

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Ian's Update— March 2022

NEW THINGS

We've heard the term new normal often over the last 2 years. The new normal is something we have been waiting to see for a long time. The talk about new normal has been helping people accept that we would never go back to the old normal—our pre-pandemic normal. The desire for *all the lock-downs, isolations, border closures and restrictions to be over so that we can go back to the way things used to be* has been frequently said and heard.

While scripture encourages us to put away or not cling to the things of the past, many of us must pass through grief before we perceive the possibility of a new thing. As we transition, we can anticipate that it will include grieving for the way things were and anger that things are not the way that we want them to be.

The documented stages or behaviours of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. We will need to support each other when we encounter these behaviours in ourselves and others.

We still do not have a clear picture of the new normal and, just in case we thought we could define it, there are now other forces at work that could cause major upheavals at a world-wide level.

In this issue, I will touch on things that have happened over the last 2 years that have significant impacts on our new normal. I hope that this will help you to encourage each other as we go through this time of transition.

BUT THE LORD SAYS, "DO NOT CLING TO EVENTS OF THE PAST OR DWELL ON WHAT HAPPENED LONG AGO. WATCH FOR THE NEW THING I AM GOING TO DO. IT IS HAPPENING ALREADY –YOU CAN SEE IT NOW! I WILL MAKE A ROAD THROUGH THE WILDERNESS AND GIVE YOU STREAMS OF WATER THERE.

ISAIAH 43:18-19

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Love God Love People

Tuggeranong Baptist Church

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Electronic giving

Direct Deposit to: BSB 704 922,
Account: 100 014 987
Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

Elders/Corporation Committee

Ian Reid (President)
Rob James (Vice President)
Mike Ashford (Secretary)
Craig Leon



Changes that shape our new normal

1. Church Administration and Communication

When our Associate Pastor, Paul Massen, retired just as the pandemic commenced, we searched for ways to automate some of our activities and found a number of websites where prayer requests could be entered and by the person and deployed to the intercessors. This simple search led us to the Church Central solutions that deliver our Website and App. We were told of the feedback from one church administrator was that she saved 8 hours per week since using the app/website.



Our website and app are not simply an electronic church notice board as was the case with our previous websites, but a live, interactive, administration and communication tool.

The app and, a little later, the website came on-line in time for use as a booking system for Sunday services when numbers were governed by COVID restrictions.

About Events and RSVPs

Events are advertisements for things that are coming up. RSVP options are added to some of the events so that we can set up the class, room or catering. This helps the organisers to make your experience and that of others attending more pleasant. There's always room at events for a few extra people who make a last minute decision to come.

Further benefits of the system are that you can update or delete your RSVP and that you can automatically add the event to your calendar. However, you need to use the same device (website or app) that you used to RSVP if you want to update.

The content of the website and app are created simultaneously—everything that is on the app is on the website so there is no extra time or effort to keep the messages consistent.

The organisers of Events, extract a list of people from the system to help with the preparations. If all of the RSVPs are stored in the one system this process is very quick. The old system meant that the organisers had to assemble expected attendee list from a number of sources.

The Events replace our old systems of physical sign-up sheets and emails that organisers have used in the past.

All official Church Events use this method of advertising, inviting people and gathering responses to invitations. Exceptions are made for people who cannot use this electronic method of communication.

About the More tab

This is where you find a host of information about us, how things are done, our team of leaders, groups and various administrative forms.

If you have been attending Tuggeranong Baptist Church for a number of years, It's worth checking out this part of the site for current information as some things may have changed over the last couple of years.



About Create an Account

This function will, in time, supercede the way that we maintain our church database. Each person adds themselves to our database by creating an account.

Adding yourself to special interest mailing lists: When you create our account, you choose when you want to receive notifications—such as Newsletters from the Hay family. This means that you will not receive messages that are not of interest to you. You can opt in or out of groups at any time.

If you choose the option *Stay Logged in* when you create our account, your details are defaulted whenever you RSVP.

About News

We use this area for announcements and to publish newsletters from our mission partners.

Communications to you

The App and Website, allow us to communicate with you quickly using the Notifications system especially if you have the app loaded on your smartphone. As more people create their accounts, we will rely more on this communications tool.

You can access the Safe Church training forms you may need. Word versions of forms are available upon request. Only PDFS can be stored in the App/Website.

Communications from you

You are able to let us know that you are coming to events or you can cancel or update your RSVP. You can type your prayer request using the [compose prayer request](#) function and we will know that you give permission for information about you to be published and we can send the request direct to the phones of the Prayer Team.



You can send email from the app/website using the Enquiry Option or the form on the Home page of the website or App.

Help with Administration and Communication

To gain the possible savings in administration and use of your time, we ask you to engage with the possibilities that the App and Website offer.

If you need help with connecting to and using the website, please let us know and we will organise help for you. Send a message to events@tbcchurch.com.au or the Enquiry option in the App/Website.

2. Safe Church policies—a new approach to volunteering (serving)

Our Safe Church Policies were endorsed in August 2020. This means that to be eligible to volunteer or serve in any role in the church you must meet requirements

The new way of recruiting volunteers comply with the Australian Child Safe standards which were developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Each state/territory is responsible to incorporate these principles into their legislation.



Volunteer Workforce team

We need to build a volunteer workforce team of people who can be allocated to a range of tasks.

Here are the many tasks that you may be able to help with:

- Perform minor maintenance of the church's property
- Participate in major projects
- Clean – on a regular or irregular basis
- Cater or serve at catered events
- Transport vulnerable adults to church services, health appointments or shopping
- Undertake Gardening Tasks
- Help with administrative tasks
- Remove prunings or excess furniture or other clutter from the property using own or hired vehicle/trailer
- Pick up or dispose of donated items (not required) using your own trailer or vehicle
- Assist church or other community members with gardening, home repairs
- Teach a skill to adults or children on an ad-hoc basis
- Maintain church-owned equipment
- Receive/count offering
- Greet and usher
- Control Flow/traffic at events
- Tidy away after services/events and disposal of rubbish
- Host outside use of the building – including preparing and tidying spaces after the event
- Mow footpaths as part of a team
- Prune trees on an annual basis
- Clear drains on the property after leaf fall annually
- Switch off air-conditioning, lights, heating and locking the building after events
- Maintain supplies (catering and cleaning) in each room/space in the building

If you believe that God is calling to you serve, contact events@tbcchurch.com.au and follow the [steps to volunteering](#) including watching the [Safe Church Induction training](#).

New activities and some activities that we were used to may not commence without sufficient volunteer s.

3. Special Assembly follow up

The Gathering including the General Assembly will be on 14 May 2022 and you may register to attend as a non-voting member [here](#). The local venue is at Canberra Baptist Church.

Taskforce 1 to implement the 60/40 vote in favour of the motions passed at the Special Assembly in February was to seek feedback on several questions. Our input re-iterated our reasons that we shared prior to attending the and voting against the motions at the Special Assembly.

There is a groundswell of appeal to the Assembly Council via the Taskforce to discontinue the process until further work is done. The Open Letter linked from the email copied below states the case well.

I commend this message which contains the feedback provided to Taskforce 1 and the Open Letter it includes for your consideration.



From: "Graeme Anderson" <Graeme@northsidebaptist.org.au>
Date: 24 February 2022
To: undisclosed-recipients;
Cc:
Subject: BeBaptist - Open Letter to Task Force 1

Dear friends,

Following the decision made at the Baptist Association NSW/ACT Special Assembly last February we invite you to read this letter (the letter can be accessed by clicking the link). This letter is our submission to Task Force 1 which we wish to make available for all in our Association to read - primarily in the interest of transparency. It may also be a letter you wish to put your name to or share and discuss with others in your community.

We are in support of Task Force 1 and are grateful for the time the Task Force has given to listen to us. Task Force 1, the Director of Ministries, and Assembly Council are each aware of this letter and our intention to share this letter among the Association in this way.

If you have any questions, please do feel free to contact us. We would also be very happy to meet with you (either in person or online) and others in your region to discuss issues we have outlined. We will also be in contact with each Regional Minister to discuss appropriate ways of pursuing these conversations.

God is with you

Rev Graeme Anderson
Rev Mark Beresford
Ps John Cavanaugh
Rev Andrew Dodd
Ps Josh Dowton
Rev Belinda Groves
Rev Scott Higgins
Ps Will Small
Rev Phil Waugh
Rev Graeme Anderson
Rev Phil Waugh

4. COVID Smart Behaviours—Protect Yourself and Others

The eased restrictions that came into play on 25 February 2022, place the onus on each of us individually to be COVID Smart rather than holding the organization of Places of Worship responsible for putting measures to ensure and/or monitor the behaviours of attendees.

Our obligations now are to have and to implement our own [COVID Safety Plan](#). This can be found on App/Website.

Because we wish to allow [singing](#), the plan includes the use of the system of booking to advertise the measures in place and to gather details of who will be attending so that we create a seating plan each week that allows individuals or groups of people who know each other (associate frequently) to be distanced 1.5m apart as required under the restrictions.

5. Health measures—COVID Smart behaviours

In an Update dated 1 April 2022, Acting ACT Chief Health Officer Dr Vanessa Johnston said

"As we move into autumn I remind people to keep up their COVID Smart behaviours. Stay home if unwell, wash your hands and wear a mask indoors or anywhere you can't physically distance. Make sensible choices to help protect yourself and those around you."



“Remaining COVID Smart helps reduce the spread of the virus and means we can keep doing the things we enjoy,” she said.

ACT Health Winter Preparedness Update of 12 March responded to the meeting of the National Cabinet discussion on [Winter Preparedness](#).

The ACT may need to tighten health measures in response to a new COVID-19 variant, particularly if increased transmission leads to pressure on health system capacity. Any new restrictions will be proportionate to the level of risk, with a focus on reducing impacts on our hospital and public health systems and protecting vulnerable Canberrans.

Should the situation deteriorate, we will move promptly to respond. As we have seen throughout the pandemic, it would be too late to introduce stronger measures if our hospital system is overwhelmed.

Our past experiences have equipped us to tighten measures if the Public Health advice requires us to do so.

6. A/V advances

At the beginning of the pandemic, we purchased a camera and upgraded other technology. We recorded services and, as we plan to continue with in-person services that can accommodate all of our congregation, we now make video recordings of the sermon when it is preached on Sundays.

During the 2 years, our congregation numbers have been increased by the on-line attendance of people in other parts of Australia and overseas.

Our teaching resources are used by small country churches and individuals here and overseas. Missions outreach that uses very little resource.

We retain the ability to switch to on-line services whenever an emergency demands.

Other news

NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

The Attendee Survey was completed on line by 110 adults and we will share the report when it arrives. In addition a Leadership Survey was completed by some and a Church Census has been finalised to complete our bundle of statistics that will be analysed and become part of a Nation-Wide report. The number of Children's Surveys completed may be too small for a report to be compiled.

ACTIVITIES SINCE OUR LAST UPDATE

The **CAP Money Course** was conducted via Zoom, the **Op Shop** has been trading, **Connect for Craft**, the **Boys' and Girls' Brigade** operated, and the first **Explorers** meetings occurred.

The **Worship team** has practiced and played at our services and the **Transition and COVID Safety teams** have prepared the building and supported our services and the **Garden** is a continual blessing to us as we enter the property.

We've said goodbye and thanked our good neighbour who mowed our footpaths, without being asked during the last 2 years.

JENKE CIRCUIT UPDATE

The Crown Lease for the land on which our previous stood has now been transferred from the Association of Baptist Churches of the ACT Inc. to Tuggeranong Baptist Church Inc. was registered on 30 March 2022. This has been a long process that will simplify the process of disposal of the land in the future.



OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION—COMING HOME

Michele and Flora are [Coming Home](#). Flora will travel with a Rwandan passport and a permanent residency Visa. They will leave Kigali in June and Flora has already ordered chocolate pudding and hugs from her Australian grandparents when she arrives here.



Coming up

OUR PARTNERS IN MISSION—HOME ASSIGNMENT FOR THE HAY FAMILY

The [Hay family](#) are here (in Canberra) on Home Assignment and we will be able to catch up with them on Sunday 24 April when they will share some of what has been happening in their ministry at iKhetelo Children's Village, South Africa.



They will be our guests at Explorers on Tuesday 5 April. It will be a great time to get to know them. You are invited to attend this meeting. Let us know that [you are coming](#) so that we can prepare a place for you.

GOOD FRIDAY MORNING TEA

The Event where you can book to come to the Good Friday service will help us place our order for buns to be served after the service. As we need to place the order with the bakers early in the week, the bookings will close on Sunday 10 April 2022. Book [here](#).

I encourage you to take some time in Holy Week (the days between Palm Sunday and Good Friday) to reflect on the events that lead to salvation and reconciliation with the Father being available to all.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:16 NIV)

EASTER SERVICES

Our services are both at 10:00 am.

As COVID restrictions will still be in place, please book to attend the services so that seating can be arranged so that we can allow singing.



For a [7-Day Holy Week Devotion](#) follow this link .



AN EASTER REFLECTION

Good Friday and Easter—reflection

At first glance, the cross of Jesus stands as a picture of powerlessness. The man who hangs on the cross is dying in shame, condemned by the authorities with that exact maximum punishment for crimes against the state. But this is the same man who has fed the hungry, healed the sick and yes, even raised the dead. How could it have all gone so wrong?

Yet take another, longer look at Jesus on the cross and you will also see a very powerful victory. Jesus was innocent of the crimes he was executed for. In fact, he was innocent full stop.

Being nailed to a cross outside Jerusalem was not a mistake ... it was the plan. God's plan to pay the price and make a way for you and me to have a personal relationship with God.

Forever.

And so, we see the power in the seemingly powerless circumstances of a truly innocent man — innocent of everything — being executed on my behalf and your behalf.

God has done the work. He has made the way. The gift of eternal relationship with God is being offered with outstretched arms. The choice is yours.

You do not have to earn it ... it is not for sale. You do not have to get prepared ... he wants to meet you just as you are. There is nothing between you and God except your willingness to accept his gift.

But all this could not have happened if Jesus — the truly innocent man — did not die on a cross and then rise to life again three days later.

That is why we celebrate Easter!!

AGM 1 MAY 2022

This year's Annual General Meeting will be at the Garratt St Centre and will follow our service on Sunday 1 May, 2022.

A separate Notice of Meeting has been sent to you including the Audited Financial Statements and Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.

The meeting will commence at 11:30 or after the service finishes, whichever is the earlier.

Acceptance of the Minutes of last year's AGM and the Audited reports are the Agenda items. Questions/agenda items relating to the Audited Reports must be submitted by 17 April 2022 to projects@tbcchurch.com.au.

Membership: Only Members of the church are able to vote at the AGM. If you wish to become a member, contact me.

A **Congregational Meeting** will follow the formal AGM.

This is a catch-up meeting to mark our coming together again after the 2 years of the pandemic.

Plans for the meeting are yet to be finalised.



JOB OPPORTUNITY AT C&MA OFFICE

The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia Office is inviting expressions of interest in the role of Financial Assistant in our Office for an immediate start. Send a message to evens@tbcchurch.com.au to request a copy of the job description.

TEACHING THEME

The themes planned for May is The [Cost of NOT](#).....

FINANCE

The Church's financial year is from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022. The budgeted figure for Offerings to meet our Annual Expenses is \$270,000.

Analysis of Offerings from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022				
Date	Total Offering received	BFS direct transfer	Westpac direct transfer	Cash deposited at Bank
30/10/2021	\$14,291.00	\$12,951.00	\$1,340.00	
30/11/2021	\$15,004.00	\$13,029.00	\$1,975.00	
30/12/2021	\$26,016.00	\$24,676.00	\$1,340.00	
31/01/2022	\$14,535.00	\$12,570.00	\$1,965.00	
28/02/2022	\$17,909.00	\$16,579.00	\$1,140.00	\$190.00
31/03/2022	\$14,831.00	\$13,691.00	\$1,140.00	
30/04/2022				
31/05/2022				
30/06/2022				
31/07/2022				
31/08/2022				
30/09/2022				
Totals	\$102,586.00	\$93,496.00	\$8,900.00	\$190.00

THE LAST WORD

The giving and receiving of eggs has been a common custom throughout history. It is a symbol of the transformed or new life.

This year, Easter occurs at a time when our church, our nation and our world are being born into a new way of living.

Do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone to discuss how you are doing with this transition. My contact details are on the front page.

Blessings

Ian Reid,

Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church

For the Leadership Team

Love God Love People



