



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

15 October 2023

## The future of the Uniting Church: our take



by Uniting World  
Campaigns, Community Health & Infant Nutrition (Timor  
Leste), News August 24, 2023

Act2 is a major transformational change project focused on shaping the future of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). As part of the Act2 Project, every Uniting Church member, council and community is being invited to take part.

We've contributed our perspective through a [written submission](#), and in an online forum where we were joined by international partners. Rev Dr Cliff Bird from the United Church in the Solomon Islands (UCSI) was a panellist in the forum and shared some generous feedback about what partnership with the UCA has meant to UCSI.

*“Our understanding of mission has evolved since we entered into partnership with the Uniting Church in Australia. It has been broadened and enriched as it has moved from a narrowly spiritualistic understanding to a more holistic understanding,” he said. “We now share a greater focus on practical concerns like ending poverty and violence against women and taking faithful action on climate change. These were not seen as core business of the church, but now they are part of our life and understanding of what it means to follow Jesus.”*

Rev Dr Bird also pointed to how the partnership has strengthened UCSI as an institution. “Our decision-making processes have improved along with our ability to look inwardly. It has resulted in us becoming more accountable and transparent and create more rigorous policies and procedures. We're so grateful to be able to share knowledge and expertise, stories and resources back and forth with our partners in Australia as elsewhere.”

In our written submission to Act2, we highlighted some strengths of the UCA and major challenges as we see it. We also provided some ideas for change and how we and our international partners could help:

*“As Christianity becomes a minority faith in an increasingly diverse and secular Australia, we have much to learn from our partner churches who come from multifaith contexts, and who fight poverty and injustice with dogged determination without diluting their identity as Christians or being reticent about sharing God's desire to know and love all people.”*

# DIARY

## **Thursday 12 October**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community - common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Sq  
11.00am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care  
1.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb

## **Friday 13 October**

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## **Saturday 14 October**

- 12.00 Friendship Circle at Toronto Hotel

## **Sunday 15 October - Pentecost 20**

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader: Margaret White Preacher: Project Reconnect  
*Exodus 32: 1-14; Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4: 1-9; Matthew 22: 1-14*

## **Monday 16 October**

- 10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visit

## **Tuesday 17 October**

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

## **Thursday 19 October**

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

## **Sunday 22 October - Pentecost 22**

- 9.00am Holy Communion Service – Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom  
*Exodus 33: 12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10; Matthew 22: 15-22*

## **Tuesday 24 October**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie  
12.00 Garden Suburb Ladies Fellowship

## **Thursday 25 October**

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

## **Sunday 29 October - Pentecost 21**

- 9.00am Worship Service – Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Celebrating All Saint  
*Revelations 7: 9-17; Psalm 34: 1-10, 22; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12*

## **Tuesday 31 October**

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – Frankie & Co Café at Lake Macquarie  
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at The White House

## **Wednesday 1 November**

- 3.30pm Garden Suburb Property Meeting

O God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rev. Lyndon Harris

# 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

- \* 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
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Mert and Pam
- \* Judith and family
- \* Lorraine Pepper
- \* Enid Power
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* Max

## Congregational Prayer Points

- Tom and Kathy on holiday
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Lease of Whitebridge property
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## Wider Community Prayer Points

- The situation in Israel and Gaza
- The victims and families of the earthquake in Afghanistan
- Consequences of climate change around the world
- Preparations for Voice Referendum – truth telling will be an important priority
- 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


Maintained by SFED and Enid Power



DIANA BUTLER BASS WITH TIM SCORER

# EMBRACING SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Diana Butler Bass on the Dynamics of Experiential Faith*



**Online Study (Zoom)**  
5 Monday's 7:30 pm  
23<sup>rd</sup> Oct – 20<sup>th</sup> Nov

Leader - Rev. Tom Stuart  
tom@thestuarts.id.au

Charlestown &  
Garden Suburb  
Congregation  
of the UCA

Contact Tom for  
details &  
registration:

**A Five-Session  
Study**

## Trauma, Education and the Margaret Jurd College Vision to Change the World

### A Men's Breakfast

Our Speaker will be **Darren Twist**, Principal of Margaret Jurd College. This College, a part of the Uniting Church NSW/ACT specialises in the support of young people who have experienced trauma and mental health concerns in their life often leading to challenging behaviours and exclusion from mainstream education. With demand for such services high, the College, along with its partners and stakeholders, is venturing out on a program of satellite schools specifically designed to support small communities that are experiences a lack of support for their youth.

With a mission, vision and values focus the College aims to Be a benchmark for re-engaging young people in education... acknowledging that we are a unique environment, full of unique and wonderful students that, despite many challenges, leave us enriched.

*Charlestown Uniting Church  
24 Milson St*

**8am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

\$12 RSVP: Paul Russell  
[pmraus74@gmail.com](mailto:pmraus74@gmail.com),  
or 0411 236 047

or sign-up sheet in the foyer.

*Please advise of any special dietary requirements*

**By Wednesday 18 October 2023**

**Church Council Election will take place after  
Worship on 12 November**



**The nominations received are**

Lesley Clulow - Treasurer

Kerrie Dixon - Passionate Worship

Lorraine Pepper - SFED



**Charlestown Friendship Circle**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Lunch at Toronto Hotel at 12.00noon

Please phone

Sue Warren on 0437 737 793

If you wish to be included in the numbers.

Transport can be arranged if needed.





**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>

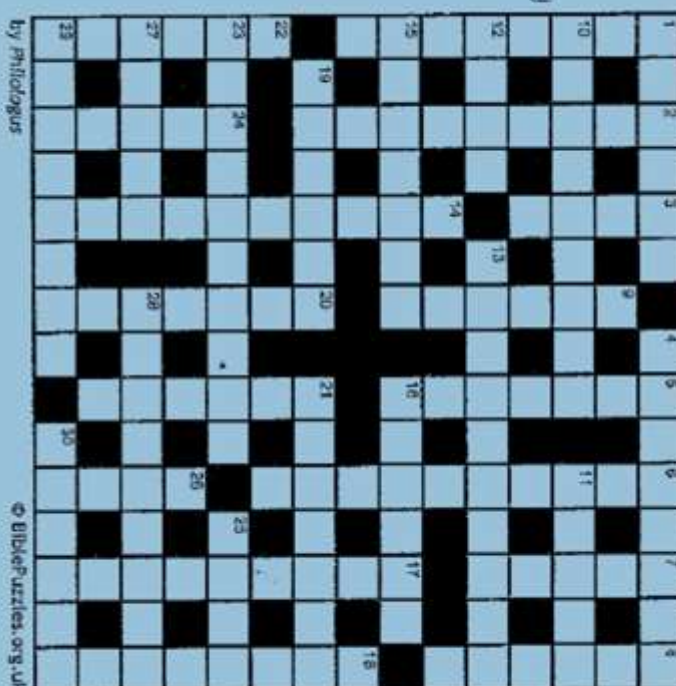
**BIBLE CROSSWORD I**

**Across**

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a \_\_\_ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiation (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

**Down**

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

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- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 He is proud, knowing nothing, but \_\_\_ about questions and strifes of words... (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)