



Anglican Diocese of Tasmania  
*a healthy church... transforming life*

23 December 2008

29/08

From the Bishop's Desk



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

What a year!

We have experienced many highs and some very sad times together as we reflect on the year that has rapidly gone by.

We praise God for his continued blessing on Tasmania. We pray that those in our community who will not have enough food for their children or a roof over their heads.

We pray for the lonely and those who will spend Christmas on their own.

There will be a number of our clergy families who will find it difficult this year as they remember members of their families who have died. Please pray for them.

We pray for Anglicare and all agencies as they meet the needs of less fortunate folk.

We pray for generous hearts for all Tasmanians.

We thank God for the rain that has fallen this month and continue to pray for seasonable weather for our farmers.

We pray for our clergy in an exceptionally demanding week of worship and outreach.

We pray for our laity taking part in the Christmas services.

We pray for our personnel in the Defence Forces who will not be with their families.

We pray that God will open the eyes and hearts of the many who will come to church this Christmas for the first time.

And we pray for all Doctors, Nurses, Ambulance Drivers and Police over this time.

And so the list goes on.....may I encourage you to stay strong in your faith and to be a witness to the Gospel of grace and peace.

#### "BENSGOTCANCER" - THE PASTORAL USE OF A BLOGSPOT

A CMS missionary family who served in Argentina have recently experienced the tragic loss of their son, Ben, from cancer. Over the period of his illness they developed a website to communicate in both Spanish and English, to their world-wide friends. I found the blogspot to be very helpful: it was informative, I did not have to be ringing or emailing the family for news and worrying that I may have been adding to the pressure of their struggle by them repeating to their many friends the same basic information concerning Ben's condition. This is a fine example of the pastoral role of a carefully constructed and managed blogspot. I am very grateful to the family for their thoughtfulness and dedication to maintaining the currency of the information through this most difficult time. See - <http://www.bensgotcancer.blogspot.com/>

#### CMS MISSION CONFERENCE – SUMMERVIEW 09

CAMP BANKSIA, PORT SORELL – 15 January–Sunday 18 January. There are still a few vacancies and if you would like to attend please contact Sue Morton, 5 Dallas Ave, TAROONA 7053, phone 03 62278632 or email [rsmorton@bigpond.com](mailto:rsmorton@bigpond.com) . The guest speakers are certainly worth hearing i.e. Simon Manchester, Ajith Fernando, Judith Calf and Beatriz Buono-our dear Argentine sister and colleague.

During the conference the commissioning of the REVD JOHN GRAHAM-FREEMAN into the Parish of Devonport will take place at 7pm on Friday 16 January.

The book “**Free Too**” written by Revd Chris Thiele has been launched and I commend it to you. Details can be found at [www.freetoo.com.au](http://www.freetoo.com.au)  
If you would like to read a review published in the Tasmanian Anglican, <http://www.tasmaniananglican.com/ta200812-16/>

#### LENTEN STUDY 2009 – “I AM” SAYINGS OF JESUS

Jill McCoy and I are writing a Lenten Study based on the “I am” sayings of Jesus. Available end January in booklet form.

#### CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM BISHOP OF TASMANIA

Tasmanian Anglican magazine – <http://www.tasmaniananglican.com/ta200812-01/>  
Anglican Men’s Society – [www.anglicantas.org.au](http://www.anglicantas.org.au)  
Tasmanian Print media – [www.anglicantas.org.au](http://www.anglicantas.org.au)

Just a reminder that the Diocesan Office will be closed from midday Tuesday 23 December and reopen on Monday 5 December 2009. The Registrar, Russell Morton will be on call for urgent matters and his mobile number is 0407 535 080.

With Gayelene I extend to you and your families God’s richest blessings, peace and happiness as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*+John*

Bishop of Tasmania