

East Launceston  
St Aidan's  
21-23 Arthur St  
East Launceston

George Town  
St Mary  
Magdalene's  
3 Anne St  
George Town

Trevallyn  
St Oswald's  
34 Bain Tce  
Trevallyn

Riverside  
St David's  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

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Riverlinks  
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Church.

Please  
forward any  
photos or  
articles to the  
Parish office  
by 20<sup>th</sup> of  
each month  
for inclusion in  
the newsletter

## Service Times For Worship Centres

JAN FEB

East Launceston				
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer / Communion	
9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion / Morning Prayer	
16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion / Communion	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer / Morning Prayer	
30 <sup>th</sup>		10:00 am	Café Church	

George Town				
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
		9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
		10:30 am	George Town	Communion
9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
		10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
		10:30 am	George Town	Communion
23 <sup>rd</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
		10:30 am	George Town	Communion
30 <sup>th</sup>		10:30 am	Pipers River	Riverlinks Together Service

Riverside & Trevallyn				
JAN	FEB	Riverside	Trevallyn	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Communion	11:00am Communion	
9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Praise & Worship	No service / 11:00 am Kids' Church	
16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Communion	11:00am Communion	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Communion	No service / 11:00 am Kids' Church	
30 <sup>th</sup>		No service	n/a	
Each Wednesday there is a Healing Service at St Oswald's based on Holy Communion at 10:00am				

Peace Haven				
9 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Morning Prayer		
16 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Holy Communion		
23 <sup>rd</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am Morning Prayer		

### MOBILE PHONES:

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### RIVERLINKS WEBSITE:

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



Anglican Church

Christmas 2010

# Newsletter



Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours.

Luke 2:14 NRSV

## “Living the heartbeat of God”

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

Love came  
down at  
Christmas,  
Love all lovely,  
Love divine;  
Love was born  
at Christmas,  
star and  
angels gave  
the sign.  
Worship we  
the Godhead,  
Love  
incarnate,  
Love divine;  
Worship we  
our Jesus:  
But wherewith  
for sacred  
sign?

## The Word became flesh

I found myself thinking this week about how much I take the Incarnation for granted. I tend to rush past the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay (barely harkening to the herald angels) and away from the little town of Bethlehem in my hurry to survey the wondrous cross.

But then at a recent carols service we heard this verse as part of the readings:

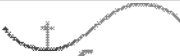
*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*  
(John 1:14)

And in those nine words, some of the awe and wonder of God becoming man really hit me.

The Word was with God, and was God. He made everything (Jn 1:1,3). He laid the foundation of the Earth and determined its measurements (Jb 38:4-5). Heaven is His throne, and the Earth His footstool (Is 66:1). Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne, the mountains melt like wax before the Lord (Ps 97:2,5) He looks on the earth and it trembles, touches the mountains and they smoke (Ps 104:32). He brings the proud low and treads down the wicked (Jb 40:12). It is He who sits on the throne, worshipped and adored day and night by the great multitude in heaven (Rv 19)

And then some! And this great God, Creator, King, Redeemer, Sustainer, *became flesh*.

When I look at my son (14 months old), and his struggles to take his first faltering steps unaided, I realise that Jesus also had to learn to walk. As Felix points and babbles to try to communicate what he wants, I realise that Jesus also had to learn to talk. Jesus learnt, no doubt painstakingly, to read and write, as my 6-year-old daughter does now. And he must have hit up against all those limitations every day of His human life. He knew sickness, and hunger. He knew thirst.

  
barnabasfund hope and aid for the persecuted church

*Christmas is a time when Christians are often especially targeted with violence.*

Christmas should be a time of great joy for all Christ's people (Luke 2:10-11). But for our Christian brothers and sisters in Iraq, there can be no festivities this year.

Barnabas Fund has received a report from a senior church leader who organises care for Iraqi Christian refugees in Syria. It reveals the desperate plight of the Christians still inside Iraq, which has intensified since the major attack on a church in Baghdad in October, and Al-Qaeda's statement that all Christians and Christian institutions were "legitimate targets".

Their conditions are no longer bearable. The people are living behind locked doors, they are compelled to take long leaves of absence from work, in Mosul and other cities, as a result of the dangers they face at work.

The universities and schools are almost empty of Christian students and even the streets are almost empty of Christians.

It is as if they are in prison: without work, without study, without Church meetings. Fear rules over all situations and in all places.

Threats and insults are daily occurrences, and offensive graffiti is daubed on the walls of the homes of these innocent people.

There is no getting around this problem nor is there a solution to it. The people are deprived of everything that could bring security to their lives; all they can do is depend on God's mercy or leave for the north. However, travelling to the north requires great financial means for paying the very high rent of homes there, and meeting the cost of living.

### Please pray

- That the Lord will protect His people in Iraq from further attacks at this Christmas season
- That the international community will recognise its responsibilities to Iraq's persecuted Christians and other minorities in Iraq and take urgent action to help them
- That Iraqi Church leaders will know how to advise those Christians who are trying to decide whether to leave or stay.

**May** the forgiving spirit of Him to whom we dedicate this season prevail again on earth.

**May** hunger disappear and terrorists cease their senseless acts.

**May** people live in freedom, worshiping as they see fit, loving others.

**May** the sanctity of the home be ever preserved.

**May** peace, everlasting peace, reign supreme.

# Guilds' Pre-Christmas Lunch

Every year  
you're bound  
to hear some  
youngster  
say  
"I wish that  
Christmas  
would last  
all year."  
What they  
don't know is  
that it does.

The pre-Christmas lunch at Riverside golf club on 24<sup>th</sup> November was thoroughly enjoyed by 27 people from St Oswald's and St David's.



David & Julie Rogers-Smith were our guests. A most enjoyable time was had catching up with old friends in a pleasant atmosphere accompanied by good food.



Light entertainment was provided by Mary, Jo and Jan. Many thanks to Robin, Rona & Mary for their organisation of this event.

Wait 'til they  
grow up and  
have to pay  
off the credit  
cards.

## *There isn't any X in Christmas!*

There's a habit someone started which I really do abhor  
To change from Christ to X-mas - for convenience, nothing more

There's an X in extraordinary crowds in all the shops and stores  
And an X in children's excitement at tinsel and gifts galore

There's an X in extra people, visitors and relatives we see  
And an X in excellent displays of lights and Christmas trees

There's an X in all the extra food, the sweet treats on demand  
There's an X in excess eating, and an X as waistlines expand

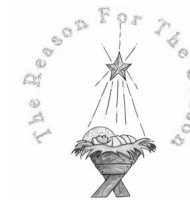
But there isn't any X in Christmas,  
Not the way Christmas ought to be  
So may I wish you a very merry Christmas  
Please keep Christ where He should be!



The heat of summer beat on his shoulders, and the cold of winter bit at his fingers and toes. He knew the frustration of living with younger siblings, and the wrench of betrayal by a friend. He knew the disappointment of imperfect family members, and the hard work of learning a trade. He knew pain, from the irritation of headaches, grazed knees (and probably hammered thumbs!), to the agony of torture, crucifixion and death. He knew the pain of the loss of loved friends.

He surely became like His brothers in every respect (Heb 2:17).

How great it is that One so powerful, so complete, so perfect, so holy, so very, very big, would scale Himself down to our insignificant size. What a remarkable demonstration of God's determination to reach us. What an awesome sign of His great love.



James Oakley

Love shall be  
our token,  
Love be yours  
and love be  
mine,  
Love to God  
and  
neighbours  
Love for plea  
and gift and  
sign.

Christina Georgina  
Rossetti

1830-94

It might be easy to run away to a monastery, away from the commercialization, the hectic hustle, the demanding family responsibilities of Christmas-time. Then we would have a holy Christmas. But we would forget the lesson of the Incarnation, of the enfleshing of God—the lesson that we who are followers of Jesus do not run from the secular; rather we try to transform it.

It is our mission to make holy the secular aspects of Christmas just as the early Christians baptized the Christmas tree. And we do this by being holy people—kind, patient, generous, loving, laughing people—no matter how maddening is the Christmas rush.

Fr Andrew Greeley





You can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles three things... a rainy day, an ill loved one and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Crowded holiday shopping can cause claustrophobia.

Isn't it a shame Christmas comes at the time of year when the stores are so crowded?

## Christmas Story & Carols at St David's

Around 120 children and adults enjoyed the "Chocolate Christmas Story" and Carols at St David's.

The carols were accompanied by the band assembled from various churches for this event. The church was filled to overflowing with children, parents and grandparents - and it was wonderful to see! The story was beautifully told and the Riverside Primary sang to entertain us all.

Afterwards a BBQ and sweets was provided and many stayed to share this with us.

Many thanks to Ian & Anne for organising this splendid afternoon and to Lindy for her work in the primary school.



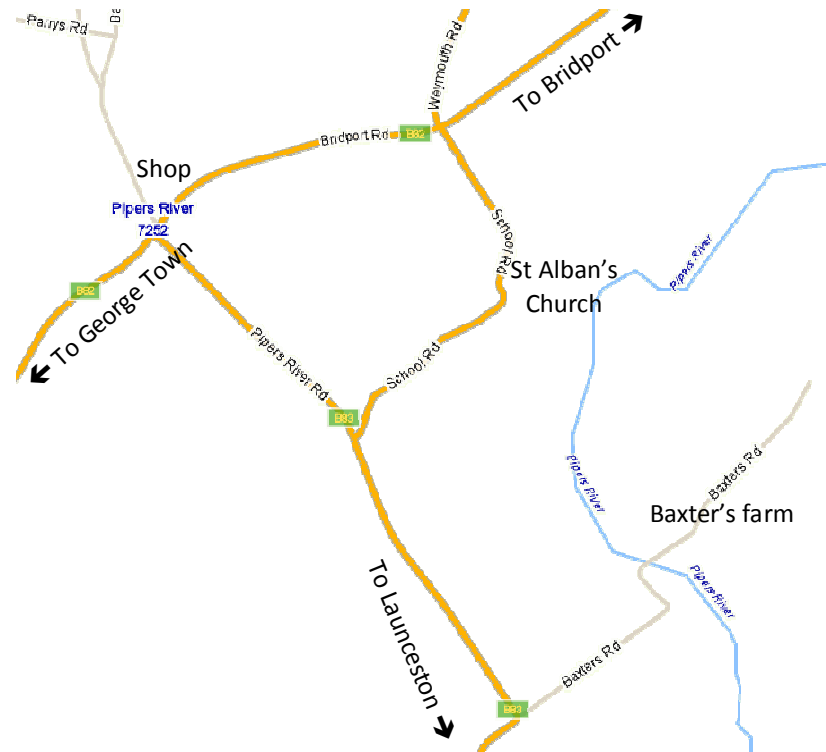
## Riverlinks Together Combined Service Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January

### 10:30am

at St Alban's Church, School Road Pipers River

The service will be followed by a BYO picnic at the Baxter's farm & farm tour

181 Baxter's Road, Pipers River



Father and son are out shopping in the toy department of one Christmas Eve.

Dad says, 'What a marvellous train set. I'll buy it.'

The girl behind the counter looks pleased and murmurs, 'Great, I'm sure your son will really love it.'

Dad replies, 'Maybe you're right. In that case I'll take two.'



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What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine? This will sleigh you.

Good King Wenceslas phoned Domino's for a pizza. The salesgirl asked him:- 'Do you want your usual? Deep pan, crisp and even?'

Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women has never seen a man trying to wrap a Christmas present!

Christmas: The time of year when everyone gets Santamental

# Christmas Service Times



## Christmas Eve

7:00pm Holy Communion at Pipers River

11:00pm Holy Communion at Trevallyn

## Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion at George Town

9:00am Holy Communion at Low Head

9:00am Holy Communion at Riverside

9:30am Morning Prayer at East Launceston

# A Happy New Year



To leave the old with a burst of song;  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the things that bind you fast;  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the not worth while of the days grown old;  
To dare go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the year that's new;  
To help your brother along the road,  
To assist with his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

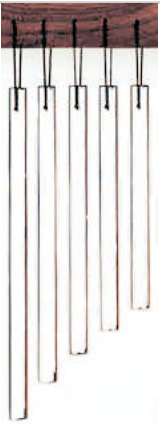


Christmas is the time of year when you realize how many people you know and how many sizes you don't.

People really act weird at Christmas time! What other time of year do you sit in front of a dead tree in the living room and eat nuts and sweets out of your socks?



# Carols with hand chimes at St Oswald's



Wake up in the morning,  
stumble out of bed  
We need to wipe our eyes  
and scratch our head  
Got to have some breakfast  
and fill my hungry tum  
Then I'll have the energy  
to have a day of fun

Mornings are the very best  
time of the day  
Cause when the sun comes  
up it's time to play  
Mornings are the very best  
time of the day  
Gotta get up!  
Gotta get ready!  
It's a mainly music day





## mainly music Christmas



## Carols, Champagne, Coffee & Cake at St Oswalds

This year our home group decided to hold an evening of carols, champagne, coffee and cake at St. Oswalds. We had decided that this would be our (2010) outreach to the community of Trevallyn. A week later, out of the blue, the Bullards received an unexpected letter from former St. Oswalds member and Trevallyn resident Martyn Croft (now residing in Blackmans Bay). Martyn was offering to lend us a set of handchimes as he 'wondered whether St. Oswalds or St. Davids may be, perhaps, planning a carol service'. What an amazing and unexpected gift.

We were delighted and perhaps a little daunted as to how we might do this, but we said 'YES' confidently. Martyn, when collecting the chimes, instructed and imbued us with his passionate enthusiasm providing basic colour coded carol sheets for 'the chimers'.

Cathy Lawrence was co-opted for her drama skills as director for a playlette and acted as narrator for the evening. Others assisted with drama, music, poetry and of course the 9 handchimers, and so all was prepared.

The church had been dressed overall with our 'Fra Angelico' angels hoisted aloft above the sanctuary with stars and huge painted candles adorning the walls. This year large painted bells (thanks Kaye Gregory) were added to the Christmas decorations.

Following the well attended carol service/celebration, the chairs were pushed back and champagne, coffee and cake served. A very warm evening some found some taking their chairs outside to sit and relax, meet and chat with people from our local community.

It was for us an affirmation of God's working in surprising us with Martyn's beautifully timed letter, guiding and providing appropriate resources for the evening and the willingness and generosity of those who were asked to participate. We are indeed blessed.

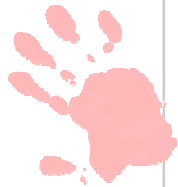
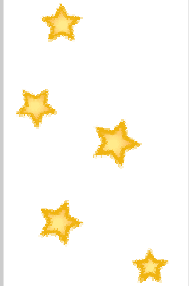
Barbara and Chris Bullard - Bullard's Home Group

A song was heard at Christmas  
To wake the midnight sky:  
A saviour's birth, and peace on earth,  
and praise to God on high.  
The angels sang at Christmas  
with all the hosts above,  
and still we sing the newborn King  
His glory and His love.

Timothy Dudley-Smith



# Messy Christmas at St Aidan's



**Messy Christmas**  
*Church with no boring bits!*

