



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

3 November 2024

From Rev Tom

What! We are being invaded by Halloween! So where did Halloween come from? Well, Halloween has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated on October 31. The Celts marked this day as the end of the harvest season and the start of winter – a “liminal” time, meaning a period when the boundary between the living and the dead was thought to thin, allowing spirits to roam the earth. People would light bonfires and wear masks or costumes to ward off wandering spirits. Offerings of food and drink were made to appease the dead and ensure a safe winter. In the 9th Century, Christianity began to influence these Celtic practices. All Saints’ Day (November 1), also called All Hallows’ Day, was established to honour saints and martyrs. The evening before (October 31) became known as All Hallows’ Eve, which evolved into Halloween. So, Halloween is a Christian adaptation of the Celtic festival. The day after All Saints’ Day is All Souls’ Day (November 2), and is a day to pray for the dead, which contributes to the theme of remembering the departed. As Christianity spread across Europe, elements of Samhain blended with All Saints’ and All Souls’ traditions. Customs such as lighting candles and offering food to the poor emerged, reflecting both old and new beliefs. Modern Halloween traditions have gone in many directions, with costumes and masks, trick-or-treating, Jack-o’-Lanterns, bonfires, and Ghost stories. However, it is good to remember that Halloween (even if being a modern import to Australia), All Saints, and All Souls’ Days, are a bit like Christmas. They have significant meaning. Their greatest threat is the loss of meaning through commercialisation. That meaning is around reflecting on the meaning of death as a part of life (not least as we contemplate the meaning of “the communion of the saints”). It is about honouring those who are departed and making explicit our journeys with grief. It is also about being challenged to live the highest values of those we remember as saints, that we too might bring God’s kingdom to earth as it is in heaven.



With Love to the World booklets are available for collection in the foyer for those people who have ordered them

DIARY

Thursday 31 October

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

Sunday 3 November – All Saints' Sunday

- 9.00am Divine Worship
Leader and Preacher: Rev'd Tom
With **Cathy's Children's Corner**

Lighting of Memorial Candles

Isaiah 25: 6-9; Psalm 24; Revelations 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Monday 4 November

- 10.00am Pastoral Care Visitation at Garden Suburb Aged Care Facility
1.30pm SFED
3.30pm Worship Team Meeting at Teralba
7.30pm Girls Night Out at Garden Suburb

Tuesday 5 November

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Thursday 7 November

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

Friday 8 November

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 9 November

- 12 noon Friendship Circle at Toronto Hotel for lunch

Sunday 10 November - Pentecost 25

- 9.00am Divine Worship
Leader: Kathy Stuart Preacher: Rev'd Tom

With Kathy's Opening Praise Section

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Monday 11 November

- 1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 12 November

- 9.30am Uniting in Books at Garden Suburb
10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 13 November

- 10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 14 November

- 10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care



STAMP COMMITTEE REPORT

Sales to date equal \$21,700 – how wonderful!! Please leave your stamps at either of the Churches and Margaret Barlow will collect them to send off.



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

- * Elkin, Clarke and Monaghan families
- * Janice and Don Wright
- * Cathy Beeton
- * Kelly
- * Laraine Chegwidden
- * Tony Sellen
- * Vivianne
- * Lorraine Pepper
- * 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
- * Tom and Kathy
- * Don Humphries

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
- Worship Committee

Wider Community Prayer Points

- Children in the orphanage as MPox is spreading rapidly in Kenya. Pray for vaccines to arrive soon and Pray for Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel, Lebanon and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

3rd November 2024 – Grahamstown - Tea Gardens Uniting Church
Tea Gardens is one of the five churches in the Grahamstown Congregation. We have a membership of around 30 folk who gather to worship God in our Sunday service at 9am. We also have a monthly Taizé service on a Thursday evening, for a time of quiet contemplation. Members run a Living With Grief group twice a month and we conduct a Blue Christmas service as an outreach to those in the community suffering loneliness or loss. An additional activity is a flourishing Toy Library, which keeps us in touch with young families. Our church and hall are fitted with up-to-date audio-visual equipment and as such we have community groups, including U3A, hiring our facilities during the week.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we pray for the people and leaders of the Tea Gardens Uniting Church. Thank you for their faithfulness and commitment to Christ and his church. Bless and use their daily witness in the community and in the use of our church facilities in our town. Pray for us all that God will bless us with a spirit of peace amidst the difficulties and the challenges of the world so that we may be those who radiate love, generosity, forgiveness and hope. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Practicing the Presence: Practicing the presence is an invitation to see and experience every moment as a gift of God. It is to live alive to union with the Trinity.

Practice: When a song comes to mind during the day, pay attention to it. Could this song be a word of God to you? If it is, tell God what it means to you to have him come near you in this way. Or when a person comes to mind, take it as an opportunity to pray for them. Tell God for the goodness you desire for that person.

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

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Placing value on friendship

CAFÉ NIGHT

Date: **Monday 4th November 2024**

Time: 7.30—9.15 pm

Tea & Coffee served from 7.00 pm if you would like to come early to catch up with friends.

Venue: Garden Suburb Uniting Church Prospect Road. Garden Suburb.

Theme: **Surprises**

Guest Speaker: Rachel Jones & Jenna Haddow from St. Dominic's Centre

Donation \$15

Ph. Sue 0425 37 55 28 Cath 0409 44 59 33



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR YOU

to join with the Charlestown and Garden Suburb Congregation
at

CHARLESTOWN UNITING CHURCH

24 Milson St

on

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024

at

9.00am

During the service we will be giving thanks to God for the lives of those who have died during the last twelve months.

Your loved one will be remembered with an especially prepared candle

which you, or a member of your family,
will be invited to light.

As you arrive in the foyer, please collect your candle from the usher.

Morning Tea will be served immediately follow the service.

Please contact Beryl Gaul on graeme.beryl@icloud.com with the name of your loved one, or with any enquires.



Children & Family Worker Update



If you are reading this contact online you will be aware that tomorrow is the 31st October also known as Halloween, if you are reading the printed form, Halloween has past but message is still relevant.

Halloween what are your thoughts? Listening to most people we all hate it but do we or should we?

Halloween is only All Hallows Eve after all.

Yes, the Americans have made it into a big production & some people really take it a bit far.

But all children love getting dressed up & when you have a reason to go out dressed up how good is that.

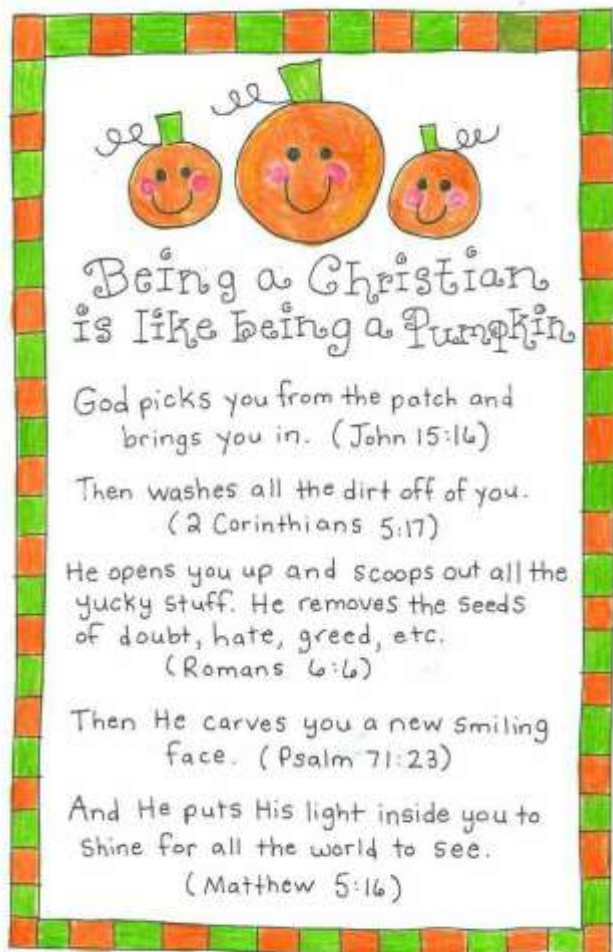
When they knock on your door & say trick or treat are they really going to trick you- of course not it is just what you say.

Do you have to give a treat again no you don't but if you have something little even an apple what a nice connection you are making with that child.

But whatever you do, show the child you're happy to see them, tell them how great they look in their costume.

Let Jesus' Love shine through you to the children in your neighbourhood.

Happy Halloween 😊



Happy Home Fairy

Fresh Expressions

Explore > Form > Connect

Wednesday
6 November
7pm on Zoom



Explore

Explore is a Zoom gathering twice a year to find out more about Fresh Expressions.

Explore

With Carolyn Meers



Our first Explore will feature Carolyn Meers, who will share the joys and challenges of leading a traditional church that has started 3 Fresh Expressions.

Join us to find out more about Fresh Expressions pathways and connect with our Fresh Expressions community.

Contact Karina Kreminski for more information: karinak@nswact.uca.org.au



Explore



Form



Connect



Uniting Church
SYNOID OF NSW & ACT

www.nswact.uca.org.au

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrhpxrp3>

Uniting in Books

Love reading new books

Like to have a chance to find new books

Exchange your books for something different

Join us at

The Community Book Library
At Garden Suburb Uniting Church
Cnr Prospect Rd. & Marshall St

The next date is

12 November 9.30am to 11am





Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 13th November

Will be held at Charlestown
Church from 10.00am

Come have a cuppa and join in
Fellowship with stories and a
laugh

ALL WELCOME



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 9 November

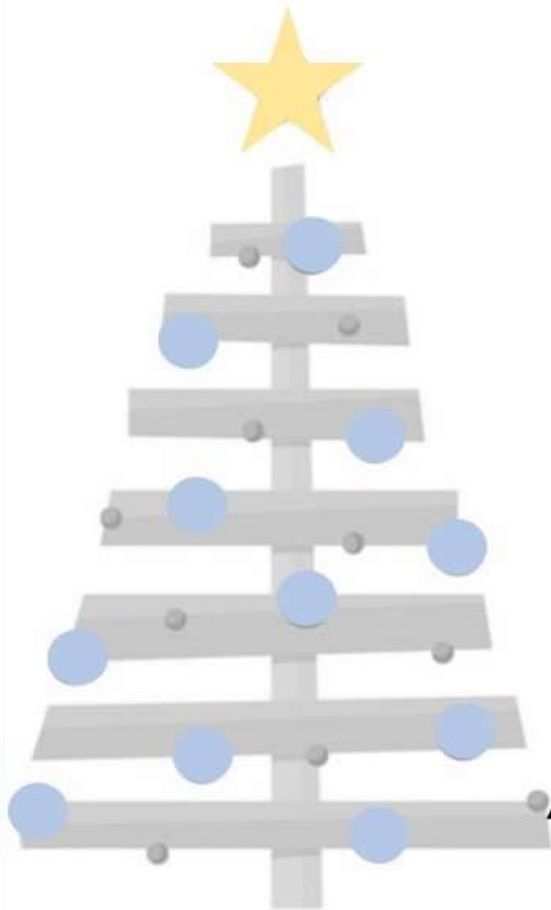
At the beautiful Toronto Hotel for lunch

Meeting at 12.00 noon

All Welcome

Let Sue know if you are coming on
0427 737 793





Quiet Day

"A Quiet Christmas"

Saturday 7 December

9am – 12.30am

Garden Suburb Uniting Church

158 Marshall Street

Cost: \$10

Includes morning tea

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

For information and registrations contact Anne Threlfo: annethrelfo@gmail.com

Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart

M: 0427 625 502

E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019

E: 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

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>