



I am sending you like lambs into
a pack of wolves.
So be as wise as snakes and as
innocent as doves.

Matthew 10:16 ^{CEV}

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 James

Have you ever had a heaven? I know that the advertising campaign is a little tongue-in-cheek, implying that this ice cream is as good as it gets - heaven on a stick. But just the other night, I started to see it from a different point of view. In a way, that heaven-on-a-stick is an analogy of the real heaven. Let me explain ...



Keep on being brave!
It will bring you great rewards.

Learn to be patient, so that you will please God and be given what he has promised.

Hebrews
10:35,36 CEV

My daughter was struggling through her dinner the other night, plodding on so that she could finish and move on to dessert - vanilla yoghurt. I'd already dished up the yoghurt for her, it was sitting in her bowl in the bench, waiting for her. Whenever she raised her eyes, she could see it, and would go back to her dinner with fresh resolve.

When she'd finished, and I was bringing the yoghurt to her at the table, I made an off-hand remark about the yoghurt being like heaven - she knew she would get her yoghurt, and that hope gave

her the strength to finish the "work" of getting through her dinner.

I didn't think too much about it at the time, but that little scene has come back to me frequently over the last few days, not least because I've been preparing the last Sunday school lesson in the Big Bible Challenge series, which focuses on the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21 and 22). It is the promise given to us, through John, of an eternity spent with God and God's people. An eternity spent in joy and glory and perfect contentment.

I think that, for many

Christians, there is an air of embarrassment when talking about heaven, almost as if we're ashamed of the idea of "pie in the sky when you die". Do we think that it makes us look naïve? Or like wishful thinkers? Or like we're in it for the reward? Are we worried that we will be distracted from the very real concerns of the world around us? Are we worried that it distracts us from Jesus' sacrifice?

Yet the apostles frequently referred to the hope of heaven when writing to churches in distress and persecution. It is central to their teaching. So Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:1 about "*longing* to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling" (our resurrected bodies). He wrote in Philippians 3:13-14 of "straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards to goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." Peter reminded his readers in 2 Peter 3:11 that this world and everything in it is

temporary: "everything will be destroyed".

Heaven is not just some cosmic retirement village, where we can go for a well-earned rest after the "real life" work of this life is finished. Rather, it is our destination, our home and true country. Paul even wrote that "it is God who has made us *for this very purpose*".

Part of the problem for modern Christians is the caricature of heaven that has grown up through cartoons, comics and greeting cards - fluffy white clouds populated by chubby angels with improbably small wings and ridiculous harps. Living in this sort of heaven would require a lobotomy!

In contrast to that anaemic picture, the bible presents a robust vision of heaven:

- A physical place (new heavens and new earth), where God's people experience physical life without pain, sorrow, death or evil (Rev 21);

Dear friends,
keep building on the foundation of your most holy faith, as the Holy Spirit helps you to pray.

And keep in step with God's love, as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to show how kind he is by giving you eternal life.

Be helpful to all who may have doubts.

Rescue any who need to be saved, as you would rescue someone from a fire. Then with fear in your own hearts, have mercy on everyone who needs it.

Jude 20-23a ^{CEV}

*continued
from
previous
page*

*Life is 10% of
what happens to
me and 90% of
how I react to it*

Charles Swindoll

*Life is like
a taxi.
The meter
just keeps
a-ticking
whether you
are getting
somewhere
or just
standing still*

Lou Erickson

- A city centred on God's tangible, physical presence, and sustained entirely by him (Rev 22);
- A place of satisfying, productive work, where each enjoys the fruits of his labours and the blessings of God (Isaiah 65:21-23);
- A great banquet, with the choicest of food and wine (Isaiah 25:6-8; Luke 14:16-24);

But why the emphasis? Some modern thinkers are critical of the idea of heaven, believing that it would anaesthetise Christians from the woes of this world as their gaze is fixed on the next. This is the thrust of Marx's famous statement that "religion is the opium of the masses". But is that true?

Jesus himself knew of the certainty of the new creation, and that all things would be put right. His very mission on earth was to give himself up to death and the consequences of human sin and rebellion, so that God's

creation could be restored and God's people redeemed. However this did not stop him from working on earth to heal the sick, restore the broken, free the captives and give sight to the blind.

Some of the most effective people in working for the good of this world are those who have set their hope most firmly on the promise of the new creation to come.

Such people as:

- William Wilberforce (who was instrumental in abolishing slavery in the British empire);
- Martin Luther King Jr (Civil rights and anti-racism campaigner);
- Henri Nouwen (Pastor in L'Arche community for people with disabilities; writer and speaker);
- Dr Paul Brand (Missionary surgeon in India, working with leprosy patients)
- Dr Catherine Hamlin (Australian Obstetric surgeon in Ethiopia, with her husband established the Hamlin Fistula Hospital)

It's inspiring to read about these people, and the way their faith impacted on their service for other people.

The testimony of these lives makes concrete the truths found in scripture: that the hope of heaven gives strength for living in the imperfect in-between time of now. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:58, at the end of his marvellous passage on the resurrection body: "*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*" He writes later in 2 Corinthians 4, likening the persecutions of his readers to "light and momentary troubles" when compared with the "eternal glory" that awaits them.

Likewise, Peter reminds his readers that they are "looking forward" to the end of this world and the beginning of the next, and reminds them that their lives

should reflect this hope! (2 Peter 3:14)

The entire New Testament has this forwards and backwards tension: looking back at Jesus' death fills us with sorrow for our rebellion and wrongdoing, and fills us with gratitude that Jesus saved us from that. But it is looking forward to eternal life with Him that fills us with hope. That hope, assured by the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us the strength to live as we ought as children of God.

So next time you're tucking into an ice cream, whether a Heaven or something different, remember your hope in the real heaven, in the new creation. And ask God that this sure hope would strengthen you to finish the race standing firm in Him.

James Oakley

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm ... As you grow older you will discover that you have two hands. One for helping yourself, the other for helping others.

Audrey Hepburn

Sometimes you're the windshield; sometimes you're the bug.

Mark Knopfler

Riverlinks

October 2012	
1st Mon	Ministry Support Team Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish office
2nd Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:45pm at Igglesden's home – 7:30pm at Booth's home – 7:30pm at Pedley's home – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
3rd 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
4th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town SUPA Club – 3:15pm at Flinders Hall, Port Dalrymple School George Town
6th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's Launceston with Helen Wills
7th Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm

October 2012	
9th Tue	
10th Wed	
11th Thur	*** Launceston Show Day Public Holiday *** Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12th Fri	Pupil-free day mission at St Oswald's Safe Church Communities Training – 7:00pm to 9:00pm at St Aidan's
13th Sat	
14th Sun	
15th Mon	
16th Tue	Anglican Womens' Fellowship Day at Campbell Town
17th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18th Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
19th Fri	
20th Sat	

The **deadline** for the November Newsletter edition is **21st October**

Calendar

October 2012	
21 st Sun	
22 nd Mon	
23 rd Tue	“Communicating Joshua” SMBC Preaching Conference – 9:00am at St Aidan’s
24 th Wed	
25 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David’s Tamar Park – 1:45pm
26 th Fri	St Oswald’s hall official reopening – 6:00pm at St Oswald’s Youth Group – 7:30pm at St Aidan’s
27 th Sat	
28 th Sun	Trevallyn Spring Garden Trail – 10:00am to 4:00pm
29 th Mon	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am at Battery Point
30 th Tue	
31 st Wed	Clergy Conference

November and other dates 2012	
31 st October - 2 nd November	Clergy Conference
11 th November	CMN Workshop

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Communion Messy Church	
14 th	10:00 am	Café Church	
21 st	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
14 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
21 st	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Morning Prayer Communion
28 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
14 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & worship Communion
21 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
28 th	10:00 am 4:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Evening Prayer
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
21 st	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
28 th	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

A new start for Kids' Church



WILL BE HELD MONTHLY
AT ST OSWALD'S
ON THE 1ST SUNDAY IN EACH MONTH
AT 10:30

DATES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR

7 OCTOBER
4 NOVEMBER
2 DECEMBER



**Combined Anglican
Womens' Fellowship Day**
Tuesday 16th October
at Campbell Town



Safe Church Communities
Training Session
Friday 12 October
7 - 9 pm
St Aidan's East Launceston
Contact Annette Sims for bookings
6220 2020



Official Opening

Redevelopment of St Oswald's Hall
34 Bain Terrace, Trevallyn

Friday 26th October, 2012
commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Please contact the Parish office to RSVP for catering purposes
6327 4742 or email office@riverlinks.net.au



SMBC
Sydney Missionary & Bible College

SMBC's School of Preaching presents:

Communicating Joshua

Tuesday 23 October 2012

Venue st aidan's church arthur street, east launceston

Cost \$60.00

(by 19 October)

Register by contacting the

Parish office

office@riverlinks.net.au

or 6327 4742



WITH SMBC LECTURERS:
REV DR SAM CHAN
REV DR MALCOLM GILL
JENNY SALT

Trevallyn Spring Garden Trail

4 gardens for \$20

Refreshments

Plant stall and craft bits

Fundraising for Choir of High Hopes to travel to Melbourne to sing with Jonathan Welch's Choir of High Hopes & Inspiration 2013



Listen to the choir
in the Delamere
garden
2pm

Sunday 28th October, 10 - 4

Helen and Ian
18 Fairthorne Rd.
Mt Fuji Cherry, Dodda vine,
sculpture, Helen's Hut

Lu and John
25 Fairthorne Rd.
Organic family garden

Anne
15 Fairthorne Rd.
Double block features
established planting of
many camellias and
rhododendrons

Lee and Phil
39 Delamere Cres
Courtyard
Mixed exotics and natives



School Service

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. "Do you need some help?" I asked.

She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car.

"Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery for this?"

"Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm, too?" I asked.

"No, just this remote thingy which she handed to me with the car keys.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries.. it's a long walk."

Since I arrived in Launceston at the start of 2011, I've been thinking and praying about how we can show Jesus' love to the children and families in the schools around our parish. There are already many programs that we offer for this very purpose, but we still do not engage well as a church with the local school communities.

East Launceston Primary School, through their local chaplaincy committee, has made up a "wish list" of needs in their school where volunteers from the church could help. I believe it is an awesome, God-given opportunity to show God's love in that school in a tangible way.

Do you think you could help? Some of the things on the list include:

- Helping with craft activities in classrooms
- Helping with the robotics program
- Reading and literacy support

- "Healthy ELPies" program (helping children engage in healthy food preparation)
- Reshelving or covering books in the school library
- Friday afternoon sport – umpiring or coaching
- General classroom support

The school can also make use of other skills or passions you have. The commitment can be as little or as long as you can give – even an hour every few weeks is a help to the school.

I'm keen for volunteers to connect with each other regularly, for prayer and support.

If you're interested, please speak to me – 0407 325 275 or kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

(Perhaps you're connected to another school, and would like to get involved there? Please speak to me about that too!)

James Oakley

Inefficient Ministry



*This article appears
in full at [www
.sydneyanglicans
.net](http://www.sydneyanglicans.net)*

Inefficiency has to be part of our church life existence!

and it enables us to enjoy each other's company.

Part of surviving in a busy world is to eliminate inefficiency. The more efficient we become the more we can get done. This makes so much sense.

What happens is that scheduled time gets tasks done efficiently, unscheduled or inefficient time allows relationships to be lubricated.

And so we streamline our meetings, our relationships, our times together so that we can make the most of time. After all we mustn't squander our precious times together.

I want to say two seemingly conflicting things as we think about our gatherings as believers.

Families and friends

The problem with eliminating inefficiency is that inefficiency enables relationships to develop in deep ways. Friends just 'hang' together – spending time in the same space with each other with no particular agenda. And this permits the relationships to chart their own course and give experiences that build for the future.

1. Be organised and disciplined when we meet for formal purposes so that people know they are achieving what they set out to achieve, whether in our church meetings, small groups, parish councils or Sunday Schools

2. Also create a space for unstructured, inefficient time in every gathering so that people can just be humans in company with one another and ensure we help each other to know that such a thing is a great blessing. For example morning tea is not just for quenching thirst, it is an opportunity to build deeper relationships.

In families, it is possible to eat meals 'on the run' and so feed the body the energy required to keep going, sitting down together creates family memories, allows us to engage in each other's lives

Mr. Gable had a leak in the roof over his dining room, so he called a repairman to take a look at it. "When did you first notice the leak?" the repairman inquired. Mr. Gable scowled. "Last night, when it took me two hours to finish my soup!"

October 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

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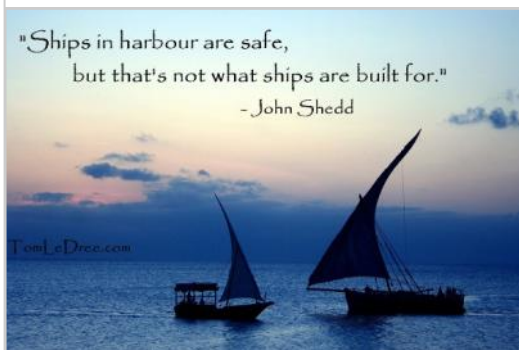
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publication do not
necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
Church.

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



Above: A room with a view! Mary makes morning tea in the new St Oswald's hall kitchen



Missing:
Your
photos!
Parishioners'
pictures
wanted every
month

Church Mice

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www.churchmice.net

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