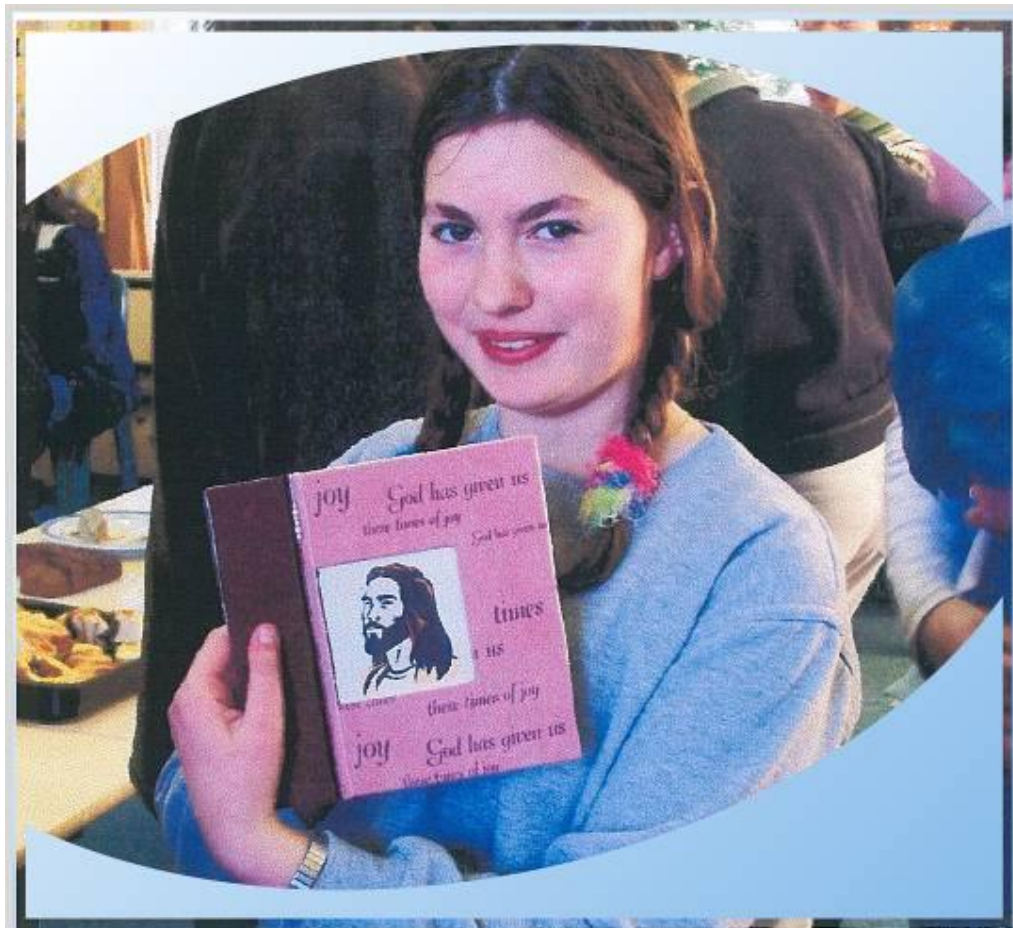


Anglican Church

# Newsletter



**Hannah Reeve after her Baptism at East Launceston**

## **“Living the heartbeat of God”**

Linking ministering communities in East Launceston, George Town, Hillwood, Low Head, Pipers River, Riverside and Trevallyn



**This month we have the final in our series of Digging Deeper with the Riverlinks Clergy as we interview Alister Stott.**

## DIGGING DEEPER WITH ALISTER STOTT

### **When, where and how did you become a Christian?**

I cannot recall a time when I was not a Christian. Although our parents seldom went to church, they sent us to Sunday School. I believe that my faith grew gradually over a number of years principally because of the faithful ministry of a number of Sunday School teachers.

A significant focal point in my faith journey was the Billy Graham Crusade when I was twelve years old. As far as I recall this was the first public declaration of my faith as I responded to Billy Graham's invitation to follow Jesus.

About 20 years ago my parents also made a commitment and have been actively involved in church life ever since. They say that their children's influence was a significant factor in their decision.

### **What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Marrying Pam. Having three wonderful children.  
Having three careers: Industrial Chemistry, computer programming/Systems Analysis, and retailing.  
Running sub 58 minutes in the 2004 Burnie10.  
Hopefully, there are many more highlights to come.

### **How did you come to be ordained?**

Since my early twenties the possibility of ordination has arisen more times than I can remember. However, the time and circumstances have never seemed appropriate.

This changed when the people of St Aidan's put forward my name alongside 6 others for the formation of the LMST. It is of enormous significance for me that my name was not put forward by my rector or any other clergy, but by the people amongst whom I had worshipped and ministered for over 20 years.

### **Through what incident in your life has the Lord taught you your most valuable lesson?**

The Lord once showed me very clearly how easily our minds can totally deceive us.

When our third child was due I was completely convinced that it did not matter to me if we had a third daughter or a son. If Paul had been a girl I would have been completely happy. It was not until the moment Paul was born that I realised how desperately I had wanted a son. (This was in the days before ultrasounds of course.)

**"The next time you are called to suffer, pay attention. It may be the closest you'll ever get to God."**

*Max Lucado*

***DIGGING DEEPER  
CONTINUED...***

**What do you enjoy most about ministry?**

PEOPLE: I enjoy the little pastoral opportunities that come up almost every day. Listening to people's stories, praying for them & sometimes praying with them. I love to see the reality of the faith that many non-churchgoers have.

I also enjoy preaching and teaching, in particular the times of preparation when I learn so much.

**In a two-sentence sermon what would you most like people to hear and remember?**

God knows everything there is to know about you – the best and the worst. In spite of this, He loves you unreservedly.

**How can we pray for you?**

Please pray for my walk with the Lord, that I will be more disciplined in spending time with Him. Please pray also for wisdom in deciding which tasks to do and which to leave. At present I'm very grateful for your continuing prayers for my health.



**SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL**

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE

- The Launceston Primary School Band
- Children's Dance Groups
- Riverlinks Artists on display
- Childrens' Canvas Mural Painting
- Jazz Band & Morris Dancers
- Parish Ministry Displays
- Special Guest - Ben McKinnon

FREE SANCK LUNCH & DRINKS

SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER - 11.00AM - 2.00PM  
COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT RIVERLINKS, ST AIDANS

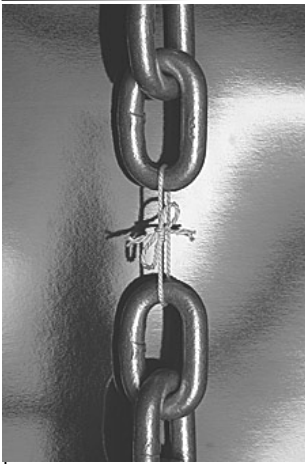
**THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON**

Sell your possessions, and give to the poor. Get purses that don't wear out and treasure in Heaven that never runs out. Where thieves can't steal and moths can't destroy. Your treasure will be where your heart is. **Luke 12:33-34**



<http://thebackpew.com>

**Planning For Your Future—** How many financial planners today share Jesus perspective on investing wisely?



*"... But God gave Paul a thorn so that he would continue to depend on God.*

*... it is in human weakness that Christ's power is made perfect, made complete."*

## BOASTING IN WEAKNESS

BY ISOBEL LIN

Imagine if the apostle Paul was speaking at a conference today. What would his blurb say? Paul was personally appointed as an apostle by Jesus Christ. He has fathered numerous churches all over Asia and received many visions and revelations from God. Paul is a prolific writer, being the author of the 13 out of 21 New Testament epistles, and he is arguably one of the most intelligent men of all time. But if you were to compile a blurb from Paul's description of himself in say, 2 Corinthians, it would be very different.

Paul is a fool, a wimp, a poor speaker, friendless, frail and, let's be honest, he's well past his prime. It comes as a shock. We can't help but ask why Paul would boast about his weaknesses. 2 Corinthians itself gives us two reasons.

### 1. Because of the super-charged opposition

2 Corinthians contains a battle of boasts between Paul and some high-profile opposition. The 'super-apostles' were saying that in comparison with them, Paul was inferior and weak. This boasting was causing the Corinthians to distance themselves from Paul and the gospel he preached.

Paul thinks boasting is for fools, but he decides to boast for the sake of his ministry to the Corinthians, a boast that mocks the claims of the 'super-apostles'. (11:21b-23)

Paul summarizes in 11:30: "If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness." And he adds a joke at the end to make it clear.

"At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands." (11:32-33). In ancient Rome, during a siege on a city, the first man up the city wall would receive a crown of gold for their valour. Paul makes it clear that he's no hero. Rather than being the first one up the wall, he's the first one down the wall. And instead of a crown of gold, he gets a ride in a smelly fish basket.

Paul boasts to mock the ridiculous boasts of the 'super-apostles'. But there's also another reason...

### 2. Because of Christ's strength

In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul tells an amazing story. It is about a man who had a spiritual vision or revelation, was caught up in the presence of God, and in his vision heard things that were too wonderful to repeat. Even if he could express these things he wasn't allowed to. Paul reveals himself to be that man, but he doesn't use this vision to boost his reputation. Instead he tells this story because of its weak ending: *For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

The end of verse 10 is puzzling. How can Paul be both weak and strong at the same time?

The key is Paul's thorn in the flesh (12:7). We are very curious about what this thorn could be. Was it a physical illness like poor eyesight, or an external factor, like sexual temptation?

We know from the passage that it was given by God, it was a messenger of Satan, and that it tormented Paul.

*To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*  
2 Cor 12:7-10

However, what's more important are the truths that we can draw from the thorn about God's purpose and God's provision.

Firstly, God's purpose in giving Paul the thorn was humility. The great revelations that God gave Paul could have made Paul conceited. He could have been like the modern gurus who have 'special revelations from God' and sell that 'wisdom' in books and videos. He could have become a 'super-Paul', a super-super-apostle! But God gave Paul a thorn so that he would continue to depend on God.

Like Joni Eareckson who became quadriplegic in 1967: "My (wheel) chair, because it is visible, is a constant reminder of how much I depend on (God). A sudden pain inside my back, a corset that breaks, or a battle with bedsores—all remind me how (weak) I really am". (from A Step Further)

Secondly, God's provision for Paul is certain. (12:8).

The most important part of this verse is that the grace and power are from God. In the suffering caused by the thorn, God's grace would be sufficient for Paul. Whatever he needed, God would generously give him. What Paul wanted was the thorn removed. However, what Paul needed was for the thorn to remain and for God to help Paul in his weakness—because it is in human weakness that Christ's power is made perfect, made complete. That is, when Paul is weak, then Christ's power is most potently at work, sustaining him for his gospel ministry.

We can sum up two things that we learn about weakness from Paul.

Weakness: it's good, and it's powerful!

### **1. It's surprisingly good**

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, is crippled by a thorn. Our reaction is that this is bad—his ability to preach the gospel will be hindered. Paul's reaction is that this is good—because in his weakness, Paul cannot rely on his own strength. Therefore Christ's power will be at work. When no-one turns up to an evangelistic meeting run by your church or your Bible study group slowly dwindles, what will your reaction be? That this is bad, because the gospel is being hindered, or that this is good, because God is guarding us against conceit and teaching us to rely on Christ.

### **2. It's surprisingly powerful**

Imagine a woman at church who struggles under the cloud of depression. Sometimes she doesn't make it to Bible study. Sometimes she doesn't even have the energy to take her turn on the morning tea roster. The world would look at her and see weakness. But Paul would see God's power at work, sustaining her day to day, year to year as she continues in her Christian walk. Sure, she struggles. But by his power, she hasn't given up, and by his power, she manages to serve others.

In the end, is it really a surprise? Society may despise weakness, but we glory in the cross of Christ—the very weakness of Christ through which we experience the goodness and power of God.

Extract from an article which first appeared at [www.sydneyanglicans.net.au](http://www.sydneyanglicans.net.au)

# RIVERLINKS

September 2006	
1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
5 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<p><b>BIBLE STUDY</b> – (each Tuesday)  <b>Morning Home Group</b>            11:00am Study St David's Hall,            12:00pm Prayers  <b>Evening Home Group</b> –            7:30pm - 'Welcome to the Bible'            at 43 Cleghorn Ave, Riverside            Ph. 6327 3530  <b>Iglesden Home Group</b> meets every            Tuesday 1.30pm. 21 Wongara Ave            Legana  <b>Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group</b>            6343 4168 or 6343 4133 (each Tuesday)</p>
6 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<p><b>Evening Home Group</b> (each Wednesday)            7:30 pm at Bullards, Ph. 6331 8968</p>
7 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
8 <sup>th</sup> Fri	<p><b>Bible Studies and prayer meetings</b>            as listed on 1<sup>st</sup> August</p>
9 <sup>th</sup> Sat	

September 2006	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
11 <sup>th</sup> Mon	<p><b>Cadorna</b> – 2:00pm  <b>Combined LMST Meeting</b> – 6:30pm</p>
12 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<p><b>Bible Studies and prayer meetings</b>            as listed on 1<sup>st</sup> August</p>
13 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
14 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<p><b>Parish Council</b> – 7:30pm</p>
15 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
17 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
18 <sup>th</sup> Mon	<p><b>Presbyterian Home</b> – 10:40am</p>
19 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<p><b>Bible Studies and prayer meetings</b>            as listed on 1<sup>st</sup> August</p>
20 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<p><b>Soup &amp; Sandwich Luncheon</b>            at Trevallyn – 12:00pm  <b>Ainslie Service</b> – 1:30pm</p>
21 <sup>st</sup> Thur	

The **deadline** for the next Newsletter edition is **20<sup>th</sup> September**

# CALENDAR

September 2006	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	<b>"Singspiration"</b> at Worldview – 7:30pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	<b>Preachers' Training Workshop</b> at Holy Trinity Ulverstone – 9:30 am
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	<b>Healing Service</b> at George Town – 1:30 pm
26 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<b>Bible Studies and prayer meetings</b> as listed on 1 <sup>st</sup> August
27 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<b>Marriage Preparation</b> Course starts – 7:15 pm
28 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<b>Tamar Park</b> – 1:45 pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Fri	<b>Debate – "Is Evolutionary Science Reliable?"</b> at Scotch Oakburn College – 7:00 pm
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	

Other dates	
October 19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>The Bible Convention</b>
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Spring Arts Festival at East Launceston</b>
October 27 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Global Leadership Summit</b>
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Riverlinks Together at George Town</b>
October	<b>Collection month for Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes "Operation Christmas Child"</b>
January 22 <sup>nd</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CMS Summerview at Port Sorell</b>



**Send any articles, comments, information or photos to  
Parish Office, 399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742  
[riverlinks@bigpond.com.au](mailto:riverlinks@bigpond.com.au)**

# COMBINED SERVICE AT EAST LAUNCESTON





# HANNAH REEVE'S BAPTISM AT EAST LAUNCESTON



Don't become discouraged.

It may be the last key in the bunch that will open the door



When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not shouting, "I am saved!"  
I'm whispering, "I get lost;  
that is why I chose this way."

When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I don't speak this with pride;  
I'm confessing that I stumble  
and need Someone to be my Guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak,  
and pray for strength to carry on.

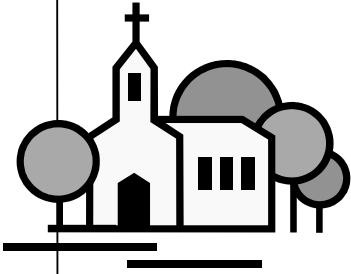
When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed  
and cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect.  
My flaws are all too visible,  
but God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I still feel the sting of pain,  
I have my share of heartaches,  
which is why I speak His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian,"  
I do not wish to judge.  
I have no authority;  
I only know I'm loved.

Authored by Carol Wimmer.



A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

## OH&S – SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU HIRING OF CHURCH FACILITIES

It has been brought to our attention that many people are not aware of what is required when someone wishes to hire any of the facilities in the Parish of Riverlinks.

The Diocese gives guidelines in "Protecting People, Protecting Property", the risk management manual for all Anglican Churches and I refer to Memorandum of Hire of Facility which is Appendix 16 of that book.

This is a formal document which all persons who are approved to hire any of the facilities and when we refer to facilities, we mean halls not churches, as the hire of a church would require the blessing of the Diocese, LMST and Parish Council and would not be given lightly.

Authority to hire and any charges which will be levied for the use of the building and other facilities will be decided by the Parish Council.

Insurance is the accountability of the person hiring the hall, and is mandatory and a public liability policy of \$20,000,000 is the lowest acceptable limit. The Parish Council can arrange insurance for those who do not already have this coverage. A charge will be levied to cover the costs. This is currently \$25 per day and is an addition to the cost of hiring the facility.

A charge for breakages will also apply to cover the replacement of items damaged. This includes crockery, furniture and fittings. A bond may be required if the Parish Council deems necessary.

This is merely a brief summary and any person intending to hire any facility must read the documents pertaining to the hire of facilities which are available at the Parish office.

Tom Nixon

## "THANK YOU!" FROM TAMARA HENRI

Dear Parish of Riverlinks,  
Just wanted to say thank you for your support of my mission trip to Greece & Italy. It has been a year of surprises for me so far and your support has really encouraged and confirmed for me that it is right that I take this journey.

Can't wait to share with you all when I get back what the journey's been, looking forward to seeing what God has for me and others through this experience. Thanks so much for your love shown to me.

Tamara Henri xxx





With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

Romans  
8:31,32  
The Message



Calling all Riverlinks Artists,

As some of you may be aware, we are planning a Spring Arts Festival on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October which will be held at St Aidan's.

Considering the large amount of artists within our parish we are going to put artwork on display in the Upper Room and also in the church (planning stages at this point). There will also be static displays of activities within our parish. Jennifer Wilkinson, Botanical Artist and teacher, along with Christina Booth, Children's Author and Illustrator, will be presenting demonstrations of their creative work during the day.

We would like you to consider the following:

- What artwork do you have or can create to put in the 'exhibition'? (2D works only)
- Are you able to present it professionally, i.e. all work needs to be framed and ready to hang? (canvases only require edges neatened and screw eyes)
- Are you happy to insure your work whilst it is on display or hang uninsured?
- Do you know of another artist who is a parishioner of Riverlinks who might be interested in this information you could pass this information on to?

As this is our first 'go' at doing this, we are uncertain how much artwork we will have room to display or how much will be forthcoming. In order to help work this out, we ask that:

- You let us know of your intention to display work and its dimensions and medium. If you have more than one piece, please be prepared for only one to be chosen to be displayed, depending on room
- Please let us know by 1<sup>st</sup> September so arrangements can be made
- If you are interested in helping hang the work or know of anywhere we can procure display stands please contact Christina Booth on 6334 0576
- Contact Christina on the above number for more information

Hoping you can be involved in glorifying God through the arts,  
Christina Booth – 2006 Spring Arts Festival Committee, St Aidan's

**"Singspiration"**  
at Worldview



**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**  
at 7:30 pm



**Soup & Sandwich Luncheon**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
**12-12:30 pm**

Donation \$5.00 & trade table

with guest speaker Phil Baker  
of Clifford Craig Research



**East Launceston  
Worship Centre**  
21-23 Arthur St  
East Launceston

**George Town  
Worship Centre**  
3 Anne St  
George Town

**Trevallyn  
Worship Centre**  
34 Bain Tce  
Trevallyn

**Riverside  
Worship Centre**  
399 West Tamar  
Highway  
Riverside

**Parish Office**  
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**Riverlinks  
Anglican  
Newsletter**

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## SERVICE TIMES FOR WORSHIP CENTRES

### East Launceston

3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer

### George Town

3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Holy Communion Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town Morning Prayer
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion

### Trevallyn and Riverside

	Riverside	Trevallyn
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Morning Prayer	
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion

Each Wednesday there is a Healing Service at St Oswald's based on Holy Communion at 10:00am

### Peace Haven

10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Morning prayer
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Holy communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Morning prayer

**MOBILE PHONES:**  
East Launceston 0438 378 233  
Trevallyn/Riverside 0409 799 419  
George Town 0439 821 038

**RIVERLINKS WEBSITE:** [www.riverlinks.net.au](http://www.riverlinks.net.au)