 26 July – Pentecost 9

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Beryl and Preacher: Rev. Tom
Genesis 29:15-28, 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b, Psalm 128, Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Tuesday 28 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
12.00pm **Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship at Wests Cardiff**

Wednesday 29 July

OFFICE CLOSED DUE TO BUILDING WORK

Thursday 30 July

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub
3-4.30pm **Want to Save on Electricity Bills??** At the Milson St Hub – more information further in Contact

AUGUST

Sunday 2 August – Pentecost 10

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev. Tom
Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Monday 3 August

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care facility

Tuesday 4 August

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square
10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care facility

Thursday 6 August

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub

Sunday 9 August – Pentecost 11

9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Kerrie and Preacher: Project Reconnect
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

Tuesday 11 August

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 12 August

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Milson St Hub

Thursday 13 August

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in the Dudley Room at Milson St Hub

Friday 14 August

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 15 August

8.00am Men's Breakfast at Milson St Hub – more details further in Contact

THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Pray for Janice Wright and family
- * Jean Witherspoon and family
- * Robyn Greaves and family
- * Tom's Mum
- * Tom's family as they mourn the death of Tom's mother's sister
- * Marion Box having eye surgery on Monday
- * Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- * Mert and Pam
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Rene Kelly
- * Glen and Marion
- * Valmai
- * Kelly
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED

Congregational Prayer Points

- NREMA application
- Tom on Long Service Leave
- Piteeri
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Church profile and preparations for Tom's retirement
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- New City Maitland (Church Plant)
- 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 those in conflict zones in the world



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of

Dr Don Wright

on 19 July 2026

Don was a member of the Garden Suburb congregation, serving in a number of roles including as a lay preacher.

A funeral service conducted by Rev Christine Shepherd will be held on Saturday 25 July 2026 at 10.30am at The Private Chapel, 7 Murray Dwyer Circuit, Mayfield West

Our love and prayers are with Janice and family.



Apologies for the late notice, but if anyone would like a box of dated offering envelopes, please give me a call or text, and I'd be happy to drop them in to you.

Julie Fenwick (0414411157)

WANT TO SAVE ON ELECTRICITY BILLS?



**THURS. 30/7
3-4:30PM**

ALEC ROBERTS
Chairman of CleanS

**24 Milson St.
Charlestown**
Bring the kids!
Afternoon Tea provided

- Kids, come & ride our bike that generates enough electricity to turn lights on!
- Switch from Gas to Electric and save \$2400-\$4000 p.a.
- Learn a bit about rebates, batteries & solar

Save energy = 

This Inspiring Australian Initiative is supported by the Australian Government



An Australian Government Initiative

Inspiring AUSTRALIA

The Greater Charlestown Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

CLEANaS

Milson Street Hub

Text Piteeri to book your spot:
0493 094 231

A Place So Close
Yet So Different!

The remote eastern islands of
Papua New Guinea

Rev Lu Piper OAM has worked for 20 years as a teacher, lecturer, & project officer in PNG & is still significantly involved in the islands of the Milne Bay Province.

- What makes these islands so unique?
- What has kept Lu involved over so many years?
- What is life like there now?

If you're interested to see & hear the real story of PNG, this is your opportunity!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

SAT. 15TH AUG. 8AM

24 Milson St.
Charlestown



Milson Street Hub



\$12 RSVP by Wed. 12th Aug:
Paul Russell
pmaus74@gmail.com
0411 236 047
*Please advise of any special dietary requirements



Q & A WITH PETER WALKER

NEW LAMBTON UNITING CHURCH

2ND AUGUST

Join us as we talk to Rev. Dr Peter Walker, General Secretary of the NSW and ACT Synod, about the future of the Uniting Church.

Morning tea at 10:15am. Q & A at 11:15am.

Peter will also be preaching at our 9:15am service. All are welcome!



**ENTRY:
\$20
DONATION**

MUSIC @ The Bay 26

Featuring Performances by:

Novatones Harmony Chorus

Bella Voce – 5 Part Vocal Group

Soprano Eloise Rowland and Tenor Ian Fisher of
Opera Hunter

Archer Nicholas- Canning - a Young Tenor

Aaron Rothmund – Flute and Piccolo

2pm Saturday August 22th, 2026

Location :

**The Willows Uniting Church,
342 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay**



Includes a delicious afternoon tea at the
conclusion of performance.

Supporting Local High School **SRE** (Scripture) provided
by Charlestown & Warners Bay Christian Education
Associations

More Information :

Contact Paul : 0411 236 047



Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502 E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

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

Communications Coordinator:

Piteeri Michail

M: 0493 094 231 E: Piteeri.m@outlook.com

Administration:

P: 4943 4019 E: office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au

24 Milson St, Charlestown NSW 2290

PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

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>