



Presbytery of

<https://ucatas.org.au/>

Issue No. 194

May 2021

Reminder of new COVID-19 requirement:

All churches to register for 'Check In Tas' app by 1 May

1



Click on "Register your premises or event". You need to complete a separate registration for each premises or event you operate.

2



Complete the registration form. You will be sent your welcome pack within 5 days of registering.

3



Clearly display your QR code at all your premises' or event's entrances.

<https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/check-in-tas/Information-for-organisations-and-businesses>

- Every church, business and organisation in Tasmania is required to register in order to support rapid [contact tracing](#) if needed. Register your local church site now and create a QR code poster for your activities.
- Regular attenders and visitors can each 'check in' through one of four methods:
 1. Use the 'Check in Tas' app on their own smartphone.
 2. If a person does not have a smartphone or is unable to use one, others attending the premises with that person can use their own phone to check that person in.
 3. Alternatively, an organisation can register a person's details using that organisation's device.
 4. If there is no internet access or working device, the organisation can check them in manually on paper. This information must be retained by the organisation for 28 days or added into the app when access is restored.
- Churches still require a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) and density limits and physical distancing guidelines still apply.

Opportunities

Mental Health Forum : no-cost Zoom event

John Swinton is Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care at the University of Aberdeen. For more than a decade John worked as a registered mental health nurse. He also worked for a number of years as a hospital chaplain, and as a community mental health Chaplain. This free event will explore religious/spiritual responses which support, or hinder people's mental health. **Register online:**



Friday June 4 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mental-health-forum-tickets-144297231905>



See pages 4 and 5



See
page
3



See page 13

**Worship and Preaching
Online Training:
Pages 4 and 5**

**\$ Gambling
Pages 6 and 7**

**An epistle to
Christians of
Tasmania
Pages 10 and 11**



Devonport Uniting Church has offered to host a regional hub for PreachFest. Contact Rev Fee Morrison fionam73@bigpond.com or Rev Denise Savage Denise.Savage@victas.uca.org.au for more information



PreachFest!

Preaching Good News into a New Norm

PreachFest is a 3-day festival created to inspire and enliven the craft, art and vocation of preaching across Australia

 ANNA CARTER FLORENCE (USA)	 SAMUEL WELLS (UK)	 MICHAEL FROST	 JON OWEN	 BROOKE PRENTIS
 STU CAMERON	 MIKE RAITER	 CAROLYN FRANCIS	 MATT KANG	 SALLY DOUGLAS

+ MANY MORE

1-3 JUNE 2021

VENUES
Sydney CBD, Canberra,
Regional Hubs & Online

There will be a hub hosted by Fran Barber at the Centre for Theology and Ministry.
Please email fran.barber@victas.uca.org.au if you wish to attend this hub.

PREACHFEST.ORG.AU

 **St Mark's**
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

 **Uniting
Mission &
Education**

worship & preaching online training 2021



Access 3 points of Training:

- **Online delivery across the Synod – 2 hours per week**
Join others in Zoom delivery of Worship and Preaching workshops, combining a tutorial based on the online units, and input from a variety of church leaders.
- **Access to online Worship and Preaching units**
Access online units written around the Assembly W&P competencies for Lay Preachers and Ministry of Pastor.
- **Local assessment**
For those who opt for assessment, this will occur within their Congregation/Faith Community/Hub or Presbytery.

For more information, contact your Presbytery or:
Mel Perkins, Lay Leadership Development, eLM
mel.perkins@victas.uca.org.au

Worship and Preaching training for Communities and Lay Leaders

The world has and is changing and we are seeking new ways of leadership and being in church, including worship and proclaiming God's Word.

Join us for multiple options of engaging with 6 Worship Units and 6 Preaching Units.

Participants can choose their level of input and connection. Have a conversation with your faith community, congregation or Presbytery about what would be good for you and them.

Units are engaging and creative. Assessment is both theoretical and practical.

When?

Worship:
May 5, 12, 19
June 2, 9, 16

Preaching:
September 1, 8, 15
October 6, 13, 20

See over for more information on sessions.

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/worship-and-preaching-online-workshop-worship-tickets-148299827777>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/worship-and-preaching-online-workshop-preaching-tickets-148304242983?aff=erelpanelorg>

Topic outline for each session of the worship and preaching training:

Worship:

5 May

- Exploring Worship 1 - What is Worship?
- with Mel Perkins & Dr Craig Mitchell, Presbytery Minister - Church Development, Port Phillip East Presbytery

12 May

- Exploring Worship 2 - Worship as story or conversation/Exploring the Seasons (of the Church and the Earth) in Worship
- with Mel Perkins & Trevor Bassett, Pastoral Leadership and Education, Presbytery of Western Victoria

19 May

- Understanding Worship - Theology of Worship/Multisensory & multiple intelligence approaches to Worship
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Deacon Denise Savage, Presbytery Minister - Leadership Formation, Presbytery of Tasmania

2 June

- Preparing Worship 1 - Some of the nuts and bolts of Worship/ Inclusive Worship
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Siotame Paletua, Presbytery Minister Generalist, Presbytery of Loddon Mallee

9 June

- Preparing and Leading Worship - Working with a theme or lectionary/Curating resources
- with Mel Perkins & Chris Barnett, Intergenerational Ministry – Children and Families, Equipping Leadership for Mission

16 June

- Leading Worship 2 - Communication in Worship/ Ethics in/of Worship (including self-awareness)
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Robin Yang, Intergenerational Ministry – Young Adults, Equipping Leadership for Mission

Preaching:

1 Sept

- Exploring Preaching - What is Preaching?/The place of preaching in different cultures
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Dev Anandarajan, Intercultural Leadership Development, eLM

8 Sept

- Understanding Preaching 1 - Interpreting Biblical texts/working with difficult texts
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Dr Sean Winter, Head of Pilgrim Theological College

15 Sept - Understanding Preaching 2

- Responding to the Word (as Preacher and hearer)/Preaching for the senses and multiple intelligences
- Mel Perkins & Gordon Wild, Presbytery Minister, Southern Region, Presbytery of Loddon Mallee

6 Oct

- Preparing to Preach - Putting bits together/The art of Preaching
- with Mel Perkins & TBA

13 Oct

- Preaching as Leadership 1 – The ethics in and of Preaching/ Getting your message across: Communication in Preaching
- with Mel Perkins & TBA

20 Oct

- Preaching as Leadership 2 - The challenges and joys of preaching as yourself/Preaching with Creativity and Imagination
- with Mel Perkins & Rev Deacon Peter Batten, Mission and Education Resourcing Minister, Presbytery of Gippsland



Letter to Editor

Poker machines

Most readers will know that we presently have a State election pending in Tasmania. Whilst most people are OK with the policies of our various representatives and will exercise wisdom in seeking to vote for the best people to make up our parliament, we have one problem. Our major parties are “hooked” on gambling.

An interesting story is unfolding in the AFL where most clubs own poker machines to generate club revenue. A total of \$2.7 billion has been drawn into the coffers of League by this means, for year 2020 alone the sum was \$77 million of which \$24 million went to Hawthorn club. On the other hand North Melbourne has no poker machines and Collingwood, Geelong, Melbourne and Western Bulldogs are in various stages of divesting this business. This exists in response to membership/community pressure, club members are saying, ‘We do not want to be members of a club which operates poker machines’.

Voting Tasmanian citizens are members of this island community. NOW is an opportunity to tell our leaders, present and pending, to find another way, to do everything possible

to reduce the scourge of gambling in our state, to divest this revenue from the state income stream and to find ways to facilitate investment in productive enterprise.

Community pressure is making inroads in the AFL, it can work here too.

Ian R F

Social Justice spokesperson,
Launceston North UCA

Editor’s Response

Isn’t it great to see that Launceston North is active in allocating leadership resources to the area of Social Justice? Do other congregations have a dedicated Social Justice person connecting with and publicising issues?

Mark Zirnsak, of the Justice and International Mission group within the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, alongside Tony Mohr of the Alliance for Gambling Reform have presented a submission to a Public Consultation Paper from the Tasmanian Government. Their response is interesting reading despite being limited by the terms of reference of that consultation paper. Their response alongside responses by hotels and other parties can be found as a link at <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/liquor-and-gaming/gambling/future-gaming-market>

You have also encouraged me to write to the football club that I support with regard to this issue.

Check out Rohan Pryor’s background piece on the following page.

Gambling in Tasmania

From 2023 the Tasmanian Government's current exclusive license with the Federal Group expires, so a consultation process on government policy was initiated in 2020, to consider submissions on future policy in the gaming market. Various reforms, including increased future funding to improve harm minimization, are proposed.

The Uniting Church in Australia is a member of The Alliance for Gambling Reform, a collaboration of organisations with a shared concern about the deeply harmful and unfair impacts of gambling and its normalisation in Australian culture. The Alliance campaigns for reforms of the gambling industry that reduce the harm it causes. See https://www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/the_alliance.

The Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania provided a submission, along with a number of companies and individuals including researcher and historian James Boyce, author of *"Losing Streak: How Tasmania Was Gamed By The Gambling Industry"* (published 2017 by Black Inc.). The Uniting Church submitted the view that electronic gaming machines (EGMs) should not be permitted in hotels and clubs after 2023 and should only be allowed in the two existing casinos, making them a form of gambling that is destination gambling, as that would significantly reduce gambling-related harm in Tasmania.

Submissions were received from 68 parties, providing feedback on the proposed Future Gaming Market regulatory model. A copy of the [Overview of Responses to the Future of Gaming in Tasmania Public Consultation Paper 2020](#) and copies of the individual submissions received are available online:

<https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/liquor-and-gaming/gambling/future-gaming-market>

What can you do?

The upcoming Tasmanian election will be a historic one. Both major parties have come out with a gambling policy and are acknowledging the harm that pokies can cause to our communities.

- Labor has recognized that gambling harm is a serious public health issue and has pledged that if elected, they will remove pokies from pubs and clubs by 2023 with a funded scheme for a transition for businesses away from pokies.
- Liberal has announced that, if re-elected, they will be ending the Federal monopoly contract and allowing an open, competitive tender with 20-year pokies licenses being available for pubs and clubs to bid for.

For more information on the policies: <https://www.pokiesplayyou.org.au/tasmania>

that area



TCC President, David O'Halloran sent us the epistle beginning on the next page from the Tasmanian Council of Churches' forum on Reconciliation with First Nations' People for us to use as we see fit in our church communities. He says that it, "...is intended as a challenge to us all to live out our faith in the modern world.

David O'Halloran also advises that Launceston Quakers have invited others to join in with their face-to-face meeting to work through *A voice in the wilderness: listening to the statement from the heart* by Celia Kemp and produced by the Anglican Board of Mission and available for free download on their website <https://www.abmission.org/pages/australia-reconciliation-program.html> Contact RMTLaunceston@quakersaustralia.info if you are interested in joining them.

The next TCC forum will be held in Hobart in late May. The focus of that forum will be "Homelessness".



An Epistle from the Tasmanian Council of Churches to Christians of Tasmania on the subject of Reconciliation with First Nations' Peoples.

Launceston, 20th of March 2021

The Tasmanian Council of Churches (TCC) is a fellowship of Christian Churches in Tasmania committed to the promotion of Christian dialogue and practical cooperation. In keeping with our mission, representatives met to learn from and share with each other our Churches' progress towards reconciliation with First Nations' Peoples. As a record of this meeting, we send this epistle - a combination of the insights and questions from our meeting that challenge us all to let our lives speak:

Makarrata* is a Yolngu word with many layers of meaning, describing a process of respectful truth-telling, listening, conflict resolution, peacemaking, and justice. It is entirely consistent with the teachings of the gospel and Christian beliefs about reconciliation. We can all learn from the process of Makarrata in our lives. What steps will we take to learn more about, and engage with, Makarrata?

There is a need for our Churches to place importance on the truth of the experiences of both past and present Tasmanian Aboriginal peoples. Denying or avoiding this truth only serves to take us away from our responsibility as disciples of Jesus. Will we stand firm with a commitment to respectful truth-telling, listening, conflict resolution, peacemaking, and justice if there are differences of perspective, or disagreement about the issues and their solutions?

Makarrata can be a faith-full activity of every disciple of Jesus Christ, not only for formal organisations and structures, yet some of our church

members relinquish responsibility for reconciliation and Makarrata to the leadership of their church as a way of avoiding taking individual action. How can we encourage and empower all to take individual responsibility for the process of Makarrata?

Some of our church congregations are enriched by their First Nations members. Some congregations have members who are on the journey of discovering their First Nations ancestry and what that means to their identity. However, many congregations have no First Nations members, or are unaware that they do. How do we ensure in both symbolic and practical ways that our places of worship are always welcoming to First Nations people?

Many Christians are unsure how to take the next step or even where to begin. Some are uncertain about the words to use, or fear that their intentions will be misinterpreted. For some, it is too hard or painful, and they retreat from the process altogether. Christian reconciliation is the idea of being made right with God and right with others and is an ongoing process. It is neither a once-off activity nor always easy. It is also what love requires. Do you have the courage to live your faith in the modern world?

There can sometimes be a foggy region between hymns for worship and popular music. Try these on for size:

There is a hymn that begins with these words...

“My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.”

The popular band Coldplay have a song called A Message which begins like this...

“My song is love
Love to the loveless shown
And it goes on
You don't have to be alone”

Chris Martin is the lead singer of the band and writer of this song. He comes from an English background.

“According to Songfacts, Chris Martin explained to *Q magazine*:

There's quite a big church influence (on the band). Because we all grew up singing in assemblies every morning. Of course. When you think about it, the most music we heard up to the age of 17 was singing hymns every day in school. Didn't most people? In assembly?

<https://genius.com/Coldplay-a-message-lyrics> “

What can worship leaders do to explore the fog?
Are we able to find a pathway towards some of the connections between popular culture and the story of our faith?

COVID-19 reminder:

- **Changes to gathering numbers at churches**

- **All churches to use 'Check In Tas' app**

Tasmanian Public Health advises churches will be able to have more people in attendance under changes detailed at <http://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

- Indoor gatherings may now routinely accommodate up to 250 people or 75 per cent of their seating capacity in an indoor space, whichever is fewer.
- Churches still require a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) and [contact tracing](#) is required. Density limits and physical distancing guidelines still apply.

- From 1 May the [Check In TAS app](#) must be used to support rapid contact tracing if required. Register now to create a QR code for your local church.

- By 1 May 2021, you must clearly display the 'Check in Tas' QR code (sent to you after you've registered) at all entrances of your premises or event and all patrons aged 16 years and older must be checked in by scanning this code if they spend 15 minutes or more there.

- **What if my participants do not want to use the QR code?**

- If a person does not have a smartphone or is unable to use one, others attending the premises with that person can use their own phone to check that person in. Alternatively, an organisation can register a patron's details using that organisations' device. If there is no internet access or working device, the organisation can check them in manually on paper. This information must be retained by the organisation for 28 days

- **My organisation operates at multiple premises. Do I need to set up multiple codes or can I use one for all of them?**

- Each Check in TAS QR code is assigned to a physical address. If you operate at multiple premises or locations, you need to complete a separate registration for each site.





Everything you want to know about your life's purpose

DISCERNMENT WORKSHOP

How are your gifts being used in God's mission to transform the world?
What on earth does God want you to do with your life? How would you even know?
And what has the Uniting Church got to do with any of that?

Join Rev Dr Sean Winter (Head of Pilgrim Theological College)
and Mel Perkins (eLM Lay Leadership Development Coordinator)

Survey the broad terrain of discipleship and ministry in the Uniting Church.
Unwrap the gifts and ministries of the whole people of God. Unearth discernment,
vocation, formation and map the questions that arise.

What is your next step?

WHERE Centre for Theology & Ministry
29 College Cres, Parkville, 3062

WHEN 9:00am – 12:30pm
Saturday June 12

RSVP Sunday June 6 by registering
at the following link:
[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/
discernment-workshop-tick-
ets-148270124935](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/discernment-workshop-tickets-148270124935)

Online Pentecost Journey

7:30 pm
Thursday (via Zoom)

20 May
27 May
3 June
Contact Rev Denise Savage for zoom link



Connecting images and biblical story as we encounter the gift of the Holy Spirit around the time Pentecost.

Letting our story and questions collide with God who is present with us in the Holy Spirit. Finding words to grow in faith.



How does this image help you to connect to your experience of Holy Spirit in life?

What does that tell you about who God is?

What will you do different

For more information or the zoom link contact Rev Denise Savage
denise.savage@victas.uca.org.au

This 'n That

- Last month's **Synod Report** was written by Shirley Bowers of Longford.
- Have you read a **good book** lately that has extended your understanding of spirituality, theology, the Bible? Send us a review.
- Good home available for a free standing Communion Table Cross for Strathaven Chapel. If you have a spare cross, perhaps from a closed church, and would like to donate it to a good home, the gift would be very much appreciated. Please contact Chaplain Heather Cowled 6272 3096 [answering machine always comes on, so please identify yourself and I may have made it to the phone to answer by then, if not please leave a message].

Praying for the Everyone

- For those managing their participation in the multitude of training events available at the moment
- For those responsible for managing Covid guidelines as the community becomes more complacent
- Our Assembly members as they prepare, interact and the tell the story afterwards

What's On

May

Tue 4	10am	Pastoral Relations Committee
Tue 11	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Tue 25	11am	Resource and Development Committee
Thu 27	10am	Presbytery Standing Committee
Sat 29	10am-3pm	Presbytery Gathering and Meeting
Sun 30	2pm	Induction Service for Rev Susan Malthouse-Law at Cam-Rise, Somerset. This service will also be available on ZOOM (details to follow). A commissioning service at the Strathdevon community in Latrobe will also follow.

Presbytery Gathering and Meeting Saturday May 29th from 10.00am to 3.00pm

Presbytery members are requested to attend and participate in discerning the Church's mission focus and action

Venue: Robert Dean Senior Study Centre
Scotch Oakburn College
85 Penquite Road, Newstead

Presbytery Gathering and Meeting Key agenda items:

- Welcome new Presbytery members
- Here for Good (H4G) project update from Rev Dr Jennifer Byrnes and Sam Nicholas
- Good news stories: South Esk Parish and Scotch Oakburn College Chaplain
- Conclusion of Presbytery ministry placement: Anthea Maynard
- Review of Presbytery Ministry role for Leadership Formation (PM-LF)
- Presbytery Committee membership: PRC Rev Gospel Ralte, PSC Rev Michael Duke



**Keeping
Children
Safe**

<https://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe/>



If you happen to be visiting Melbourne and want to visit the Uniting Church's Synod Office as one of your prime tourist objectives you will find it at 130 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

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Presbytery of Tasmania website: <https://ucatas.org.au>

The map of Tasmania including King and Flinders Islands has been adapted from a Creative Commons file
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Australia_Tasmania_location_map_blank.svg