

Date change for reopening the Auditorium for Sunday Services

Last week the Leadership Team took the decision to delay re-opening the Auditorium at the Garratt St Centre until we run a one-month trial commencing on **18 October 2020** which is the Sunday following the commencement of School Term 4.

This date is subject to changes in restrictions and the course of the pandemic.

The Transition Team, that is navigating our way through the process of opening up the building in a COVID Safe way and preparing spaces and infrastructure, did an in-depth study of what is needed to give the best possible experience for those attending our first new normal physical service, incorporating the current restrictions, and concluded this extension is necessary..

Questions being asked:

1. *Are you back yet?*
 2. *When are we going back?*
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While these questions are on the lips of many and relate to many facets of pre-COVID-life, being back is not necessarily a measure of success and I was able to tell the Leadership team of the reports from a number of my colleagues in ministry who lead churches that *have been back* but who then had to *close again*.

The Association of Baptist Churches in NSW & ACT continue to recommend a very cautious approach to opening and the NSW Government is tightening their recommendations also. Last Friday, they increased the distance between congregation and singers to 5 metres and strongly recommended the wearing of masks in addition to the 1.5mtr distancing rule. Prohibitions on singing and limiting the number of singers on the platform to 1 also apply.

Being back is not our goal – going forward is!

Gradual return to physical Sunday services – 4 week trial

We do indeed live in uncertain times and that is why it was decided to begin our return with a four-week trial rather than to make a commitment to a permanent return to physical services, at this time.

The trial has been designed to provide the best possible experience to those who attend and then, to make an assessment and determine the way forward.

Daily, we are coming closer to the understanding that: We are NEVER GOING BACK – we are GOING FORWARD TO A NEW NORMAL!

The Four Week Trial

What we are trialling?

1. Can we provide a safe environment?
2. Can we observe the COVID Safe rules – particularly 1.5 mtr rule?
3. Will we find the new normal physical Sunday church service experience attractive enough to want to keep coming?

What are the main things we have to do to comply with health restrictions or recommendations?

1. Control the number attending within the prescribed limits
2. Ensure the safety of those who are in attendance
3. Love our church family by behaving in the ways that have been identified as helping to slow the spread of the Coronavirus.

1. Control the number attending within the prescribed limits - the App

We are developing a new website and an app that can be installed on your mobile device. The App will be released before the new website. Using the App, you will be able to book to come to church and to other events which, in turn means that we can take measure to ensure your safety when you are in the building.

We will be in contact with everyone listed on the church database to let you know about downloading the app and finding the church App in the next week or so.

What's already there?

When you download the App you will find the following content ready for you. Happy reading!

Heading	What you can see
About	Information about us.
Events	Advertises some upcoming events – and allows you to register for the event. This where you will book to come to church. The Event for the church service is not yet loaded but you can use the Test Event to see how it will work.
Groups	Details our various groups, what they do and allows you to contact the facilitator or the group.
Messages	Stores the recorded church services from the beginning of the GOD is.. series.
News	Various items of current news.
Newsletters	Stores copies of Ian's Update.
Prayer Requests	The place for you to write your prayer request. Notification that there is a new request is then sent to all who sign up to pray. TEXT MESSAGES SHOULD NO LONGER BE SENT PAUL BUT MESSAGES SHOULD BE RECORDED IN THIS PART OF THE APP.
Reflections	Stores a collection of material for your reflection. Includes prayers through the ages and articles previously on our website.
Team Members	Information about the church staff. Information about other leaders displays with the group they facilitate.

2. Ensure the safety of those who are in attendance

Why is the distance 1.5 –about droplets

Droplet infection from coughing and sneezing travel 1.5 mtr (average) before dropping onto hard surface where it remains active for 72 hours or a soft surface where it remains active for 24 hours.

The work of marking the floors and positioning seating in the Auditorium, in line with the distancing rule will gain momentum next week.

What about singing and about masks – the aerosol case

Aerosols are **created** by signing, loud voices and exhaling and travel great distances before being inhaled by another person or finally dropping to the ground. Therefore, congregational singing is discouraged.

Masks are now highly recommended by Association and government authorities but are not a substitute for the 1.5 metre distancing.

You choose whether or not to wear a mask and are responsible for providing your own mask

- The church will not distribute cloth masks – you must choose for yourself the style of mask that you think is safest for you.
- Some sewers in the church may be prepared to make a mask for you but they cannot give any guarantee about whether a particular mask is best for you
- The Victorian government when mandating masks, said something is better than nothing even if it's covering your face with a scarf.

What we will do

A Schedule has been prepared that covers:

- Mark out spaces and traffic flow patterns. Work commences in the coming week. More volunteers are welcome and should send a message to the events@tbcchurch.com.au email address.
- Recruit and train people to guide people through the physical Sunday morning experience. Role descriptions have been finalised. Recruitment will start next week.
- Provide clean and hygienic facilities. The schedule includes an incremental approach to preparing and deep cleaning the space. People who have already volunteered to help with this task will be contacted soon. More volunteers are welcome.

3. Love our church family by behaving in the ways that have been identified as helping to slow the spread of the Coronavirus.

The COVID Safe Warden and their team, at each service, will guide you through the physical Sunday service experience to ensure the flow of people through the building, the screening and signing of the visitor book, seating and, after the service, they will help you to remember not to gather in conversational clusters that do not comply with the distancing rules.

After the service socialising

The building will be closed soon after the conclusion of the service, so that post-service cleaning can be done.

You are encouraged to *organise to have coffee or lunch off-site* after the service – at a coffee shop, restaurant or in your homes.

Church on-line

A service will be pre-recorded each week and released on our website each Sunday.

People who choose to continue with Church on-line in their homes are similarly encouraged to share some time with others when and where they feel safe.

The Joy of Serving

There is no greater service that you can do right now than to keep yourself and others safe.

If you can safely volunteer to help with the tasks being managed by the Transition team over the next few weeks, you will find that the team has a great time as they work together. Volunteer if you can.

The worship team has met now for 20 Tuesday evenings to rehearse and then to record the Sunday services. It's been a joy work with them to lead you to worship God in your homes and other places.

The Hay family are serving in iKeltho Children's Village under very trying circumstances with a succession of easing and then tightening of restrictions and interrupted supplies of electricity and water. The schools that the children have closed and opened and closed again a number of times.

The Malones, now located in Melbourne prepare for their new work and find themselves unable to follow their original plans and are seeking God's wisdom and guidance.

The privilege of Praying

Consider joining in prayer for:

- Continued energy to flow for those executing the plan for the trial
- The spiritual, emotional, and physical wellbeing of those known to us and those not known to us as God brings them to your mind.
- Wisdom will flow to those in governments and business as they plan towards economic recovery and the relief of those under great financial stress.

'Love the Lord your God with every passion of your heart, with all the energy of your being, and with every thought that is within you.' This is the great and supreme commandment. And the second is like it in importance: 'You must love your friend[c] in the same way you love yourself.' [Matt 22:27-39 TPT]

The blessing of thankfulness

Give thanks that God has continued to provide for us individually and that you have been able to continue to return your offerings as recorded:

Analysis of Giving from 1 October 2019 to 27 August 2020							
Date	Total Direct Deposits only	BFS direct transfer	Westpac direct transfer	iGive	iGive Credit Card	Morning Offerings	Total giving each month
31/10/2019	\$11,484.00	\$2,734.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,550.00	\$3,300.00	\$8,291.55	\$19,775.55
30/11/2019	\$16,698.00	\$2,968.00	\$3,030.00	\$9,120.00	\$1,580.00	\$8,716.00	\$25,414.00
31/12/2019	\$9,678.00	\$2,273.00	\$1,985.00	\$3,170.00	\$2,250.00	\$10,706.65	\$20,384.65
31/01/2020	\$8,876.00	\$2,321.00	\$1,825.00	\$3,080.00	\$1,650.00	\$8,004.00	\$16,880.00
29/02/2020	\$11,460.00	\$2,860.00	\$1,900.00	\$3,150.00	\$3,550.00	\$7,629.10	\$19,089.10
31/03/2020	\$11,113.00	\$4,078.00	\$2,695.00	\$3,090.00	\$1,250.00	\$7,462.40	\$18,575.40
30/04/2020	\$17,142.00	\$8,412.00	\$2,360.00	\$3,820.00	\$2,550.00	\$0.00	\$17,142.00
Cash Boost	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00
31/05/2020	\$21,362.00	\$10,862.00	\$2,910.00	\$4,590.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$21,362.00
30/06/2020	\$20,356.00	\$9,221.00	\$2,105.00	\$4,400.00	\$3,880.00	\$750.00	\$21,106.00

Jobkeeper	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00					\$9,000.00
31/07/2020	\$17,829.00	\$10,459.00	\$3,080.00	\$1,740.00	\$2,550.00		\$17,829.00
27/08/2020	\$17,354.00	\$8,744.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,790.00	\$3,320.00		\$17,354.00
Total	\$171,202.00	\$73,932.00	\$36,290.00	\$37,970.00	\$23,010.00	\$51,559.70	\$233,911.70

Here are our bank details for **internet banking**

BSB 704 922

Account: 100 014 987; and

Account Name: Tuggeranong Baptist Church

How to make a cash deposit into the church bank account:

You can use the **Cardless Deposit** option available at the major bank's ATMs.

You need to have a mobile phone with you as you will be sent an SMS part way through the process.

You cannot deposit cash.

You can load a single note or bundle of notes at same time and then you watch the machine count the cash.

You receive a code via SMS that you need to type in.

The machine issues you with a receipt.

The account details are different and are:

BSB: 032-636

Account: 125788

Please contact me, one of the Leadership or Connect teams or a trusted Christian to share any feelings of anxiety or other concerns you may have.

Blessings,

Ian Reid

Lead Pastor, Tuggeranong Baptist Church

for the Leadership Team

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