



March 2007

Anglican Church

Newsletter



Rain didn't dampen the spirits of the Trevallyn & Riverside folk at their monthly shared lunch in Tailrace Park

“Living the heartbeat of God”

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

FROM YOUR ENABLER

"I am the Real
Vine and my
Father is the
Farmer.

He cuts off every
branch of me
that doesn't bear
grapes. And
every branch
that is grape-
bearing he
prunes back so
it will bear even
more."

John 15:1,2

MSG

Can I ask that you read what follows in an un-hurried and thoughtful way?

It would be even better if you had your Bible open as you do.

I've been in the job five weeks and have attended church so far at Low Head, George Town, Pipers River, East Launceston, Trevallyn (including the Wednesday healing service) and Riverside. I have met with the LMST executive, the combined LMST, the three separate Teams, each of the 15 Team members and the Parish Council. I have also met quite a few of you in your centre on a Sunday and had numerous conversations with numbers of you.

Paul Cavanough (the Diocesan Director of Ministry), the Riverlinks LMST, Parish Council and I will be on retreat on Friday night 23rd and Saturday 24th March. Would you please ask our Heavenly Father:

- To show us and remind us from his Word **what his church exists for**
- To help each centre and its Team, along with Parish Council, honestly **evaluate** everything they do in light of God's revealed purpose for his church
- To help us **cultivate** a church life that is in tune with God's heartbeat; which is: a gospel-centred church life that glorifies God by knowing Christ and making him known in word and deed
- To help us **plan** our mission and ministry in line with God's purpose.

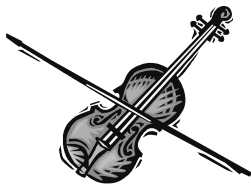
I need to warn you that these are dangerous prayers! In the same way that asking God to make us more like his Son is dangerous: it invites God's hard pruning (John 15:1-2) and a Father's discipline to make us the people he wants us to be (Hebrews 12:3-11). To be a gospel-centred church that constantly evaluates EVERYTHING it does against God's fixed purpose for his church, involves change and pain as well as purpose and joy. It means being Kingdom-minded – putting the advance of the Kingdom of God before our own parochial interests and preferences, agendas and traditions.

I plan constantly to challenge you and the Team to 'seek first the Kingdom of God', on both a personal and church level. Where do we start? I suggest, firstly, with ourselves. God says to us, 'Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves' (2 Corinthians 13:5). It isn't enough to be in the Anglican Church or in with God's people; you must be in 'the faith'; a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Word of God warns that in these last days churches will have people who are 'lovers of self, lovers of money...proud, arrogant, abusive... unholy... slanderous... treacherous... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people' (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Why avoid them?

*"Do not have
your concert
first, and then
tune your
instrument
afterwards.*

*Begin the day
with the Word of
God and prayer,
and get first of
all into harmony
with Him."*



Hudson Taylor

On our Bishop's recommendation in the current 'Tasmanian Anglican', I read in full the sermon given by Archbishop John Sentamu, on the occasion of his recent installation as Archbishop of York. I was struck by his penetrating and courageous description of the church in the Western world. I warn you to take a deep breath before you read part of it that follows:

'The vast majority of Western Christians are church-members, pew-fillers, hymn singers, sermon-tasters, Bible-readers, even born-again believers or Spirit-filled Charismatics – and we have got some of those here this morning – but aren't true disciples of Jesus Christ. If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually to become disciples, the Church in the West would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering.'

I warned you! Examine yourself. Are you a pew sitter but not a disciple of Jesus? Are you a parish office-bearer but not a cross-bearer? Are you in fact a disciple but presently more in name than practice? The living God says to you, 'Be reconciled to God' (2 Corinthians 5:20), don't 'receive the grace of God in vain' (2 Cor 6:1). 'Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first' (Revelation 2:5). You will find that all of these exhortations are addressed to churches.

I remind you of the Bishop's Vision for the Missionary Diocese of Tasmania: that each one of us be enlivened by biblical faith and the Holy Spirit, taking initiatives in mission. It is nothing less than Jesus' call to discipleship. The next thing we must do, then, is to understand what a disciple of Jesus is. What did Jesus say? 'A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained *will be like his teacher*' (Luke 6:40).

'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:26).

'Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:27).

'.....So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:33).

'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free' (John 8:31).

To the (12) disciples he said: 'By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13:35).

Let's ask God for the courage to ask, 'does this describe my life and that of my church?' What steps do I/we need to take in order to be like that?

continued next page...

FROM YOUR ENABLER CONT...

If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

James 1:5-8
MSG

Surely next we need to pray. What might happen if your congregation came before God, not for a Sunday 'hymn sandwich', but in humble repentance? Confessing sins, complacency, complaining, double-mindedness, self-interest, divisiveness...? Calling on God for forgiveness, for his Spirit, for gifts and vision and energy for his Mission, to help you to glorify Him in all that you do and say (1 Corinthians 10:31)? What might happen? I challenge you to do it and find out.

As we examine and test ourselves and our churches and the quality of our discipleship, as we earnestly and urgently pray, we shouldn't be surprised to find our gracious God at work in and through us – refining and renewing us, leading us into fruitful ministry and mission that seeks first his Kingdom, not ours.

As you can see, I am not interested in being 'nice'; saying what I think you want to hear. I believe we as a denomination and diocese are living on borrowed time and at a critical crossroad. We need to be honest about ourselves, real with Jesus and each other, dissatisfied with anything less than being an authentic church that lives the heartbeat of God – lost in his self-giving love, loving and saving lost sinners, loving and serving God's saints, to God's glory.

Please grab your local Team and examine, pray, review and plan.

Warmly,
David

NEWS FLASH FOR RIVERLINKS PREACHERS, POTENTIAL PREACHERS & ANYONE INVOLVED IN A BIBLE MINISTRY

We are organising a one-day preaching conference in Launceston on Monday 15th October 2007. All preachers and potential preachers and anyone doing any form of Bible teaching please put the date in your diary now. The day will be run by a team from the faculty of the Sydney Missionary & Bible College, led by the Principal, David Cook, a gifted, world-class Bible teacher.

The program will feature the 'how' of preparing a Bible talk, and electives including a workshop for women run by a female team member, who will also be speaking on the day about 'what men should know about preaching to women' - how's that for helpfulness!

An advertising/registration brochure will be available shortly. Please watch out for it and register.



SMBC is an evangelical, interdenominational training college for Christian men and women – the oldest Bible College in Australia.

TREVALLYN & RIVERSIDE COMBINED LUNCHEONS – JANUARY & FEBRUARY

A local priest and a pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End Is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

They planned to hold up the sign to each passing car. "Leave us alone you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by.

From around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one clergyman to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'bridge out' instead?"



A BBQ/Picnic was held at the Tailrace Park in February. No complaints about the rain from these happy picnickers!

In January the luncheon was held at the Percey's home.



RIVERLINKS

March 2007	
1st Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45 pm
2nd Fri	World Day of Prayer service – 10:00am at St Francis RC Church West Riverside
3rd Sat	
4th Sun	
5th Mon	
6th Tue	(each Tuesday) Morning Home Group 11:00am Study St David's Hall 12:00pm Prayers Evening Home Group 7:30pm The Parables at 43 Cleghorn Ave, Riverside Ph. 6327 3530 Iggesden Home Group – 1:30pm at 21 Wongarra Ave Legana Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group 6343 4168 or 6343 4133
7th Wed	(each Wednesday) Evening Home Group 7:30 pm at Bullard's Ph 6331 8968
8th Thur	Parish Council – 7:30pm
9th Fri	
10th Sat	

March 2007	
11th Sun	Harvest Spirit Festival – 9:00am at St David's Riverside
12th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm Combined LMST Meeting – 6:30pm
13th Tue	
14th Wed	St David's Guild – 2:00pm
15th Thur	
16th Fri	
17th Sat	
18th Sun	Worldview Commencement Celebration – 2:00pm at 41 Station Rd St Leonards
19th Mon	Presbyterian Home – 10:40 am
20th Tue	AWF Fellowship Day at Avoca



The **deadline** for the next Newsletter edition is **20th March**

CALENDAR

March 2007	
21st Wed	St Oswald's Guild – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:30 pm CMS Coffee & Dessert Evening 7:30pm at Ian & Anne Morley's home
22nd Thur	
23rd Fri	"Sons of Korah" concert – 7:30pm at Door of Hope Christian Church
24th Sat	
25th Sun	
26th Mon	Healing Service – 1:30 pm at George Town
27th Tue	
28th Wed	
29th Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45 pm
30th Fri	
31st Sat	

April and other dates 2007	
1st April	Being Church Together Combined Churches of GT service with Peter Shurley & Stephen Atkins 10:30 fro 11:00am start
29th April	Riverlinks Together Combined Service at Riverside
12th May	Rural Bible Forum 11am at Latrobe - 1 Corinthians David Rogers Smith
7th July	Rural Bible Forum 11am at Latrobe - Jeremiah Bp John Harrower
25th August	Rural Bible Forum 11am at Latrobe - Matthew Peter Bolt
15th October	Preparing a Bible Talk Conference 9:00am to 4:00pm

Send any articles, comments, information or photos to
 Parish Office, 399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742
riverlinks@bigpond.com.au

PEACE HAVEN CHAPEL 20TH ANNIVERSARY

What to give up for Lent

Give up speaking unkindly.
Let your speech be generous and understanding

Give up the fear which prevents Christian witness.
Seek courage to speak about your faith with others

Give up watching television one evening a week.
Visit someone lonely or sick instead

Give up spending so much time with newspapers and magazines.
Use some of that time to study your Bible

Give up grumbling.
Learn to give thanks in everything

In the first weekend in December the Peace Haven village celebrated the 20th anniversary of the community. It was a happy time for all, particularly those for whom the village has been home for many years, especially so for the seven "originals".

On Sunday 3rd December a special service was held. All three of the Chapel's current ministers, Paul Grayston, Clarrie Pryor and Peter North, were able to lead the service with prayers. Harold Williams gave the address, and Clarrie Pryor sang.

Paul Grayston
Peter North
& Clarrie Pryor

The Rt Rev Bishop Phillip Newell was also able to attend, which delighted all as he had been one of the three who had officiated on that day twenty years ago.

The afternoon concluded with afternoon teas on the lawns and a musical presentation by the West Tamar Municipal Band.



Fruit of the Spirit

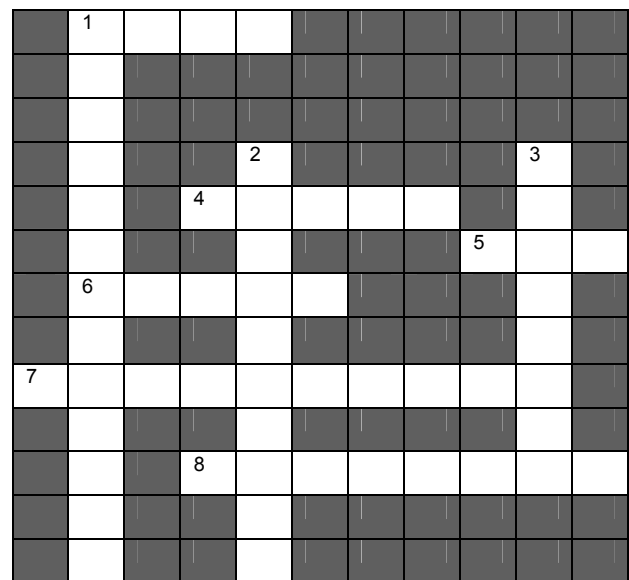
Across

1. Defined in 1 Corinthians 13
4. Rest, quietness
5. Delight, cheerfulness
6. The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
7. Self control
8. Humilty

Down

1. Patient
2. Moral excellence of character; kindness
3. The quality of being beneficial; kindness

For answers see Galations 5:22,23 KJV



NOTICES



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:37,38
NIV

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The next fellowship day is Tuesday 20th March at Avoca. Bus transport is available. Contact Connie Curtis 6327 3120 for more information.

HARVEST SPIRIT FESTIVAL

11th March at St David's Church
Morning Prayer
Combined Service at 9:00 a.m.

If you would like to bring produce, it will all be given to City Mission.



LEPROSY MISSION

Would all St Oswald's members & friends who have boxes, please return to Rona Blyth for counting early in April.

To assist this worthy fund, anyone needing a new box, please see me. We thank Joan and Margy for attending to this mission collection over many years.

Rona Blyth



DON'T MISS:



SONS OF KORAH

Appearing LIVE at Door of Hope Christian Church
Cnr Glen Dhu & Heather Sts, SOUTH LAUNCESTON
Friday 23rd March
7:30PM

Tickets at the door.
Adults \$10; Full-time students \$5; Family \$25

CMS COFFEE & DESSERT EVENING

Wednesday 21st March
7:30 p.m.

A coffee and dessert evening for CMS will be held at Ian & Anne Morley's home, 33 Allison Avenue Riverside. Come, meet and hear the CMS State Secretary Pam Lake. Coffee and all desserts are provided. No need to bring anything other than yourself and your friends!





There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.

Philippians 1:6
MSG

THE MOST DISTURBING QUESTION

BY JIM RAMSAY

There is an unfortunate tendency for us to think things were easier in earlier days; they weren't.

I am reading 1 Peter. I have been trying to imagine living as a Christian in a world without church buildings, paid ministers, Katoomba conventions or Koorong bookshops.

How did those first century Christians keep growing?

I can imagine residents of some Roman province, transported 'Dr Who' style into the 21st century, scolding us when they hear how we complain about getting involved in evangelism. It was much harder for them. They didn't even have access to Power Point presentations for their sermons!

Peter told his readers they were "God's people" (2:10) who were like refugees (2:11) heading to a better home. They were to be good citizens (2:13-17), respectful workers (2:18-25) working hard at their marriages (3:1-7). They registered on the Roman radar to such an extent that they attracted community attention which resulted in them experiencing persecution (3:8-17 and 4:12-19).

Unlike them, we have very few 'fiery trials' in suburban Australia. I can imagine a teleported visitor from the 1st century telling us in no uncertain terms - "You've never had it so good!" Fair enough.

That's when I came up with a ticklish question. I'd love to ask you but it might be too disturbing.

"Ask me what question?" you may well reply.

The answer requires you to turn up 1 Peter 3:15 which, you will quickly discern, is not a question. Confused? Well just read the verse:

... but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; The question is elementary - "Has anyone asked you yet?"

Could it be that the lack of any question put to us in those terms simply means that there is no hope within us? Could it mean that the hope is well and truly hidden, or we are well and truly hidden?

Have we become so like our neighbours that the only questions they ask are those concerning plasma vs. home theatre, holiday destinations or superannuation schemes? Are we so enmeshed and immersed in society that we are just like everyone else?

Peter obviously expected his readers to be living in a manner distinct from the rest of the community. In a world of uncertainty, terror and unsavoury sexual morality he thought his readers would stand out.

continued next page...

THE MOST DISTURBING QUESTION CONT...

Dear God,

*So far today, I
am doing all
right!*

*I haven't been
greedy, mean,
selfish, nasty,
self indulgent,
gossiped or lost
my temper.*

*I have not
complained,
whinged,
cursed or
eaten any
chocolate,
nor have I
charged
anything to my
credit card.*

*But I'll be
getting out of
bed in a
minute and
then, I think,
I'm really going
to need your
help.*

*In Jesus' name,
Amen.*

More than once he reveals his longing for non Christians to become aware of God and what He has done in Christ through the actions and decisions of the Christians to whom he writes (2:12; 2:21; 3:1; 3:15).

The first step in evangelism for the preacher or the pew-sitter, is to be so appreciative of what God

has done for us in Christ, so attuned to His values, so excited by His mission, so confident in His future, that it is evident in common everyday situations. Now all I have to do is to be ready with answer.

Are you?
Have you practised it?

This article first appeared at
www.your.sydneyanglicans.net

ST DAVID'S GUILD

We met for the first time this year on 14th February and although our numbers were small, a great time of fellowship was had by all. We have decided to continue meeting each month with fellowship being the main content. This month we donated \$100 to Anglicare and are participating in the World Day of Prayer at St Francis RC Church at 10 am on Friday 2nd March.

A bible reading for Valentines Day was from Song of Solomon 2:1-7. Stories were told, hand work display and birthday posy presented. Our Guild has a surplus of large white damask tablecloths which we wish to offer to interested parishioners for a token donation to Guild funds – contact Jan Menzie 6327 3331 for details.

ST OSWALD'S GUILD

At our meeting last week we discussed plans for making meetings more relevant to parish activities.

Next meeting 4/11 Walcorm Ct, Riverside on 21st March at 2pm.

We welcome visitors.

A lighthearted, whimsical fellowship afternoon. Bring your favourite poems and share them with us.

We are looking forward to inviting Jared Stocks, Chaplain of Riverside High School, to a later meeting so that we can discuss ideas and ways that the church can help his work with young people.

Robin McKendrick

**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**
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*Please forward any
photos or articles to
the Parish office by
20th of each month
for inclusion in the
newsletter.*

SERVICE TIMES FOR WORSHIP CENTRES

East Launceston

4 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion
11 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion
18 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion
25 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer

George Town

4 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Holy Communion Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
11 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town Together at George Town
18 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
25 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion

Trevallyn and Riverside

	Riverside	Trevallyn
4 th	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
11 th	9:00 am Harvest Spirit Festival	
18 th	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion
25 th	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

11 th	10:30 am Morning Prayer
18 th	10:30 am Holy Communion
25 th	10:30 am Morning Prayer

MOBILE PHONES:

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Trevallyn/Riverside 0409 799 419
George Town 0439 821 038

RIVERLINKS WEBSITE:

www.riverlinks.net.au