

## Christmas 2011

**East Launceston**  
21-23 Arthur St  
East Launceston  
0438 378 233

**George Town**  
3 Anne St  
George Town  
0439 821 038

**Hillwood**  
Hall - Jetty Rd  
Hillwood

**Low Head**  
Low Head Rd  
Low Head

**Peacehaven**  
185 Penquite Rd  
Norwood

**Pipers River**  
School Rd  
Pipers River

**Riverside**  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

**Trevallyn**  
34 Bain Tce  
Trevallyn  
0409 799 419

**Parish office**  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside  
6327 4742  
office@riverlinks.net.au

Riverlinks Anglican Parish  
Newsletter is published  
monthly.

Opinions expressed in this  
publication do not neces-  
sarily reflect those of the  
clergy or the Anglican  
Church.

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



Below & left : Kids' Christmas, carols &  
family BBQ at St David's

Below: MST & PC Christmas Dinner at the Pier Hotel George Town



### Contact us:

**Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)**  
6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

**Children & Young Families Ministry**  
6327 3482 kids\_families@riverlinks.net.au

**Website**  
www.riverlinks.net.au

# riverlinks Newsletter

## Christmas 2011

Anglican Church

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
Keep CHRIST in Christmas  
Jesus - the reason for the season!



**Our vision: "Growing a community of faith committed to  
Christ and making him known"**

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





## From the Enabler

***Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger*** (Luke 2:11-12)

If you were going to start a new religion with a new religious leader who you said was the Lord of the world, would you include the above announcement in your Gospel? I doubt it. What might be the sign of Christ the Lord in your Gospel? 'You will find a buff young man wrapped in designer clothes and riding in a Lexus.'

In the first century world of Jesus, the claim to be Lord and Saviour of the world was made by glorious, victorious Roman Emperors. Now read again the angels' announcement above. A remarkable counter-claim, don't you think? Especially given that the baby was wrapped in cheap, third-world quality cloths and found in a trough! Surely Luke records this detail because that's exactly what happened.

And this announcement is all the more remarkable when you realise that in Luke's world a person's highest achievement was the attainment of honour. Humility, lowliness and putting the needs of others above your own were considered weaknesses and barriers to honour. And yet Dr Luke's carefully researched biography does not and obviously cannot leave this detail out. It's worth pointing that out to



<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

God shows us in Christ, in his person and acts:

- the revelation of human relationships,
- the existence of evil in its many forms,
- the hope of forgiveness and reconciliation
- the eternal significance of this life in participating with Christ in building – the eternal city, the Kingdom of God.

*That which is of God,  
That which is of the heart & mind of Christ  
is eternally God's Kingdom.*

**These 3 events:** Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Sunday provide **3 platforms for life:**

1. We are all one people: **a shared life**
2. We are all fatally flawed & reconciled: **a redeemed/reconciled life**
3. We are all called to eternal significance: **a significant life**

### A PC 'Sort of Holiday Greeting'

I wanted to send some sort of holiday greeting to everyone, but it is difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So I met with my lawyer yesterday, and on advice I wish to say the following:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non addictive, gender neutral celebration of the summer solstice holiday practised with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practices of your choice with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practise religious or secular traditions at all.

I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2012, but not without due respect for the calendar of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make our country great (not to imply that Australia is necessarily greater than any other country) and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishee.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/him or others and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. The wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

Best Regards (without prejudice)

Name withheld (privacy act).

**A  
Christmas  
Blessing**

*May the  
eagerness  
of the  
shepherds,*

*The  
perseverance  
of the  
wise men,*

*The  
obedience  
of Mary and  
Joseph,*

*And the  
joy, peace  
and  
adoration  
of the  
angels,*

*be yours  
at this  
Christmas  
time.*

*Amen*



## Trevallyn & Riverside Christmas Lunch



*Bishop John*



### Christian foundations 4 Gambling Forum

In preparing for the Friday Forum on Poker machine gambling reform with Andrew Wilkie, MHR Denison, I noted the following:

**Jesus Christ's challenge focus:**  
to love this chaotic, complex, corrupted & created world

**Birth Christmas:** God became human & dwelt amongst us; the significance & value of our shared life is a reality for us

**Death Good Friday:** God in Christ was crucified; both our evil/human brokenness & reconciliation, are realities for us

**Resurrection Easter Sunday:** Christ rose from the dead: the eternal significance of our short life on this planet, is a reality to us

your sceptical friends. And let it reassure *you* that these things are true and trustworthy. Christmas is not a religious invention.

And why was this baby to be found lying in an animal's food trough? Because there was simply no room for him (and his family) where humans stayed. Can you imagine turning up to a pub while travelling and having to spend the night out back in Daisy the cow's stall? And did I mention that your wife gave birth that night? Do you think you might have thought that God could have organised things a bit better for you? Could he not have given a more compelling sign to the world of the birth of its Lord and Saviour than he did? Of course! So why *this* sign?

Because, this is what God is like, and so this is how the Son of God makes his glorious entrance. It is in the very nature of God to be humble and sacrificial for the sake of others.

Jesus' lowly birth revealed so much about his character and the character and mission of his short life. Luke will go on to record Jesus' friendship with the poor in spirit, with social misfits and outcasts, with the irreligious. He lived simply and urged his followers to be rich towards God, to have treasure in heaven. He constantly suffered being misunderstood, maligned, mistrusted and rejected. And his life ended as it began: in profound humiliation, humility and service of others.

*... continued next page*



<sup>10</sup> *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.*

<sup>11</sup> *Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

<sup>13</sup> *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

<sup>14</sup> *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*



**From the Enabler**

continued from previous page ...

At the beginning he lay helpless in a wooden trough. At the end he lay helpless on a wooden cross. Jesus was born in weakness to die in weakness. He willingly subjected himself to both, in order to serve us, save us.

Here is *true* greatness and honour, is it not? Here is our God, worship him! Here is our God, imitate him!

The heart of being a Christian is not first serving Jesus but allowing him to serve you; to be born and to die, for you. Think about that, and do it, if you haven't already. Allow him to take care of your deepest and greatest need: to be reconciled to God and to be free to live for God. That's truly the gift that keeps giving, day after day after day into eternity.

And Christian, allow this Christmas spirit and the Holy Spirit, to reawaken you to the sheer wonder of that birth, that life and that death: God-becoming-Man, God-revealing-God, God reconciling rebels to God. The Son of God who though rich, for our sakes became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich (2 Cor 8:9). Wonder and worship. Surrender and serve. Go on.

Warmly,

*David*

***For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.***

2 Corinthians 8:9 <sup>NIV</sup>

we take extra care in every part of the giftgiving process, choosing giftwrap as thoughtfully as the present. We know effort taken with the wrapping tells people how much we value them. In this light, consider the soft, chubby newborn Jesus. We might think it a poor casing for the Son of God: too humble and fragile, too sensitive to the cold, hunger and thirst. Yet God chose this delicate mesh of human fibre and flesh to proclaim his majesty and grace. I can't think of a more ringing endorsement of God's love for us than that.

Jesus felt hunger, thirst, weariness, and experienced loss, need and rejection by those nearest to him. Throughout his life on earth, and culminating in his death on the cross, Jesus continually emptied out his life for the sake of others. This was the reason for which he was gifted, and he gave us his all.

But that's not the end of the story. The Christian message is one of hope and renewal—embodied in the resurrected Christ. Jesus' human flesh is not the kind of giftwrap destined for the rubbish heap, but is retained in his resurrected body. That Jesus' risen body bears the scars of his crucifixion shows us that our flesh is worth something to God, who doesn't regard our wrap lightly but considers it essential to the afterlife.

God will not discard us just because our human form is old or torn or broken. The rescue plan that he began to reveal on that first Christmas was to give all those who call on him a fresh start in a new resurrected body.

Giftwrap is often thrown away, and no one remembers it. But Christmastime reminds us that God is the great giftgiver, is rapt about our fleshly wrapping.

After all, at Christmas he presents us with Christ, a bundle of divinity (gift) wrapped in human flesh.

Dr Justine Toh is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Christianity and lectures in Cultural Studies at Macquarie University.

5) You shall teach the true meaning of Christmas to your children

6) You shall be generous in your giving to those who are less fortunate than yourself

7) You shall enjoy in quietness the true meaning of Christmas

8) You shall share with others the true message of Christmas

9) You shall give thanks to God for sending us His Son

10) You shall remember that the message of Christmas lasts all year through

10  
COMMANDMENTS  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS

## Unwrapping God's Gift

*At Christmas we remember that God gave himself as a gift to the world. JUSTINE TOH explains why the human shape of this present gives us a particular hope.*

For gifts to be recognised as gifts, they are often giftwrapped. No matter how humble the gift, a bit of ceremony always feels appropriate—even a bit of ribbon around a jar of jam gives it some festive flair.

Yet it's no surprise that we think the real gift is inside all that brightly coloured paper and curled ribbon. Once Christmas Day comes, that shiny paper is shed to reveal the main event. An all too common sight after Christmas is garbage bins on the street stuffed with giftwrap's crumpled and tattered remnants. Giftwrap is nice and decorative, but we tend to chuck it once its purpose is served.

Perhaps it's a strange analogy, but this attitude to giftwrap reminds me of the approach of some religious traditions to the soul and the body. They say the body is what giftwraps the real present: the soul. The devaluing of the body is also a fairly common idea in popular spirituality, including in TV and movies.

The representation of spirits of the departed as ghostly wisps, not creatures of flesh-and-blood, implies that we discard our bodies after death. The Christian story holds that Jesus was God's gift to the world. Like any gift, he came giftwrapped: in human flesh. Jesus' wrapping, however, doesn't enclose the real gift but is central to him as a gift; he isn't merely clothed in humanity, but is both fully human and fully divine. This is what Christians call the "incarnation": the mystery of an allpowerful God not just appearing in human flesh, but who was born, lived and died as a human—yet was simultaneously God throughout. The incarnation shows us that our human flesh is dear to our Maker because he shared in it himself.

Here, our giftwrapping practices are also telling. Sometimes

1) You shall remember to keep Christ in Christmas

2) You shall pause in your busyness to consider the greatness of God's gift of Christ to mankind

3) You shall remember that Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn, and, remembering, give Christ the chief room in your heart

4) You shall not let Father Christmas take the place of Jesus Christ

## 1 Corinthians 13 — The Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows and strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I am just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, cooking dozens of Christmas bickies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child, Love sets aside decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful that they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust. But giving the gift of love will endure.

*<sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,*

*<sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*

*<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.*

*<sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*



What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Santa Claustrophobia.

Who delivers cat's Christmas presents? Santa Paws.

Why does Father Christmas go down the chimney? Because it soots him.

How many chimneys does Father Christmas go down? Stacks!



## Kids' Christmas & Carols

Around 80 people attended the Kids' Christmas & carols service at St David's on 11<sup>th</sup> December, with choirs from Riverside Primary School singing.

Funds raised on the day, approximately \$500 were donated to support chaplaincy at both Riverside High school and Riverside Primary.

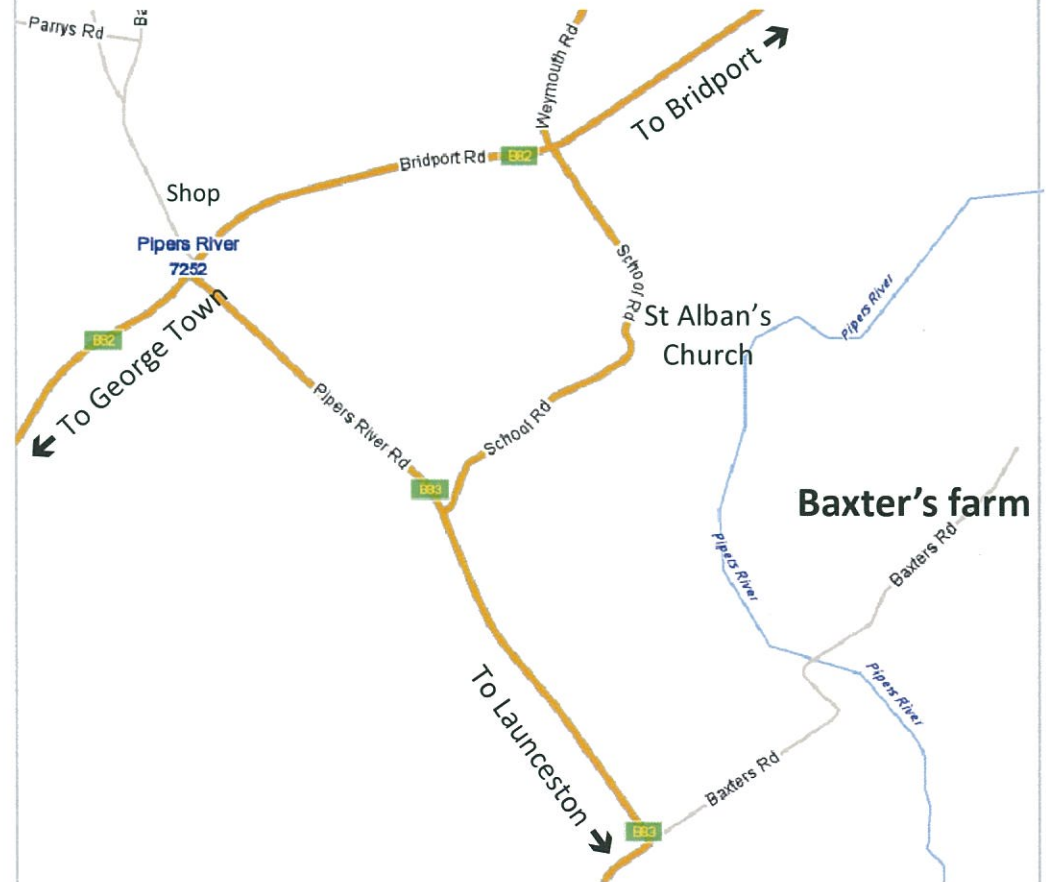
A family barbecue in the drive followed the carol service.



## Riverlinks Together Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January

The service will be at 10:30am in the wool shed at Baxter's farm, 181 Baxter's Road, Pipers River

and will be followed by a family picnic from 12 noon







The Parish Office will be closed  
from 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
and will re-open on 23<sup>rd</sup> January

**Staff on holiday (inclusive):**

David Rogers-Smith      5<sup>th</sup> December to 12<sup>th</sup> February  
James Oakley              24<sup>th</sup> December to 22<sup>nd</sup> January  
Anne Godman              24<sup>th</sup> December to 22<sup>nd</sup> January



**Christmas services around the Parish**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

St Alban's Piper River – 7:00pm  
Peace Haven Chapel Norwood – 7:00pm  
St Oswald's Trevallyn – 11:00pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

St Mary Magdalene's George Town – 8:00am  
St David's Riverside – 9:00am  
Christ Church Low Head – 9:00am  
St Aidan's East Launceston – 9:30am



explore your creativity, learn new skills, find your voice | January 8-15 2012

are you ready to **explore your creativity?**  
**learn new skills? find your voice?**

Faith and the Arts summer school

in Poatina this coming January 8-15

Electives for 2012: Music :- Dance :- Stagecraft/visual theatre :- Ceramics  
Photography :- Painting and Drawing :- Hot Glass :- Creative writing, Poetry  
Creative writing, Fiction :- Clowning and Mime 10

sign up at

[www.faithandthearts.com.au](http://www.faithandthearts.com.au)

sign up at

[www.faithandthearts.com.au](http://www.faithandthearts.com.au)

**Parish Mission Support**

Funds donated in support of mission organisations from July to December 2011: -

<i>Paid to</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Budget YTD</i>
C.M.S. Support for Lakes	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
C.M.S. General Support	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Scripture Union RHS Chaplaincy	\$1,750.00	\$1,500.00
Scripture Union RPS Chaplaincy	\$250.00	-
Scripture Union Staff Support	\$200.00	\$400.00
Scripture Union Spirituality Toolboxes	\$585.00	-
Anglican Board of Mission	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Bush Church Aid Society	\$1,210.70	\$1,000.00
Barnabas Fund	\$1,334.35	\$600.00
Bible Society	\$500.00	\$500.00
Samaritan's Purse OCC	\$43.00	-
Leprosy Mission	\$93.25	-
World Vision Child Support	\$129.00	\$258.00
Mission Without Borders	\$28.70	-
	\$9,624.00	\$9,600.00

On Christmas Eve a man thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what to buy.

Unable to decide, he entered Myer and in the cosmetics section he asked the girl.

'How about some perfume?' She said, showing him one for \$150. 'Too expensive,' he muttered.

The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for \$50. 'No,' the man grouched, 'still far too much.'

Growing rather annoyed at his meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny \$10 bottle and offered it to him.

'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.'

So the sales girl handed him a mirror.





## Riverlinks

December 2011	
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Carols & Lessons G/Town – 7:00pm Launceston Carols By Candlelight – 7:00pm in City Park
19 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
20 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Hillwood Usual Unusual Christmas Service – 7:00pm at the Hillwood Hall
21 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> Thur	Tamar Park – 1:45pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	*** Parish office closes
24 <sup>th</sup> Sat	St Alban's Piper River – 7:00pm Peace Haven Chapel Norwood – 7:00pm St Oswald's Trevallyn – 11:00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	 St Mary Magdalene's G/Town – 8:00am St David's Riverside – 9:00am Christ Church Low Head – 9:00am St Aidan's East Launceston – 9:30am
26 <sup>th</sup> Mon	*** Christmas Day Public Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> Tue	*** Boxing Day Public Holiday
28 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
29 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
30 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
31 <sup>st</sup> Sat	

January 2012	
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	*** New Year's Day Public Holiday
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
5 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
6 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
7 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
8 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Faith & the Arts at Poatina to 15 <sup>th</sup> January
9 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
10 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
11 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
12 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Summerview Conference at Camp Banksia Port Sorell
13 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Summerview Conference
14 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Summerview Conference
15 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Summerview Conference
16 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
17 <sup>th</sup> Tue	

## Calendar

January 2012	
18 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
19 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
20 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
21 <sup>st</sup> Sat	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Mon	*** Parish office reopens
24 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
25 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
26 <sup>th</sup> Thur	*** Australia Day Public Holiday
27 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
28 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
29 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:30am at Baxter's wool shed Pipers River Picnic on the farm from 12 noon
30 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
31 <sup>st</sup> Tue	

February and other dates 2012	
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Children's Ministry Network Workshop
10 <sup>th</sup> Mar	MST & PC Retreat
17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Children's Ministry Network Conference
25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Preaching Workshop

### Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
29 <sup>th</sup>	-	NO SERVICE	
George Town			
1 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Pipers River George Town George Town	Communion Communion Carols
22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 am 9:30 am	George Town Low Head	Communion Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Pipers River at Baxter's wool shed	Riverlinks Together
Riverside & Trevallyn			
1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
8 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	-	NO SERVICES	
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
8 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 am	Communion	

The **deadline** for the February Newsletter edition is **23<sup>rd</sup> January**

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