

# Tuggeranong Baptist Church

## Ian's Update— May 2022

### STEP FORWARD—FAITH REQUIRES ACTION

David Hay's message to us when he visited with the family, was about his call to the overseas mission field and how he had learned, in his life, that faith requires action as we are told in the epistle of James. The message brought together elements from my previous series *This is the way* that taught on various actions that lead to maturity.

The message also acts as a springboard into our future as David mentioned to us that, in a similar experience to that of Jonah, God spoke to him a second time, 30 years after the first call. He then followed with action that led to the work that he, Janenne and Rachel are doing in South Africa.

We now find ourselves at the close of an era with an uncertain and unforeseen future about to commence. We are in the messy stage of transition right now.

And we are open to that new beginning!

It was heartening to the leadership to read the NCLS

Summary Profile for Tuggeranong Baptist Church which showed that 91% agree that you will support the development of new initiatives in the ministry and mission of our local church.

David reminded us that faith is a muscle that needs to be exercised to produce maturity and that indicators are in our priorities in the areas of finance, thought, time and energy.

We are in a good position to take up the challenge David brought to step forward, take action and then see what God will do!

I join him in his encouragement to us to spur one another on to love and good deeds. [Heb 10:24].

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

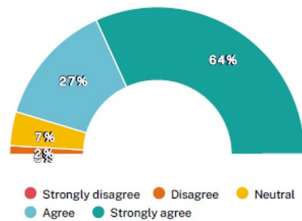
### Elders/Corporation Committee

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

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91% agree that they would support the development of new initiatives in the ministry and mission of this local church



## PROTECT YOURSELF—PROTECT OTHERS

As case numbers and deaths have reached record highs this week, 3 more sub-variants of the Omicron strain have been identified in Australia and, at the same time, cases of flu are increasing, they provide evidence of what many of us know and have said —that the pandemic is not over even as the Emergency Declaration and its associated restrictions are coming to a close.

As mentioned in the last *Update*, we are now being held responsible ourselves rather than have our COVID Safety team responsible monitoring a set of prescribed behaviours.

### OUR SMALL STEPS FORWARD

When we are able to do so, the following will be in place:

- Sanitiser and disinfectant wipes will be available
- Distanced seating
- Wearing of masks will be encouraged because we wish to sing
- Greetings at the door will **not include the shaking of hands or other physical greetings**. COVID Safety team members will be re-deployed into the roles of Greeters as they are fully trained in COVID Safety and Safe Church and Infection Control.
- No receiving of physical offerings or morning tea

If people wish to exchange physical greetings within the body of the Auditorium, they may wish to sanitise their hands frequently especially between greetings so as not to unknowingly spread infection throughout the church family. Remember infection is spread during your infectious period which is usually **before** you have symptoms.

### OUR CAUTION WELL FOUNDED

In a press release about Flu Vaccinations on 29 April, 2022, the Health Minister urged us to continue our COVID-Smart behaviours and said:

*“It is expected that the relaxing of restrictions and the return of international arrivals will drive an increase in flu and other respiratory illnesses this winter, but there’s plenty Canberrans can do to stay as healthy as possible,” Minister Stephen-Smith said.*

*“One of the best things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your community is to make sure you are up to date with your vaccinations. That means getting a flu vaccination as well as any COVID-19 vaccinations that you might be eligible for, including booster shots.*

*“We should all continue to practise COVID-smart behaviours, such as staying home if unwell, physical distancing and good hand hygiene. I encourage everyone to consider wearing a face mask at public indoor settings or where it is difficult to maintain physical distancing. These behaviours will also help protect against the flu and other respiratory illnesses.*

*“Influenza can be really serious. In severe cases, it can result in permanent disability or death.*



## COVID UPDATE—TRANSITION TO A NEW NORMAL—START DATE

We have been setting our sights on 13 May 2022 as the date after which things might begin to prepare for changes for our Sunday gatherings. We have planned a very gradual and cautious approach. Just as it took weeks to set up our building, before it could be open for Sunday services, it will take time to be reconfigured and set things in place for our various other activities as well.

The 13th May 2022 is the date set for the end of the Public Emergency Declaration which would probably have the flow-on effect of revoking the associated Public Emergency (Restricting Gatherings and ) under which we operate.

However, in a conversation with the *Access Canberra Business Liaison Line* on 5 May, no assurance could be given that we would not need a *COVID Safety Plan* after 13 May as the government has not yet provided any detail about what is to happen after 13 May and caution about the rising numbers and the possible impacts of the 'flu season were mentioned by the team member.

We were advised to continue to check the *ACT Health COVID Website* where [Updates](#) will be published when government announcements are made.

The caution on the part of the hotline officer reflects what is in the latest published Update of the *ACT Chief Health Officer—Report 24—March 2022*. Things have escalated since then and the [April Report](#) can be found here when it is published.

*ACT Health is undertaking extensive work in preparation for the onset of winter, where it is highly likely that the ACT will see ongoing community transmission and further waves of COVID-19, particularly as vaccination and infection-derived immunity declines, as well as the emergence of the influenza season.*

### Recommendation

*As Acting Chief Health Officer, I advise the Minister for Health that the public health emergency declaration should remain in place due to the ongoing significant public health risk which is currently posed by COVID-19.*

*Although relatively stable at this time, if the pandemic situation should deteriorate due to a new variant or with the onset of winter, and this aligns with an anticipated low to moderate influenza season, a quick assessment of the projected impact will be required and rapid action taken to reduce virus transmission, protect populations at high risk of complications and minimise social and economic disruption. Tightened PHSMs will need to be implemented quickly.*

*Currently, it remains necessary to maintain effective TTIQ measures and low level PHSM to minimise the transmission of the Omicron variant in the ACT and protect vulnerable Canberrans. This recommendation is consistent with other Australian jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, which continue to maintain emergency status or similar at this time, with a focus on suppression for the purpose of minimising transmission within high risk settings and among vulnerable population cohorts.*

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

**RESTRICTIONS MAY  
HAVE EASED BUT YOUR  
RESPONSIBILITY HASN'T**



Maintain good  
hand hygiene



Stay 1.5m  
apart



Stay home if  
you are unwell



Get tested if you have  
symptoms of COVID-19

Love God Love People



## REFRESH THE APP WHEN YOU OPEN

Changes are likely to have happened since you last opened the Church Central App and this means that when you open the app you are looking at the same view of it (or content) that was on your phone last time you looked. You need to Refresh the view that is on your screen.



Otherwise this happens...

Several people have advised that ***my app is not working*** in a couple of ways,

A. *It's not showing the Event for the Sunday service (or other item they expect to see).*

1. The reason that this happens is that you need to Refresh your screen whenever you go into the app.
2. To do this, press on the right hand side of the screen (the images) swipe down and you will see a message *Release to refresh..* and a message telling you when the last updated.

Follow these steps and you will find that the content has been updated.

B. I can't see the prayer request that I submitted

1. The reasons that this happens include:
  - You have not selected the Option Stay logged in when you set up your profile (created the account in the app)
  - You may have omitted to choose *Prayer Team* as one of your options.  
Many prayer requests are published only to our prayer team as the requesters do not want the prayer request to be seen by everyone including casual visitors to our website.
  - You logged off before you exited the app.
2. To fix this:
  - Log into your profile and select *Stay logged on again* and do not log out when you shut down the app. This will also ensure that you receive Notifications about new requests when they are added.
  - Make sure that you have selected *Prayer Team* as one of your options.
  - Go to *Home* and Refresh the app (described above).

Follow these steps and go to *Prayer and Pray Requests* and you will now see any prayer requests that were published after you included *Prayer Team* as one of the option in your profile.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES

### AGM 1 MAY 2022

At the Annual General Meeting on 1 May the motion to accept the Minutes of last year's AGM and the motion to accept the Audited reports were both carried. The Treasurer provided an explanation of the summarised/simplified accounts and diagrams that were circulated prior to the meeting and answered several queries.

One of questions the Treasurer mentioned, was about the level of offerings since the pandemic and she advised that the amount of annual offerings was about the same as in the year before the pandemic. She explained that we had been able to qualify for Jobseeker because of the special offerings that were included as part of our income in the previous year towards the purchase of the building. This was one of God's miracles of timing.



The increase in the number of people giving on-line is a factor in keeping the offerings about the same. If you wish to others who give their offering through internet banking, our [bank details](#) are on the front page or can be found in the app and on our website.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Topics covered at the Congregational meeting included the story of quipping ourselves and learning new technical skills to produce on-line services and that resulted in extension of our ministry to churches and individuals overseas and to Australian congregations with less technical capability, the pending retirement of the Transition and COVID



Safety teams as the restrictions associated with Public Health Emergency change, an update of the ongoing conversation around the decisions of the Special Assembly, the story of Jenke Cct and a first look at the National Church Life Survey and some of its implications.

Expressions of thanks for various individuals and teams were included and, in particular, I took the opportunity to relate how my own thoughts had, in the previous days, turned to how grateful I am about serving in this place at this time and to be part of, and to thank the Tuggeranong

Baptist Church family. To all who were not able to be there on the day, I wish to extend this thanks to you also. My heart is filled with thankfulness.

Here are some of the stories:

### Church on-line

The move to church on-line got off to a bumpy start. We quickly learned that it was not just a matter of buying a good camera and getting a streaming licence. For the first service, we crashed our website which we then modified to cope with the traffic as everyone logged on for live streaming. We quickly learned that pre-recording and then spending several in post-production meant that we offered a superior product that could be watched at any time anywhere in the world.

The advanced technology that we now have, enabled me to create services using pre-recorded materials so that we were able to give the worship team musicians some much-needed and much-earned time off.

### The Transition and COVID Safety Teams—transforming for the new normal

These teams have assumed many varied tasks during the pandemic.

The Transition team kept the building safe – locked off parts and allocated spaces for exclusive use to cut down on cleaning to the required standards.

The Transition team prepared briefs for the Elders and Leadership team about how we might comply with restrictions and accommodate as many people as possible for in-person services.

COVID Safety Team members were recruited and trained in Infection Control, COVID safety measures, their roles each Sunday. Many have undertaken the Safe Church Induction training, Creating Safe Spaces on-line training and attended the CSS Workshop.

Some members of the COVID Safety team joined with the Transition Team in moving furniture around the building and preparing it for in-person services. They have taped floors and entrances and created and displayed signage in



every room.

They have pruned trees, cleared drains, cut grass, vacuumed auditorium, staircases, foyers, cleaned toilets and written numerous COVID Safety Plans as restrictions changed, set up chairs, taken out the rubbish and locked the building.

They have applied for grants. They have overseen and built the Community Room kitchen and the installation of Solar Panels is imminent.

Up until the recent easing of restrictions 8 or 9 people were required to guide people through from entrance to seats and to disinfect chairs and other hard surfaces after services.

They have served Good Friday morning teas twice.

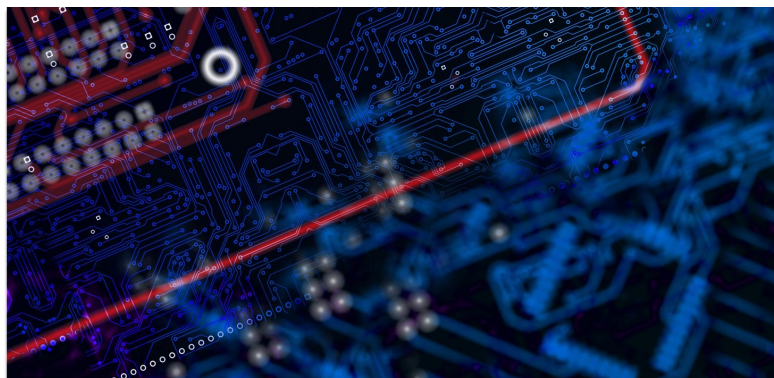
Everyone who has wanted to come to church has always been able to come and, because most people have used the booking system, they have been safely seated and we have always had space for anyone who had not booked.

## JENKE CIRCUIT UPDATE

For the benefit of the 1/3 of our congregation who have joined us in the last 5 years, as discovered in our NCLS Summary Profile— here is the story of the Jenke Circuit property.

The Crown Lease for the land on which our building stood at 33 Jenke Cct was held by Association of Baptist Churches of the ACT Inc. (not to be confused by with the Association of Baptist Churches of NSW&ACT) in trust for Tuggeranong Baptist Church. At the time we were not an Incorporated Association and could not hold the lease.

The lease commenced on 29 August 1986 and was granted on 29 September 1986 with a term of 99 years. The land is Section 277 Block 20. The area is 2250 sqm or thereabouts.



We paid \$8,000.00 for this lease 35-36 years ago. If the lease is Concessional, which cannot be determined by reading the document, there are restrictions on the transfer assignment, subletting or parting with possession of the lease. The transfer must be to a person who could be granted the lease. We have received advice from our solicitors about the process for determining whether the lease is

concessional. However, only the owner of the lease can lodge a request to do this investigation and, up till now, we have not been the owner.

The Association of Baptist Churches of the ACT Inc also had criteria about the sale of land. In August 2020, the Association advised us that they intended to wind up and the Baptist Churches whose property they held in trust were asked to approve the transfer of the leases to another Incorporated entity, at the Association's expense, to another Incorporated body. We were advised at the end of March that the Crown Lease has now been registered to Tuggeranong Baptist Church Inc. This means, that when we move forward, we will be able to act ourselves. However, the lease has yet to be delivered to us

We have options to sell this land, within the terms of the Crown Lease or to pass the land back to the ACT



Government for a consideration, that cannot be specified until an application to do so is made and a fee-paid. We have researched the cost of similar leases granted or direct sales in more recent times of the ACTPLA website <https://www.planning.act.gov.au/planning-our-city/land-release/direct-sales>. A Crown lease was granted for Section 277 Block 21, an area of 2,734 sqm on 23 June 2017 for \$63,316.00. We have yet to establish whether this information indicates what we can likely expect.

## The People of this Church:

### Most value:



### Want to give attention to:



Note: Attenders could select up to three options so percentages may not add up to 100%.

## NATIONAL CHURCH LIFE SURVEY

The Attendee Survey was completed on line by 110 adults.

The Summary arrived several day before the meeting and was distributed to you. There has been little time to give the report much consideration and we will be interested to see the report of all churches and see how we are doing in relation to the national picture. Page 1 includes the picture above which gives an indication of what your value most and future priorities.

## Coming up

### CAP MONEY COURSE



Our team of Money Coaches are preparing for the next [CAP Money Course](#) starting on 4 June. Follow the link to find out more. Follow the link in the Event to the find out more about the work and help that is offered by *Christians Against Poverty*.

Delegates who attend the course include members of the general community as well as individuals from Tuggeranong Baptist Church



### HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY

Each of us has a mother and we can all be thankful for the miracle of our birth. Our relationships with our mothers differ and most of us can think of an experience that we wish had been different.. However we love and are loved by God who works all things together for good and on Mothers' Day 2022, we can all be thankful!

Mothers—have a happy day! The rest of us can enjoy the remembrances of our mothers and

those we have mothered in the faith or who have been our spiritual mothers.

Just as a mothers' job is never done so is the job of nurturing faith in others a continual responsibility.

## 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.

In answering questions at the AGM, the Treasurer mentioned that our offerings have slowed a bit since the beginning of our financial year.

Each year we look to God to lead us into what each of us should [give cheerfully](#).

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	\$15,844.00	\$14,504.00	\$1,340.00	
31/05/2022				
30/06/2022				
31/07/2022				
31/08/2022				
30/09/2022				
Totals	\$118,430.00	\$108,000.00	\$10,240.00	\$190.00

## THE LAST WORD

I will be on leave from Saturday 7 May and will be attending Assembly and other church meetings in Sydney on 14 and 15 May before my return to Canberra and the office on Monday 16 May. If you have any concerns during my absence, please use the Enquiry option on your app or send an email to [tbchurch@intenode.on.net](mailto:tbchurch@intenode.on.net) as this mailbox is monitored by Mike Ashford, Elder and Daphne Bate, Administration Manager. In an emergency, you may call me on the number on the front page.

Blessings

Ian Reid,

Lead Pastor Tuggeranong Baptist Church

For the Leadership Team

