

February 2012

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

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*Riverlinks Anglican Parish
Newsletter is published
monthly.*

*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**



Right:

Bill & Bev Percey
celebrate
their golden
wedding
anniversary



Left & Below: Riverlinks Together
Picnic on the Farm at Baxter's, Pipers River



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



Newsletter

February 2012



*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**



Brought Near Through The Blood

I drove past a sign the other day:



At first, I thought “well, that's a sentiment that no-one can really disagree with.” Then, thinking further, it's also a statement that is nearly impossible to agree with! At least, any number of people might agree with the statement, without agreeing with each other. Do we all agree

on what the “positive direction” is?

I want to make a case that:

- There is only one positive direction for our children (and indeed for all of us): to God through Jesus Christ.
- As parents, we will be held to account for our leadership of our children – either toward or away from Jesus.
- As a church, it is a vital part of our mercy mission to help parents discharge this duty, and to help children start in the right direction.

One positive direction

All people are in terrible danger. All people are at risk of great judgement, wrath and punishment. All people are rebels against God, trying to wriggle out from His rightful authority and establish their own rule in God's place. Paul puts it succinctly in Romans 3:23:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

What does all this mean? Does it mean that we Jews are better off than the Gentiles? No, it doesn't! Jews, as well as Gentiles, are ruled by sin, just as I have said. The Scriptures tell us, "No one is acceptable to God! Not one of them understands or even searches for God. They have all turned away and are worthless.

With courage let us all combine to Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair.

Yet, we must work courageously and pray for a fair Australia: to truly “advance Australia fair”.

Please remember Andrew Wilkie in your prayers as he comes to terms with this broken promise. Also pray for all those Australians addicted to poker machine gambling, their families, friends, work places and community.

Bishop John's blog - January 21, 2012

www.imaginarydiocese.org

MEDIA RELEASE Tuesday 17th January 2012:

“The Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, John Harrower, is today making the following comment with regards to Poker Machine reform.

I am very concerned that the health of Australian Society, and the safety and livelihood of many Australian families, is being overtaken by parliamentary opportunism.

The cost of poker machines as they are currently operated far outweighs any perceived benefit. The government should not give in to pressure from vested interests who are concerned with protecting profits ahead of caring for people and building our nation.

The Anglican Church in Tasmania has consistently called for increased regulation, including \$1 bet limits, and we have encouraged Andrew Wilkie on this issue. The members of our churches and the workers in our agencies see every day the real effect on families and children of this exploitative industry.

I call upon Prime Minister Gillard to maintain her commitment to the proposed reforms.

I call upon the Opposition to shape Coalition policy around Australian values by giving clear support to poker machine reform.

If the Coalition values individual responsibility they will support a system that ensures patrons can make an informed, free decision about how much they will lose.

If the Coalition values rewarding hard work they will back reforms so that pay packets are not at risk to the false promise of vain chance.

This issue requires the good politics of action, not politicking and plays for power.”



A Deal's A Deal. Not.

A sad day for our nation as our Prime Minister breaks another promise and further distances truth from our life.

Listen to Andrew Wilkie as he tells of the "Prime Minister's failure to honour her agreement" on pokies reform:

"Consequently I regard the Prime Minister to be in breach of the written agreement she signed, leaving me no option but to honour my word and end my current relationship with her government.

"Frankly, a deal's a deal and it must be honoured. Our democracy is simply too precious to trash with broken promises and backroom compromises. So I will walk, take my chances and so be it.

"As someone said to me this week, millions of people are concerned about poker machines, but everyone should care about politicians being true to their word."

Yesterday the Prime Minister said that Mr Wilkie did not have the numbers for reform. Well, so be it; but what is leadership about?

I struggle to understand why the Prime Minister did not show leadership on this significant and damaging social issue by going ahead into the teeth of the storm by introducing legislation and advocating for its approval?

Even if the introduced legislation was not passed by Parliament, at least the Prime Minister would have led and more importantly, held to her word.

The Prime Minister and her cabinet have lost integrity and the very heart of leadership in failing to show the way to a healthier and more just Australia.

Clinging with a skeletal hand to parliamentary power our Prime Minister has impoverished her people.

What a sad gift for Australia Day.

What a parody our Prime Minister makes of 'courage'!

How will the second verse of our National Anthem be sung?

But surely this doesn't apply to children! Children are so innocent, so trusting, so good. Surely Paul is only talking about grown-ups? This is a tempting objection, because it plays to closely held cultural values about childhood. But to accept it requires us to ignore the plain language Paul uses here and elsewhere in Romans (eg. 3:9-18). It also requires us to ignore the consistent teaching of the bible elsewhere. Here is one example from Psalm 51:

*Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me. (v. 5)*

If David, a man whose heart was fully devoted to the Lord, can write this, then it is clear that the description applies generally to all people.

So children are alienated from God, just as adults are. They too are "without hope and without God in the world" (Eph 2:12), unless they too are "brought near through the blood of Christ" (Eph 2:13).

Society and the church have too often been satisfied with the lesser benefit of keeping a child out of trouble. As long as a child or teen doesn't get arrested, get drunk, or have a child out of wedlock, we think that the child is turning out OK – the more so if a child makes some positive contribution through music, sport, work or school. We have seen already that this obscures a child's separation from God, and his or her great need to be saved!

The remedy, the *only* "positive direction", is to hear and believe the gospel – to trust in the person that gospel proclaims! As Paul wrote: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of *everyone* who believes." (Romans 1:16) And Peter proclaimed: "Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

Continued next page...

There isn't one person who does right.

Their words are like an open pit, and their tongues are good only for telling lies.

Each word is as deadly as the fangs of a snake, and they say nothing but bitter curses.

These people quickly become violent. Wherever they go, they leave ruin and destruction.

They don't know how to live in peace. They don't even fear God."

**Romans
3:9-18 CEV**

continued
from
previous
page



WORDS OF
WISDOM
FROM JOHN
BUNYAN

Prayer is a
shield to the
soul, a sacrifice
to God, and a
scourge for
Satan.

He who runs
from God in the
morning will
scarcely find
Him the rest of
the day.

Take heed of
little sins.

The instruction of the Lord

Parents bear a heavy burden in ensuring that their children have a chance to hear the gospel and respond. This is clear common sense – who else spends as much time with a child as a parent? Who else is the child's first and most important role model? Whose words sink deepest into a child's heart, and exert the greatest influence over the person that child grows to be?

The bible emphasises this common-sense conclusion with a command and a warning. The command we see in Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; *instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*" The warning is implicit in Mark 9:42: "And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck." Jesus said this while holding a little child (see verse 36), which adds a sharp edge to his words!

So parents are charged with the responsibility of bringing their children up in the Lord, and are warned not to be the cause of sin in their lives! Not something to take lightly.

But is this too much to put on parents? Don't children themselves bear some responsibility? And what about the church, doesn't the church have to reach out to children as well?

Firstly, the responsibility of children. Of course, they must make their own response to Jesus in due course. But this does not absolve parents of their responsibility. As Paul writes in Romans 10:14:

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

What's more, the capacity to believe in Jesus is itself a God-given gift, outside the control of the parents: "It is by

Bishop Spreads A Message Of Peace

The Anglican Bishop of Egypt, Bishop Mouneer Anis, is visiting Tasmania spreading a message of peace and acceptance, and shared his hopes for a new democratic Egypt at SummerView.

Bishop Mouneer has a reputation as a peace keeper and said he would like to see common ground found between the Islamic and Christian faiths in Egypt and had already been approached by six members of government who had asked for his advice in finding a solution to the civil unrest.

"We, of course, as a Christian community, would love to co-operate for the building of Egypt and to co-operate with the muslims, our scripture teaches to love everyone and we love the muslims and are happy to work with them to build our beloved country," Bishop Mouneer said.

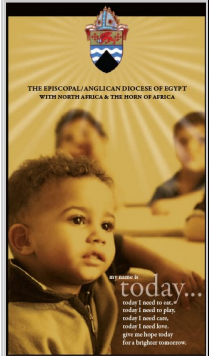
Although the revolution in Egypt, known as the Arab Spring, was at times violent, he said it had torn down the barrier of fear among the people of Egypt who had learnt to stand up for their beliefs in order to effect change.



"The government may learn in time that they should reach a compromise for the sake of Egypt and if they don't do this, I think the people of Egypt will never be silent again," he said.

Extract from an article
by Jayne Richardson in
the Examiner Newspaper
14th January 2012

My Name is
Today...



Today
I need to eat,
today
I need to play,
today
I need care,
today
I need love.
Give me hope
today
for a brighter
tomorrow.

www.dioceseof
egypt.org

Percey's 50th Wedding Anniversary



Cursillo
Diocesan Ultreya

Saturday
25th February
10:30am to 3pm

at St Barnabas
Newnham



grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Eph 2:8). We rightly celebrate God's greatness and goodness whenever anyone turns to Christ and is saved!

Parents are not responsible for *results* – they are responsible for their own *obedience* in presenting the gospel to their kids.

Where does the church fit in?

Secondly, the role of the church. There are two main jobs for the church in this area:

- Preparing God's people for works of service (Eph 4:12), particularly preparing parents for the task of leading their children towards Christ!
- Going into the world to make disciples (Matt 28:19) – including of children and particularly of those children who will not hear of Jesus from their parents!

We must do these things because God has commanded them. But aside from that, it is good sense to reach out to children and to parents of children. People become more set in their ways as they grow older. Reaching children when they are still young gives them the greatest opportunity to respond positively to Jesus, relatively free from the prejudices and attitudes that harden as they grown older. Twelve seems to be the crucial age. We need to be showing primary-school aged children the wonder and glory of God, and inviting them to accept Jesus as Saviour and King!

This work is not something that one person does alone, nor is it cheap. I thank God that Riverlinks has shown itself willing to give time, energy and money towards this crucial area of ministry, and I pray He will enable us to persevere and to bring this good work to completion.

Your brother in Christ,

James Oakley

Christians are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dew of Heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other.

The devil is nimble; he can run apace; he is light of foot; he hath overtaken many.... They that would have heaven must run for it.

Riverlinks Together On The Farm



Children's ministry workshop

Are you involved in discipling children? Do you lead children's talks, children's ministry or Sunday school? Then come and join us to share a bite of lunch and then spend an hour talking kids ministry



at: St Aidan's (Arthur St, East Launceston)
 on: Sunday 19 February
 at: about 12 noon

We will be looking at praying with children, teaching memory verses and managing behaviour
 Please RSVP to James by Wednesday 15 November on 0407325275 (SMS is fine) or by email kids_families@riverlinks.net.au to help with catering. Please include any dietary issues.

(This is the first of four children's ministry workshops that Riverlinks will be running throughout 2012).



Children's ministry network conference will be held on 17 March

James will need the assistance of 2 or 3 people on the day for tea & coffee and lunch, as well as donations of slices etc. beforehand.
 If you can help, please contact James



branch handmade market

6:30 - 9:30pm
 Friday 3rd February

at The Branch Community Church
 2 Innocent Street Kings Meadows
 raising funds for Elizabeth Home India
 entry by gold coin donation



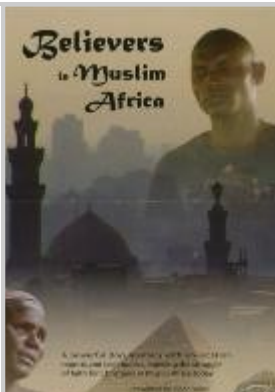
Believers in Muslim Africa

presented by Open Doors

Screening at:

Punchbowl Christian Centre
100 Punchbowl Rd Punchbowl
7:30pm Saturday 18th February

Reformed Church
53 Frederick St Launceston
7:30pm Tuesday 21st February



Free admission
An offering for the
Persecuted Church will
be taken at each meeting



It's not where you go or what you do, it's whom you help along your way



Mega 2 Day Garage sale

11th & 12th February

34 Jubilee Road Youngtown
A fundraiser for BTSF Malawi

Need to clear out some stuff? Drop it off before 5th February, or we will pick up small items. Phone Birgit 0407 350 487 or Helen 0437 918 060 more info on www.btsfmalawi.org or write to btsf02@gmail.com

The Alpha Course 2011

Term 1: 22Feb-16 April

Term 2: 5 Jul- 27 Aug

Term 3: 4 Oct-26 Nov

Choose from:

Tuesday Morning or
Wednesday Evening



Contact: 6344 8450 or alpha@door-of-hope.org

door of hope
Christian Church



Sunday
29th January
at Baxter's Farm
Pipers River



Riverlinks

February 2012	
*** Contact your leader for group restart dates ***	
1 st Wed	(each Wednesday) Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
2 nd Thur	(each Thursday) mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
3 rd Fri	(each Friday) KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Branch Handmade Market – 6:00pm to 9:30pm at the Branch, Kings Meadows
4 th Sat	
5 th Sun	
6 th Mon	Ministry Support Team Meeting – 6:45pm
7 th Tue	(each Tuesday) Pat's Prayer Group – 2:00pm (6324 5111) Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Gross' home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
8 th Wed	

February 2012	
9 th Thur	Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
10 th Fri	
11 th Sat	2 Day Garage Sale & Sausage Sizzle for BTSF Malawi at 34 Jubilee Rd Youngtown
12 th Sun	Garage Sale & Sausage Sizzle
13 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
14 th Tue	
15 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
16 th Thur	Presbyterian Home Legana – 10:45am
17 th Fri	
18 th Sat	Believers in Muslim Africa film screening – 7:30pm at Punchbowl Christian Centre
19 th Sun	Children's Ministry Workshop – 12:00 noon at St Aidan's
20 th Mon	

Calendar

February 2012	
21 st Tue	Believers in Muslim Africa film screening – 7:30pm at Reformed Church Launceston
22 nd Wed	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> ALPHA Course starts at Door of Hope
23 rd Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm
24 th Fri	
25 th Sat	Cursillo Diocesan Ultreya – 10:30am to 3:00pm at St Barnabas Newnham
26 th Sun	
27 th Mon	
28 th Tue	
29 th Wed	**** Launceston Cup Day
1 st Mar Thur	
2 nd Mar Fri	
3 rd Mar Sat	

March and other dates 2012	
10 th March	MST & PC Retreat
11 th March	Harvest Festival at Low Head
17 th March	Children's Ministry Network Conference
25 th March	Preaching Workshop
29 th April	Riverlinks Together

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
5 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
12 th	10:00 am	Communion	
19 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
26 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
5 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
12 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
19 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
26 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
5 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
12 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship Kids' Church
19 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
26 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Café Church
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
12 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
19 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
26 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

The **deadline** for the March Newsletter edition is **20th February**

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office

399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au