



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**31 May 2026**

## **From Rev Tom**

Last night I attended The Hunter Presbytery meeting. The next Hunter Presbytery meeting, to be held in August, will be the last of its kind as the NSW and ACT Synod moves, on 1 September 2026, from twelve Presbyteries to just three. Rev Graham Ghavalas Perry - formerly the Hunter Presbytery Minister and now serving as the Transition Commission Leader for the future Northern Presbytery - provided an update on the progress of the transition.

The intent behind the restructuring is not simply administrative efficiency, but an attempt to respond to the changing realities facing the church. Many Presbyteries have found themselves carrying increasing governance responsibilities while also experiencing reduced staffing, declining financial resources, and fewer people available for leadership. The hope is that larger Presbyteries will be able to share resources more effectively, strengthen ministry support, encourage collaboration between congregations, and free energy for mission and community engagement.

The three new Presbyteries will be Northern, Central, and Southern, while the Korean Presbytery will continue in its current distinct form. Our congregation will become part of the Northern Presbytery, which will bring together the current Presbyteries of The Hunter, Sydney Central Coast, Mid North Coast, Far North Coast, and New England North West. Geographically, this means the Northern Presbytery will stretch from the Central Coast and Hunter region north toward Queensland and west into the New England and North West regions of NSW. It will encompass urban, regional, rural, and coastal communities across a very large part of the state.

Graham shared that much of the foundational work required to establish the three-presbytery structure is now complete. However, exactly how these new Presbyteries will best function and express their life together will continue to emerge over time.

These are certainly interesting times for the Uniting Church in Australia. Yet I also think they are exciting times. Historically, it is often when the church experiences upheaval and uncertainty that God's renewing and creative work becomes most visible. The difficult part is that we often only recognise the depth of that work afterwards, when we look back and begin to see the hand of God through it all.

In the meantime, we are being encouraged to continue living out the call of God upon our lives - individually and corporately - as faithfully as we can, trusting in the grace of God. That seems to me what it has always been about: at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end.

# DIARY

## **Thursday 28 May**

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

## **Sunday 31 May – Trinity Sunday**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader: Kerrie Dixon and Preacher: Cathy Beeton  
*Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20*

## **JUNE**

### **Monday 1 June**

10.00am Pastoral Care Visit to Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility

### **Tuesday 2 June**

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

### **Thursday 4 June**

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

## **Sunday 7 June – Pentecost 2**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*Genesis 12:1-9, Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 33:1-12, Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

### **Tuesday 9 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

### **Wednesday 10 June**

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at the Hub  
Office will be closed

### **Thursday 11 June**

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area at Charlestown Square  
10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care  
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study in Dudley Room

### **Friday 12 June**

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## **Sunday 14 June – Pentecost 3**

9.00am The Divine Worship  
Leader: David Chegwidden and Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)*

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Saturday 20 June**

8.00am Men's Breakfast – see more further in Contact  
12.00pm Friendship Circle meeting at Lake Cinema (see further in Contact for more details)

# THE PRAYER PAGE



## Prayer is the Voice of Faith

### Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* Prayers for Grahame Beeton and family
- \* Those who are mourning loved ones
- \* Mert has moved to Narla Village – continue to pray for Mert and Pam
- \* Robyn and Geoff Greaves
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick in rehab at HVPH
- \* Rene Kelly
- \* Nelda Marshall
- \* Glen and Marion
- \* Valmai
- \* Janice and Don Wright
- \* Kelly
- \* Tony Sellen
- \* Vicki
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Isabella
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Max
- \* Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED

### Congregational Prayer Points

- Life and Witness consultation on 21<sup>st</sup> June
- the role of Piteeri, our new Communications Coordinator for the Milson St. Hub.
- Major upgrades to the Project Reconnect website
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

### Wider Community Prayer Points

- H.C.A. Loneliness and Isolation Symposium in May – Milson St. Hub Ministry
- Charlestown Uniting Church
- 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



## Children & Family Worker Update



**Thank you everyone** for your well wishes & prayers as my family go through this trying time of Grahame's Lymphoma treatment.

I have decided at this time I need to be around for Grahame & my family, so I have decided to take some annual leave followed by long service leave. This leave will start on Monday the 1<sup>st</sup> June through till 24<sup>th</sup> August. Even though I am not officially working I will be around & I am always happy to hear from you, so don't hesitate to call for a catch-up chat.

Love Cathy x

### Report from The Hunter Presbytery Meeting 26 May 2026

The Council of Presbytery met at East Maitland on Tuesday for the second last time before The Northern Presbytery comes into being.

Worship was led by Rev James Cox, and the meeting saw the commissioning of Trish Bevan as Student Practicum placement in the Cessnock Regional Hub.

Rev Nicole Fleming, Dean of Candidates at UTC attended the meeting and explained her role with training student ministers at the College. Rev Graham Ghavalas Perry, Transition Commission Leader for the Northern Presbytery gave us an update of the progress being made ready for the inauguration of the Northern Presbytery.

Reports were received from the Pastoral Relations Committee who proposed the amalgamation of the Jesmond Park and the Wallsend Shortland congregations. This proposal was accepted.

Reports were also received from the Finance and Property Committee and Richard Moors as the Presbytery Children and Family Ministry Consultant.

There was table discussion on "What would you like to celebrate about The Hunter Presbytery at our August meeting" and "How will we use the gifts that are embodied in each of our congregations, to build a Northern Presbytery community where every person is seen, valued, and empowered by the Spirit?" There was some interesting feedback highlighting past events such as Easter Camps, UYF gatherings at Griffith Duncan Theatre, and current missional programs from various congregations.

The next Presbytery meeting will be at The Willows, Warners Bay and will be a celebration of the last 49 years as The Hunter Presbytery

David Chegwidden



To my dear Church congregations at Charlestown and Garden Suburb,

Thank you for your unconditional love, prayers, and words of comfort following the sudden death of our David, and for sharing in his Thanksgiving/Celebration of Life Service with us. Your gestures of love and support were heartwarming and deeply appreciated.

Love Elaine, Christine and Andrew



Would you like a printed copy of the report to the congregation?  
Please collect a spare copy from the church foyer.

## Life & Witness Consultation Questionnaires

Please collect a questionnaire **from the foyer at Charlestown as soon as possible.**

Please read it, complete the questions and return it by **Sunday 7 June.**

*The consultation team from Presbytery will attend worship on 21 June and meet with the congregation over morning tea.*



Milson Street *Hub*

Hi everyone,

I'm excited to let you know that a Task Group has been formed, to help guide & support my role at Milson St Hub. Rod Pattenden (Presbytery), Pearl Nunn (Maitland Church Planting), Tom & I are on it. We've met twice so far & it's been really helpful.

Tom & I attended a 'Missional Edges' gathering with Karina Kreminski last week at Manly Uniting. There were about 20 people attending, from all different parts of the Uniting Church in NSW. Many were volunteers or ministry staff. Some were from the Synod & some from other Presbyteries. The topic was to look at ways to approach church, theology & mission that were relevant in today's world. The tension was acknowledged that this isn't always understood by established & current ways of being church.

It was inspiring & encouraging to hear how different congregations are embracing change & using various models to effectively relate with the community around them. We both felt encouraged about the potential for Charlestown Uniting.



This Thurs. I'll be attending the Future Church conference in Parramatta, which is along similar same lines & Tom opted for viewing the recordings afterwards, due to some of the hearing challenges in those kind of public spaces.

It's been useful to learn from other Uniting leaders who are doing similar work 😊



## Friendship Circle

**Will meet on 20th June (note change of date) and will go to Lake Cinema at 12 noon.**

**The film is The Devil Wears Prada 2.**

**All Welcome**



# MENS' BREAKFAST

## SAT. 20TH JUNE 8AM

Charlestown Uniting Church  
24 Milson St.



\$12 RSVP by 17/6

Paul

pmraus74@gmail.com

0411 236 047

Please advise of special dietary requirements

### REST ASSURED – PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE

**Guest Speaker:** Ruth Boydell, an end-of-life doula who had a life-changing 'near miss' that prompted her to explore death & dying. Ruth will share about support for nearing end of life & practical planning

- Wills
- Power of Attorney
- Guardianship
- Advance Care Directives
- Supporting families emotionally, practically, & ritually
- Hosting a local Death Café with the Threshold Choir



GATHER IN COMMUNITY  
TO PLAY WITH THE STUFF  
OF LIFE IN A SACRED  
CONTAINER OF  
MOVEMENT, STORY, SONG  
AND STILLNESS

# EMBODY



HOSTED BY  
GREER HUDSON

- 📍 Adamstown Uniting Church hall
- 📅 First Sunday of every month
- 🕒 5:30pm-7pm

Reach out to  
@adamstownunitingchurch or  
info@adamstownuca.org.au  
for more information.



## Save The Date

18<sup>th</sup> July, 10.30 am – 2.30pm



## PRESBYTERY WALKING TOGETHER EVENT

LED BY MIKENZIE LING.

TORONTO UC 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 10.30AM-2.30 PM

TORONTO UC 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 10.30AM-2.30 PM



## Ladies FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 10 June

Will be held at Milson Street Hub  
from 10.00am

You are welcome to come and  
join us for morning tea and a chat

**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)

#### **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

#### **Communications Coordinator:**

Piteeri Michail  
M: 0493 094 231  
E: [Piteeri.m@outlook.com](mailto:Piteeri.m@outlook.com)

#### **Administration:**

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