

November/December 2021¹



2nd December 2021

In this week's ADVANCE | step by step . . .

- **Bittersweet: City Baptist** – exciting times, along with tragic news
- **The Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast 2021**
- **Tas Baptists Christmas Listing**, what's going on around the state
- **NEWS~Need to Know** Global Interaction's name change | Safer Spaces Toolkit | Mary's First Christmas Ponderings, a poem by Ray Hawkins

This is the final Tasmanian Baptist **ADVANCE | step by step**. A new monthly publication will be released from February 2022.

Christmas Blessings!



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¹ <https://www.tasbaptists.org.au/advance-november-december-2021/>

community engagement:

Progress at City Baptist (Launceston)

City have signed to sell!

City Baptist signed a contract to sell its property in early September with an eight-to-twelve-month period of settlement.

The leadership is finalising the criteria needed for a new property and the market is being closely followed.

Anthea Maynard and Jenna Blackwell meet weekly with Jeff McKinnon to ‘dream’ and pray what the Makeover of City could potentially entail as we seek to be an intergenerational faith community culturally appropriate for young adults.

Street Community



The church and the city were rocked by the [tragic accidental death¹](#) of street person who lived on our property.

150 people attended Daniel Tommerup’s memorial service at City Baptist. Street chaplain, Stephen Avery (pictured) continues to play a crucial role amongst some of the most vulnerable people in Launceston.

Kay Hunter is heading up an attempt to increase desperately needed accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

Hazara Gardens

Following is a photo essay on the development of extensive vegetable gardens by City Baptist Church, Launceston, since 2018.

These gardens are primarily for the Hazara people, Muslim refugees originally from Afghanistan.

This project is only possible because of volunteers from the church, coordinated by Sally Staley; a setting-up grant from Baptcare; and in partnership with the Worldview Centre at St Leonards.

Jeff McKinnon, Pastor City Baptist (Launceston)



Left:
Greenhouse

Right: Watering
inside the
Greenhouse



¹ <https://www.examiner.com.au/story/7477642/a-scallywag-with-a-good-heart-city-mourns-death-of-daniel-tommerup/>



Clockwise from top left:

- Child Digging
- Sandpit
- Shed play area
- Garden Beds
- Just resting, by the shed
- Building the Greenhouse



prayer for the state:

Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast, 2021

Wednesday 24th November, Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

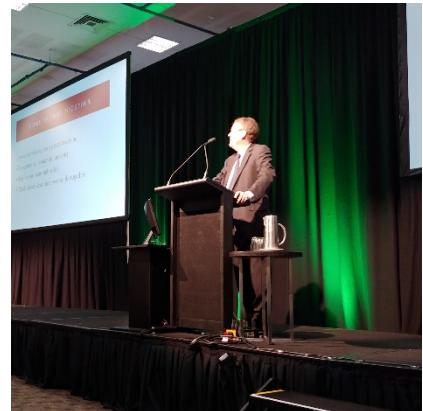
The [Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast](https://tasmanianprayerbreakfast.com/)¹ brings together like-minded people from across Tasmania to pray for our State, our leaders, parliamentarians, businesses, schools, communities, and community organisations; our families, youth, and children.

This year, over 400 people attended the 16th annual Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. It was attended by Church and business leaders, aid agency representatives, and many other Christians from across the state.

A record number of State and Federal politicians attended, 26 out of a possible 40. This included the Premier Peter Gutwein, the Deputy Premier Jeremy Rockliff and Leader of the Opposition Bec White. Jacqui Petrusma MP welcomed all as the Parliamentary Host.

The breakfast was chaired by Stephen Baxter (Tas Baptist Mission Director), who oversees the TPPB organising committee. The newly formed Calvin School Choir, pictured, performed for those gathered.

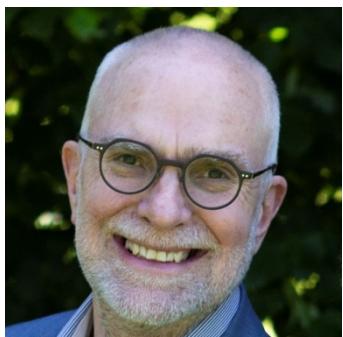
Prof. Patrick Parkinson, the speaker at the recent Tasmanian Baptist Annual Assembly, gave an overview of some of his achievements. He spoke about the care and nurture of young people in Tasmania, and presented some concerning statistics. Having suffered childhood abuse, and his current blended family, he spoke into those numbers with heart-warming vulnerability and authority.



Prof. Patrick Parkinson

Framing

As usual, Stephen Baxter gave a very insightful framing to begin the morning. It is reprinted here for you . . .



Let me take a moment to explain why I believe we are here.

We gather in the name and spirit of Jesus to pray for our state and its people. From the oldest to the youngest, those doing well and those not so well, those who lead and those who serve.

Across this room we are a rich and diverse tapestry of culture, experience, outlook and belief, believers and non-believers alike. We do life together on this magnificent island, Tasmania – *lutruwita*. We are wrapped in the world's purest air, graced with magnificent forests and magical lakes, lined with epic coastlines and surrounded by crystal clear water. It is a slice of heaven. We are truly blessed.

Yet, our lives, public and private, could be better. Perhaps, more than ever, we are rightly aware of the wrongs of the past, sensitive to racism and injustice, and conscious of the need to care for our environment. But the same time we are distracted by fear and anger. It shapes our lives.

A damaging polarisation is at work. We see it in the rage and resentment that prioritises victimhood and grievance over community and resilience. We see it in the violence – verbal,

¹ <https://tasmanianprayerbreakfast.com/>

written and physical – that seeks to silence the opinions of others. The result sadly, is division, conflict, and animosity, even between good people. And it solves little.

At the same time, we are losing the art of forgiveness. We dredge up things from someone's past suggesting it defines them today - conveniently forgetting each of us is more than the worst we have done.

Some advocate the removal of faith from the public square. They do so unaware that true faith nurtures confession, repentance, and the potential for redemption and restoration. If we are to overcome the significant challenges we face, I am convinced we need to include faith.

As a spiritual leader I appreciate you might be sceptical. I am deeply aware the Church, in its various forms, has let our community down in so many ways. I know I speak for many when I say I'm sorry.

Churches are not exempt from the need for confession and repentance. We are always learning and relearning how to follow Jesus. His execution by the authorities of the day, which included the religious, was a brutal form of cancel culture. They did not like what he said so they silenced an innocent man.

We all can learn from his response. It was not resentment or rage, but a cry, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they are doing". We all need forgiveness. The resurrection of Jesus reveals God is willing to give it.

Love, acceptance and forgiveness. It's what holds our lives and families, our communities and our future together. Every day, inconspicuously and unheralded, thousands of Tasmanians just 'do it'. They don't seek wealth, power, or fame, but quietly do what needs to be done: lending a hand, sharing a meal, volunteering at emergencies, caring for the forgotten, and courageously standing for what they believe.

It's spiritual. It is what lights and sustains the fires of excitement, passion, vision and sacrifice.

It is the spiritual that will help us learn afresh how to respect one another, how to engage in civil dialogue, and how put aside our differences for the sake of the common good.

That's why we come to pray.



around the grounds – Christmas 2021:

Tasmanian Baptists Christmas Listing

Christmas 2021 services, activities and good things happening!

North



City, Launceston

Pre-Christmas

6:00pm Sat 11th December Christmas BBQ, Carols and Supper

Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:00am Boxing Day Service

Newstead

Pre-Christmas

6:00pm Sat 18th December, Carols in the neighbourhood

10:00am Sun 19th December, Carols on the Lawn, followed by lunch

7:00pm Fri 24th December, Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day

No Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:00am Sun 26th December, Sunday Service

Gateway, Launceston

Pre-Christmas

10:00am Sun 12th December, Kidsway Service followed by a free BBQ and activities afterwards

10:00am Sun 19th December, Carol Service

7:00pm Sun 19th December, Combined Carol Service with other churches

Christmas Day

9:00-10:00am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

No service on Boxing Day

Return to normal services from Sunday 2nd January, 2022

Summerhill, Launceston

Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:00am Sunday Service as usual

Riverlands, Longford

Pre-Christmas

Sat 18th December Community Christmas event in partnership with Christ Church Anglican, Longford at Christ Church



Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

No service

Perth

Pre-Christmas

4:00pm Sat 18th December, Community Children's Party, followed by a Community BBQ

7:30pm Sat 18th December, Carol Service

Christmas Day

10:00am Community Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:00am Sunday Service as usual

Beauty Point

Pre-Christmas

5-8pm Sunday 12th Dec, Exeter Community Carols. Entry, although free, needs to be either [registered online HERE](#)¹ or available at the "Exeter Visitors Centre".



Christmas Day

No Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

5:00pm Sunday Service as usual

Northwest

Ulverstone

Pre-Christmas

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service "Tell the world"

Christmas Day

No Christmas Day service at Ulverstone

Boxing Day

No Boxing Day service at Ulverstone



¹ <https://www.trybooking.com/book/sessions?eid=784699>

Lifeway, Devonport

Exciting times for Lifeway Baptist at Christmas.

Pre-Christmas

6-7pm Christmas Eve: Readings and Carols lead by our very own Exhale Choir. Coffee in the café afterwards.



Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

9.30am Combined Service at Oldaker Street Christian Centre, 36-38 Oldaker St, Devonport

Wynyard

Pre-Christmas

10:30am Sun 5th December Sunday School Anniversary

10:30am Sun 12th December Celebration Church service for groups connected to the church: Chat 'n' Choose; the Walking Group; and the Food Hub GROW GATHER GIVE.

Christmas Eve Carols in the Garden (2020 below)

Christmas Day

Christmas dinner on Christmas Day for those who are alone at this time of the year.

Boxing Day

10:30am service as usual



Sassafras

Pre-Christmas

10:30am Sun 12th December Sunday School Service

10:30am Sun 19th December Carol Service

Christmas Day

9:30am Café Celebration with Martin Luther Lutheran Church Burnie

Boxing Day

10:30am Boxing Day Celebration

Lower Barrington

Pre-Christmas

Tues 23rd November: We had our Church Christmas dinner at a restaurant. As last year we couldn't meet due to COVID, 25 of the fellowship enjoyed good food and had a great time of sharing.

10am Sun 19th December Carol Service

Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Service: a short service to allow people to be home to prepare their Christmas lunch or go to friends or relatives to spend time with them.

Boxing Day

10:00am Sunday Service as usual

South



Citywide, Mornington/Lenah Valley

Pre-Christmas

5:30-7:30pm Christmas Eve Christmas in the Paddock at Mornington, 400 Cambridge Road

Christmas Day

9:30 Christmas Day Service at Lenah Valley, 2 Pottery Road

3pm Nepalese Christmas Day Celebration at Mornington, 400 Cambridge Road

Boxing Day

10:00am All services as usual



Claremont

Pre-Christmas

6:30pm Sat 18th December Carol Service

Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:00am Morning Worship

January

12:00pm 16 January 2022 Summer Picnic, Tynwald Park, New Norfolk. BYO picnic or BBQ, ALL WELCOME Info: cbctas.org.au | Contact: Jean 0476 528 124

Hobart

Pre-Christmas

"Christmas in Summer" sermon series from 12th December

Christmas Day

9:30am Christmas Day Service

Boxing Day

10:15am Online-only service, on our [YouTube Channel](#)¹



¹ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC16XtHlkJVcQo6A9LEdo6CQ>

need to know:

2nd December 2021

Safer Spaces Toolkit

On 22nd November 2021, *Australian Baptist Ministries* (ABM) released the **Safer Spaces Toolkit**. This is a resource to address domestic abuse and build relationally healthy communities.

The Safer Spaces Toolkit is an endorsed project of [Australian Baptist Ministries](#)¹ aimed at resourcing pastors and church leaders to address domestic abuse and build relationally healthy communities.

The project working group is made up of Baptist women from around the country who have expertise in pastoral leadership, theology, teaching, domestic abuse and project management.

This project started because ABM recognised that domestic abuse resources were often available only by region, and wanted to create a resource that could be accessed by any pastor anywhere, with access to the Internet.



The Safer Spaces Toolkit is a work in progress and feedback and suggestions are welcome. To get in touch please send an email via the contact page: <https://saferspacestoolkit.com.au/contact/>

The toolkit is available HERE: <https://saferspacestoolkit.com.au>

GIA change their name



Global Interaction have got something exiting to share... they are changing their name! **Global Interaction is becoming Baptist Mission Australia.** This is not something they undertake lightly. Over the past year they began implementing the 2021-2025 Strategic Roadmap. With this came big questions about the future direction of GIA.

While listening to the Spirit, they saw it was time to refresh the name and brand for a new and exciting season of ministry.

FIND OUT MORE: <https://bit.ly/GIAannouncement>

¹ <https://www.baptist.org.au/>

Christmas Poem by Ray Hawkins (Beauty Point)

MARY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS PONDERINGS

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:51

Mary pondered so many things in her heart

That very first Christmas day:
Shepherds arrival and delight
As they saw Christ that night
Angels' words they'd relayed
With joy and faith displayed.
The Saviour had been born,
The Bread of Life had come,
As foretold, to Bethlehem.

Mary pondered disturbing things in her heart

That very first Christmas time!
Simeon, one of the prophets,
Stood upon the Temple steps
Speaking words of future things,
The child's fame through suffering.
Mary's joy one day would mourn
For this promised one now born.
The Light to the Gentiles had come
As foretold, to Bethlehem.

Mary pondered personal things in her heart

That very first Christmas night!
Anna, a widow of many years
Saw in Him that mercy was here
With a song of thankfulness
Celebrating God's faithfulness
She shared the news of God's grace
Which had come to the Human race,
As foretold, to Bethlehem.

Mary pondered so many things in her heart

That very first Christmas morn!
Told that her heart would be pierced
As though by a sword sharp, fierce.
This child, when grown, would be rejected
Though no fault in Him was detected.
Jesus would taste the people's scorn
By whip, sword and a cross torn,
And yet to triumph, He had come
As foretold, to Bethlehem.

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