



June 2007

Anglican Church

Newsletter



**Josie, Dennis & Tom
in the Agfest mission tent**

“Living the heartbeat of God”

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

FROM THE ENABLER



For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 1:18-19
NIV

Last week I attended a preaching conference at Sydney Missionary & Bible College. Don Carson was one of the main speakers for the conference. He will be speaking at the next CMS Summerview conference in Port Sorrell and I recommend that you plan to go and hear him. Something he said last week really struck me. How would you finish this sentence on what the church is here for?

'The church of Jesus Christ is about ...'

Last week in Sydney Don Carson finished the sentence like this:

'The church of Jesus Christ is about preparing people for eternity.'

I already knew that but I was struck by the words he used. They are crystal clear and helpfully succinct. Are you as clear on what your church is about? Do you possess a degree of conviction about that? Do you sense the import of those words and that calling? Let me unpack them with you:

'The church of Jesus

Christ' The church, the gathered people of God, is a gathering and people that is owned by Jesus Christ. It is **his** church, for which he suffered and died and rose (Rev 5:6-10; 1 Pet 1:18-19. He owns it and it belongs to him.

'...is about preparing people'

For what? Don Carson went on to say, 'not for happy marriages. They are a side-effect, and in the light of eternity, very secondary.' You wouldn't think that judging by the focus of so many churches today, as if our chief calling is to prepare people for a successful life, marriage, career.

'...for eternity.'

That is the New Testament's perspective and focus. Is it yours, your church's? We are here, principally, to proclaim God's gospel by which his people are saved for all eternity and by which they are sustained in their salvation (Matt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 1:18);

continued next page...

“... Please be working together with your Ministry Support Team and Parish Council in the high calling of preparing the church of Jesus Christ for eternity; the work of mission to your community and ministry to the church.”

to love and serve and teach and admonish one another that we would grow into the likeness of Jesus and live for his glory (Eph 4:11-16; 2 Cor 3:18). Of course we serve our communities (Titus 3:1-3,8,14) and seek to be light and salt in them (Matt 5:13-16); and of course the gospel and Spirit will make us better married partners, parents and employees (Eph 5:21-33; 6:1-9); but that is not our message or focus. Instead, our chief concern is to be preparing Jesus' bride for her big day, when she (the church) is presented to Him 'in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish' (Eph 5:27; cf. Rev 19:1-10); that she/we would enjoy and serve and glorify him in the New Creation forever (Rev 5:6-14; 21 & 22). What a calling we have now, what a future then!

So

The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing – in Pipers River, Trevallyn, East Launceston, Hillwood, Riverside, Low Head and George Town.

Please be working together with your Ministry Support Team and Parish Council in the high calling of preparing the church of Jesus Christ for eternity; the work of mission to your community and ministry to the church. Here are some upcoming opportunities for training and ministry in the service of Jesus and his church:

~ 'Invest': diocesan training day for all Anglicans; to equip and encourage you in future life and ministry – 4th August at Launceston Church Grammar School, Mowbray Heights. More details in this newsletter. Bible teaching, electives including evangelism strategies, community outreach, parenting, children and family ministry, readers and worship leaders, youth ministry, seniors' ministry. **There really ought to be lots of people from Riverlinks at this day. Your time and training will be an investment in eternity.**

continued next page...



Invest
Training Day
4th August

How to Prepare
a Bible Talk
15th October

JAAL Campaign
12th September
to 30th October

FROM THE ENABLER CONT...

~ JAAL (Jesus All About Life) campaign in September 12th to October 30th. Riverlinks has registered with this campaign which means that our parish will feature on the JAAL website for people who visit the site in response to the JAAL television, radio and newsprint promotions that will run in prime time. I am presently training MST members on using a six-week course called 'Christianity Explained' with a view to training other suitable people to run it with interested people following JAAL or at other times as well.

Please let your Ministry Team know if you are interested in being trained.

~ 'How to Prepare a Bible Talk' conference day – Monday 15th October at St Aidan's East Launceston.

Info/regio brochures available now.

This is being organized by Riverlinks and is a must for all preachers and prospective preachers and would also be helpful for Bible study leaders.

~ I am now running **preaching workshops** for the preachers in our parish. I have so far run one in each of the three centres and hope to offer these around every six weeks – a combined one for the RS/TR and EL preachers and one for the GT preachers. If you think that God might have gifted you for preaching and teaching the Bible, please talk to a Team member and to me. Perhaps attending the workshops will help you test that.

It's been great to hear of the strong interest in the St Aidan's congregation in forming **home groups** for the purpose of Christian nurture and discipleship, training and outreach. I strongly believe that a strong multi-purpose home group ministry will be a vital part of growing healthy churches in our parish.

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*Five minutes to eternity!
What exactly does that mean?
That a man must take time to listen
If his soul is to be clean.*

*Five minutes to eternity!
What more can we say?
That a saint must take time to testify
And not put off for another day.*

*Five minutes to eternity!
Time enough to tell what the Lord has done for you.
When you think you are too busy,
Remember, someone took time for you!*

-James R. Davis

This needs to happen in every centre, and existing groups may need to re-imagine themselves as places of Christian hospitality and outreach as well as study and nurture. Please talk to your Team about this.

This throws up the challenge of recruiting and training suitable **small group leaders**.

Do you think you have a good grasp of the Christian gospel and a reasonable handle on the Bible? Are you good with people? Can you take initiatives and exercise a degree of leadership?

Do you want to see believers grow and unbelievers saved and grow? If so, you might be a good small group leader. Why not talk to a Team member or me about it? It won't hurt to talk about it.

I hope with me, you are praying for and personally committed to **preparing the church of Jesus Christ for eternity**. There's no greater calling; no greater investment of your time, energy and resources. Let's do it!

Warmly,
David

anglican training day

invest ● KINGDOM ● COMMUNITY ● SELF

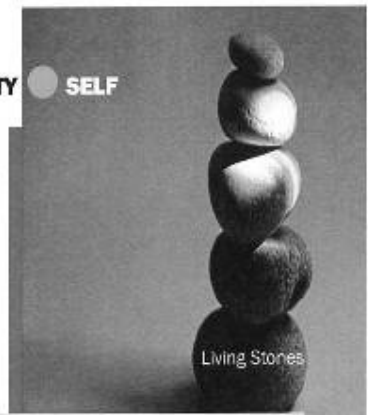
Bishop John says "This is a chance for all Anglicans to 'invest treasures in heaven' and to declare our heart's desires by simply attending and participating. Investment is about the future. We all invest in ourselves, our families, our churches and our communities, longing for an abundant life. An Invest day will equip and encourage you in future life and ministry. It's also a chance to enjoy some of the abundant life that we have together in Jesus Christ. This is an investment in the Kingdom of God".

Saturday's from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
gold coin contribution for am & pm tea, BBQ sausage sizzle

LATROBE 21 July
Geneva Christian College
197 Moriarty Road, Latrobe

HOBART 28 July
Hutchins School
71 Nelson Road, Sandy Bay

LAUNCESTON 4 August
Launceston Church Grammar School
Button Street, Mowbray Heights



PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY
PHONING rebecca 6220 2016 or email
ministrycouncil@anglicantas.org.au

AGFEST - MISSION 'AFLOAT'

by Johnny Hart



B.C.

The Agfest project held on the 3rd to the 5th May was a mission adventure for the Riverlinks Parish. We had a large tent that was shared with Mission Afloat & Woodfield Lodge camp.

The offer was made to St John's to participate, and they contributed with a Power Point of the Parish with helpers. They also contributed some hand-crafted wooden ornaments with Christian messages to give away. As some people insisted on making a donation any money received was given to Mission Afloat.

Our activities were made up with bible verses which Anne put onto fridge magnets and cards, and colouring & activity sheets for kids. Children's Christian DVDs were played in conjunction with the computer and projector.



Josie Ford came with the Samaritan's Purse boxes and we received encouraging support State wide. An advertising DVD about Samaritan's Purse was played on a small TV.

Chairs were available for mothers with young children and older people. The set up was simple and basic due to not knowing what to expect. Plenty of ideas have developed from the venture and I have been encouraged from the positive comments given by those who worked on the stall.

My deepest thanks to all who helped, and experienced working outside their comfort zone. Working with the Mission Afloat group was very successful and our confidence grew by Saturday to agree that we should make it a 3 year project. A committee is needed to put Agfest Riverlinks together for 2008.

Ken Pedley

*The tongue
must be heavy
indeed,*

*because so few
people can
hold it.*

*Standing in the
middle of the
road is
dangerous.*

*You will get
knocked down
by the traffic
from both ways.*

*Sorrow looks
back, worry
looks around,
and faith
looks up.*



RIVERLINKS

June 2007	
1st Fri	
2nd Sat	
3rd Sun	
4th Mon	
5th Tue	(each Tuesday) Morning Home Group 11:00am Study St David's Hall 12:00pm Prayers Evening Home Group – 7:30pm 43 Cleghorn Ave, Riverside Igglesden Home Group – 1:30pm at 21 Wongarra Ave Legana Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group
6th Wed	(each Wednesday) Evening Home Group 7:30pm at Bullard's
7th Thur	
8th Fri	
9th Sat	

June 2007	
10th Sun	
11th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm Combined LMST Meeting – 6:30pm
12th Tue	
13th Wed	St David's Guild – 2:00pm
14th Thur	Parish Council – 7:30pm
15th Fri	Shirley Dent CMS missionary – 7:30pm at St Aidan's
16th Sat	
17th Sun	
18th Mon	Presbyterian Home Legana – 10:40am
19th Tue	AWF planning day – 10:30am at St John's
20th Wed	St Oswald's Guild – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:30pm
21st Thur	

[Parish office closed this week]

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

CALENDAR

June 2007	
22 nd Fri	
23 rd Sat	
24 th Sun	
25 th Mon	Healing Service – 1:30pm at George Town
26 th Tue	
27 th Wed	
28 th Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45pm
29 th Fri	
30 th Sat	

July and other dates 2007	
19 th - 22 nd July	Men's Cursillo Weekend at Camp Clayton
21 st July	Invest Training Day Latrobe – 10:00am to 4:00pm at Geneva Christian College
28 th July	Invest Training Day Hobart – 10:00am to 4:00pm at Hutchins School
4 th August	Invest Training Day Launceston – 10:00am to 4:00pm at Launceston Church Grammar School
2 nd -5 th August	Women's Cursillo Weekend at Camp Clayton
25 th August	Rural Bible Forum 11:00am at Latrobe - Matthew Peter Bolt
15 th October	"Preparing a Bible Talk" Conference 9:00am to 4:00pm at St Aidan's

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

ANZAC DAY KID'S FESTIVAL AT GEORGE TOWN

The will of God will never take you, where the grace of God cannot keep you. Where the arms of God cannot support you, where the riches of God cannot supply your needs, where the power of God cannot endow you.

The will of God will never take you, Where the spirit of God cannot work through you, Where the wisdom of God cannot teach you, Where the army of God cannot protect you, Where the hands of God cannot mould you.

The will of God will never take you, where the love of God cannot enfold you, where the mercies of God cannot sustain you, where the peace of God cannot calm your fears, where the authority of God cannot overrule for you.

The will of God will never take you, where the comfort of God cannot dry your tears; Where the Word of God cannot feed you, where the miracles of God cannot be done for you, where the omnipresence of God cannot find you.

~Author Unknown~

On Anzac Day Riverlinks Anglican church, in association with the other Christian churches in George Town, hosted a Kids Festival. With the blessing of the RSL and assistance from Fusion an afternoon of fun and games was held in the Max Harris reserve. The Max Harris reserve is located below the RSL club and is the site of the Anzac Day service.

There were several reasons for hosting this event. They are:

- 1) The combined churches have a strategy to raise public awareness of the churches in George Town in the lead up to the Jesus: all about life campaign and this event along with the "being church, being community together" (reported in the last Riverlinks newsletter) is part of that plan.
- 2) We wanted to encourage people to attend the Anzac Day service

3) We wanted to bless our community and to this end all food, drinks and activities on the day were all free. Activities included wind tunnel, jumping castle, face painting, bubble blowing and races of various kinds. One of the highlights was water balloon volleyball.

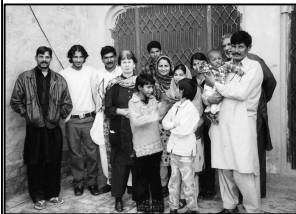
4) We sought to build a sense of belonging and relationship within our community

The day was a great success with hundreds of kids and their families enjoying the activities. We would like to thank Fusion, the RSL and those who helped out on the day for making it the success it was.

Ian Wheeler



ANZAC Day Kid's Festival



INTRODUCING... SHIRLEY GENT

Shirley was approached by Shimshad, a member of the youth group in Lahore, Pakistan. He asked her to help him learn English. She decided to use the Bible as her textbook. Now he is enrolled in a Bible correspondence course.

Although Shirley went to Pakistan to run a Guest House at the invitation of Bishop Alexander Malik, God has used her to share the gospel with Shimshad and his family (pictured here with Shirley). Shimshad is just one of the thousands of people who now know God's redeeming love through the witness and ministry of CMS missionaries.

Shirley has been serving as a missionary with CMS for 10 years and is now retiring. She originally served in Cairo, Egypt, running the Anglican Diocesan Guest House, where she cared for the physical needs of clergy, missionaries and visitors from many countries who stayed there. She now plans to return to Pakistan as a CMS member with prayer support (a CMS Associate). She is going at the invitation of the local church.

**Come and learn of more of Shirley's ministry
at St Aidan's on Friday 15th June – 7:30 pm**

NOTICES



Lots of training days coming up around the Parish and around the state. Make sure you get involved!



Please note

that the

Parish office

will be

CLOSED

for the week

11th – 15th

June.

Rural Bible Forum

Latrobe, 25th August - Matthew with Peter Bolt

Preparing a Bible Talk Conference

St Aidan's East Launceston, 15th October with Sydney Missionary & Bible College lecturers David Cook, Sam Chan & Sue Steele-Smith.



Anglican Women's Fellowship (Northern Branch) planning day meeting at St John's Church Launceston. Tuesday 19th June at 10:30am.

Please bring something to share for lunch

CURSILLO WEEKENDS

19th - 22nd July (Men's) and **2nd-5th August** (Women's)

Contact:

Bev Percey – 6344 7102

Ros Lawrence – 6382 1082

Grace Rogers – 6327 3982

**Make a friend
Be a friend
Bring that friend to Jesus**



You are warmly invited to meet our CMS link missionary

Shirley Gent

at St Aidan's, East Launceston
Friday 15th June - 7:30 for 8pm start

Come and learn of more of Shirley's ministry



ST OSWALD'S LUNCHEON WITH GUEST SPEAKER JARED STOCKS



Our 'supported' chaplain to Riverside High School – Jared Stocks - was invited to the Guild luncheon at St Oswald's on 16th May to meet and talk with us.

It was a very pleasant and well supported time – not to mention well fed! 35 (plus) people attended and heard Jared speak of the basis of his faith and work, and examples of the experiences and challenges of his role as Chaplain to so many students, approx. 850, and the staff as well.

It is wonderful to know he is so well accepted and encouraged by them, and we pray God will truly bless and guide him, grant him wisdom and provision for his needs.

We do encourage everyone to pray for him, and other chaplains too, and to support him financially. Jared's role in an existing Chaplaincy is supported by local churches, not by federal government funding at this point.

We did appreciate his sharing about his grandmother and her faith, and his leading us all in singing "Turn your eyes upon Jesus" – Keep us focused Lord.

Thank you everyone who came and supported us in this afternoon of fellowship, especially the men who did the washing up.
On behalf of the guild.

Kaye & Ross Gregory





A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that is the church I used to go to," the man replied.

CREATING COMMUNITY

BY ARCHIE POULOS

Almost every survey of a church's vitality has "the sense of community" as a measurement criterion. This is just a reflection of the way we all feel that God and His people are big on relationship, and so our churches should have relationship at the centre.

Half a century ago the creation of community was not an issue for churches. We did not have cars and regional shopping centres, and schools our children attended were not half way across the city from each other. We lived in our suburbs, saw each other not just at church but at the shops, in the playground, at sport and walking the streets. Church life did not have to create community - church relationships were part of the community.

The problem is not just that the pace of life in our cities is increasing exponentially. There are so many different activities we commit ourselves to, and they are done in so many different places.

Life has become a series of events and tasks rather than relationships, and we are unlikely to engage in those activities with people from our church in any case. So we have to work in order to create the church community.

The list of possibilities is as long as our urgent "to do" lists - ensure morning tea or supper are the best they can be, church picnics and breakfasts, mid week prayer groups, men's dinners, women's activities, social activities. Sometimes, we so clog the diary that congregation members feel guilty they cannot attend, or just raise their hands in despair at the impossibility and wind up not caring when the next activity is advertised. So we must ask ourselves, if relationship in community is what we are seeking, what is the best way of achieving this?

*The best way
to get even
is to forget.*

*Feed your faith
and your
doubts will
starve to death.*

*God wants
spiritual fruit, not
religious nuts.*

It seems to me that the development of valuable relationships occurs a number of ways.

These include:

- an extended period of relationship, so that you share many experiences
- dealing with and support through significant issues and events
- putting the other first
- spending time with each other, not with an agenda, but merely because we want to be together
- sharing life in a variety of contexts

In our churches one of the ways of putting the first and last of these together is by seeing others over an extended period of time in both church and smaller situations where we mutter the gospel to each other.

That is, the old habit of being involved in both church and Bible study. This variety of context makes for deeper relationships, and Bible study, because of its very nature allows for inefficient time which builds relationship.

I guess I am asking us to consider the question "do we program so many community building times that we don't have time for the bread and butter of participation in both church and Bible study?" Sure, these two are unlikely to make us feel like we are a small village community, but it will help us employ God's gift of each other as we walk toward glory.

Archie Poulos is a lecturer at Moore Theological College. This article first appeared at www.sydneyanglicans.net



CMS PENTECOST APPEAL

CMS needs to raise \$450,000 by 30th June to make sure that the pleas of national churches for trained leaders and evangelists are answered.

This finance is needed to keep CMS missionaries on location and to send new ones to different parts of the world.

Let us work together through prayer and giving to help equip the nations and to be a vital part of Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations.

**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
399 West Tamar Hwy
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6327 4742
riverlinks@bigpond.com

*Riverlinks'
Newsletter
is published
monthly by the Parish
Council.*

*Opinions expressed in
this publication do
not necessarily reflect
those of the clergy or
the Anglican Church*

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

**399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside
6327 4742
riverlinks@bigpond.com**

SERVICE TIMES FOR WORSHIP CENTRES

East Launceston

3 rd	10:00 am	Holy Communion
10 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion
17 th	10:00 am	Holy Communion
24 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer

George Town

3 rd	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Holy Communion Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
10 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town - Together at George Town
17 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion
27 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion

Trevallyn and Riverside

	Riverside	Trevallyn
3 rd	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00am Holy Communion
10 th	9:00 am Morning Prayer	No Service
17 th	9:00 am Holy Communion	11:00 am Holy Communion
24 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

10 th	10:30 am Morning Prayer
17 th	10:30 am Holy Communion
24 th	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