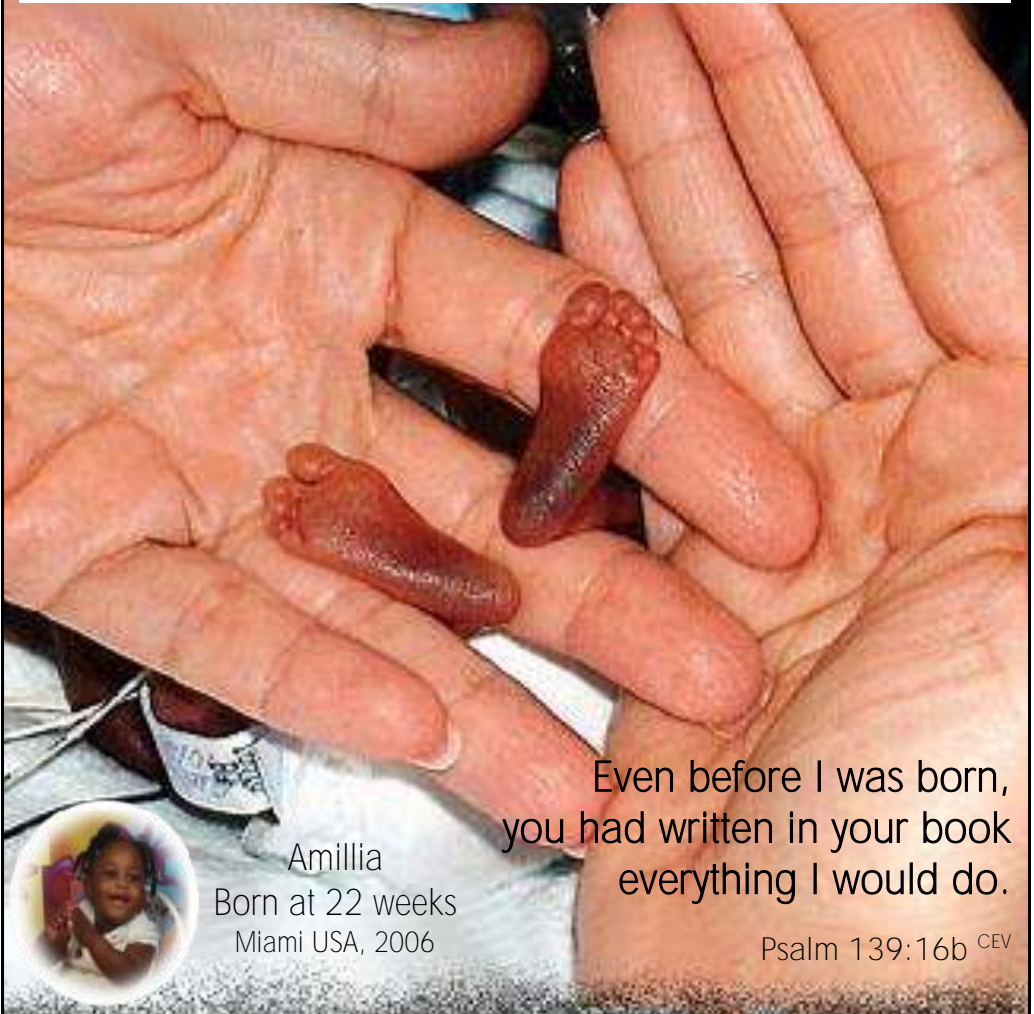




# Newsletter

## April 2013



Even before I was born,  
you had written in your book  
everything I would do.

Psalm 139:16b CEV



Amillia  
Born at 22 weeks  
Miami USA, 2006

*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

# We Can Make A Difference



As foreshadowed by our bishop in his Presidential Address to **synod last year, Tasmania's** parliament is being pounded by a tsunami of social issues. In recent weeks we have seen proposed changes in same-sex marriage, euthanasia, decriminalisation of abortion and surrogacy law.

As Christians we should be deeply concerned about these proposals because each one impacts to some extent on the sanctity of human life. God is the Author of Life and while he has allowed us the privilege of sharing His life, we are not free to change His gift of life in any way, to suit ourselves. God will always remain the source and sustainer of life as we know it.

Bishop John has circulated a letter (see below) focusing on the issue of the decriminalisation of abortion. He urges us to write to **Tasmania's Minister for health, The Hon. Michelle O'Byrne** who has released a draft bill and consultation paper. Guidelines to assist may be found at the **end of the bishop's letter** which follows. The deadline for submissions is Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Don't miss this opportunity** to express your views.

We can make a difference.

Alister

Anglican Diocese of Tasmania

THE RIGHT REVEREND  
JOHN D HARROWER OAM  
BISHOP OF TASMANIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I regret that I have to write to you again to encourage you to write to our political leaders over a matter of great concern.

Last week Tasmania's Minister for Health, The Hon. Michelle O'Byrne released a draft bill and consultation paper dealing with the legal framework for the termination of pregnancy.

As stated in my Pastoral Letter yesterday, 15 March, the paltry allowance for public consultation on the draft bill was reprehensible. I am pleased to say we received advice after my letter was distributed, that the Minister had agreed to extend the deadline for submissions on the Abortion law reform bill for two weeks.

You are the one who put me together inside my **mother's** body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous! Of this I have no doubt.

The new deadline is FRIDAY APRIL 5.

In presenting this draft legislation the Minister claims that she is not dealing with matters of principle, but simply making adjustments. This is a facade. The proposal is being brought as a Private Member's Bill and is attracting a conscience vote for a reason: it deals with significant matters: matters of life and death.

The Bill provides for pregnancy termination on request until 24 weeks gestation and pregnancy termination with medical approval from that point until birth.

The Bill restricts freedom of conscience for medical professionals so that they are bound to facilitate access to termination providers. Moreover, the Bill threatens *anyone who provides any form of counselling* (including church workers) with criminal sanction if they also do not facilitate access to termination providers. There are a number of other restrictions on freedoms of conscience and freedoms of speech.

These measures may seek to move away from criminalising abortion, but they move towards the criminalising of dissent and disagreement on this matter.

There are some issues that are worthy of consideration in this Bill, including the issue of whether criminality is an appropriate form of regulation in some or all circumstances.

However, the proposal, in the main, can only be described as extremist. It is far removed from even that position to which some hold as a pragmatic compromise, that termination **should be "safe, legal, and rare."**

Up until 24 weeks a simple request for termination is required but there are no checks and balances to ensure that coercion of the mother is not apparent.

While rightly affirming the rights of women, this proposal simply ignores the humanity of the unborn children involved. Up until 24 weeks gestation termination of the unborn is allowed on *any grounds*, including the gender of the child.

The 24 week threshold is not determined, as some might think, on the basis of the potential viability of the child. It is on the grounds that tests for disability, including cleft palate and other less severe congenital abnormalities, cannot be conclusively undertaken until after 20 weeks gestation.

Nothing about me is hidden from you!  
I was secretly woven together deep in the earth below, but with your own eyes you saw my body being formed.

Even before I was born, you had written in your book everything I would do.

Psalms  
139:13-16

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

Let love be your only debt! If you love others, you have done all that the Law demands.

In the Law there are many commands, such as, **“Be faithful in marriage.**

Do not murder.  
Do not steal.  
Do not want what belongs to others.”

From 24 weeks the criteria for terminating the unborn baby are “the (two) medical practitioners must have regard to the woman’s current and future physical, psychological, economic and social circumstances”. Termination in late-term requires medical consent, not because of the child, but because termination in that period can have significant medical impact on the mother.

There is no balanced consideration of the child. There is no consideration of the child at all. Late-term termination necessarily requires that significant harm be done to the child in order to effect the termination. The rights of that child, even limited rights such as a requirement that the child be anaesthetised before it is eliminated, are simply irrelevant to the proposal that Ms O’Byrne has tabled.

It is notable in all the information from the Minister that the sobering phrase ‘abortion on demand’ has been scrupulously avoided!

This proposal eschews any sense of responsibility that women (and men for that matter) should take in their sexual activity and so treats sexually active people as less



than adult. The act of sex always retains a chance of pregnancy, no matter the precautions taken. It is never responsibility-free. There is no such thing as the right to pregnancy-free sex.

There is no mention in relation to the care of those women who have had abortions and have suffered trauma and guilt. We need to care for them.

One aspect of this horrible legislative rampage from a member of the Tasmanian Government is that it is not clear what role the public hospitals are expected to play in this process

Ms O’Byrne does not acknowledge that it is not only the potential legality of the procedure that is stopping doctors; it is that many doctors do not wish to provide the procedure or refer patients for a termination. This will not change with the legislation as much as the Minister believes it will.

It is interesting that in Victoria we are seeing anti-smoking advertisements for people to stop smoking as it could hurt their unborn baby. In NSW they are thinking about laws that could apply to drivers who kill unborn babies in drunk/reckless driving accidents. There is a certain irony in creating laws to allow the termination of pregnancy while at the same time spending money to protect unborn babies!

*For every complex problem there is a simple solution... and it is wrong.* Henry Mencken (1880-1956).

This is an abhorrent piece of legislation introduced by a minister in a government whose priorities appear to be the imposition of personal values during a rapidly disappearing time/ window of political opportunity.

I encourage you to write to the Minister, voicing your disapproval of this measure and outlining your concerns in your own words.

The Draft Bill and Consultation Paper can be found here: [http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pophealth/womens\\_health](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pophealth/womens_health)

Feedback must be in writing. Via email: [public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au](mailto:public.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au) Orr a hardcopy posted to: Population Health Equity, GPO Box 125 Hobart, TAS, 7001.

YOU HAVE UNTIL 5PM FRIDAY, APRIL 5 TO RESPOND. PLEASE RESPOND!

Yours sincerely in Christ's service.

Shalom



Bishop of a deeply troubled Tasmania

But all of these are summed up in the command that says, **“Love others as much as you love yourself.”**

No one who loves others will harm them. So love is all that the Law demands.

Romans 13: 8-10 CEV

## Church Mice

Used by permission Copyright Karl A. Zorowski

But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'

~ Matthew 28:5-6



# Messy Church – Who is God?




# Kids' Church welcome back BBQ



**Kids' Church**  
AT ST OSWALD'S



# Riverlinks

April 2013	
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	*** Easter Monday Public Holiday
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	*** Easter Tuesday Bank Holiday <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
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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
4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5 <sup>th</sup> Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town  LAST DAY FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT BILL & CONSULTATION PAPER ON ABORTION IN TASMANIA
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat	<b>Women's Breakfast</b> – 8:00am at St John's Launceston
7 <sup>th</sup> Sun	<i>Daylight Saving ends @ 2am</i>  <b>Kids' Church</b> – 10:30am at St Oswald's  Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 <sup>th</sup> Mon	MST Meeting – 6:45pm

April 2013	
9 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Cadorna – 2:00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Luncheon & talk by Rene DuPlessis – 12:00noon at St Oswald's
11 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
13 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Tasmanian Women's Bible Conference – 9:30am at the Branch, Kings Meadows  Mega Family Fun Day fundraiser – 10:00am at Punchbowl Christian Centre – 12:00 noon Choir will perform in the Atrium
14 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
15 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
16 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
17 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am <b>"Trade of Innocents" Movie Screening</b> – 6:45pm at Village Cinemas Launceston

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



# Calendar

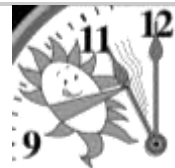
April 2013	
19 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Parent-Free Pupil-Free Day – 9:00am to 3:00pm at St Oswald's
20 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Anzac Concert – 2:00pm Salvation Army, Launceston
21 <sup>st</sup> Sun	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Mon	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Tue	
24 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
25 <sup>th</sup> Thur	*** ANZAC Day Public Holiday Tamar Park – 1:45pm ANZAC Day Family Fun – 11:30am in Max Harris Reserve, George Town
26 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Youth Group – 7:30 to 9:30pm at St Aidan's
27 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
28 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Service – 6:00pm
29 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
30 <sup>th</sup> Tue	

May and other dates 2013	
31 <sup>st</sup> May - 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Synod
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Riverlinks Together at George Town
12 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Ministry Conference
17 <sup>th</sup> August	Tasmanian Bible Forum <b>at St Aidan's</b>
11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Clergy Conference

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Together @ 10.30
21 <sup>st</sup>	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Communion
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Baptism
28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
	5:00 pm	Trevallyn	Evening Prayer
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
28 <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)



Mega Family Fun Day  
 Fundraiser for the Choir of High Hopes  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
 at Punchbowl Christian Centre

Don't forget  
 to wind  
 your clock  
 back  
 Sunday  
 7<sup>th</sup> April  
 for the end of  
 daylight  
 saving

Contact  
 Merelyn 6334 0965                      Stalls & car boot sale spaces available \$15  
 or Lee sales @philbeswick.com.au                      Donations to the jumble sale  
 for info or to book a stall                      BBQ, Morning & Afternoon Teas  
 Choir will perform at 12 noon in the Atrium

Ladies you are invited to join us as we take a look at:



**Being Real, Being Wise, Being Humble**

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

@ The Branch Christian church,  
 2 Innocent Street, Kings Meadows

9.30am for 10am start till 3.30pm

Tasmanian Women's Bible Conference  
**TWBC 2013**

COST: by 1<sup>st</sup> April \$20                      On or after 2<sup>nd</sup> April \$25

To register or for more information contact:

Louise 0422 926 053    or    Lesley 0418 350 182    or

Email [twbcnorth@iprimus.com.au](mailto:twbcnorth@iprimus.com.au)

*Women's Breakfast*  
*All Welcome*

8am  
 Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April  
 at St John's Parish Centre  
 157 St John St. Launceston



The speaker for April will be Susan Davies - a university student who is going to Niger for a two year missionary term - speaking on "God's path to mission in Africa", as always over a sumptuous breakfast.

Cost is a faith donation.

RSVP by 4<sup>th</sup> April to

Stephanie 0416 289 275

or Jenny 0437 697 746



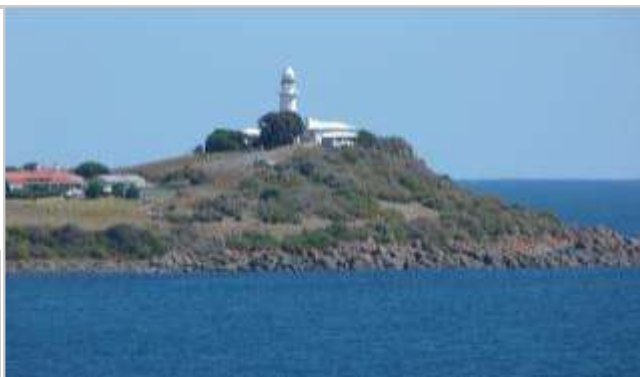
There are more slaves in the world today than in any other time in history. Unite with thousands of Australians nationwide in attending a *Trade of Innocents* movie event. Be part of the solution.

Join Five Loaves at  
**Launceston Village Cinemas**  
 Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 6:45pm

Tickets just \$15

Seats are strictly limited. Buy your tickets now at: [tinyurl.com/bh379kk](http://tinyurl.com/bh379kk) or in-store at Koorong Launceston

# MST & PC Retreat



# Get The Word Out in Rwanda

God's plan for enlarging His kingdom is so simple - one person telling another about the Saviour.

Yet we're busy and full of excuses.

Just remember, someone's eternal destiny is at stake.

The joy you'll have when you meet that person in heaven will far exceed any discomfort you felt in sharing the gospel.

Charles Stanley

\*Fufu is a thick dough, usually made from cassava flour

In 1994 almost one million people in Rwanda were killed in the worst genocide the world has ever seen. Many of the people involved, victims and killers, were sitting side by side in church just days before the massacre began.

The Bible Society of Rwanda believes that one of the main causes of this shocking tragedy was a lack of understanding of **God's love and forgiveness**. There has certainly been a lack of effective Bible reading and teaching. The poverty in Rwanda is extreme; many are too poor to own a Bible, and others – almost half of the population – are illiterate.

The Bible Society has a vision for **the reconciliation of Rwanda ...** that through the provision of Bibles, Bible-based literacy programs, listening devices, and teacher training, there will be a **mighty working of God's Spirit** across this troubled nation.

**Already the evidence of God's hand is everywhere!**

*Get The Word Out in Rwanda* will allow you to be **part of Rwanda's healing journey** after a bitter conflict, partnering with our loving God **"who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation"**. (2 Cor 5:18).

Help *Get The Word Out*

Become a Vision Warrior for Rwanda, assisting the Bible Society to achieve its God-given vision.

There are free resources online to show you how to pray, inform others about the vision, and to help raise sponsorship for much needed Bibles and literacy materials. Plus lots of fun stuff!

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

*A Traditional Rwandan favourite:*

*Chicken with Tomato Sauce*

- 1 chicken, cut into pieces
- 3 Tb oil
- 1 onion, thinly sliced
- 3 large crushed tomatoes (or tinned)
- 2 stalks of celery, cut thinly
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 hot chilli, chopped finely

In a large pan, fry the chicken in hot oil until golden. Remove chicken and cook onions in the same pan. Once onions are golden brown, return chicken pieces to the pan and add tomatoes, celery, salt and chilli.

Reduce heat and simmer until chicken is tender. Serve over Fufu\* or rice.



# Never Confuse Activity for Significance and Impact

Have you noticed that it is rare to talk to someone who is not busy. As someone has written, "busyness is as fashionable as a Prada handbag."



Yet, we can actually be fooling ourselves. Busyness is often equated with importance and significance. "I am busy, therefore I am important and my life is worth something." As author, Matthew Barnet has written: "Never confuse activity for significance and impact."

Busyness can just be a way of proving to ourselves that we matter, as well as staying so **distracted that we don't deal** with the issues in our lives that haunt us. If we are honest,

much of our busyness are just shallow diversions from the important.

It is when we stop, reflect on life and take time to pray, that we may discover that in our busyness, we are actually missing the significant and the important.

Reproduced from the Daily Nudge [www.dailynudge.org](http://www.dailynudge.org)



Thinking is the hardest work there is, which is the probable reason why so few engage in it.

A bee is never as busy as it seems; it's just that it can't buzz any slower.

## Alpha Course @ GT



# My Brittle Bones

*Have your  
say on the  
draft  
Reproductive  
Health  
(Access to  
Terminations)  
Bill*

*Feedback  
must be in  
writing.*

*email:  
public.health@  
dhhs.tas.gov.au*

*or mail:  
Population  
Health Equity  
GPO Box 125  
Hobart  
TAS, 7001*

*YOU HAVE  
UNTIL 5PM  
FRIDAY,  
APRIL 5  
TO  
RESPOND.*

*PLEASE  
RESPOND!*

I belong to a very ordinary Australian family, albeit with two obvious differences. First, compared with the stereotypical sports-loving, tough Aussie, some of us are quite weak and physically frail, thanks to a mutant gene. Second, my family has resisted the secularism that is a dominant feature of modern Australian life.

I believe it is no accident that we preserved our Christian profession. One reason ill-mannered New Atheist attitudes gained little traction among us is that Christian theism provides a secure footing for our family in a darkening world, which, thanks to the recent proliferation of **“genetics counseling” clinics** in modern hospitals, is increasingly hostile toward the congenitally weak and imperfect.

Although my form of brittle bone disease (OI, *osteogenesis imperfecta*) is quite mild, I experienced some fifteen or so fractures in my youth.

As one born congenitally frail, I have come to respect this mysterious disorder called *osteogenesis imperfecta* and even thank heaven for how it prematurely confronted me with my own frailty during my

youth. By forcing me to face my limitations and find the fortitude to transcend repeated bouts of medical adversity, in requiring me to choose a vocation in which success did not depend on brute strength, OI made me a stronger and more mature individual.

In the end, we are all frail creatures. Maybe this is why some people wish to abort persons like my father and me: Perhaps we confront them with the inconvenient truth of their own mortality and the ultimate futility of their existential rebelliousness. Rather than pursuing the futile idea that humanity can live in perpetual defiance of God, we Brittle Burchams have found great hope and refuge in the arms of the strong God who became as weak as a newborn baby to conquer the evil that stains our fallen world.

Philip C. Burcham

Professor of pharmacology in Perth, Western Australia.

*Extract from an article published on  
[www.firstthings.com](http://www.firstthings.com)*

*To read the full article go to:  
[www.tinyurl.com/car9u3c](http://www.tinyurl.com/car9u3c)  
or contact the Parish office for a  
printed copy*

# Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill

One aspect of the assisted dying debate is that such measures will *always* leave some people who fall outside the guidelines pleading for the guidelines to be widened to allow them to be included.

In a parallel situation, the guideline for abortion in Victoria for many years until recently, the 1969 Menhennit ruling that abortion was allowed in situations where the physical or mental health of the mother were in danger, got widened out to, in effect, abortion on demand. That is, the gateposts which were there to restrict access to abortion were knocked over and anyone who wanted to got through. Laws and guidelines do get widened out in practice and by pleading for exceptions.

Thus, immediately after the new consultation paper in voluntary assisted dying was introduced in Tasmania, the situation of Elizabeth Godfrey a decade ago was discussed at length on ABC television and other media. She was a Christian who believed that the resources expended on her pain should go to others more needy. She did not have a terminal illness, but was in unbearable and unrelievable

physical pain, and committed suicide in 2002. Her two sons (one of whom was convicted and received a suspended sentence for assisting her suicide) called for the proposed guidelines to be widened to allow the assisted suicide of anyone – not just those with a terminal illness – experiencing unbearable and unrelievable pain.

Then, of course, the next step would be to ask for it for those experiencing unbearable and unrelievable mental / emotional / psychological pain (ie, suicidal depression). And that can be anyone of any age. And the widening would continue, with pleading for other exceptions, because if autonomy is to be one of our supreme guiding values, then of course everyone can do whatever they like to themselves.

Unlike some people of faith, I am careful about calling lots of things slippery slopes, but I believe this one really is a slippery slope, and this has been demonstrated in other places where assisted dying has become legal.

Revd David Boyd

Submissions have closed for responses to a consultation paper put out by Hons Lara Giddings and Nick McKim in their aim of introducing euthanasia – what they call **“Voluntary Assisted Dying” (VAD).**

*The Anglican Church of Tasmania has made a submission **“VAD: A Flawed Proposal for Tasmania”** If you would like a copy of this please contact the Parish office*

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](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)

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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



*Left & below:*  
Alpha Course  
at  
George Town



*Left:*  
Kids' Church  
BBQ

*Below:*  
March  
Messy Church



### Contact us:

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

6327 4742 [office@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 [kids\\_families@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:kids_families@riverlinks.net.au)

Website

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