



# Newsletter March 2013

Our God has blessed the earth  
with a wonderful harvest!  
Pray for his blessings to continue  
and for everyone on earth  
to worship our God.

Psalm 67:6,7 <sup>CEV</sup>



*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



## Fasting in Lent

In every  
worry under  
the sun,  
there is  
remedy  
or there  
is none.  
  
If there is  
remedy,  
hurry and  
find it;  
If there  
is none,  
never  
mind it.

I like wine. I enjoy being able to relax with a nice glass of red at the end of a busy day. I enjoy the good conversation and merriment that sharing a drink with friends and family can bring, and I am careful not to overdo it! Yet some years ago, I started to wonder if perhaps I enjoyed these things too much – if my contentment was growing out of a well-drained *terroir* on the sunny side of the hill, rather than from being grafted into the true vine, Jesus Christ! (John 15)



So I embarked on my first ever Lenten fast – going without food or drink for a period of time. I gave up wine for Lent.

Before I get to that, though, we'd better rewind a dozen years or so to set this in context.

Lent was not for me, I thought. God doesn't care about giving things up. I can't get to heaven by giving up things. It's far more important what you *take* up in Lent! And so I'd try to take up bible reading, or a more disciplined prayer life, or a small group. After all, as Paul says in Colossians:

*“Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.” (2:16-17)*

The tradition of fasting seemed to me to be a “religious” tradition, in the bad sense of the word. It seemed to me to be something that was imposed on people by religious authorities. But as a Christian, I'm free in Christ! So why add things on? It seemed like something people would do as they tried to earn their way into God's favour.

And so, confident in my own confidence, I went on.

*“Put to death, therefore ...”*

But I hadn't read Colossians carefully enough. Paul wasn't making a blanket statement

against any spiritual disciplines. He is reminding the Colossians about the work the Christ did – the forgiveness of their sins, Christ’s triumph over the powers of evil, and *our release from the written code of religious rules!* (2:13-15) He reminds them that they share in Christ’s life and death. He reminds that their standing with God does not depend on their adherence to human regulations, which “indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (2:23)

A believer is free in Christ, and freed by Christ, from all these things! We are free from these things because we “died and our life is now hidden with Christ in God”! (Col 3:3)

But do you notice what Paul writes just 2 verses on, in Col 3:5 – “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.” There is still work to be done, as we continue to wage war against our rebellious earthly nature – that inborn tendency to want to go our own

way and do our own thing. There is still the work of putting to death those things in us that turn us away from Christ, away from God.

Some of these things are comparatively easy to identify – sexual immorality, evil desires, lust, greed. They (and other things – this is not an exhaustive list!) are things that we can readily say are wrong or bad. Other things are more subtle, like my glass of wine in the evening.

Like many other things, wine is a good gift from God, given to gladden the heart of man. The trouble comes when I elevate that good gift above its proper place. If I depend on a glass of wine at the end of the day to unwind and relax, rather than depending on God and resting in His strength and comfort, then I am living out of my earthly nature, rather than my new life in Christ. It is a difference of attitude, rather than a difference in practice – where does my help come from? If it does not come from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth, then there is a problem that needs putting to death. And the best way to put these things to death is by starvation.

**The online Bible study resource ‘Growing Disciples of Jesus’ now has studies based on the Gospel reading for each Sunday of the entire three-year lectionary cycle – An excellent resource for personal study, group study and for preachers.**

**Find it at [www.tinyurl.com/a3ax3p8](http://www.tinyurl.com/a3ax3p8)**

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from  
previous  
page*

**We know  
what love is  
because  
Jesus gave  
his life for  
us. That's  
why we  
must give  
our lives for  
each other.  
If we have  
all we need  
and see one  
of our own  
people in  
need,**

I've come to see the significance of Lent in this way – as a conscious return to reliance on God's provision and grace by removing obvious contenders from my heart.

### ***In the power of the Spirit***

I've read and heard that Lent is also seen as a time of standing with Jesus (or remembering Jesus) in his time in the wilderness when he fasted and was tempted by the devil (Luke 4).

Sometimes we have a view of this time as if Jesus deliberately weakens himself, as if he's saying to Satan, "Bring it on! I can take you with one hand tied behind my back." I don't think that's what's happening at all. Have a look at Luke 4:1. Jesus has just been baptised, and then we're told: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert." Not "Led *into* the desert". The Holy Spirit never clears the ring and leaves Jesus to duke it out. The Spirit leads Jesus all through his time in the desert. It looks to me like Jesus is deliberately clearing away distractions (food, noise, other people) so that his dependence is solely on the Father and the Spirit. He is gaining strength for the mission ahead (preaching, healing, redeeming the world), which

also lends strength for his struggle against the devil's temptations.

The result is that he resists temptation, and then returns to Galilee to begin his ministry "in the power of the Spirit"!

So what a great opportunity we have to stand with Jesus and to drink deeply of the source of his strength!

### ***Different for each of us***

To understand what God might be saying to us in these passages, we need to bear some things in mind:

Our life is found in Christ. We need to follow his commands and example, and so need to spend time regularly in communion with him – reading the bible deeply and praying – so that we remain connected with the source of life.

We have freedom in Christ. We are feed from *man-made* rules and regulations, no matter who promotes them and no matter how outwardly religious they might seem.

We face different struggles. My obstacle to open dependence on God may not be any sort of issue for you. You will struggle with other problems.

We will need different solutions. There are different

earthly natures to be put to death.

What I need to do to clear the decks and give myself room to trust solely in God will be different from what you need to do. It would be wrong, therefore, for me to insist that you do what I do, or give up what I give up. However we can all benefit from the discipline of searching our consciences and putting to death anything that hinders us on our road with Christ.

Do you have a hobby that gets in the way? Perhaps you're always thinking about it, talking about it, planning for it or engaging in it. Perhaps your mood goes sour when you miss out for a bit. Perhaps that good thing has got out of place, and needs removal for a time.

Do you find comfort in food? Will you only eat certain a certain brand, or food from a certain place? Do you struggle to stop once you've started?



Do you turn to the fridge after a hard day, or a difficult conversation? Is this attitude something that needs killing?

What about social media? Are you surgically connected to the laptop or smart phone? Do you constantly check the sites? Get worried when you haven't had contact with people for a while? Is this something that needs to die, so that you can truly live to God?

Does work consume your life, your family time, your worship time? Has it grown from being a good thing, so that now it commands all your energy, time and attention?

What about the gratitude of others? What about the good opinion of others? What about sex? What about leisure time? What about keeping up to date with current affairs?

What things in your life obstruct your relationship with God? They are not necessarily bad things – they might be extremely good things! But when we put them in place of God, they need killing.

Lent has already started, but it's not too late. Will you kill them with me?

**we must have pity on that person, or else we cannot say we love God.**

**Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.**

**1 John 3:16-18 CEV**

*James*

# Riverlinks

March 2013	
1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	<b>MST &amp; PC Retreat</b> – 9:00am to 4:30pm <b>Women's Breakfast</b> – 8:00am at St John's Launceston
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	<b>Kids' Church</b> – 10:30am at St Oswald's <b>Messy Church</b> – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
5 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town <b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b> – 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
6 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> <b>Healing Service</b> – 10:00am at St Oswald's <b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b> – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
7 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
8 <sup>th</sup> Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> <b>KYB Study Group</b> – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town
9 <sup>th</sup> Sat	

March 2013	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
11 <sup>th</sup> Mon	*** 8 Hours Day Public Holiday <b>Cadorna</b> – 2:00pm
12 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
13 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
14 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> <b>mainly music</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's <b>Crafty Circle</b> – 10:00am at St David's <b>Parish Council meeting</b> – 7:30pm
15 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	<b>Children's Ministry Conference</b> – 9:15am to 4:00pm at L'ton Christian School
17 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
18 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
19 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
20 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm <b>Ainslie Service</b> – 2:15pm

The **deadline** for the March Newsletter edition is **22<sup>nd</sup> March**

# Calendar

March 2013	
21 <sup>st</sup> Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	Youth Group – 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Aidan's
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Cursillo Northern Ultreya – 12:00 noon at St John's Launceston
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
26 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Recommitment to Ministry Services & Blessing of the Oils – 10:00am at Christ Church Longford
27 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
28 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Tamar Park – 1:45pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Fri	*** Good Friday Public Holiday Good Friday Services – 9:00am at St Mary Magdalene's – 10:00am at St David's
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
31 <sup>st</sup> Sun	*** Easter Day

April and other dates 2013	
8 <sup>th</sup> April	MST Meeting
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Riverlinks Together at George Town
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Tasmanian Bible Forum at St Aidan's

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
29 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	George Town	Good Friday Service
31 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & worship Communion
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 5:00 pm	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Evening Prayer
29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Good Friday Service
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
24 <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)



**The Reaffirmation  
of Ordination Vows  
Recommitment to Ministry**  
with the blessing of the oils

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
**10:00 am**  
**at Christ Church, Longford**



**CURSILLO  
NORTHERN  
ULTEYA**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**12 noon to 3pm**  
**at St John's**  
**157 St John St Launceston**




**'FRIDAY'**

FRIDAY  
10-11:30AM

EASTER SUNDAY  
8AM, 10AM, 7PM

**@ St John's Launceston**

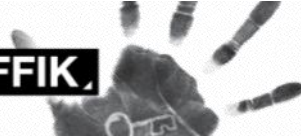
Do you really know the story?



**FORMED  
BY THE  
DESERT**

GOOD FRIDAY - 10:00AM  
@ ST DAVID'S RIVERSIDE

**STOP THE TRAFFIK.**  
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



Over a third of the cocoa that makes the world's chocolate comes from the Ivory Coast, Africa. It's highly likely that the

beans that make your favourite chocolate bar come from here.

Thousands of boys as young as 10yrs old, from the Cote D'Ivoire and neighbouring countries, are trafficked to pick and harvest these beans. Their freedom is taken and they are forced to work long hours on the cocoa plantations without receiving any money for their work. They are beaten and work in dangerous conditions using machetes to open the cocoa beans.

This year when you are buying your Easter chocolate, buy fair trade chocolate and encourage others to do so too. This is one way you can take a step to end forced labour and slavery.



**WE WANT  
TRAFFIK-FREE  
CHOCOLATE**



**CHECK FOR  
TRAFFIK FREE  
CERTIFICATION:**





# Children's ministries need to be more than just fun

Over the summer, I had the privilege of attending CMS Summer School. It was great! And if you haven't read about it, make sure you check out the *Growing Faith* article, 'The unexpected benefits of family camps' by Antony Barraclough.

My children attended the excellent children's program (with around one thousand other children and youth) and at the end of each day, I would pick my two girls up and out of my mouth came three simple words, "Was that fun?" Now these words sound harmless enough. "Was it fun?" is the sort of thing you might ask a child after they have been at a birthday party or ridden on a merry-go-round. But something very different and much more significant was happening and does happen when children come together around God's word, whether it is at Sunday School, a Christian camp or a Christian holiday program.

## It's not all fun and games

As many adults know, it is not always fun when the fallen people of God gather together

around his word. Sometimes it is hard as the word of God convicts us of sin. Sometimes it is painful as we see the brokenness of the world we live in. And sometimes it is desperate as we long for the return of the Lord Jesus.

My worry is that by asking our children if the children's ministry they were part of was fun, we are making 'fun' the high point of their gathering.

Rather than focusing our children on Christ and what he has done, we are inadvertently focusing them on fun and whether that was achieved. The problem of course for the children's ministry team is that they feel the pressure to make everything fun, as they might think this will please both the parents and the children.

## Asking the right questions

Now I don't want to be a joyless party pooper and I am totally in favour of a children's ministry team working hard to run age appropriate, interactive and engaging ministry.

*Continued next page...*

Life is like  
riding a  
bicycle.  
To keep  
your  
balance  
you must  
keep  
moving.

Albert  
Einstein

The man who  
removes a  
mountain  
begins by  
carrying away  
small stones.

Wake up in  
the morning  
with great  
inspiration  
and prayer.  
As you walk  
through the  
day, be  
confident  
and wise.  
Foremost,  
share your  
joy and the  
Lord with  
others.

I do think that children's ministry, like adult ministry should be marked by great joy (Phil 4:4, Rom 5:3, Luke 10:20 for a start) but joy of course is fundamentally different to fun.

So what should we ask our children? Some ideas I have considered are:

- What did you do?
- What did you learn?
- What part of the Bible did you look at?

I think these are all good questions and certainly superior to "Did you have fun?" but I have started making a point of asking my children, "What are you thankful for?" So far it has started some good conversations. I have learnt things about what they are doing, what their teachers are like, and their understanding of certain things. But mostly I

think it has refocussed us as a family.

It has reminded us to be thankful for the many blessings we have as we meet with God's people, blessings both small and large and it has reminded us most of all that meeting with God's people doesn't need to be fun, but we can always be thankful. Whether we are rebuked, corrected, taught something new or reminded of something we already know, we are thankful above all else for Jesus. His death and resurrection make our earthly gatherings a sure and living hope of the promise of the great eternal gathering.

Written by Peter Oates

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### Church Mice

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# Looking up when we are feeling down

I've been feeling down as Russell Morton's thanksgiving service approached. At times like these it is always helpful to be able to reflect on the grace of God, that he loves me and that he cares for me all the time. Sometimes I just need to remember that I can have confidence in this truth.

One day 2000 years ago on a hill called Calvary, Jesus died to bring me from death to life. Before his death I was separated from God. After his death, a way had been paved for me to know God personally forever. Here is my confidence. Here is my experience of God's grace and his great love for me. This is where my eternal hurt collided with the great healer.

How wonderful it is to know that the one who bore our greatest burden, continues to be concerned for our smallest. The simplest of our griefs are known to God - and he walks with us as we bear our burden.

So too, the complex griefs we bear, even the ones that take a lifetime to deal with, he cares about them also. God is not just our healer, but has become our father and friend. And so, He who knows grief bears our grief with us.

With these things in mind, the bible reminds us of our future:

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

Revelation 21:1-4 <sup>ESV</sup>

Bishop John

**I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love— not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!**

**Romans  
8:38,39 <sup>CEV</sup>**



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0438 378 233

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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

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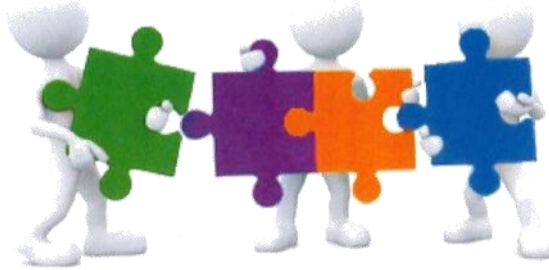
*Riverlinks Anglican Parish  
Newsletter is published  
monthly.*

*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**

# connect

connecting children, churches, communities, culture



**Saturday**

**16<sup>th</sup>**

**March**

**2013**

**Venue:** Launceston Christian School  
452A West Tamar Rd Riverside

**Time:** 9.15am-4pm

**Cost:** \$50/adult  
\$40 Early bird before 1 March  
Includes lunch/morning tea  
\$10/emerging leader (13-17 yrs)

**Enquiries:** James Oakley  
ph 6327 3482



**Keynote Speaker:** Beth Barnett  
Beth has written several books and  
currently has a role with the Victorian  
Council for Christian Education

**Keynote Topic:** Intergenerational gatherings –  
the skills and the thrills, without too many frills or spills



**Don't miss out, get your registration  
form in today!**

**Forms are available to download from the Parish website  
[www.riverlinks.net.au](http://www.riverlinks.net.au) or by contacting the Parish office**

**Contact us:**

**Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)**

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**Website**

[www.riverlinks.net.au](http://www.riverlinks.net.au)

**Children's Ministry Conference**