

East Launceston
21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston

George Town
3 Anne St
George Town

Hillwood
Hall - Jetty Rd
Hillwood

Low Head
Low Head Rd
Low Head

Pipers River
School Rd
Pipers River

Riverside
399 West Tamar Hwy
Riverside

Trevallyn
34 Bain Tce
Trevallyn

Parish Office
9am - 5pm
Monday to Friday
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Riverlinks Anglican
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Opinions expressed in
this publication do not
necessarily reflect
those of the clergy or
the Anglican Church.

Newsletter deadline
for photos, articles,
etc. is 20th of each
month unless
otherwise stated

Service Times For Worship Centres

February 2011

East Launceston		
6 th	10:00 am	Communion
13 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer
20 th	10:00 am	Communion
27 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer

George Town		
6 th	9:00 am	Hillwood Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town Communion
13 th	9:00 am	Low Head Communion
	10:30 am	George Town Together @ 10.30
20 th	9:00 am	Pipers River Communion
	10:30 am	George Town Communion
27 th	9:00 am	Low Head Communion
	10:30 am	George Town Communion

Riverside & Trevallyn		
	Riverside	Trevallyn
6 th	9:00 am Communion	11:00am Communion
13 th	9:00 am Praise & Worship	11:00am Kid's Church
20 th	9:00 am Communion	11:00am Communion
27 th	9:00 am Communion	11:00am Kid's Church
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
20 th	10:30 am Holy Communion
27 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



Anglican Church

Newsletter

February 2011



*The Lord cares for his nation, just as shepherds care for their flocks.
He carries the lambs in his arms, while gently leading the mother sheep.*

Isaiah 40:11 CEV

“Living the heartbeat of God”

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

When “thinking of you” is not enough

The past few weeks of media coverage of the Queensland floods has been a fresh reminder of the challenges of living in a post-Christian society.

If the viewing public gave a dollar to a flood appeal for every time a politician or news anchor said to a victim that they were “thinking of you during this difficult time”, then the amount of money raised would be significantly higher than it already is.

Why is it that people seem content to tell someone going through grief that they are “thinking of them”? Does the person going through the pain really feel better knowing that others think of them in their state of despair?

There was a time in our distant past that people used to say “we’re praying for you”, rather than “we’re thinking of you”. We knew that the prayers of those who cared would make a concrete impact on peoples’ lives as those saints of old raised

From the Enabler

HAPPY NEW YEAR?



My family was among the thousands of people gathered at South Bank on the Brisbane River for the New Year’s Eve family fireworks. It was a friendly, happy time, as people anticipated the end of another year and the beginning of a new one. I look around at the faces and people and wonder what the New Year will bring them. Some will be told that they have cancer, others that they have a job they’ve applied for, still others that they are no longer loved or needed. Some in such a large crowd will die this year and enter into eternity. I think about my own little family and wonder what the year will bring; what challenges, sadnesses, joys and opportunities. I’m sure you do, too.

Standing there at South Bank on that beautiful, clear New Year’s Eve, no one would have thought or imagined that just ten days later where we were standing would be totally submerged by flood waters; that life for so many people in Queensland and Victoria would be so ravaged by floods. The New Year was just ten days old and so very far from being Happy. Precious lives, livelihoods and homes have been literally swept away. Many thousands of properties (and people) damaged. The scale and scope of the flooding has been truly remarkable.

Psalm 90 speaks with such raw honesty about our human condition:

‘Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!”

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass



Getaway



from your tired understanding of God and the Bible and from being ‘bored with the Lord.’

Get into the diocese’s

Certificate in Theology & Ministry.

Be refreshed, stretched & better equipped for life & ministry.

Dive in to the first unit (Introduction to the Bible) for just \$40. Do just one unit or complete all eight. Exams are optional. Knowing & loving God more are compulsory!

Speak with our Enabler, David Rogers-Smith, or with someone in your centre doing the course.

Enrolment is through the Parish Office. **Term 1 enrolments close 10th February.**

Take a look at www.riverlinks.net.au or ask Anne Godman for the details.

Learning for Life

Harvest Festival

at Christ Church Low Head

9am
Sunday 27th February

Non-perishable, in date food items brought along on the day will be donated to the Benevolent Society



February is Leprosy Awareness Month

Will you help someone affected by leprosy just because you can? Contact the Leprosy Mission - 1800 617 679 www.leprosymission.org.au



Cursillo
welcomes
everyone

Come and see
what it's all
about:
**Saturday
5th February**
at St Mary
Magdalene's,
Anne Street,
George Town

Shared lunch
12 noon
meeting from
1pm



MEGA 2 DAY GARAGE SALE & Sausage Sizzle

Back to School Foundation Fundraiser Malawi Africa

**Saturday
& Sunday** 12th & 13th February
34 Jubilee Rd Youngtown

Do you have too much stuff?? Would you donate
some things to our Mega Garage Sale?

Malawi Africa is one of the world's poorest Nations.

Help us provide Secondary Schooling for orphans.

Phone or text Helen 0437 918 060

www.btsfmalawi.org



Bell Bay Seafarer's Mission

The Bell Bay Seafarer's Mission is looking for knitters willing to
make beanies for sailors coming in to the port.

Any colour or pattern in 8 ply wool is suitable. These beanies are
given to the sailors free of charge and are very much appreciated.

Beanies can be left at any of the Churches in the George Town ar-
ea, or dropped off to the Parish office.

Also, anyone interested in volunteering at the Mission in Bell Bay at
times when ships are in port would be warmly welcomed.

For more information or to volunteer, contact the centre
coordinator - Garry Jones on 0427 622 391.

*that is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is
renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.*

*For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are
dismayed.*

*You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your
presence.*

*For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an
end like a sigh.*

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

yet their span is but toil and trouble;

they are soon gone, and we fly away.

*Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the
fear of you?*

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.'

Psalm 90:1-12 (ESV)

Our hopes and dreams for a Happy New Year are dashed on the rocks of
reality. We are dusty children of Adam who've turned their backs on God
and so on true happiness and hope. We are naturally like the foolish
man in Jesus' story

'who hears these words of mine
and does not do them...who built
his house on the sand. And the
rain fell, and the floods came, and
the winds blew and beat against
that house, and it fell, and great
was the fall of it' (Matthew 7:26-
27; ESV).



How many Brisbane home owners did we hear lament that they'd been
building and renovating their houses for the last four or five years, only to
have them totally ruined by the flood waters? Is that not a devastatingly
accurate picture of the foolish person in Jesus' story? Of so many
Australians? Proudly building their lives (and homes) without a true
foundation? Our modern lives can look so impressive can't they?: Two
incomes, higher qualifications, beautiful homes, huge TVs, shiny new cars.
But when our lives are not lived for Jesus, he warns that they are foolish
lives, without foundation – built on shifting sands – and will therefore not
survive the storms of life. If you read those words in Matthew 7:24-27 in
the context of 7:13-27, it is clear that the storm surge Jesus refers to
ultimately is the storm of God's Judgment on the Last Day. The foolish
person will not survive the overwhelming scrutiny of that Day. God's

concerns with their
heavenly Father.

Yet, today, we've not
really come up with a
satisfactory
replacement in our
post-Christian
lexicon.

Some people opt
for a compromise,
saying "our thoughts
and prayers are with
you". This seems
more palatable in our
secular and pluralistic
society. Yet, it is still
unsatisfying.

In contrast, when a
believer in Christ tells
someone that they
are "praying for
them", then it is a
powerful statement.

Not only does the
prayer itself make a
real difference, it also
is a remarkable
evangelistic
opportunity.

I was speaking last
week at a youth
training event and
was asked by
someone in my
workshop about a
great strategy to
make an impact in
their school.

I told them that the
energy in having a
major lunchtime
pre-evangelistic
event would be better
spent running a pray-
er meeting with
school friends,

continued next page...

Continued from previous page...

From the Enabler continued...

and making the most of every opportunity to tell the teachers and students that they were praying for them.

The impact of having a believer bring prayers to their heavenly Father is an activity that reaps a double-reward. The prayers themselves bring concrete outcomes, and the announcement of those prayers to unbelievers is a bold demonstration and testimony to the love and care of the believers who graciously bring the requests of their friends, family and community to their heavenly Father.

If only we had more Christian politicians, journalists and everyday believers who would be brave enough to say "we're praying for you." Imagine the double impact!

Jodie McNeill is the Executive Director of Youthworks Outdoors. This article first appeared at www.sydneyanglicans.net

Judgment on their rebellious lives will bring certain ruin and destruction.

Continued next page...

Is it not so very telling that Jesus chose to end the Sermon on the Mount with such a warning? We ignore him and his words of life to our great peril. He came to save foolish people just like us from that Perfect Storm that's coming. He warns us with the strongest language against living as if that Day is not coming. He warns us to build our lives on a firm foundation – the only foundation – on Him and his words of life. Such a person, he says, is

'like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock' (Matthew 7:24b-25; ESV).

Who is this person, according to Jesus? Here's the challenge not just to unbelievers but also to those of us who consider ourselves Christians. Just before this, Jesus warns that

'Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 7:21; ESV).

Nor will a lot of people who have had remarkable word and healing ministries (7:22). Jesus will chillingly declare to such people,

'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness' (7:23; ESV).

In other words, it isn't enough to *say* orthodox things about Jesus ('Lord, Lord') or even to *do* certain things and ministries. Rather, the genuine disciple, the wise person, is the one

'who does the will of my Father who is in heaven' (7:21; ESV)...who hears these words of mine and does them' (7:24a; ESV).

The person who will know true happiness (joy, peace and contentment) this year and into eternity is the wise person Jesus commends; the one who trusts and obeys him in everything. Just past midnight on New Year's Eve in Brisbane, I led my little family in a prayer. I didn't pray for good health and good times. I prayed that we would have grace to know and



your lives by them. From the brief conversations I have had with some of you, I know that you have spent many hours over many months in prayer for the children, youth and families that you long to reach. I know that many of you are diligently seeking the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction in mission.

Can I reassure you of two things? Firstly, that I have been thinking and reading and praying for many months before leaving Bendigo, and secondly, that I will continue to do so. In fact, that is a lot of what I will be doing over the next few months – getting to know people, places and communities; looking at other ministries in other parts of the state; listening to what the Holy Spirit has been saying to many of you; and seeking His leading myself.

And may I ask you to work with me in this process? In particular, please:

1. pray regularly and constantly that I will meet the right people, read the right literature, see the right ministries and (most importantly) hear clearly where God is leading;
2. speak to me! Introduce yourself, tell me what your strengths are, where your passions lie, what God is saying to you.

Please feel free to get in touch with me – either via the parish office (6327 4742) or by email kids_families@riverlinks.net.au.

Yours in Christ's service,

James

Commissioning of James Oakley

Thursday 24th February
at St Aidan's East Launceston

The commissioning will begin at about 6:45pm following a shared meal starting at 5:30 pm

This event will mark the beginning of an exciting new ministry to children and young families in Riverlinks and we encourage as many as possible to come along and support James and his family. If you're coming for the shared meal please bring a plate of finger food with you (similar to what we have at our combined services - this will be the evening meal for many people). If you can't make it to the meal come to the commissioning service anyway!

Prayer for Australia Day

Bounteous God,
we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land,
a land of despair and hope,
a land of wealth and abundant harvests,
a land of fire, drought and flood.

We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

REJOICE
IN THE
LORD!



Rejoice in the Lord always.

I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all.

The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,

by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

present your requests to God.

And the peace of God,

which transcends all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians
4:4-7
NIV

From the CYFM Officer

It is wonderful to finally be here! To be getting settled in our house and to have the opportunity to meet with some of you already. Sally, the children and I are very grateful for the warm welcome and for the generous hamper of goodies that you arranged for us. I hope to get around to most of the centres in the next two months, and to meet most of you. Sally and the children may be with me sometimes, as we look for the congregation that will be their regular "home".

It may look like I'm not doing much as I travel around, so I want to share some thoughts with you.

*Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.*

Psalm 127:1-2

I have friends in Bendigo who built their first home about 6 years ago. Understandably, they were very excited about the project. He used to drive past the site twice a day, on his way to and from work, and on one of these occasions, he noticed that the builders had ordered and installed the wrong roof trusses. All that work had to be undone before building could proceed. Those who had been building had laboured in vain.

If we embark on a mission or ministry of our own devising, our labour will be in vain. If we try to watch over and maintain existing ministries in our own strength, our efforts will be in vain. What does it mean for labour to be "in vain"? Simply that it will come to nothing; that we could rise early and finish late, and chew ourselves up with anxiety, without leaving anything that will last to God's glory.

The promise if we embark on the mission that God has set us is of fruitful, restful toil! "For he gives to his beloved sleep" (Ps 127:2). Jesus promises:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matt 11:28-30

I get the sense that you already know these truths, and that you build

love and serve God better; that in everything we would please him and glorify him. Our lives are as fragile and finite as the next person's, and we share the same fragile, hostile world. Only God knows what this year will bring us (and thank God he knows!). It may even bring me death and to God! But I and every Christian knows this: our 'house' will not fall. God will keep us in the storms of life and graciously protect us in the Judgment.

At the start of this New Year, will you and yours join me in saying these stirring words of Joshua?:

'Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD' (Josh 24:14-15; ESV).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Warmly,

Safe Church Communities Training

at Holy Trinity, Cameron Street Launceston

Faithfulness in Service

Tuesday 22nd February

7 - 9:30pm

Saturday 26th February

2:30 - 5pm

Team Members

Tuesday 8th February

7 - 9:30pm

Saturday 12th February

2:30 - 5pm

Team Leaders

Tuesday 8th March

7 - 9:00pm

Saturday 12th March

2:30 - 4:30pm

If you are involved in ministry please ask you local SCC Coordinator when you need to complete the accreditation process



... as for me
and my
house, we
will serve
the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

Riverlinks

February 2011	
1st Tue	*** (each Tuesday) Women of St Aidan's Prayer Group Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 5:30pm at St Mary Magdalene's GTown – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
2nd Wed	*** (each Wednesday) East Launceston Play Group – 10:00am to 12:00 noon in "The Upper Room" St Aidan's Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Gross' home Bell Buoy Beach – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm at Bullard's home
3rd Thur	*** (each Thursday) Home Group – 10:00am at Collyer's home
4th Fri	(each Friday) KYB Study Group – 10:00am at the Baptist Church G/Town
5th Sat	
6th Sun	
7th Mon	Combined MST Meeting – 6:45pm
8th Tue	Cadorna – 2:00pm Childsafe Team Member Training – 7:00 to 9:30pm at Holy Trinity L'ton

*** Please check with your home group for commencement dates

February 2011	
9th Wed	
10th Thur	Parish Council – 7:30pm
11th Fri	
12th Sat	Childsafe Team Member Training – 2:30 to 5:00pm at Holy Trinity L'ton
13th Sun	Kids' Church – 11:00am at St Oswald's
14th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
15th Tue	
16th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
17th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Presbyterian Home Legana – 10:45am
18th Fri	
19th Sat	
20th Sun	KYB Study Group – 10:30am at St Alban's Café Church on Bain – 4:30pm at St Oswald's

Calendar

February 2011	
21st Mon	
22nd Tue	Faithfulness in Service Training – 7:00 to 9:30pm at Holy Trinity L'ton
23rd Wed	**** Launceston Cup Day
24th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm Commissioning for James Oakley – 5:30pm at St Aidan's for a shared meal with the commissioning at approx. 6:45pm
25th Fri	
26th Sat	Faithfulness in Service Training – 2:30 to 5:00pm at Holy Trinity L'ton
27th Sun	Harvest Festival – 9:00am at Christ Church Low Head Kids' Church – 11:00am at St Oswald's
28th Mon	Prayer Group – 1:30pm at George Town
1st Mar Tue	
2nd Mar Wed	

March and other dates 2011	
Friday 4th March	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 6th March	Preaching Workshop at St David's
Tuesday 8th March or Saturday 12th March	Childsafe Team Leader Training at Holy Trinity L'ton Tuesday – 7:00 to 9:00pm Saturday – 2:30 to 4:30pm
Saturday 19th March	MST & PC Retreat



The deadline for the March Newsletter edition is 9am on 21st February

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au