

Anglican Church

Newsletter



**The beginning of Kid's Church at
St Oswald's?**

"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 we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

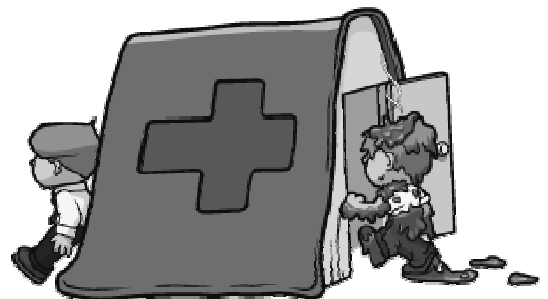
2 Corinthians
2:15-17

Do you remember the Scout motto? 'BE PREPARED!' It was drilled into me as a Cub and then Scout at every meeting. In the safety of the Scout Den we prepared ourselves for all sorts of situations 'out there' – snake bite, a broken limb, a fire without matches, and singing 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' and 'Kum ba yah' around the fire, without any idea of what they meant! But none of that 'preparation' prepared our Scout group for the raw reality of a midnight hike in the Royal National Park, Sydney, in freezing temperatures and unrelenting, torrential rain!! We were hopelessly lost, our so-called leaders were hopelessly lost. We were wet to the bone, cold to the core and absolutely miserable all night. Daybreak saw us crawl onto a railway station and shuffle home thoroughly disillusioned and defeated. We were unprepared and ill-prepared for the harsh reality that confronted us outside of our warm, comfortable Scout Den.

That's a true story. And it is also a true picture of the state of many church's preparedness for engaging our culture and community with the truth of the gospel. Outside of the warm, comfortable Church Den is a harsh reality called LIFE outside of Eden; and we Christians can be ill-prepared in both *understanding* life outside of Eden and *explaining* what God is doing to redeem us from it.

This helps explain the ineffectual discipleship of many Christians in the West today. Without a biblical worldview and sound grasp of the gospel, we can be almost as confused and debilitated by life outside of Eden as our non-Christian neighbours, and that's saying something!

The strong antidote to this predicament is personal and congregational biblical formation – allowing God's Word to shape our understanding of reality and of the hope God has created for his people through the person and work of his Son; a hope that both transcends our day-to-day and speaks to it. This is why I am committed to building a strong team of biblical preachers and a strong home group ministry across the parish. Please pray for our preachers and home group leaders, for their development and ministry to us. Come to church expecting and longing to hear God speak through his Word and people; and if you're not in a home group, join one.



The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn't live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn't take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don't make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near. We live and move in him, can't get away from him! One of your poets said it well: 'We're the God-created.' Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn't make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it?

Acts 17:24-29
MSG

As we grow together in our understanding and love of God and his Word and each other, he will PREPARE us for life and for engaging others about life and the big questions of life; such as, 'After two World Wars why can't humans live in peace?' 'Why are there different religions with profound differences and how can we know which one is right?' 'Is there one God, many gods, or no God?' 'Why is there conflict between spouses, siblings, neighbours, nations?' 'Why are there tsunamis and injustices?' 'Why do we die and what happens then?' 'Is there a Heaven and how can you get there?' 'Why is life so hard?' 'Why am I so bored, frustrated, angry, fearful, mixed up?' 'How can I be a better husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, friend?' 'Is life more than work and bills and television?' 'Who is Jesus and can he help us?' 'Is there any reason for hope?'

A biblical worldview (God's view) will help us broadly understand and live with life outside of Eden with its absurd contrasts and jarring contradictions. This biblical gospel is in fact **the logic of the universe**. It is reasonable, coherent, and strangely compelling. It logically explains both the existence of the world and its state. It reveals a God who is transcendent yet knowable (Acts 17:22-28);

a God who has no rival and is infinitely worthy of our worship (Isaiah 45:14-25). It reveals God's King and the way into his Kingdom – a Kingdom that will have no end (Mk 1:14-15; Rev 1:4-20); God's righteous way of making righteous the unrighteous, through the life, death and resurrection of his Son (Rom 1:16-17; 3:21-26). To 'those who are being saved' the gospel is 'a fragrance of life' (2 Cor 2:15-16) and 'the power of God' (1 Cor 1:18). It is 'the power of God and the wisdom of God' (1 Cor 1:24).

The biblical gospel is to define and drive our lives as Christians, and sustain them in hope. Does that describe your life and that of your congregation? To the degree that it does, you and your congregation will be **'prepared'** to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you' (1 Pet 3:15). The **JAAL** statewide media campaign in September-October will be a test of our preparedness. God willing, our work colleagues, neighbours, friends and family will be provoked to ask us about Jesus and our hope in him. What will be our answer? Will it be from the heart and in words that are both understandable and meaningful? Will the priorities and tenor of our lives enhance our answer or take away from it?

continued page 4...

FROM THE ENABLER CONT...

If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought.

Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.

Keep a clear conscience before God so that when people throw mud at you, none of it will stick.

cont...

Will we answer at all? Or will we deny Jesus by our silence? These are important questions. I leave them for you to ponder. I am praying that our Sunday preaching series in John's Gospel and the equipping and nurturing you receive in a home group, will go a long way towards preparing you to understand and explain the hope that is in you. Don't be caught out like my Scout group was that dreadful night. BE PREPARED!

Here are some other ways to prepare for life and ministry:

~ '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, 10am-4pm, gold coin donation for morning/afternoon tea, sausage sizzle. Bible teaching, electives including evangelism strategies, community outreach, parenting, children and family ministry, readers and worship leaders, youth ministry, seniors' ministry. I will be leading a seminar on Promoting the gospel and the glory of God. **Will you set this time aside? Your time and training will be an investment in eternity.**

~ A six-week evangelism course called 'Christianity Explained' is being test-run in some home groups in preparation for running it with any interested people during and following the JAAL campaign and at other times as well.

~ I am running six-weekly preaching workshops across the parish for our 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. You would need to commence a process of discernment and training for this authorised ministry in our parish.

~ '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 organised by Riverlinks and is a must for all preachers and prospective preachers and would also be helpful for home group leaders.

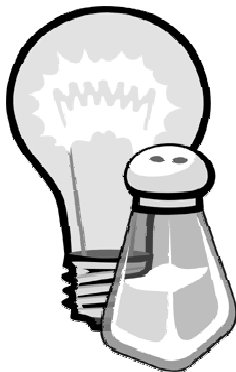
~ Three Pastoral Care seminars led by Pamela Cornish, including ministry to the aged and dying, Thursday 1st, 8th & 15th November in St David's hall, Riverside, 9.30 for 10am to 2.30pm.

I also wish to urge you to prayerfully and carefully engage in our next Calling Out of new Ministry Support Team members. As you know the Calling Sunday is 19th August. Please ensure that you have read the paper that explains ESM and the Calling Out process.

They'll end up realizing that they're the ones who need a bath.

It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God.

1 Peter 3:13-18
MSG



There is a longer and shorter version and they are available in each centre. **Please read this BEFORE you fill out the Calling Out form that will be handed out to everyone on Sunday 5th August.** This must be returned on Calling Sunday – 19th August. It is vital that you understand that this is a process of discernment that includes but is not limited to your form. Final decisions about suitable Team members rest with the Enabler and the Bishop. **Please pray that God would give us the people that we need on Team at this important time in our young parish's life.** New Team members are needed not only to replace some who are stepping off the Team but also to increase the local Team sizes. We are aiming for two Locally Ordained Ministers in each centre and these may or may not be existing Team members.

Finally, the other important day in August (apart from my birthday!) is our parish's Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Sunday 26th August

following a 10am Combined Parish Service at which I will be preaching on being prepared to answer those who ask us about our hope! The text will be 1 Peter 3:13-17. Please prayerfully consider your nominations for membership of Parish Council. You will find nomination forms in each centre. As well as electing Church Wardens and Parish Councillors etc., the parish is responsible for electing one Locally Ordained Minister to the Parish Council Executive, and additional MST members to serve as members of Parish Council, if desired. At the AGM we will also be 'launching' and committing to God each centre's Vision Statement and Strategic Plan.

Be assured of my persistent prayers for your local Team and congregation and for Parish Council. I value yours. We have a great God to know and make known. Let's go.

Warmly,
David

CALLING SUNDAY SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST

Forms will be available in centres from 5th August for names to be proposed for prayerful consideration as members of the Ministry Support Team and as Locally Ordained Ministers.

Please pray carefully in preparation for this calling out

RIVERLINKS

| August 2007 | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1st Wed | (each Wednesday) Evening Home Group 7:30pm at Bullard's |
| 2nd Thur | Tamar Park – 1:45pm Women's Cursillo Weekend at Camp Clayton |
| 3rd Fri | Women's Cursillo Weekend |
| 4th Sat | Invest Anglican Training Day at Launceston Church Grammar School 10:00am – 4:00pm Women's Cursillo Weekend |
| 5th Sun | Women's Cursillo Weekend |
| 6th Mon | |
| 7th Tue | (each Tuesday) Morning Home Group 11:00am Study St David's Hall 12:00pm Prayers Evening Home Group – 7:30pm Iglesden Home Group – 1:30pm at 21 Wongarra Ave Legana Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group Dr Tom Woodward "Questioning Darwinism... The rise of Intelligent Design" – 7:00pm at Door of Hope |
| 8th Wed | St David's Guild – 2:00pm |

| August 2007 | |
|----------------------|--|
| 9th Thur | Parish Council – 7:30pm |
| 10th Fri | |
| 11th Sat | |
| 12th Sun | |
| 13th Mon | Cadorna – 2:00pm Combined LMST Meeting – 6:30pm |
| 14th Tue | |
| 15th Wed | St Oswald's Guild – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:30pm |
| 16th Thur | |
| 17th Fri | |
| 18th Sat | Northern Ultreya – 12:00 noon at Holy Trinity Beaconsfield |
| 19th Sun | Calling Sunday |

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

CALENDAR

| August 2007 | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 20th Mon | Presbyterian Home Legana – 10:40am |
| 21st Tue | |
| 22nd Wed | |
| 23rd Thur | |
| 24th Fri | |
| 25th Sat | Rural Bible Forum 11:00am at Latrobe Matthew - presented by Peter Bolt |
| 26th Sun | Parish AGM & Combined Service at Riverside – 10:00am |
| 27th Mon | Healing Service – 1:30pm at George Town |
| 28th Tue | |
| 29th Wed | |
| 30th Thur | Tamar Park – 1:45pm |
| 31st Fri | |

| September and other dates 2007 | |
|---|--|
| 9th Sept | Kid's Church at St Oswald's – 11:00am (& every 2nd Sunday from 9th September) |
| 12th Sept to 30th October | Jesus. All About Life Campaign |
| 15th October | “Preparing a Bible Talk” Conference 9:00am to 4:00pm at St Aidan's |
| 1st 8th & 15th November | Pastoral Care Seminars with Pamela Cornish 9.30am to 2.30pm at St David's |
| | |



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



*Oil. Earth. Water.
What is our most
valuable asset?*

Time.

*Non-renewable
resource #1 for
the Christian
minister (that's all
of us – full-time or
otherwise).*

Don't pass it.

Don't waste it.

Don't spend it.

*And certainly,
don't kill it.*

*Genesis reminds
us that, as*

*human beings,
we are stewards*

of all the

*resources God
has given us, and*

a deep

*appreciation of
stewardship is the*

*essential "why"
of time*

management.

Our times are in

God's hands,

and we are to

invest our time

wisely.

The science of

time

management is

relatively simple:

Identify your

priorities.

Allocate your

time according

to your top

priorities.

That's it.

Time is free, but

it's priceless.

Once you've lost

it, you can't get it

back.

by Andrew Lim

FULL-TIME ENABLER

Following a meeting between Paul Cavanough, the Parish Council and members of the Ministry Support Team there has been unanimous agreement to appoint David Rogers – Smith as our full time Enabler for the next three years.

This proposal was first discussed at the PC/MST retreat earlier in the year. A review of the parish by David, the Parish Council and the MST clearly showed the need for a full time enabler appointment if the parish was to grow and develop.

Since his initial part time appointment at the start of this year David has been involved in a wide variety of activities and developments including:

- Training Home Group leaders and Preachers
- Writing material for preaching themes and HG studies
- Preaching regularly in each centre
- Meeting weekly with local Ministry Support Teams
- Preparing and running Bible studies for the LMST at its monthly meetings
- Visiting and providing pastoral support for each MST member
- Visiting each worship centre on a regular basis
- Supervising MST members undertaking theological study
- Attending MST Executive meetings
- Attending JAAL meetings and assisting with leading progress for this program
- Regular weekly email contact with every MST member

- Writing papers for various issues/activities in the parish, e.g. Home Groups Coordinator for Riverlinks, Calling Out paper, monthly Team Talk support paper for the MST, discussion papers, etc.
- Attending HG meetings
- Writing monthly articles for Riverlinks newsletter, etc.

This list is not exhaustive and does not, for example, include other activities and responsibilities that David has across the Diocese.

It is evident that this work cannot be done adequately by one person in a part time position, hence the decision to appoint David full time.

What this means financially:

BCA has generously agreed to supplement David's income by a substantial sum for the next three years. The parish will be responsible for the difference. At present we do not have enough money coming through the offertory to pay for this (the shortfall is approx. \$12000 p.a.). We would therefore encourage you to review your giving and, if possible, increase it so that this ministry can be fully supported. Both the PC and the MST believe that a full time Enabler and full time administrative assistant are essential for our parish if Riverlinks is to develop and grow God's kingdom in the future.

Mike Le Rossignol



Amazing Grace the story of British MP William Wilberforce, who campaigned and fought to see the slave trade abolished across the British empire, will be screening at Village Cinema Launceston from Thursday 23rd August.



BCA is seeking a caring Christian Registered Nurse to minister to, foster, nurture and watch over the health and wellbeing of the secondary aged indigenous youth at Kormilda College NT. If you have an interest in this position please contact jenny@bushchurchaid.com.au

Kormilda means "tomorrow" in the aboriginal language of the Kakadu region

NOTICES



The Parish Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 26th August at 11:30am following a combined Holy Communion service at St David's Riverside at 10:00 am

Beginning in September

Kid's Church

at St Oswald's

11am 2nd Sunday of each month - from **9th September**

It will be lots of fun!
with action songs
stories & activities

invest

**● KINGDOM
● COMMUNITY ● SELF**

*** LAST CHANCE! ***

'Invest' Training Day is designed to equip and encourage you in future life and ministry

Only one session left
Saturday 4th August
10am-4pm

at Launceston Church Grammar School, Mowbray, All it will cost you is a gold coin donation for morning & afternoon tea and a sausage sizzle lunch. Contact Rebecca at the Diocesan office on 6220 2020 or ministrycouncil@anglicantas.org.au

FAITHFULNESS IN SERVICE (FIS) Handbook

David Rogers-Smith wrote this handbook as an information resource for new church members, new Ministry Support Team members, and for parishioners. This is now available on the Diocesan website at www.anglicantas.org.au/resources/safeministry.html

*** ONE NIGHT ONLY ***

Dr Tom Woodward
"Questioning Darwinism... The rise of Intelligent Design"
Tuesday 7th August – 7:00pm
at Door of Hope
www.apologetics.org

Jesus
ALL ABOUT LIFE



Tasmania - 12th September to 30th October 2007

JESUS. ALL ABOUT LIFE

Only 6 weeks to go before the campaign begins!

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John's witness and followed Jesus. The first thing he did after finding where Jesus lived was find his own brother, Simon, telling him, "We've found the Messiah" (that is, "Christ"). He immediately led him to Jesus.

John 1:40-42a
MSG

Over 150 churches in Tasmania have now registered in the Jesus. All About Life campaign starting on 12th September.

Riverlinks have ordered a large number of response books for everyone to hand out to their friends and neighbours. These will be available in all centres shortly at 2 for \$5, and a prayer bookmark will be included to remind you to pray for specific people during the campaign.



In the lead up to the campaign we can start praying for people we know who do not know Christ, and praying that:

- ✝ They will 'connect' with the campaign
- ✝ That you will have the opportunity to talk to them about Jesus
- ✝ That they will receive and read the response material
- ✝ That they will respond to your invitation to attend a JAAL event
- ✝ That they will commit their lives to Jesus

Jesus. All about life is a prime-time media campaign developed by Bible Society NSW. It aims to motivate the 'quiet Christian to share their faith'.

WANTED

Suitable people to man the call centre/s. Experience would be an advantage but is not necessary, as full training will be given including procedures and guidelines by which all personnel will abide.

&

Suitable people to take info packs to the door of those who respond to the advertising via phone or internet. Responders to the ad campaign will be given the option of receiving an Info pack by mail or having it personally delivered. This is an opportunity for local church people to have face to face contact, so needs to be those who are comfortable approaching strangers and who have a friendly, non-confrontational manner.

For further information on any of the above, please contact the Project Officer, Judy MacKenzie
109a Elizabeth Street
(PO Box 1653) Launceston 7250
- Ph. 6349 1932
office@jesusallaboutlife.com.au

Jesus
ALL ABOUT LIFE

PASTA PUNCH & POETRY NIGHT



The cold of winter was very much dispelled at George Town on Saturday evening the 14th July, when George Town centre parishioners held a pasta punch and poetry night. The meal consisted of a wide variety of pasta dishes, and the scope of the poetry was equally as broad, ranging from Tennyson to Paterson to Pam Ayers.



A large proportion of parishioners, including some of our Sunday School children, contributed poems. The best prepared was Ian Wheeler, who rode his old bike to read "Mulga Bill's Bicycle", and returned with a full grown beard to read "The Man from Iron Bark."



With representatives from George Town, Hillwood, Low Head and Pipers River churches, it was a wonderful night for people of the old Parish of George Town to get together again. Thank you to all who helped with the organisation, but especially to Shirley Mills who coordinated the meal.

Peter Cox

ROSS GREGORY'S 70TH BIRTHDAY



The invitation to High Tea for a "back to childhood" occasion brought out lots of little boys and girls to help Ross celebrate his 70th birthday at St Oswald's recently.



SERVICE TIMES FOR WORSHIP CENTRES

**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 Hwy
Riverside

Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy
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**Riverlinks
Anglican
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 are
articles to the
Parish office by
20th of each
month for
inclusion in the
newsletter.**

East Launceston

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------|
| 5 th | 10:00 am | Holy Communion |
| 12 th | 10:00 am | Holy Communion |
| 19 th | 10:00 am | Holy Communion |
| 26 th | 10:00 am | Sunday Funday |

George Town

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 5 th | 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am | Hillwood Holy Communion Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion |
| 12 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head Morning Prayer George Town - Together at George Town |
| 19 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Pipers River Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion |
| 26 th | 9:00 am 10:30 am | Low Head Holy Communion George Town Holy Communion |

Trevallyn and Riverside

| | Riverside | Trevallyn |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 th | 9:00 am Holy Communion | 11:00am Holy Communion |
| 12 th | 9:00 am Morning Prayer | No Service |
| 19 th | 9:00 am Holy Communion | 11:00 am Holy Communion |
| 26 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

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 th | 10:30 am Morning Prayer |
| 19 th | 10:30 am Holy Communion |
| 26 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