



CONTACT

Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting Church Multi-Centre
Congregation

26 July 2020



From Rev Tom

Last week I described how, rather than getting together for worship on church property, we are starting to organise “Worship Reflection Gatherings” in the homes of members of the congregation. Well, this week I am making an invitation to you to give us a lead as we organise this development. Like I said last week we thought we would have gatherings of 5-8 people. If you would like to host a group then it would be great if you let someone know. The first group to get going is at Robyn and Geoff Greaves place. They will have their first “Gathering” on Thursday 23rd. If you are willing to be a host to a group we can try to find someone who will be the leader, to split the load. The Zoom “Worship Reflection Gatherings” end up being wonderful times of getting together so we expect the physical gatherings will be the same. You can contact me, or Jenny at the office on Wednesdays, or Cathy Beeton, or Anne Threlfo. We will then get organising underway.

I know some people are bursting out of their seams to get back together, while others are in a different space. That is understood. This is a complex time and sensitivity toward one another is needed and difficult. We all respond to the upside-down environment we are in differently. In any case, I pray it is a time where we all learn to rely more and more in God. Gladly, it seems even a pandemic can't prevent good arising from the chaos and that is what I am experiencing so much. People are being so positive, even when with grit determination. I know it all works in each of our lives for the purification of our eternal beings.

Everything works for good in God! Amen.

Weekend OUT, the annual all age weekend event of The Hunter Presbytery and organized this year by the New Lambton Congregation, has had to be **cancelled this year** due to COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions. Weekend OUT is an intergenerational weekend for full and part time participants. It's a time of learning, encouraging Christian discipleship, experiencing community, and fun for children & families, youth and adults with a focus on children and youth.



Church Council News

First Steps in reopening buildings to our Hirers

From 20 July, we will begin to reopen our buildings for Hirers and for those who need to enter to conduct essential business of our congregation. Every group or activity is required to submit a Covid-19 Safety plan to be approved by the Church Council, and lodged with the NSW Synod of the Uniting Church. There have been government requirements, Synod recommendations and our own circumstances to consider, and we have been reminded by Synod that the responsibility of compliance lies with the Church Council. The possible consequences of non-compliance include a heavy fine, or imprisonment. Foremost in our minds is the health and safety of all those who use our buildings, so we do what is required to minimise the risk of transmitting the virus.

Our buildings have all been prepared, signs put up to remind us that only a limited number of people can occupy a space, cleaning protocols and supplies have been provided, and furniture and other items have been reorganised to minimise the amount of cleaning required. There has been a Safety Plan approved to clarify the responsibilities of anyone who needs to enter a building to conduct essential work. You will find a copy of the Safety Plan on the noticeboard when you enter. If I haven't already sent you a copy, please let me know. I'm also very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Discussions with Uniting

The Church Council will have an extra meeting this evening to consider a proposal for the nature of our future engagement with Uniting. The proposal came to us in a letter from Doug Taylor, following our recent meeting with Uniting. Doug is the Deputy Executive Director of Uniting.



The three proposals concern the development of a vision of how CHaGS and Uniting will work together, the utilisation of shared community space at the site versus purpose built space, and the creation of a formal partnership document.

Please continue to hold these discussions in your prayers, and that CHaGS may have the wisdom and courage to step into the places God is preparing for us.

Worship Reflection Groups

The Worship Reflection Groups on Zoom have been a wonderful time of sharing and fellowship. You are welcome to join anytime – let Tom know if you would like to receive the invitation link. If you would like help connecting to Zoom, we may be able to assist you. Let Julie Fenwick or myself know if you need assistance.

Worship Recording

The recording of our worship service will be taking place only at Charlestown from now on. This decision has been made in recognition of the tremendous work in relocating recording equipment each week, with resulting "technical glitches"! It will also help to minimise the Covid-19 cleaning requirements since we will have a dedicated space which will not be used for any other purpose, for the time being.

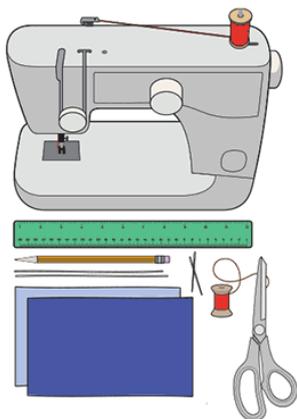
I read this quote recently, and found that for me it resonated with our current circumstances. What do you think? In what ways are we being transformed?
Blessing from

Anne Thurelfo

Church Council Chairperson
Ph: 4953 1300 Mob: 0439 754 376

Grapes must be crushed to make wine. Diamonds form under pressure. Olives are pressed to release oil. Seed grow in darkness. Whenever we feel crushed, under pressure, pressed, or in darkness, we are in a powerful place of transformation. Trust the process. Trust God.
Lalah Delia

MAKING MASKS



Can you sew?

Do you have some spare time to sew masks for the worship team?

There are many versions around – I have a simple one I've made, and can share it with you.

Let me know if you are interested.
Costs will be reimbursed.

Anne Threlfo Ph: 0439 754 376



STOP PRESS: 6mm white elastic is in high demand at the moment and difficult to buy. If you have some in your stash, perhaps you might like to share it. Thanks!

Children & Family Worker Update

Dare I say, life is feeling a little more normal for me at this moment, this week Playcentre returned which was very exciting even if a little different from pre Covid time.

The families who joined us last Tuesday were very excited to be back together with friends & enjoyed the sunshine as the children played, and oh my gosh how those children have grown since we last saw them. If you can, check out our Facebook page.

I also started back at 2 of my scripture classes on Thursday, it was great to be back in the classroom & the lesson suggested by our curriculum provider for a start back lesson, was based on Matthew 6: 25-26. I was able to use the 'Lost Sheep' story 'Bob the Bird' which tells the story from the birds perspective as he flies around wondering why the farmer is worried about his crops, & the butcher is worried about his sausages & profits. The birds friends can't understand it "don't the humans have a God like we do who look after them?" A great story & a great way to let the children know that while we all worry, we need to take our worries to God who will give us peace. This week all SRE classes will resume.

I pray that you all are keeping well, staying safe & connected to others, please call if you would like to chat.

Cathy Beeton

Do not ask God
to guide your
footsteps...
If you're not willing
to move your feet.

For their financial support in
the publication of the
newsletter we thank
**James Murray Funeral
Directors**
02 4961 1435

- * Renewal in our congregation
- * SRE teachers
- * Rev Tom, Kathy & Family
- * Our Children & Family Worker, Cathy
- * Our Church Council
- * The Steering Committee
- * Parents at Whitebridge Play Centre
- * Messy Church
- * Project Reconnect
- * Wilfreda's Orphanage Kenya
- * Watoto Child Care, Uganda
- * Victims of floods, bushfire, damage and droughts
- * Refugees on Nauru
- ◆ Jay O'Reilly and Family
- ◆ Elaine Moran
- ◆ Catherine
- ◆ Shirley
- ◆ Nita
- ◆ The bereaved
- * All those who are unwell



Prayer points maintained by Enid Power

Some of our Church Contacts:

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Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

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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>