



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

13 April 2025

From Rev Tom

This has been a massive week for The Hunter Community Alliance, and of course, that means a great week for the Hunter. So, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the recent Assembly. Your active participation was instrumental in achieving some signature advancements for the Hunter region to date.

Addressing the Housing Crisis - The Hunter region has been facing a pressing housing crisis, with a significant shortage of affordable housing options. The Assembly highlighted the urgent need for action, and I am pleased to report that our advocacy has contributed to securing \$450,000 in funding to kick-start a 'tenant-led renewal' of Hamilton South housing estate. This project is part of much-needed housing support to vulnerable members of our community, marking a significant step forward in the planning process of addressing the housing challenges in our region.

Advocating for Affordable Energy Solutions - In collaboration with the Sydney Alliance, our collective efforts have led to the federal government's announcement of a 30% upfront discount on home battery systems at a cost of \$2.3 billion. This initiative, part of the Cheaper Home Batteries Program set to commence on July 1, 2025, aims to make battery storage more accessible and affordable for households. By enabling residents to store excess solar energy, this program not only reduces electricity bills but also alleviates pressure on the national energy grid during peak times. This achievement underscores the power of community-led action in influencing policy changes that benefit both individuals and the broader environment. Chris Bowen expressed his thanks to the HCA and Sydney Alliance for helping get this through.

Empowering Our Community Through Renewable Energy - One of our notable accomplishments is the progress toward establishing local energy hubs. These hubs are designed to serve as community centres where residents can access information and resources related to renewable energy projects. The Renewable Energy Alliance and the Community Power Agency have been advocating for federal funding to support 50 such hubs nationwide, aiming to enhance community engagement in renewable initiatives. This endeavour is crucial for ensuring that our community remains informed and involved as Australia transitions to cleaner energy sources.

Looking Ahead - These achievements are a testament to what we as a church accomplish when we unite with other groups for a common purpose. However, our work is far from over. We must continue to advocate for equitable access to renewable energy solutions, ensuring that renters, social housing residents, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities are not left behind. Additionally, ongoing efforts are needed to address the housing crisis comprehensively, providing secure and affordable housing for all residents of the Hunter region. What these wins prove is that we can and do make a difference. **Cont. Over.....**

So again, thank you to everyone who attended the Assembly and contributed to these monumental wins for our community. Your support and collective action are showing everyone what we can achieve working together, paving the way for a more sustainable and equitable future in the Hunter region. Well done!!

DIARY

Thursday 10 April

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

Friday 11 April

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah
- 1.00-2.00pm The Quiet Hour at The Willows (see notice further in Contact)

Saturday 12 April

- 8.00am A Men's Breakfast – Give me the Mountain - **With Guest Speaker David Stephenson Managing Director of YWAM**
- 10.30am Friendship Circle – trip to Maitland Art Gallery

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday

- 9.00am The Divine Worship
Leader: Kathy Stuart and Preacher: Rev Tom
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

Tuesday 15 April

- 9.00am Needlework n Natter
- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 17 April – Maundy Thursday

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square
- 6.30pm **Maundy Thursday Service at Garden Suburb Church** with soup and bun afterwards – please let Tom, or someone who will tell Tom, know if you are staying.

Friday 18 April – Good Friday

- 9.00am Service at Charlestown Uniting Church
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1 - 19:42



Sunday 20 April – Easter Day

- 9.00am The Divine Worship at Charlestown Uniting Church
Leader and Preacher: Rev Tom
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Those who are mourning loved ones
- * Mike Warren
- * Kim
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwiddden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * Vicki
- * Pam and Ken
- * Lyn Benson
- * Jean
- * Fred Bryant
- * June Locker
- * Ryan Walpole
- * Kathryn Gray
- * Jacqueline Fenwick
- * Isabella
- * Eileen Dunn
- * Pam and Mert
- * Enid Power
- * Max
- * Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- pray for guidance and discernment
missional use of buildings into the future
- 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
- Young people who struggle to participate
in our school system
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble
spots



Spiritual Practice of the Week

Accountability: Being accountable means that I appropriately and reciprocally disclose struggles, failures and temptations to a godly friend who is committed to asking hard questions, will to challenge, and given to encouragement and prayer.

Practice: Think back over the last three decades about the people that have shaped your faith. List their initials on a piece of paper. Beside each initial describe how they helped you grow. What did they give you? What did they not give you? • What patterns do you see? • Discuss your observations with your accountability partner. • Discuss what you would like to be for one another.

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

Holy Week and Easter Services



Palm Sunday 13 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Maundy Thursday 17 April

6.30pm at Garden Suburb Church

Good Friday 18 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Easter Day 20 April

9am at Charlestown Church

Please Note: The Maundy Thursday service is now starting at the **earlier time of 6:30 pm.**

It will include a light meal of soup and bun.

If people are plan on attending it will be helpful to let Tom know, or tell someone who will let Tom know.



An opportunity - When we returned to Worship after Covid Lockdown, many of our previous practices had to change.

We have had our new normal for quite a while now and I'm sure many would like to see faces other than Margaret and me welcoming you on Sunday mornings. If you could commit to getting to church soon after 8.30 occasionally and would like to be a welcomer, please talk to me. If you have other commitments in our services, I'm sure we can work around them.

Julie Fenwick



Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

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Administration:

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Children & Families Resource Worker:

Mrs Cathy Beeton

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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>