

riverlinks

May 2008

Anglican Church

Newsletter



*Jo Tevelein, architect Michael Jirku, Anne Neale
& Bishop John Harrower*

“Living the heartbeat of God”

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

You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.'

But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?

FROM THE ENABLER



Have you asked any of these questions lately? What is God's will for my life, for my children's lives? What on earth is God up to amidst all the chaos and conflict in the world? How can God forgive that dreadful thing I did? How can I change for the better? What does God want our church to be like and to be doing? How does God want me care for his people? My neighbour? The homeless, the mentally ill, the drug-addicted teenager? Perhaps overarching all such questions is the question: Where do I hear God's voice? Where do I hear God speak – clearly, unmistakably, powerfully, authoritatively? I'd like the following article by John Piper to answer that. John is an American Christian pastor and prolific author and you'll find his website at the end of his article:

Let me tell you about a most wonderful experience I had early Monday morning, March 19, 2007, a little after six o'clock. God actually spoke to me. There is no doubt that it was God. I heard the words in my head just as clearly as when a memory of a conversation passes across your consciousness. The words were in English, but they had about them an absolutely self-authenticating ring of truth. I know beyond the shadow of a doubt that God still speaks today.

I couldn't sleep for some reason. I was at Shalom House in northern Minnesota on a staff couples' retreat. It was about five thirty in the morning. I lay there wondering if I should get up or wait till I got sleepy again. In his mercy, God moved me out of bed. It was mostly dark, but I managed to find my clothing, got dressed, grabbed my briefcase, and slipped out of the room without waking up Noël. In the main room below, it was totally quiet. No one else seemed to be up. So I sat down on a couch in the corner to pray.

As I prayed and mused, suddenly it happened. God said, "Come and see what I have done." There was not the slightest doubt in my mind that these were the very words of God. In this very moment. At this very place in the twenty-first century, 2007, God was speaking to me with absolute authority and self-evidencing reality. I paused to let this sink in. There was a sweetness about it. Time seemed to matter little. God was near. He had me in his sights. He had something to say to me. When God draws near, hurry ceases. Time slows down.

I wondered what he meant by "come and see." Would he take me somewhere, like he did Paul into heaven to see what can't be spoken? Did "see" mean that I would have a vision of some great deed of God that no one has seen?

*Are not even
the tax
collectors
doing that?
And if you
greet only
your brothers,
what are you
doing more
than others?
Do not even
pagans do
that?
Be perfect,
therefore, as
your heavenly
Father is
perfect.*

**Matthew
5:43-48**

I am not sure how much time elapsed between God's initial word, "Come and see what I have done," and his next words. It doesn't matter. I was being enveloped in the love of his personal communication. The God of the universe was speaking to me.

Then he said, as clearly as any words have ever come into my mind, "*I am awesome in my deeds toward the children of man.*" My heart leaped up, "Yes, Lord! You are awesome in your deeds. Yes, to all men whether they see it or not. Yes! Now what will you show me?"

The words came again. Just as clear as before, but increasingly specific: "*I turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There they rejoiced in me—who rules by my might forever.*" Suddenly I realized God was taking me back several thousand years to the time when he dried up the Red Sea and the Jordan River. I was being transported by his word back into history to those great deeds. This is what he meant by "come and see." He was transporting me back by his words to those two glorious deeds before the children of men. These were the "awesome deeds" he referred to. God himself was narrating the mighty works of God. He was doing it for me. He was doing it with words that were resounding in my own mind.

There settled over me a wonderful reverence. A palpable peace came down. This was a holy moment and a holy corner of the world in northern Minnesota. God Almighty had come down and was giving me the stillness and the openness and the willingness to hear his very voice. As I marvelled at his power to dry the sea and the river, he spoke again. "*I keep watch over the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.*"

This was breathtaking. It was very serious. It was almost a rebuke. At least a warning. He may as well have taken me by the collar of my shirt, lifted me off the ground with one hand, and said, with an incomparable mixture of fierceness and love, "Never, never, never exalt yourself. Never rebel against me."

I sat staring at nothing. My mind was full of the global glory of God. "*I keep watch over the nations.*" He had said this to me. It was not just that he had said it. Yes, that is glorious. But he had said this to me. The very words of God were in my head. They were there in my head just as much as the words that I am writing at this moment are in my head. They were heard as clearly as if at this moment I recalled that my wife said, "Come down for supper whenever you are ready." I know those are the words of my wife. And I know these are the words of God.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians
13:1-3

FROM THE ENABLER *continued...*

Think of it. Marvel at this. Stand in awe of this. The God who keeps watch over the nations, like some people keep watch over cattle or stock markets or construction sites—this God still speaks in the twenty-first century. I heard his very words. He spoke personally to me.

What effect did this have on me? It filled me with a fresh sense of God's reality. It assured me more deeply that he acts in history and in our time. It strengthened my faith that he is for me and cares about me and will use his global power to watch over me. Why else would he come and tell me these things?

It has increased my love for the Bible as God's very word, because it was through the Bible that I heard these divine words, and through the Bible I have experiences like this almost every day. The very God of the universe speaks on every page into my mind—and your mind. We hear his very words. God himself has multiplied his wondrous deeds and thoughts toward us; none can compare with him! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told (Psalm 40:5).

And best of all, they are available to all. If you would like to hear the very same words I heard on the couch in northern Minnesota, read Psalm 66:5-7. That is where I heard them. O how precious is the Bible. It is the very word of God. In it God speaks in the twenty-first century. This is the very voice of God. By this voice, he speaks with absolute truth and personal force. By this voice, he reveals his all-surpassing beauty. By this voice, he reveals the deepest secrets of our hearts. No voice anywhere anytime can reach as deep or lift as high or carry as far as the voice of God that we hear in the Bible.

It is a great wonder that God still speaks today through the Bible with greater force and greater glory and greater assurance and greater sweetness and greater hope and greater guidance and greater transforming power and greater Christ-exalting truth than can be heard through any voice in any human soul on the planet from outside the Bible.

This is why I found the article in this month's *Christianity Today*, "My Conversation with God," so sad. Written by an anonymous professor at a "well-known Christian University," it tells of his experience of hearing God. What God said was that he must give all his royalties from a new book toward the tuition of a needy student. What makes me sad about the article is not that it isn't true or didn't happen. What's sad is that it really does give the impression that extra-biblical communication with God is surpassingly wonderful and faith-deepening.

*Where,
 O death, is
 your victory?
 Where,
 O death, is
 your sting?
 The sting of
 death is sin,
 and the power
 of sin is the
 law.
 But thanks
 be to God!
 He gives us
 the victory
 through our
 Lord Jesus
 Christ.*

1 Corinthians
 15:55-57

All the while, the supremely-glorious communication of the living God which personally and powerfully and transformingly explodes in the receptive heart through the Bible everyday is passed over in silence.

I am sure this professor of theology did not mean it this way, but what he actually said was, "For years I've taught that God still speaks, *but I couldn't testify to it personally*. I can only do so now anonymously, for reasons I hope will be clear" (emphasis added). Surely he does not mean what he seems to imply—that only when one hears an extra-biblical voice like, "The money is not yours," can you testify *personally* that God still speaks. Surely he does not mean to belittle the voice of God in the Bible which speaks this very day with power and truth and wisdom and glory and joy and hope and wonder and helpfulness ten thousand times more decisively than *anything* we can hear outside the Bible.

I grieve at what is being communicated here. The great need of our time is for people to experience the living reality of God by hearing his word personally and transformingly in Scripture. Something is incredibly wrong when the words we hear outside Scripture are more powerful and more affecting to us than the inspired word of God. Let us cry with the psalmist, "Incline my heart to your word" (Psalm 119:36). "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18). Grant that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened to know our hope and our inheritance and the love of Christ that passes knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephesians 1:18; 3:19). O God, don't let us be so deaf to your word and so unaffected with its ineffable, evidential excellency that we celebrate lesser things as more thrilling, and even consider this misplacement of amazement worthy of printing in a national magazine.

Still hearing his voice in the Bible,

Pastor John By John Piper. © Desiring God. Website: desiringGod.org

Dear Riverlinks member, will you commit to reading and thinking about the Word of God? To going to church expecting God to speak to his people through his Word? To wrestling together with what it means and how it applies to you and your church – over a cuppa after church, in a home group, one-to-one? To understanding the big picture and central focus of the Bible? To hearing and adhering to God's Word, to being transformed into the likeness of Jesus by having the Bible renew your mind (Romans 12:2)? To therefore being 'like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither' (Psalm 1:3)?

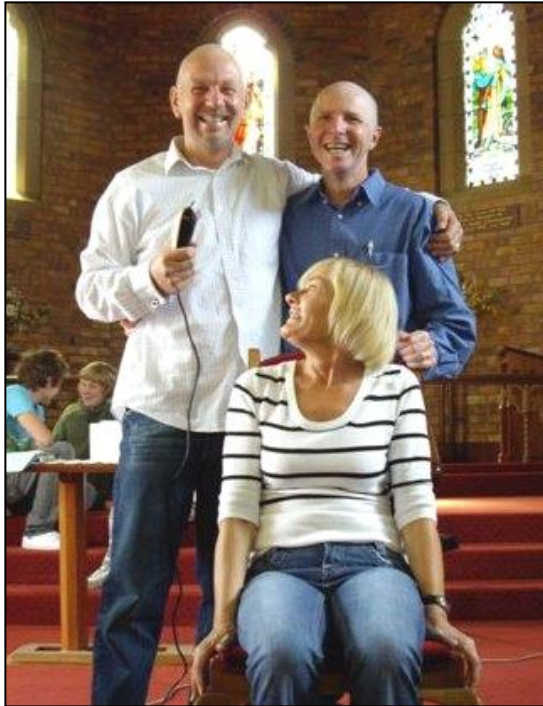
Warmly,

David

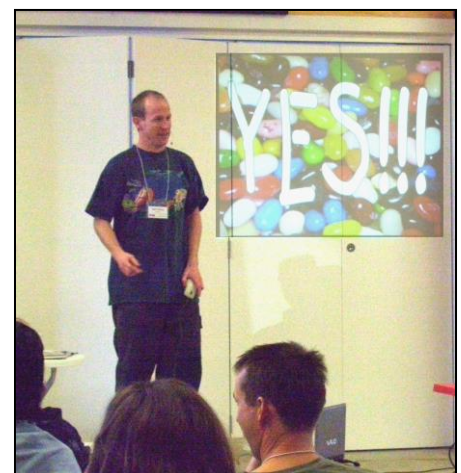


THE GREAT "SHAVE-OFF"

David Rogers-Smith and Kelvin Todd's "Shave-off" to raise money for Quizworx was a great success, and everyone had a lot of fun in the process! \$1213 was raised in "hair deductible" donations towards the cost of Quizworx for their week's ministry and travel from Sydney. They performed in 16 primary schools in the north of the state, featured in our children's ministry training day, and ministered during our Confirmation Service at St Aidan's.

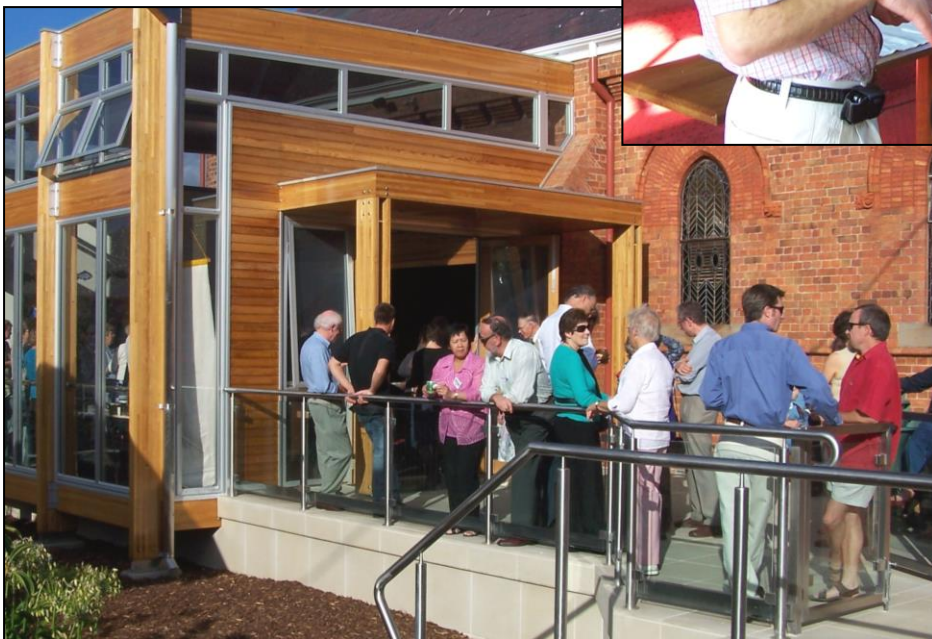


CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING DAY



DEDICATION OF ST AIDAN'S EXTENSIONS

Approximately 80 people, including many past members of the parish family, attended the official opening and dedication of the new building work at St Aidan's on Sunday 20th April.



RIVERLINKS

May 2008	
1st Thur	
2nd Fri	
3rd Sat	
4th Sun	
5th Mon	<i>(Each Monday)</i> Stanford's Home Group – 7:30pm at St Aidan's
6th Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Home Group – 11:00am at St David's Hall followed by prayer – 12:00pm Igglesden Home Group – 1:30pm at Igglesden's home Booth's Home Group – 7:30pm at Booth's home Evening Home Group – 7:30pm Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group
7th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> East Launceston Play Group – 10:30am to 12:00 noon in "The Upper Room" St Aidan's Evening Home Group – 7:30pm at Stott's home Evening Home Group – 7:30pm at Bullard's home
8th Thur	Parish Council – 7:30pm 50 Plus Bible Convention at Hadspen
9th Fri	Ordination of Trish Anderson and Kaye Gregory & Commissioning of Libby Todd to the Ministry Support Team – 7:00pm at St David's, Riverside

May 2008	
	National Day of Thanksgiving 7:30am to 9:00am NDOT Breakfast at Cataract Bistro
10th Sat	50 Plus Bible Convention at Hadspen Invest Training Day (North) – 10:00am to 4:00pm at Launceston Church Grammar School Africa Night Dinner – 5:30pm at Door of Hope to raise funds for Malawi and Mozambique missions
11th Sun	Pentecost Service – 9:00am at Christchurch, Low Head Kid's Church – 11:00am at St Oswald's
12th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm Combined LMST Meeting – 6:30pm
13th Tue	AWF Annual Conference at St Anne's, Lutana – 9:30am to 3:30pm & 6:30pm for dinner
14th Wed	AWF Annual Conference at St Anne's, Lutana – 9:30am to 3:30pm St David's Guild – 2:00pm
15th Thur	Presbyterian Home Legana – 10:40am
16th Fri	
17th Sat	
18th Sun	Preaching Workshop – 2:00pm to 4:30pm at St David's
19th Mon	

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

CALENDAR

May 2008	
20 th Tue	
21 st Wed	Cancer Council Luncheon – 12:00noon at St Oswald's St Oswald's Guild – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:30pm
22 nd Thur	
23 rd Fri	Synod
24 th Sat	Synod
25 th Sun	A traditional Harvest Festival with HC – 9:00am at Christchurch, Low Head
26 th Mon	Healing Service – 1:30pm at George Town
27 th Tue	
28 th Wed	
29 th Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45pm
30 th Fri	
31 st Sat	

June and other dates 2008	
15 th June	Safe Ministry Accreditation Day – 12:00noon to 5:30pm at St David's (to 2:30 pm for reaccreditation)
21 st June	Northern Ultreya at St Barnabas' North L'ton – 12 noon for shared lunch Programme from 1pm to 3pm
28 th June	Rural Bible Forum at St Helens – 11am to 4pm Speaker: Revd David Rogers-Smith
12 th July	Rural Bible Forum at Sorell – 11am to 4pm Speaker: Revd Anthony Brammall
17 th – 20 th July	Men's Cursillo Weekend
31 st July – 3 rd August	Women's Cursillo Weekend
9 th August	Invest Training Day (North West) – 10am to 4pm at Camp Clayton

Em doodles by Chris Hambrecht



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

THOUGHT FOR
THE DAY

Do not criticise
your spouse's
judgment -
remember they
chose to marry
you!



The
Cancer
Council

NOTICES

LUNCHEON

Wednesday 21st May - 12:00 noon
at St Oswald's following the Healing Service

Please bring a plate of finger food to share,
a donation
& something for the trade table



INVEST TRAINING DAYS

Important training opportunities for our
Christian lives and ministries

Northern Invest Day: Saturday 10 May, Launceston Church Grammar School, 10am to 4pm. \$5 includes BBQ lunch. Keynote address by Bishop John and electives on a range of topics including "Knowing and using your spiritual gifts", "God at work through your hobbies and passions", and "Making the most of a hospital visit".

North-West Invest Day: Saturday of the Ministry Conference, Saturday 9 August, Camp Clayton - \$15.



"SPECIALS" ON AT LOW HEAD - 9:00am

11th May - Pentecost Service

with ROAMING RAYLENE REPORTS, a contemporary report of those times long ago. To enter into the "spirit" of the day the congregation should wear as much red as possible.

25th May - A traditional Harvest Festival with Holy Communion

As we plan to donate to the needy any articles brought, could the congregation please bring dried goods, tinned goods, toiletries, etc.

Please make sure all are "in date".



ORDINATIONS AND COMMISSIONING TO THE MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM

7:00pm on Friday 9th May
at St David's Riverside



Bishop John to ordain Kaye Gregory and Trish Anderson as Deacons (Ordained Team Members) and to commission Libby Todd to the Ministry Support Team



Followed by supper in the hall

This is an important occasion for our Parish. We hope to see as many people as possible at this service to support Kaye, Trish and Libby in this step.

**50 Plus
Bible
Convention**

HADSPEN

Thursday
8th May
to
Saturday
10th May

Theme
Perseverance:
Finishing
off well

Register by
4th May.
Registration
forms are
available in all
centres, from
the Parish office
or by
contacting:
6266 3949
PO Box 192
Franklin 7113
rhmetcalfe@bigpond
.com

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

at St Anne's, Lutana 13th - 14th May, 2008

Our own David Rogers-Smith will be the keynote speaker giving three talks,

"God's love for us, and ours for Him",
"The nature of love for the world"
& "Nature of our love for God's people".

Registration forms are available in all centres, or from the parish office.

Be quick, registrations close 2nd May!

A bus will be leaving Windmill Hill on Tuesday 13th May at 7:00am. Cost will be \$26.50 - Please book by contacting Evelyn Strickland Ph. 6393 6405 by Friday 2nd May.

COMBINED PARISH CONFIRMATION SERVICE AT ST AIDAN'S



(From left): Trish Anderson and Louise Brown who reaffirmed her faith. Confirmees and their sponsors: Jo Tevelein, Lisa and Martin Chugg, Phil Jones, David and Sarah Shorter





Quizworx kept everyone entertained with puppets, weetbix and tomato sauce, a story about Johnnie & his granddad, and teaching us the "Absolutely nuthin' " song, complete with energetic actions



What is Art?

*It is the
response of
man's creative
soul to the call
of the Real.*

Sir Rabindranath
Tagore

*Our lives begin
to end the day
we become
silent about
things that
matter.*

Martin Luther King



CREATE TO
ADVOCATE 08
Art Exhibition and
Competition

Visualise, Imagine, Create, Explore a world
where poverty is history...

After the wonderful success and feedback from last year's national Create to Advocate Art Exhibition, Micah Challenge and Make Poverty History proudly present:

Create to Advocate 08

Art Competition and Exhibition

Parliament House, Canberra

6th October to 2nd November? 2008

In 2008 every second child in the world lives in poverty; and 10 million children die each year from preventable and curable diseases.

Create to Advocate invites Australian artists to express a vision to end global poverty and to reflect on and speak out on achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including access to clean water, reducing child mortality, achieving basic health care, empowering girls and action on climate change !

Selected artworks will be presented in a month long public exhibition at Parliament House, Canberra during October 2008.

Works can be in any medium, including paint, pencil, photography, multimedia, sculpture and textiles.

Speak up for the poor through art! Speak out for justice to our government leaders and the decision makers! Create to Advocate is a creative, emotive and powerful way to engage, inform and inspire our political leaders, artists and the general public!

Entries close: Friday 29 August 2008.

For more information and an entry form, see:

www.micahchallenge.org.au or www.makepovertyhistory.org.au

If you wish to order hardcopies of the postcard flyer or in joining the artists email list, contact C2A@micahchallenge.org.au

Create to Advocate Cards

2007



Save Iraqi Christians Campaign

Have you seen the
Petition circulating to
"Save Iraqi Christians"?

These petitions have
been distributed to
each centre. Please
prayerfully consider
signing. *"To the
Honourable the
Speaker and Members
of the House of
Representatives
assembled in
Parliament:*

The Petition of certain
citizens of Australia
draws the attention of
the House to the plight
of the Christian
minority of Iraq, who
since 2003 have
suffered increasing
harassment and
persecution from
religious extremist
elements within their
homeland of Iraq.
Their Government
seems unable to
protect them.

Anti-Christian violence
and threats are now on
such a scale as to
constitute ethnic
cleansing, even
attempted genocide,
and a large proportion
of the Christian
population have now
fled the country to
seek refuge elsewhere.

Your petitioners
therefore request the
House to take serious
note of the plight of
Iraqi Christians, to
provide aid and relief
for the refugees, and
to give refuge to some
of them, enabling them
to settle here in our
country."



FOUR CHRISTIAN TEACHERS MURDERED IN SOMALIA

Four Christian teachers, two of them converts from Islam, were murdered by Islamic militants last Sunday, 13 April, in Beledweyne in south-central Somalia. Mr Daud Assan Ali and Ms Rehana Ahmed, both of Somali origin, and two Kenyans were shot and killed when militants stormed the school where the Christians were sleeping.

Both Mr Ali and Ms Ahmed lived in the UK and were converts from Islam to Christianity. Mr Ali returned to his home town in 2004 to realise his life-long dream of establishing a school. The Hiran community education project Private English School was only completed one month ago. In his blog for supporters of the school, Mr Ali expressed concern about night-time raids by militant fighters in his last posting on 30 March.

A spokesman for the Islamist group responsible for the attack on the town claimed that the killings were not premeditated, but that the four teachers had been caught in cross fire. However, several residents of Beledweyne are convinced that Mr Ali and his colleagues were singled out because they were Christians and the Islamists feared that they were teaching their pupils about Christianity. Mr Ali's wife also said in an interview that her husband had been targeted because he was a convert from Islam to Christianity.

There are a tiny number of Somali converts to Christianity living in Somalia, many of whom have been murdered in recent years by Islamic radicals, who have vowed to wipe out all Somali Christians. Recent fighting between Somali Islamic militias and Ethiopia has heightened anti-Christian feelings, as there is a long history of conflict between Somalis, who historically have all been Muslims, and Ethiopians, who historically have been majority Christian.

"Somali converts from Islam to Christianity are especially at risk at this moment in time. They need our prayers urgently," says Dr Patrick Sookhdeo, International Director of Barnabas Fund.

Please join with us in prayer...

- 1.** Please pray for the families and loved ones of those killed. Pray that the Lord will comfort them and keep them strong.
- 2.** Pray for the small number of Somali Christians, all converts from Islam, both in Somalia and in other countries, that God will protect them from violence and further attacks.

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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

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*Riverlinks
Anglican Parish
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*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.**

East Launceston

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

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 Morning Prayer	11:00am Kid's Church
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:

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

RIVERLINKS WEBSITE:

www.riverlinks.net.au