

riverlinks



Anglican Church

Newsletter

April 2012

*"Jesus is not here, he has
risen just as he said!"*

Matthew 28:6

1 Peter 1:3

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given
us new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

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



A message from James

Last time I wrote at length, I talked about the importance of reaching out to children with the saving good news about Jesus. I wrote about how children are inherently sinful, and therefore in need of meeting their Saviour! And I considered some of the implications of that for the church and for families.

This month I want to explore that last aspect a bit more – the responsibility on parents, and particularly fathers, for the discipleship of their children.

And because of Christ, all of us can come to the Father by the same Spirit.

You Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners.

You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God.

Sexist, cultural or biblical?

Why did I write “particularly fathers” just there? It is not just because I am one (although it's certainly easier for me to speak from personal experience as a father). And I'm not being sexist. No, I wrote that because it is what the bible says:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honour your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instructions of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Well, is Paul being sexist, or is he just a product of the culture that he grew up in?

Again, the answer to both these questions is a clear “no”.

The context of Ephesians and Paul's other writings makes it clear that Paul is not sexist. In Galatians he writes (talking about the equal status and equal value of all believers: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal 3:28)

Earlier in Ephesians Paul wrote about the unity of all believers in Christ – how all have access to the Father (God), how all are

fellow citizens with the people of God, and are members of the household of God (Eph 2:18-22). In chapter five, he has emphasised how we are to submit to one another *out of reverence for Christ* (Eph 5:21). And immediately following that statement and his comments on submission in marriage, he spends nine verses spelling out that husbands are to love their wives (Eph 5:25-33). This is an extraordinary command, without parallel (to my knowledge) in the Jewish or Greek cultures in which Paul lived! The command to husbands to love their wives confers an importance, a cherished-ness, on a wife that is wholly inconsistent with an allegation of sexism. Paul does *address* men and women differently, but he does not *value* them differently.

Well, is Paul just culturally-conditioned? Again, no. Remember that Paul was once Saul, the Pharisee who persecuted the early church. Paul's kept the Jewish religious laws scrupulously, (Phil 3:4-7) including rules about not eating with foreigners! Yet after his conversion, he became the apostle to the gentiles (sent specifically to non-Jewish people). He was ready to throw out the cultural and religious rules about circumcision (Gal 5:2-12) and even had to reprimand Peter for refusing to eat with foreigners (Gal 2:11-14). Paul is the last person to cling to cultural norms that are opposed to the gospel – he is focused on Jesus and Jesus only!

So the conclusion is that the responsibility for a child's discipleship rests on the father's shoulders. Mothers will, of course, be involved – it appears that the ideal is a partnership between men and women in this arena. But fathers will be held to account for the manner in which they have discipled their children – it will be an inadequate answer to say that the kids were the mum's job!

What must be done?

This leads into our next question – what content do we need to teach our kids? I'd suggest that the passage in Ephesians 6:1-4 breaks naturally into three areas:

Continued on next page...

You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone.

Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord.

And you are part of that building Christ has built as a place for God's own Spirit to live.

Ephesians
2: 18 - 22 ^{CEV}

*continued
from
previous
page*

Instruction of the Lord

The word used here has connections with the mind and with understanding. It suggests that the concept is that of teaching the child knowledge about Jesus, about what he did, about what he taught, and about how to live in light of that knowledge.

Discipline of the Lord

This word is linked with the words used to describe childhood and children, and from which we get our words like pedagogy (the study of learning). The NIV translates it as “training”, which highlights the idea of preparation and learning, rather than punishment. So the “discipline ... of the Lord” is that idea of training for the Christian life: from what we know of Christ, how do we connect with God and with Jesus in our day-to-day situation? This is about teaching children to pray, to hear God through the Bible and to fulfil their role in the church – the body of Christ.

Obedience to parents

One implication of verse 1 (“Children, obey your parents in the Lord”) is that parents need to teach their children about obedience! Children learn obedience to God and to authority most naturally in a family where expectations are easy to understand and clear enough to obey. One factor in teaching children obedience is to not “provoke them to anger” (v 4) – that is, not to deal with them in a harsh or arbitrary way.

How can we do it?

So these principles are simple enough to state, but harder to put into practice. Here are some suggestions (a combination of things I've done and things I've heard!)

Praying

Pray often and regularly with your kids. At school drop off, at dinner, at bedtime, when they're scared, when they're happy, when they're obstinate and need to repent of wrongdoing. There's never a wrong time to pray with your kids, and regular examples of a praying father or mother cements the ease and value of the discipline!

*If you don't
start out the
day with a
smile,
it's not too
late to start
practicing for
tomorrow*



In addition to this, our children should see us intentionally setting aside time to spend with God – in prayer and bible reading.

Talking

Talking with your children over dinner or in the car can be a good way to help them make connections between their everyday (and your everyday) and Jesus. Perhaps you'll debrief about the work day, and tell them how the Holy Spirit guided you. Perhaps you'll talk about your reliance on prayer through the day. Perhaps you'll share something you read from the bible that morning.

If you're looking for something more formal, some organisations sell tools that can help family conversations flow – like “Deep Speak”, “Reflexions” or “Signposts” (all published by Innovative Resources: www.innovativeresources.com). Or I recently had an email from Faith4Families about a product called “Faith Box” that encourages a weekly family time to look at our Christian hope! You can check out more at www.faith4families.org

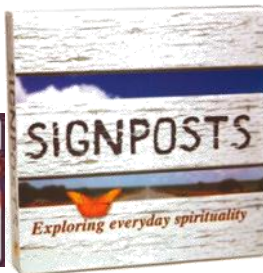
Teaching the bible

We should be always ready to open the bible with our kids. This year, many centres are covering the e100 challenge through Scripture Union. Well SU publishes a child version called “The Big Bible Challenge”, which is an engaging and biblical way of helping our kids to engage with God and the Bible.

These are some “drop in the ocean” ideas – no doubt you have other traditions of your own, or have heard other ideas from other people. I would love to hear of ideas that work for your family!

God bless,

James



Regular naps prevent old age...

Especially if you take them while driving!

What's the best way to keep milk from going sour?

Leave it in the cow

Once a lawyer and a doctor were in love with same girl.

The lawyer had an idea and started giving an apple to his love daily.

Why?

Because an apple a day keeps the doctor away!



Messy Church @ St Aidan's

SMILES
are good for you!

Smiling makes
us attractive

Smiling changes
our mood

Smiling is
contagious

Smiling relieves
stress

Smiling boosts
your immune
system

Smiling lowers
your blood
pressure

Smiling releases
endorphins,
natural pain
killers and
serotonin

Smiling lifts the
face and makes
you look younger

Smiling helps
you stay positive

Experience the
health benefits of
smiling today!





Smiling is contagious,
you catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner,
and someone saw my grin -
When he smiled I realized,
I'd passed it on to him.



I thought about that smile,
then I realized its worth,
A single smile, just like mine,
could travel round the earth.



So, if you feel a smile begin,
don't leave it undetected -
Let's start an epidemic quick
and get the world infected!

Riverlinks

April 2012	
1 st Sun	Kids' Church – 4:00pm at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
2 nd Mon	MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish Office
3 rd Tue	Recommitment to Ministry & Blessing of the Oils service – 10:00am at St Peters Church St Leonards <i>(each Tuesday)</i> 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
4 th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
5 th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
6 th Fri	*** Good Friday Public Holiday Good Friday Services – 10:00am at St Mary Magdalene's George Town – 10:00am at St David's Riverside – 10:00am at St Aidan's East Launceston "Behold the Lamb of God" a contemplative service
7 th Sat	

April 2012	
8 th Sun	*** Easter Day
9 th Mon	*** Easter Monday Public Holiday
10 th Tue	*** Easter Tuesday Bank Holiday
11 th Wed	
12 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
13 th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town
14 th Sat	
15 th Sun	
16 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
17 th Tue	
18 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
19 th Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am

The **deadline** for the May Newsletter edition is **22nd April**

Calendar

April 2012	
20 th Fri	
21 st Sat	
22 nd Sun	
23 rd Mon	
24 th Tue	
25 th Wed	*** ANZAC Day Public Holiday CCCGT Family Fun – after the ANZAC Day service in Max Harris Reserve, George Town
26 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm
27 th Fri	
28 th Sat	
29 th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St David's Riverside
30 th Mon	

May and other dates 2012	
12 th May	TBF at Deloraine
20 th May	Children's Ministry Network Workshop
1 st & 2 nd June	Synod
23 rd June	TBF at St Helens
24 th June	Preaching Workshop

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
1 st	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
8 th	10:00 am	Communion	
15 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
22 nd	10:00 am	Communion	
29 th	-	No Service	
George Town			
1 st	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
8 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
15 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
22 nd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
29 th	-	No Service	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
1 st	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
8 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Evening Prayer
15 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
22 nd	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Evening Prayer
29 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Riverlinks Together
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
8 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
15 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
22 nd	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

Easter Tasmanian Christian Convention 2012

Camp Clayton Ulverstone



Al Stewart, formerly Bishop of Wollongong past Director of "Evangelical Ministries" now known as "New Churches".



Mike Lynch leads the University Fellowship of Christians in Hobart and serves as Chairman of "Vision 100".



Dan Shephard is our Youth speaker from Crossroads Presbyterian Church Hobart

www.taschristianconvention.org.au (Register online)

All Our in Christ Jesus God & 28

Easter Convention April 5th 7pm to April 9th

Ph: 03 6344 8235



The Parish Office will be CLOSED
from 5pm
Thursday 5th April
until 9am
Monday 16th April

If you're in Hobart over Easter

Free Family Festival

from 11am—4pm

on Parliament House lawns

2pm march of witness around
the city streets



Organised by
awakening.org.au



*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

RSVP to Irfon Griffiths for catering
6330 2581 or
igr10515@bigpond.net.au



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

www.btsfmalawi.org

A very big **thank you**
for all your prayers and support
in so many ways for the recent
Mega Garage Sale
that raised \$2,600 for the
Back to School Foundation
in Monkey Bay, Malawi.

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Hearing God's
Word together
in Tasmania



WISE UP!

**Life and Faith in Proverbs,
Job & Ecclesiastes**
with Revd Richard Humphrey

Saturday 12th May
10.00am – 3.00pm

St Mark's Anglican Church
7 East Westbury Place, Deloraine

\$15 (includes morning tea & lunch)
Bring your Bible and a pen

RSVP: 7th May for catering
Bill Knuckey 6362 2010
or bill.knuckey@gmail.com

For more info contact the parish of Deloraine on 6362 2010

ALSO IN 2012

Saturday 23rd June at St Helens - TBF with Richard Humphrey

Tuesday 23rd October at St Aidan's - Preaching Conference



Easter services around the Parish

Good Friday

St Mary Magdalene's George Town	9am
St David's Riverside	10am
St Aidan's East Launceston	10am

Easter Sunday

Christ Church Low Head	9am
St David's Riverside	10am
St Aidan's East Launceston	10am
St Mary Magdalene's George Town	10:30am
St Oswald's Trevallyn	4pm



Josie Ford will be speaking
about her experiences
delivering Samaritan's
Purse Operation Christmas
Child boxes in Cambodia



18th April - 2pm
at St David's Riverside

All welcome to come along

Don't be afraid!

Here is a message for all who are weak, trembling, and worried:
"Cheer up! Don't be afraid. Your God is coming to punish your enemies. God will take revenge on them and rescue you."
Isaiah 35:3,4
CEV

Be brave and strong! Don't be afraid of the nations on the other side of the Jordan. The Lord your God will always be at your side, and he will never abandon you.

Deuteronomy
31:6 CEV

Easter Reflections: For God So Loved The World

Two Easter reflections on John 3:16.
(Author's of these reflections are unknown.)

Love In 3 Dimensions

The Breadth ... For God so loved the world
The Length ... that He gave His only begotten Son
The Depth ... that whoever believes in Him should not perish
The Height ... but have eternal life.

The Gospel in Miniature

Luther called John 3:16 "the heart of the Bible—the Gospel in miniature." It's so simple a child can understand it; yet it captures the deep and marvellous truths of salvation and redemption in Jesus Christ in one verse:

"God"The greatest lover
"So loved"The greatest degree
"The world"The greatest number
"That He gave"The greatest act
"His only begotten Son"The greatest gift
"That whoever"The greatest invitation
"Believes"The greatest simplicity
"In Him"The greatest person
"Should not perish"The greatest deliverance
"But"The greatest difference
"Have"The greatest certainty
"Eternal life"The greatest possession

CMS: This Study Is A Gift

While Andrew & Pam Lake visited over 24 parishes in the Diocese before heading to the posting in Damascus, Andrew had been busy on another project. He has released a short book called *Christian Mission for Tasmanians*. This is a very personal approach from Andrew on this important topic of Mission written for the Missionary Diocese of Tasmania. Andrew says of the book,

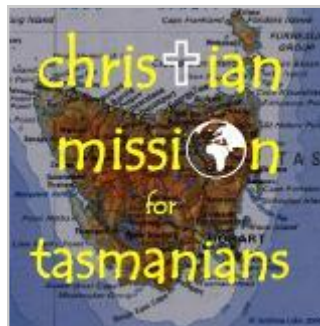
"My hope and prayer is that this study will help put mission front and centre of the church's agenda. I make no claim to infallibility and will have achieved my aim if this has helped start some fruitful conversations about mission."

We offer our thanks to Andrew, having served in the Diocese as an Archdeacon and Mission Support Officer. But now we offer our thanks for this impressive gift to the church in Tasmania.

Of particular interest to you, dear reader, is the freely available nature of this book. In fact, you can download it directly from the Diocesan website to read right now (tinyurl.com/caylsdl). So is it free? Andrew explains in his Forward:

"This study is a gift to the Tasmanian church. It is freely available on the diocesan website* but I invite you when you use it for personal or group study to make a donation of \$10 per person to the Church Missionary Society of Tasmania."

*Also available from the Riverlinks website Certificate in Theology & Ministry page (option unit 7.3)



A real love for others will chase those worries away. The thought of being punished is what makes us afraid. It shows that we have not really learned to love.

1 John 4:18 ^{CEV}

Even if you have to suffer for doing good things, God will bless you. So stop being afraid and don't worry about what people might do. Honour Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.

1 Peter
3:14, 15a ^{CEV}

Regrets - Do You Have A Few?

Two iconic singers of the twentieth century were born a fortnight apart in December 1915. One was American, the other French. Both had lives not only of fame and fortune, but also of notoriety and infamy.

They sang of their lives in two famous songs of the 1960's. Each was an anthem, speaking of their life and struggles. Both songs became international favourites, sung by many other artists, but always associated with the original two singers. Both were songs dealing with regrets by denial.

One of course was the famous American, Frank Sinatra and his anthem "My Way". His friend, Paul Anka, wrote the song intentionally for him. It captured the way Sinatra talked and the way in which he lived. It spoke of his regrets as "too few to mention" but then continues to struggle with the mistakes of his life – biting off more than he can chew, of tears and of losing. But as the theme of the song makes abundantly clear, the regrets are of no significance because the choices of life were his and his alone. He was not like one of those who kneel; he was a man who speaks his own mind, takes his own blows and does it his own way.

The other was the famous French singer Edith Piaf and her anthem "Non, je ne regrette rien" ("No, I regret nothing"). Hers was a more defiant song, rejecting in the strongest terms possible any notion of regret, while manifestly "protesting too much". The opening verse declares the message.

"No, absolutely nothing

No, I regret nothing

Neither the good that's been done to me,

Nor the bad: it is all the same!"

From there we are told that she doesn't "give a damn about the past!" - her shames or her pleasures. And the reason for this abandonment of all her life is the commencement of a fresh start "with you". The song doesn't spell out who this "you" is, and some Christians hope it is God – but there is no indication it is anything more than yet another lover.

So how do we deal with the regrets of our life? Pride ourselves on our achievements and suppress mentioning the failures? Sweep up the past by forgetting all about it – don't give it a damn – but sweep it away by rejecting the difference between good and evil? It's one thing to forget about the evil done to us but what about the evil we have done to others. What about the suffering of a fallen world? Are we to have no regrets for them either?

It is an insensitive soul that has no regret for sorrows of the world or their part in contributing to them. But how can we face the pain we have caused others or the

things of which we should rightly be ashamed? How do we deal with the sorrows of life that we have to endure?

We can, and should, own up to our errors, repent of our wrongdoing, apologise to those we have harmed and make reparation wherever possible. But even when we have done all this, there can still be a sense of deep regret about our actions. Often we cannot apologise or make any reparation, there is no possibility of putting things right - we just have to live with the consequences.

In the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, there is a major way through our dilemma of regret. For God, who is himself sorrowed by sinfulness, understands our failings. He has put things right for us. He has paid the penalty for all our sins. Paid a price, far in excess of anything we have ever done. Not the price of silver or gold but the price of the precious blood of his Son (1 Peter 1:18f). This payment does not pretend that our failings have not happened, nor pretend that they do not matter, nor remove them to the dustbin of forgotten history. This payment recognizes the seriousness of our sinfulness and deals with it in full.

As Christians become aware of our sins, we turn our grief into godly repentance and find forgiveness in the death of our Lord and Saviour. Having dealt with the past we press on to live the new life that Christ brings us. We are not left in grief without hope. We do not have to dwell in our mistakes or deal with them by denial (2 Corinthians 7:8-11, Philippians 3:12-14).

Christians can be free of regrets not only in our failures but also in life's missed opportunities. We do not live as if blind fate has dealt us a bad hand. Nor are we simply the victims of other people's sinfulness. We are the children of our loving Heavenly Father who is working his purposes out for our good, that we may be conformed to the image of his son and so bring glory to him (Romans 8:28-30). Life is not ultimately about us, but about Him, and our life finds its meaning, satisfaction, joy and love in being transformed into the likeness of our crucified and risen Lord. Whatever pain, sorrow or suffering we may experience – and there is much in this world to experience – is not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us (Romans 8:18). It is all part of his loving preparation for our share in his holiness, yielding “the peaceful fruit of righteousness” (Hebrews 12:10f).

Christians neither wallow in their regrets nor repress their sorrows. We can face our failures of the past knowing that they have been dealt with. Unlike Edith Piaf, we do not negate the difference between good and bad in our attempt to leave the past behind. We also do not minimise the failures of the past, or carry the regret, as Frank Sinatra did. Christ has dealt with all our failures and God is ruling over all the events of our life to bring about his good purposes.

March 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

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
necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
Church.*

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



Left & Below:
Back to Messy
Church



Above & Right:
Marcus' appreciation
luncheon at Trevallyn
Bowls Club



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