



# Newsletter

## March 2012

Send forth the labourers

# THE HARVEST

is ready



*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: Forgiveness

'Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors' (Matthew 6:12; ESV).

Do you ask any of these questions?

- God's people ARE forgiven, so why in the Lord's Prayer does Jesus direct them to keep seeking God's forgiveness?
- Why do *churches* pray this?
- Does Jesus mean by this that forgiving others is the way to be forgiven by God? In other words, does forgiveness replace faith here?
- Why does Jesus use the language of debt? What debt and who pays?
- Does it matter if I can't forgive someone? God still forgives me, right?
- What is the key to being a forgiving person?

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink

I'll try to answer these as I unpack Jesus' words here with you. Very familiar words to us Anglicans. I suspect for some of us very hard words to take seriously.

This is where we're up to in the Lord's Prayer that I've been working through with you. It would be helpful if you opened to it in your Bible – **Matthew 6:9-13**.

See the Prayer's two halves? See the three requests in each? Notice the priority...FIRST in our personal and church's life must be God's honour, kingdom and will. If you no longer have the articles I wrote on these (and on 'Give us this day our daily bread') and would like to see any of them again, just let me or Anne Godman know.

Now, the three requests in the second half of the Prayer are:

- Give us...
- Forgive us...
- Deliver us...

Who's the Prayer for? God's people or all people? Well, whom is Jesus speaking to? The disciples (5:1; cf. 6:5-6, 8); and Jesus distinguishes those who pray this prayer from 'the Gentiles' (6:7). Here that's shorthand for the pagans with their idolatrous religions. The Lord's Prayer is for all those who know God as 'Father' (6:9). In

fact, this Prayer addresses God as 'Our Father' and the pronouns in the rest of the Prayer are also plural: 'us' and 'our'. That means that while this prayer can be prayed privately, it is ideally a corporate prayer for when Christians are gathered. It assumes a common physical, spiritual and moral life (6:11-13) that is governed by the desire for God's honour, Kingdom and will (6:9-10) – the life of the local Christian community.

Now that makes this part of the Prayer very interesting. It assumes that there will be things that *the local church* will need to confess to God, seek God's forgiveness for. If you need convincing of that, take a look at Revelation chapters 2 and 3, and see how the glorified Jesus walks among the churches, commending them and rebuking them for specific attitudes and behaviours; and are you willing to notice there that he threatens to pull the plug on churches that don't repent of the things he's displeased about? Here is a call to local church leadership (and preachers, service leaders and home group leaders) to be spiritually vigilant and watchful, and when necessary, to be admonishing the church and calling on it to repent of specific sins of commission and omission. In our public Confession in our services, isn't it true that we almost always only think of personal sins and not also corporate ones? What corporate attitudes and behaviours need forgiving through corporate repentance? What blessings might God be withholding until this is done? What changes might we see if our SWOT analyses of our congregations and ministries (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) became SWOTS, where the first 'S' stood for sins? I hope to hear you talking about this at church and leadership meetings.

Now, let's take a closer look at the language Jesus uses. He speaks of us as incurring a debt to God and as being owed a debt by others. This is very helpful for understanding what forgiveness is. At its heart it is not a feeling, nor is it forgetting or excusing the offence or hurt. Rather, it is a gracious decision to release the other person from their liability or penalty. Of course, the ungracious, ungodly option is to punish the offender, to make them pay for what they've done. But that path is not open to the Christian. Notice that Jesus simply assumes that the church and Christian sinned against will be discharging their debtors from their debt: 'Forgive us our debts, *as we also have forgiven our debtors*'.

judgment on themselves.

That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

**1 Corinthians**  
**11: 27 - 32 NIV**

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

**Words of  
Wisdom from  
Albert Einstein**

"It would be possible to describe everything scientifically, but it would make no sense; it would be without meaning, as if you described a Beethoven symphony as a variation of wave pressure."

"Teaching should be such that what is offered is perceived as a valuable gift and not as a hard duty."

What happened to the astronomical, unrepayable debt that we owed God? God himself paid for it in full, in the death of the Son of God. Hear Paul:

'God made [us] alive together with him [Christ], having forgiven us all our trespasses, *by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross*' (Col 2:13b-14; ESV).

**PAID IN FULL**

Isn't it fantastic to be debt-free!! How good is God? How costly it was for God to cancel our debt. Christians are the most forgiven and most free people on earth. We are free of the terrible burden of debt to God; and, back to the

Lord's Prayer, free (willing and able) to likewise be debt-cancellers for others. But what if we don't? What if we choose instead to be like the unmerciful servant in Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:23-35, who, in spite of having his enormous debt to the king forgiven by the king (and Jesus uses the same language of debt as he did in the Lord's Prayer), angrily demands that much smaller debts owed to him are paid for? Well, in the parable the king ends up throwing the unmerciful servant in gaol until all his debt is paid. This parable needs to be ringing in our ears when we hear the Lord's Prayer in verse 12, and especially when we come to Jesus' elaboration of that verse immediately after the Prayer in verses 14 and 15. Take a look in your Bible...

Jesus is certainly not saying that we forgive others *so as to* be forgiven by God. Remember the parable. The servant had had his very great debt paid for. That's precisely why the king is so angry with him when he fails to be merciful towards others. The point being, the mark of having been forgiven by God is a forgiving spirit towards others (see immediately before the parable in 18:21-22). If you don't have an attitude of forgiveness towards others then it may well be because you have never truly repented towards God and experienced the wonder of his costly (to Him) pardon. And the apostle Paul reflects this same order of things:

'Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, *as God in Christ forgave you*' (Eph 4:32; ESV).

'...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, *as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive*' (Col 3:13; ESV).

But I do not think we have exhausted the application of Matthew 6:12, 14-15. Remember, Jesus is speaking to and about disciples, people and churches who truly know God as 'our Father'. If *as believers* we choose to withhold forgiveness towards another, the Father will withhold forgiveness and fellowship from us, be it personally or congregationally. But how can that be, if we are *already* forgiven, pardoned, justified? The answer to that question is also the answer to the question that I sometimes hear asked, 'Why do we Anglican Christians confess our sins every time we gather?' Or for that matter, whenever we are personally aware of the need to. If we are justified, why the need to go on seeking God's forgiveness, as this Prayer and the rest of the New Testament admonishes us to (eg. 1 Jn 1:8-9)?

Well, the crass (and therefore probably memorable!), short answer is, because it's like the garbage at home. Taking it out once just isn't enough! Every day we pile up more of it, and most days we prefer to put it out of the house in the wheelie bin outside, and every week we join everyone else in the neighbourhood in having the whole lot taken away. I realise it's an imperfect analogy, but I hope it helps.



God has graciously and wonderfully justified us of all our evil rejection of him through the once-for-all death of his Son in our place, and through that death adopted us as his children. That is now our status and nothing changes that, including future sins. It's all been paid for. We are God's children and in the family forever. To go back to the analogy, it's like the Council paying in advance for all our rates (including garbage collection) until the day we die. Imagine that! But we still have to put out the new

garbage as we create it, day-by-day, week-by-week. What if we don't? We wouldn't want to live there, it would be unbearable!

***continued on page 14...***

"When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, it seems like two minutes. When you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it seem like two hours. That's relativity"

"Imagination is more important that knowledge."

"Before God we are all equally wise - and equally foolish."

"There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle."

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."



# When I met the King...

Finally, brothers  
and sisters,  
whatever is true,  
whatever is  
noble,  
whatever is right,  
whatever is pure,  
whatever is  
lovely,  
whatever is  
admirable  
—if anything is  
excellent or  
praiseworthy—  
think about  
such things.

*Philippians*  
4:8 NLT

I'm thankful,  
Lord,  
for loving care,  
I'm thankful, too,  
for something  
more;  
I'm thankful,  
Lord, that I  
can bear  
The things  
that I'm not  
thankful for.

*Claire Sanford*

I had grown up knowing that Jesus was my saviour. My church and Sunday school taught faithfully that I can't live up to God's standards, but that through Jesus I had a way back to God. As I passed through my teens and early twenties, the evidence of my life showed how far short I fell. So it was a great comfort to me to know that my sin-debt was paid by Jesus on the cross, and that I was adopted as a son of God. What great news!

Problem was, hardly anyone would've been able to tell the difference. Why, given such good news, did my attitude and behaviour not change much at all?

I'd only got half the story.

C. S. Lewis once wrote of himself:

*A young man who wishes to remain a sound atheist cannot be too careful of his reading.*

That is also true of casual Christians (like me) who try to retain authority over their lives.

One year, Sally bought me a new NIV bible for my birthday. It had a "bible -in-a-year" reading plan in the back, which I followed. As I read chronologically from Genesis to Revelation, my eyes were opened to some of the great truths of Jesus:

- Jesus the life-giver, who met me and raised me and restored me when I was helpless to do those things myself;
- Jesus the go-between, who bridges the yawning chasm between me and God;
- Jesus the ransom-payer, who had bought me from my enslavement to sin and death and now owned me;
- Jesus the King, who owes me nothing, to whom I owe everything, to whom I can deny nothing.

There was no way I could read this and stay the same.

Jesus didn't pick me up, set me on my feet, pat me on the back and wish me luck on my way. Jesus tells me to count the cost of being his disciple, to abandon friends, family, comfort and even life (Lk 14:25-33). He tells me that I am no longer my own, but that I have been bought at a great price (1 Cor 6:19,20).

And so began the process of abandoning myself – of abandoning my Self – and acknowledging Jesus as my King, as well as my saviour. So began the exhilarating adventure of truly living for His glory and for the good of others. So began the truly surprising realisation that in giving up my plans, desires and dreams – in giving up my life – I get it all back, richer and more joy-filled than before.

James Oakley

# Parish Financial Report

## July to December 2011

|                | Actual  | Budget  |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Income         | 131,021 | 134,700 |
| Expenditure    | 147,572 | 142,821 |
| Operating loss | 16,551  | 8,112   |

### Comments:

#### INCOME

|               |        |        |
|---------------|--------|--------|
| Offertory     | 76,510 | 84,000 |
| C&YF Ministry | 13,250 | 12,000 |

Over 50% of the parish income is received from offertory and because of the shortfall in that area of income the operating loss has increased.

#### EXPENDITURE

Missions - full mission payments of 10% of offertory have been paid in the first 6 months, in addition to extra donations, making a total contribution of \$9,621.

Aurora - the actual costs are \$2,500 above budget, a reminder for those using heaters that they are expensive to run, and please monitor outside organisations using the halls.

Ken Pedley

Remember this—  
a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2 Corinthians  
9: 6,7 NLT

# Children's Ministry Conference

featuring



### Key Note Address:

**ENGAGING THE BIBLE - The next step**

### Cost:

\$40 per person

*Early bird discount before 1 March  
or group bookings of 5 or more \$35*

**To register:** Registration forms are available in all centres, [riverlinks.net.au](http://riverlinks.net.au) or from the Parish office. Send registration form and money to **Children's Ministry Conference** c/- the Parish Office **no later than Thursday**

**8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Saturday**  
**17<sup>TH</sup>**  
**MARCH**  
**2012**

**Launceston**  
**Christian**  
**School**

# Riverlinks

| March 2012  |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1st<br>Thur | <i>(each Thursday)</i><br><b>mainly music</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's  |
| 2nd<br>Fri  | <i>(each Friday)</i><br><b>KYB Study Group</b> – 10:00am<br>at Baptist Church George Town<br><br><b>World Day of Prayer Service</b> – 10:00am at<br>St David's   |
| 3rd<br>Sat  | <b>Community Breakfast</b> – 7:30 to 9am<br>at City Baptist Church, Launceston   |
| 4th<br>Sun  | <b>Kids' Church</b> – 4:00pm at St Oswald's<br><br><b>Messy Church</b> – 4:30pm at St Aidan's  |
| 5th<br>Mon  |  |
| 6th<br>Tue  | <i>(each Tuesday)</i><br><b>Pat's Prayer Group</b> – 2:00pm (6324 5111)<br><br><b>Prayer Group</b> – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town<br><br><b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b><br>– 1:45pm at Igglesden's home<br>– 7:30pm at Gross' home<br>– 7:30pm at Booth's home<br>– 7:30pm at Pedley's home<br>– 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's |
| 7th<br>Wed  | <i>(each Wednesday)</i><br><b>Healing Service</b> – 10:00am at St Oswald's<br><br><b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b><br>– 7:30pm at Stott's home<br>– 7:30pm St Oswald's   |
| 8th<br>Thur | <b>Crafty Circle</b> – 10:00am at St David's<br><br><b>Parish Council meeting</b> – 7:30pm   |

| March 2012   |   |
|--------------|---|
| 9th<br>Fri   |   |
| 10th<br>Sat  | <b>MST &amp; PC Retreat</b> – 9:00am<br>at Lawrence's home, Bell Buoy Beach   |
| 11th<br>Sun  | <b>Harvest Festival</b> – 9:00am at Low Head  |
| 12th<br>Mon  | <b>*** 8 Hours Day Public Holiday</b>   |
| 13th<br>Tue  |   |
| 14th<br>Wed  | <b>"Endless Praise" Worship Workshop</b><br>– 7:00pm at Newstead Baptist Church   |
| 15th<br>Thur | <b>Presbyterian Home Legana</b> – 10:45am   |
| 16th<br>Fri  | <b>Childsafe Training at St Aidan's</b><br>– 2:00pm to 5:00pm First time session<br>– 7:00pm to 8:30pm Reendorsement<br>– 7:00pm to 9:00pm Team Leaders |
| 17th<br>Sat  | <b>Children's Ministry Network Conference</b><br>– 9:00am to 3:30pm at L'ton Christian School   |
| 18th<br>Sun  | <b>Harvest Festival</b> – 10:00am at St David's<br><br><b>West Tamar Band in concert</b> – 2:00pm<br>at Holy Trinity, Beaconsfield                      |
| 19th<br>Mon  |   |

The **deadline** for the March Newsletter edition is **25th March**



# Calendar

| March 2012               |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue  |   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup><br>Wed  | <b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm<br><b>Ainslie Service</b> – 2:15pm |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>Thur | <b>Crafty Circle</b> – 10:00am at St David's                                    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>Fri  |   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup><br>Sat  | <b>West Tamar Parish Fair</b><br>– 9:30am to 1:00pm at All Saints, Exeter       |
| 25 <sup>th</sup><br>Sun  | <b>Preaching Workshop</b> – 2 to 4:00pm<br>in the Parish office                 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon  |   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue  |   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Wed  |   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup><br>Thur | <b>Tamar Park</b> – 1:45pm  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup><br>Fri  | <b>Fusion Trivia Night</b> – 7:00pm<br>at Gateway Baptist Church Launceston     |
| 31 <sup>st</sup><br>Sat  | <b>Cursillo Northern Ultreya</b><br>– 12:00 noon at Longford Church hall        |

| April and other dates 2012 |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> April      | <b>Recommitment to Ministry &amp; Blessing of the Oils service</b> |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April      | <b>Passover Meal</b>   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> April      | <b>Easter Day</b>  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> April     | <b>Riverlinks Together at Riverside</b>                            |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> May       | <b>TBF at Deloraine</b>  |

## Service Times For Worship Centres

| East Launceston       |                                |   |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>       | 10:00 am<br>4:30 pm            | Café Church<br>Messy Church             |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am                       | Communion                               |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am                       | Morning Prayer                          |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am                       | Communion                               |  |
| George Town           |                                |   |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>       | 9:00 am<br>9:00 am<br>10:30 am | Hillwood<br>Pipers River<br>George Town | Communion<br>Morning Prayer<br>Communion |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>      | 9:00 am<br>-                   | Low Head<br>George Town                 | Harvest Festival<br>No service           |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>      | 9:00 am<br>10:30 am            | Pipers River<br>George Town             | Communion<br>Communion                   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>      | 9:00 am<br>10:30 am            | Low Head<br>George Town                 | Communion<br>Communion                   |
| Riverside & Trevallyn |                                |   |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>       | 10:00 am<br>4:00 pm            | Riverside<br>Trevallyn                  | Communion<br>Kids' Church                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am<br>4:00 pm            | Riverside<br>Trevallyn                  | Praise & Worship<br>Kids' Church         |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am<br>4:00 pm            | Riverside<br>Trevallyn                  | Harvest Festival<br>Kids' Church         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am<br>4:00 pm            | Riverside<br>Trevallyn                  | Communion<br>Café Church                 |
| Each<br>Wed           | 10:00am                        | Trevallyn                               | Healing Service                          |
| Peace Haven           |                                |   |  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:30 am                       | Morning Prayer                          |  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:30 am                       | Holy Communion                          |  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:30 am                       | Holy Communion                          |  |

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)



Cursillo

Northern Ultreya

Saturday  
31<sup>st</sup> March  
12 noon to 3pm

at Longford  
Church hall



***The Reaffirmation  
of Ordination  
Vows***

***Recommitment to  
Ministry with the  
blessing of the  
oils Service***

Tuesday 3 April  
10am  
at St Peter's  
Church,  
St Leonard's



## “Endless Praise”

will be facilitation a Worship Workshop  
at Newstead Baptist Church  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm  
Music teams are invited to join in participating  
No charge

Fusion Launceston

## Trivia Night



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

at Gateway Baptist Church, Launceston

Round 1 starting @ 7pm

\$10 per person or table of 6 for \$55  
includes supper

Bookings essential to  
Amy Bucknell 0426 899 002 or  
[amy.bucknell@fusion.org.au](mailto:amy.bucknell@fusion.org.au)

All profit going to local young people attending  
this year's  
Pilgrimage to Uluru





## Safe Church Communities Training

**Training sessions will be held at St Aidan's on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Childsafe Training - first time session for new people - 2 to 5pm

Re-endorsement for those who have been endorsed previously - 7 to 8:30pm

Team Leaders and Coordinator training and update - 7 to 9:00pm

Please speak to your local area coordinator to see if you may need to complete training at one of these sessions: Mike le Rossignol (EL), Peter Cox (GT), Ian Morley (TR) or visit [anglicantas.org.au](http://anglicantas.org.au) Safe Church Communities page for more information



Tasmanian Christian  
Convention **Easter 2012**  
[www.taschristianconvention.org.au](http://www.taschristianconvention.org.au)

Tasmanian Christian Convention

Thursday 5 April to

Monday 9 April

Camp Clayton, Turners Beach

*All one in Christ Jesus*



Al Stewart Mornings 10.30am  
Mikey Lynch Evenings 7.00pm  
Dan Shephard Youth 7.00pm

[www.taschristianconvention.org.au](http://www.taschristianconvention.org.au)

## Harvest Festivals

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March - 9:00 am**

**at Christ Church Low Head**

**&**

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 10:00 am**

**at St David's Riverside**

Donations of non-perishable food items, etc. will be passed on to the Benevolent Society & City Mission respectively



## Enabler's Quarterly Activity Report for period 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2012

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 23 Oct | Café Church at East Launceston<br><b>Led study</b> at home group  |
| 30 Oct | Riverlinks Together at Riverside, Lunch together  |
| 6 Nov  | <b>Led Prayer, Praise &amp; Proclamation</b> at Pipers River<br><b>Celebrated</b> at George Town<br><b>Led</b> preaching workshop at Riverside<br>Messy Church, East Launceston |
| 13 Nov | <b>Participated in</b> Commissioning of new LMST member, East Launceston<br>Home group  |
| 20 Nov | East Launceston<br>Home group   |
| 27 Nov | <b>Preached &amp; celebrated</b> at Riverside<br><b>Hosted</b> LMST end-year bbq at home  |
| 4 Dec  | <b>Preached &amp; celebrated</b> at Pipers River<br><b>Preached &amp; celebrated</b> at George Town<br>Messy Christmas, East Launceston   |
| 19 Feb | East Launceston<br>Kid's Church, Trevallyn  |

**NOTE: On Long Service Leave, 5 December – 12 February**

- Met with various Team members and PC chair
- Extensive emailing and phone calls with Team members, James & parish office
- Prepared for and participated in local Team meetings with RS/TR, GT, and EL teams
- Prepared for and participated in November combined MST meeting
- Continued analysing Natural Church Development (NDC) survey results and guiding the MST in response and action
- Meetings with James Oakley
- Wrote paper on suggestions for promoting Children's & Families Ministry in the parish and support for it
- Wrote extensive review paper on Messy Church, East Launceston for Messy Church team and James
- Wrote Summer issue of *Team Talk* for the MST/James
- Wrote Christmas article for Christmas parish newsletter and article for March parish newsletter
- Prepared sermons and PowerPoint slide shows for preaching across parish
- Prepared for and led preaching workshop. In addition to Riverlinks preachers, this was attended by preachers from the West Tamar and Evandale/Nile parishes
- Maintained contact with parish's preaching development team
- Provided guidance to preachers on their yet-to-be-preached sermons
- Wrote numerous sermon critiques for Riverlinks preachers
- Continued preparation for Helen Boughton's commissioning to the Riverlinks MST in November
- Supervised *Preliminary Theological Certificate* exam for James Oakley
- Met with St Aidan's MST and Newstead Baptist leadership for prayer in Nov
- Oversaw, prepared for and participated in the fortnightly Sunday afternoon home group

- Prepared for and met fortnightly with two St Aidan's men for mentoring and discipling
- Met weekly or fortnightly with a young St Aidan's man for discipling
- Met with male Messy Church member
- Morning personal retreats for prayer and planning
- Planning for 2012 LMST/PC Retreat (speaker, venue, date)
- Wrote paper for LMST on promoting, launching and running the E100 Challenge in the parish in 2012
- Wrote supplementary notes for preachers for first sermon in E100 Challenge series
- Discussion with Anglicare Parish & Community Development Worker about possibilities for links between Riverlinks congregations, Anglicare and local communities
- Hospitality at home
- Attended 2011 Clergy Conference, 2-4 November
- Prepared Enabler's quarterly activity report for Oct-Feb
- Prepared for and interviewed couple in Launceston applying for LMST membership in parish of Dorset

#### Read:

- ✓ The Briefing
- ✓ *Knowing God*, by J I Packer (2004)
- ✓ *Humilitas: A Lost Key to Life, Love and Leadership*, by John Dickson (2009)
- ✓ *Messy Church 2: Ideas for Discipling a Christ-Centred Community*, by Lucy Moore (2008)

#### Reading in progress:

- ✓ *The Way of the Righteous in the Muck of Life: Psalms 1-12*, by Dale Ralph Davis (2010)
- ✓ *You Can Change: God's Transforming Power for our sinful behaviour & negative emotions*, by Tim Chester (2008) – *re-reading*
- ✓ *Launching Missional Communities: A field guide*, by Mike Breen & Alex Absalom (2010)
- ✓ *The Church Awakening: An Urgent Call for Renewal*, by Charles Swindoll (2010)
- ✓ *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Scepticism*, by Timothy Keller (2009)
- ✓ *Why Satan Hates our Kids: How children are suffering & why the church should care*, by Paul O'Rourke (2011)
- ✓ 'For Kids' Sake: Repairing the Social Environment for Australian Children and Young People, by Professor Patrick Parkinson (July 2011)

#### Listened to:

- ✓ Sermons given by David Cook at SMBC Principal's Hour, sermons given at Katoomba Christian Convention, and sermons by Timothy Keller

#### Work on (BCA funded) Diocesan Ministry Development Officer tasks:

- Coordinating the diocesan Certificate in Theology & Ministry, including marking of assessment, promotion at Tasmanian Bible Forum, ongoing revision of course Prospectus, responding to students' questions, encouraging lapsed students to resume studies, meeting with Deloraine Rector to discuss the Certificate and its promotion in his parish
- Coordinating online lectionary-based bible study resource on the diocesan website, including weekly editing and moderation of draft weekly studies submitted by diocesan contributors, writing the studies for December 2011 (four studies), commencement of recruiting of contributors for 2012. ***This resource was awarded Publication of the Week in the Anglican Communion Weekly***
- Continued organising Tasmanian Bible Forum for Launceston, hosted TBF at St Aidan's East Launceston on Saturday 22 October, planning work for 2012 TBF days.
- Prepared resources display table for 2011 Clergy Conference



## Forgiveness *(continued from page 5)*

A drunk man who smelled like a beer sat down on a bus seat next to a priest.

The man's tie was stained, his face was smeared with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began to read.

After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked 'Say Father, what causes arthritis?'

The priest replies 'My son, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap wicked women, too much alcohol and contempt for your fellow man'

'Well I'll be darned' the drunk muttered, returning to his newspaper.

In Jesus, God has paid for the removal of all our spiritual garbage – past, present and future; but we still have to deal with the spiritual and moral mess that we create every day and that offends, grieves, displeases and disappoints our Heavenly Father. Remember, he *is* our Father, and by grace and through Jesus we remain his children; that's settled. But we have to admit when our church or when I have been disobedient and have dishonoured our Father. We need to 'put this out of our house' by repentance and confession, and be reconciled to our Father. When we don't, as when we don't put out the garbage, our day-to-day becomes harder than it needs to be. We are out of fellowship with God (note carefully that I haven't said 'out of relationship'), there's tension and distance, and we may even experience his fatherly discipline – illness, difficulties, internal conflict, joylessness and loss of fellowship with God and his people – in order to bring us to repentance and restoration of our fellowship. In other words, God's *parental forgiveness* is contingent upon us repenting of our sins. Personal or corporate sin that is unrepented of disturbs our fellowship with God, hinders our prayers and invites his fatherly chastisement and discipline (see also Pss 6; 32:1-11; 51; 66:18-19; 79; James 4:1-10; 5:13-20; 1 Pet 3:7; 1 Cor 11:27-32); and in the Lord's Prayer, this principle applies to when we are being unforgiving towards others.



The question on the list at the beginning that I haven't yet explicitly answered is, 'What is the key to being a forgiving person?' I think that's been answered, don't you? Fundamentally, the key is to have received and experienced God's full and gracious pardon through the death of Jesus, his Son, AND to live consciously in the

reality of that costly pardon, moment by moment, day by day. In other words, NEVER to lose sight of the gospel, not even for a day, but to preach it to ourselves and to each other 'every day, as long as it is called "today", that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin' (Heb 3:13).

I recognise that this part of the Lord's Prayer is one that can be relatively easy to understand in theory but sometimes difficult to live out in practice. There is naturally more to be said but that cannot be said here due to space constraints. If you haven't known the full pardon that God offers through faith in Christ and want to, or at least want to know more about it, then please speak to a trusted friend at church or a member of the ministry support team. If you do know this pardon but are presently struggling with an unforgiving spirit or need help understanding and/or applying what I've said, then my advice is the same. Speak to a trusted, mature Christian about it, and together seek God's help with it. God's honour and the credibility of the gospel we proclaim are at stake, as is our personal and corporate life together.

Warmly,

*David*

*Bishop John*



## Combating trafficking of children for online sexual abuse

### *A difference of opinion...*

I recently signed a petition regarding the case for access disruption to online child sexual abuse material.

**Read more** [imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/files/2012/02/Case-for-ISP-Access-Disruption-2011.pdf](http://imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/files/2012/02/Case-for-ISP-Access-Disruption-2011.pdf)

**See the petition here** [imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/files/2012/02/Case-for-ISP-Access-Disruption-2011.pdf](http://imaginarydiocese.org/bishopjohn/files/2012/02/Case-for-ISP-Access-Disruption-2011.pdf)

**Read The Revd Will Briggs' opinion about this issue on his blog** [briggs.id.au/jour/topics/censorship/](http://briggs.id.au/jour/topics/censorship/)

From Bishop John's blog February 22, 2012

***www.imaginarydiocese.org***

The priest thinking about what he said, nudged the drunk and apologised. 'I'm sorry to come on so strong.

How long have you had arthritis?'

'I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does.'

Q: Why didn't Noah go fishing?

A: He only had two worms!

Q: Why did God create man before woman?

A: He didn't want any advice.

Doctor: 'Your recovery was a miracle!'

Patient: 'PRAISE GOD. Now I don't have to pay you!'

Q: Why did Moses wander in the desert for 40 years?

A: Even then men wouldn't ask for directions!

March 2012

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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 20<sup>th</sup>  
of each month unless  
otherwise stated**

# Thanksgiving services

Right:

Chantelle, Ryan  
& Izaiah Ling



Below:

Richard Tubb,  
Danielle Le Rossignol  
Kate, Michael  
& Ella Burke

Left:

Michael & Ella



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