



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

5 November 2023

## From Rev Tom

Today is All Saints Day! On Sunday we remembered All Saints Day by inviting the families of those who have departed in the last 12 months and sharing in a candle-lighting ceremony. But All Saints Day is today, the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. Yesterday I had children come to the door to meet me with “Trick or Treat!” They were so lovely, and I had nothing prepared!! So, I am not sure how excited they were, but I made sure they got some ... water ... to refresh them on their journey. They would have no idea that their meandering around the place originates in a deeply Christian tradition (I guess Easter eggs are now pretty much disconnected from the resurrection of Jesus too!) So, what should we do on All Saints Day? Well, I don’t have much of a clue. As old as All Saints is on the Christian calendar it hasn’t been part of the church tradition in which I have journeyed. But why not begin now?! Well, then I meet my first problem! It is about dead folk! In the Catholic tradition, there is much about praying for the dead. But very little in Protestantism. John Wesley, whom the old Methodists of the Uniting Church turn to said nothing about praying for the dead. John Calvin, who the old Presbyterians turn to spoke against praying for the dead. He said that the dead don’t need our prayers. They are saved and redeemed, and no amount of praying can make them more saved or redeemed. But who said praying for the dead is only about the benefit of the one being prayed for? What about the benefits for the one doing the praying? I have read that there are Presbyterian and reformed denominations that participate in All Saints Day traditions without the theological implications that caused Calvin so much angst. So, something we could do today (or tomorrow as it is All Souls’ Day, still part of the “triduum”) is go visit the graves of those who are deceased. This morning, and I will probably do the same tomorrow, I prayed for those close to me who have died. I prayed for my Dad, and I prayed for my sister Margaret. So, what did I say? Well, I didn’t. For nearly five minutes I just sat there and I brought various images to mind, images of my sister as I remember her as my big sister when were both children. Images of when she was first married and gave birth to her first child. One of the images was in her final days ravaged with cancer. I did the same with my Dad. While I brought those images to mind I simply allowed my heart to be filled with love for them. It was like sending my love, and my gratitude ... and in the process of receiving. I didn’t stop there. I began surrounding myself with the living ... without worded thoughts, I simply recalled those members of my family who are alive today, in some cases in poor health. I just allowed the compassion I feel in my heart to be present and it was as if I was sending them that energy, my love. I have said before that Cynthia Bourgeault points out that this period of All Saints, from the 31<sup>st</sup> of October till the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November, is one of the “thin” places in our lives, when the barrier between this physical life and the other realms, can be a little transparent. Perhaps it is worth exploring and testing for ourselves and see what we discover.



# DIARY

## **Thursday 2 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## **Sunday 5 November - Pentecost 23**

- 9.00am Worship Service - Leader and Preacher Rev'd Tom  
**Baptism and Children's Corner**

*Joshua 3: 7-17; Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13; Matthew 23: 1-12*

## **Monday 6 November**

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit  
7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 3 weeks)

## **Tuesday 7 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

## **Wednesday 8 November**

- 10.00am Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

## **Thursday 9 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
10.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## **Friday 10 November**

- 6.00pm Ladies night at Kahibah

## **Saturday 11 November**

- 10.30am Friendship Circle are heading to the Botanical Gardens for lunch



## **Sunday 12 November - Pentecost 24**

- 9.00am Worship Service - Leader Kerrie Dixson Preacher Rev'd. John Warham  
*Joshua 24: 1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78: 1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13*

## **Monday 13 November**

- 7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 2 weeks)

## **Tuesday 14 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

## **Thursday 16 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## **Sunday 19 November - Pentecost 25**

- 9.00am Holy Communion Service – Leader and Preacher Rev'd Tom  
*Judges 4: 1- 7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30*

## **Monday 20 November**

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit  
7.30pm Online Study re Embracing Spiritual Awakening with Rev Tom Stuart (for 1 weeks)

## **Tuesday 21 November**

- 9.00am Needlework n Natter  
10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie

## **Thursday 23 November**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb



# THE PRAYER PAGE



'Pray for our country as we continue to engage in conversations over the coming weeks.

Pray for truth-filled, gracious and compassionate conversations that are grounded in humility and respect.

May we stand together for love, compassion, inclusion and reconciliation.'

## Pastoral Prayer Points

- \* June Locker
- \* Kerrieann (Tom's sister)
- \* Ryan Walpole – recovering after his operation and pray for Sue as she supports Ryan during his recovery
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Those in our Congregation who have lost loved ones in recent months
- \* Anne
- \* Mac
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Peter Ferguson
- \* Nola
- \* Isabella
- \* Ashley
- \* Janice Wright
- \* Glenda O'Donahue who is very ill in hospital
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert's healing post operation
- \* Judith and family
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Enid Power
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* Max

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council gathering on 14 November to discuss response to Act2
- Baptism Service for Lachlan this Sunday
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- HCA Delegates Assembly on 8 Nov
- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The victims and families of the earthquake in Afghanistan
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- Please pray for our First Nations People post Referendum that they will be comforted and encouraged to continue to find alternative ways to achieve reconciliation, equality and to be heard
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots
- Fabian, children and Wilfreda suffering heart failure
- Tom and NEOS as he follows ideas and opportunities including connections with Wesley Mission at Windale



# WONDERFUL WORSHIP

As you may know, our Worship Committee is quite industrious in its endeavours to enhance our Sunday Morning Worship. Last Sunday, many in the Congregation sensed that the Committee had hit the 'nail on the head', so to speak, with their many expressions of sincere thanks at the service's conclusion. It was grand to see 15 of the 18 invited family members, who had suffered a bereavement in the last twelve months, attend to light a specially prepared candle in memory of their loved one. Then, too, afterwards, for the many folk of the Congregation coming forward to light a candle in memory of passed family members – all Saints of the Living God – Hallelujah!



And how about that scrumptious morning tea that you all helped to provide?! It was certainly appreciated by our guests at the service...not to mention the 'regulars'...what a spread it was! One guest was overheard to say; "If this is what their morning tea's are like...then I'm in!!!" Thank you, one and all, for a most memorable day.

This Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>, we have the joy of being able to join with the family in **Holy Baptism**, as Lachlan's parents Bronwyn and Jason Boon present him to The Rev'd Tom for his Baptism into the Christian Church of Jesus, his Saviour. A word is getting around that the Baptismal family are, yes, providing yet another morning tea for all the whole Congregation -bliss!

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> we have as our guest preacher **The Reverend John Wareham**, who many of you will remember from his three years' Ministry amongst this Congregation. The leader that day will be Kerrie Dixon.

The following Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>, is our usual service of **Holy Communion** at which, the Leader and Preacher will be The Rev'd Tom.



To wrap up the month – and the Liturgical Year – come 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the festival of **Christ, The King**, at which our guest preacher will be **Mr Ben Waters**. Ben gives Scripture lessons (SRE) at Whitebridge High School on our behalf (together with Gateshead and Cardiff high schools) and in his 'spare' time, leads the Youth Group at Warner's Bay Baptist Church together with preaching at that Church. Our leader that day will be Margaret White.

So, a pretty exciting and varied month of **Wonderful Worship** in which we hope you will be able to participate.

**See you in Church!**

# Children & Family Worker Update



**This Sunday** we welcome Jason & Bronwyn for the Baptism of their 3<sup>rd</sup> son Lachlan, we also welcome brothers Angus & Eddie along with Godparents Sabine & Mitchell as well as family & friends.



We pray you enjoy your time with us this morning & that Lachlan will know the love of his church family.

**SRE** - Well we are already into November, the last month of SRE in most schools, for some we only have 3 more weeks, others maybe 4. Please keep our SRE classes in your prayers as the SRE year comes to an end & that the children attending feel that they know Jesus loves them & always cares for them, pray also for all Christmas assemblies, so the birth of Jesus is central to their understanding of Christmas.

Cathy



## Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Will be held at Charlestown Church  
from 10.00am

Join in fellowship and share stories of  
the most significant events in your  
spiritual life



**ALL WELCOME**





## Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 11 November

Leaving the Church at 10.30am for a visit to the Botanical Gardens. Bring a picnic lunch, picnic chair with opportunity to use café if required.

Please let

Sue Warren on 0437 737 793 know if you will be attending.

Transport can be arranged if needed.



## Congregation Directory

It is time for a Directory Update - our opportunity to update your Directory details - especially phone numbers if you have given up your landline.

Please send an email to Paul Russell [pmraus74@gmail.com](mailto:pmraus74@gmail.com) - clearly stating the change - and signing with your name(s) as authorisation.

For brand new entries and if you do not have email access - please complete one of the Change Forms available in the foyer at Charlestown and give to Paul Russell or give to Jenny Cummings \_ Admin Officer.

Any questions - ask Paul Russell 0411236047



# Taking Action & Public Discipleship

Colloquium

**FAITH - BIBLICAL EXEGESIS - TRADITION -  
HISTORY - REASON - EXPERIENCE**

Join a conversation across denomination  
with local leaders & visiting panellists

Rev Mata Hava Hiliau & Dr Michael  
Walker

3 PM FOR 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

Toohey Room, Catholic Diocese of  
Maitland-Newcastle,  
841 Hunter Street

Followed by HCA Delegates Assembly  
6:15 PM-8:15PM



**WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD**

is available for collection, in the foyer,  
for those who subscribe to this booklet



# DELEGATES ASSEMBLY

HUNTER COMMUNITY  
ALLIANCE

FOR THE COMMON GOOD  
OUR STORY, OUR FUTURE

Wed 8 Nov  
6:15pm-8:15pm  
Newcastle West



**RELATIONSHIPS \* LISTENING \* ACTION \* TOGETHER!**



You are invited to join others from across the Hunter in deliberation, listening, commitment and action. The goal of the evening is to build momentum towards the *Founding Assembly* in April 2024.

**Learn** about the Hunter Community Alliance and our agenda for action: affordable & social housing, renewable energy, and a fair energy transition for Hunter communities. Together we will endorse the issues & actions to take public in 2024.

**Act:** Prepare and take action as we head towards the Founding Assembly in 2024.

**Agenda & More Info:** Following registration you will receive an agenda pack.

## Logistics

- Dinner will be available for purchase outside the hall between 5pm-6pm
- There can be limited street parking, nearest parking station is the Newcastle Interchange an 8-minute walk from the station.
- The car park at the venue will be reserved for accessible parking
- The meeting will start on time at 6:15pm and finish promptly at 8:15pm

Register here: <https://events.humanitix.com/hca-delegates-assembly> or use the QR code on the poster.



**Some of our Church Contacts:**

**Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart

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E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

**Administration:**

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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>