

So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

Ephesians 5: 15 - 17 <sup>NLT</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



Ian Wheeler

Warn the rich people of this world not to be proud or to trust in wealth that is easily lost. Tell them to have faith in God, who is rich and blesses us with everything we need to enjoy life. Instruct them

## Hold lightly what you value greatly

Well Christmas is over for another year. The feasting is done and the diet begins. The decorations are packed away and the house returns to its normal state. The weather improves and the holidays finally get under way. The presents have been catalogued, stored or put to use. Or maybe they have been marked for regifting. Regifting is giving away as a present a gift that has been received. It can be an act of charity or a way to dispose of an unwanted gift. Either way it implies abundance. We are so well off we can afford to **dislike or despise a gift. It's a bit like having more cars than you can drive, more house than you can clean or (in my case) more rods than you can fish with. Most of us think that's a nice problem to have.** To have so much of everything that you need nothing at all. It was the problem of the rich man in the parable Jesus told in Luke chapter 12.

The land of a rich man produced plentifully and he thought to himself, "What

shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.

**This isn't a parable about the dangers of being rich and successful.** The lesson of this parable will be lost on us if we think that Jesus is criticizing the man for being rich. Jesus condemned this man because he forgot one fact. He forgot that he was going to die someday. And what then? Someone else will have all that he owns. An old Italian proverb says, "**The last robe has no pockets**". There is no point in asking how much a person left because the answer is always, "He left all of it."

So what could the rich man (and we) do! First we should give God the credit for the things he has done. It is important to note that this parable does not condemn this man for being rich. And to his credit it would appear that this man had come by his wealth honestly. As this farmer looked at his amazing harvest he did not see the hand of God – he saw only his own effort.

Next we make plans but leave God out. There was nothing wrong with his desire to build more barns; it was both wise and prudent. The Bible does not discourage us from looking to the future with great expectation. However as we make our plans, whether in business, in relationship or in our personal lives, we are to do so from the perspective that ultimately God is in charge.

Another problem lays in the fact that there is no thought of sharing. The pronoun **“I” appears 6 times and “my”** 5 times. He says my crops, my barns, my goods. He is confused between ownership and stewardship. It is not ours to own it is ours on loan.

We should consider spending our resources not only on ourselves. This man thought that when he put his plan into being that he would he would have it made for years to come. He (and we) can afford to be generous.

Finally when we put ourselves first we will find ourselves in conflict with **God’s plan for our lives.** We can become so side-tracked by the things of this world **that we miss God’s call on our lives.** Either we do not hear Him above the noise of the world or we hear and ignore because we do not want to do what he asks. It might cost us and we are reluctant to pay the price. Ultimately this is to our own detriment as we replace His presence in our lives with mere things.

We call the story Jesus told the parable of the rich fool. **But he wasn’t a fool because he was rich.** He was a fool because he tried to hold on to what was never his in the first place.

Hold lightly what you value greatly.  
It all belongs to God anyway.

to do as many good deeds as they can and to help everyone. Remind the rich to be generous and share what they have.

This will lay a solid foundation for the future, so that they will know what true life is like.

*1 Timothy*  
*6: 17 - 19 CEV*

Reference-

*Hold Lightly What You Value Greatly,*  
Pritchard Ray,  
Sermon Central,  
June 2007.

**lan**

## NYE @ St Oswald's

A jovial bunch  
joined  
together at  
**St Oswald's**  
for a shared  
meal & to  
watch the  
**New Year's**  
Eve fireworks



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## CMS SummerView

CMS  
Summerview  
2014 - An  
inspirational  
Christian  
conference  
hosted by  
CMS at  
Camp  
Banksia in  
Port Sorell,  
was attended  
by over 150  
people this  
year



# 6 Month YTD Financial Report

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Income      | 139,992        |
| Expenditure | <u>151,401</u> |
| Deficit     | 11,409         |

The first six months financial performance is outstanding for the offertory giving being only \$1000 under budget.

The Children & Young Families Ministry is approx. \$3000 under budget, although \$2000 has been received through fundraising activities. This ministry is a major focus for the Parish and provides the future for our Parish. A special offertory has been operating for three years, and up until October was being supported to budget projection. For some unaccountable reason the income has reduced substantially since October. I ask all centres to give this a priority and work to reverse the financial downward trend by using the envelopes or direct giving through your bank to C&YFM account:

|      |                            |
|------|----------------------------|
| BSB  | 067 600                    |
| ACC  | 1077 1716                  |
| NAME | Riverlinks Anglican Church |

All other areas of the Parish finances working close to budget estimates.

I remind Parishioners that a large budget deficit was agreed for this financial year but it is important to minimise this deficit by supporting the Children & Young Families Ministry programme.

Ken Pedley  
Treasurer

## Parish Mission Giving YTD

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| CMS Link Missionaries    | 1,500         |
| CMS General              | 550           |
| Bush Church Aid          | 1,153         |
| ABM                      | 900           |
| Barnabas Fund            | 665           |
| Bible Society            | 984           |
| Leprosy Mission          | 130           |
| WAY-FM                   | 250           |
| World Vision             | 258           |
| <b>Samaritan's Purse</b> | 612           |
| Youth Intern             | 1,500         |
| <i>Scripture Union</i>   |               |
| GT Chaplaincy            | 400           |
| RHS Chaplaincy           | 1,000         |
| Staff Support            | 400           |
| RPS Chaplaincy           | 360           |
| Queechy Chaplaincy       | 15            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>10,677</b> |

God treated me with kindness. His power worked in me, and it became my job to spread the good news. I am the least important of **all God's** people. But God was kind and chose me to tell the Gentiles that because of Christ there are blessings that cannot be measured.

*Ephesians*  
3:7,8 *CEV*

# Riverlinks

| February 2014                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Sat                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Sun                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Mon                                            | MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue                                            | <p><i>(each Tuesday)</i><br/>Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town</p> <p>Home &amp; Study Groups<br/>           – 1:45pm at Igglesden's 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</p> |
| 5 <sup>th</sup><br>Wed                                            | <p><i>(each Wednesday)</i><br/>Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's</p> <p>Home &amp; Study Groups<br/>           – 7:30pm at Stott's home<br/>           – 7:30pm St Oswald's</p>                                                                                                    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup><br>Thur                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 7 <sup>th</sup><br>Fri                                            | <p><i>(each Friday)</i><br/>KYB Study Group – 10:00am<br/>at Baptist Church George Town</p>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8 <sup>th</sup><br>Sat                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup><br>Sun                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| *** CHECK WITH YOUR HOME GROUP FOR<br>NEW YEAR STARTING DATES *** |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| February 2014            |                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon  | Cadorna – 2:00pm                                                                                              |
| 11 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue  | <b>Lord's Prayer gathering</b> – 12:00 noon<br>at Launceston Town Hall                                        |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>Wed  | AWF Fellowship Day – 10:30am<br>at St Barnabas Church Scottsdale                                              |
| 13 <sup>th</sup><br>Thur | <p><i>(each Thursday)</i><br/>mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's</p> <p>Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p> |
| 14 <sup>th</sup><br>Fri  |                                                                                                               |
| 15 <sup>th</sup><br>Sat  |                                                                                                               |
| 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Sun  | School Sunday                                                                                                 |
| 17 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon  |                                                                                                               |
| 18 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue  |                                                                                                               |
| 19 <sup>th</sup><br>Wed  | Ainslie Service – 2:15pm                                                                                      |
| 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Thur | Prescare Legana – 10:45am                                                                                     |
| 21 <sup>st</sup><br>Fri  |                                                                                                               |

The deadline for the March Newsletter edition is 23<sup>rd</sup> February

# Calendar

| February 2014            |                                                                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>Sat  |                                                                                       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>Sun  | Preaching Workshop – 2:00 to 4:00pm<br>in the Parish office<br>CCCGT Service – 6:00pm |
| 24 <sup>th</sup><br>Mon  |                                                                                       |
| 25 <sup>th</sup><br>Tue  | SCC Refresher (only) training sessions<br>– 1:00pm or 7:00pm , venue TBA              |
| 26 <sup>th</sup><br>Wed  | *** Launceston Cup Day ***                                                            |
| 27 <sup>th</sup><br>Thur |                                                                                       |
| 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Fri  |                                                                                       |

| March and other dates 2014                   |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March                        | MST & PC Retreat                                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                        | Messy Church at St Aidan's<br><b>Kids' Church at St Oswald's</b> |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> March                        | Pancake Day                                                      |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup><br>March | Chaplaincy Week                                                  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March                       | Riverlinks Together service with<br>CMS Cross-cultural workers   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June                        | <b>TBF at St Aidan's</b>                                         |

## Service Times For Worship Centres

| East Launceston       |          |                |                  |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>       | 10:00 am | Morning Prayer |                  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>       | 10:00 am | Communion      |                  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am | Morning Prayer |                  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | 10:00 am | Communion      |                  |
| George Town           |          |                |                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>       | 9:00 am  | Hillwood       | Communion        |
|                       | 9:00 am  | Pipers River   | Morning Prayer   |
|                       | 10:30 am | George Town    | Communion        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>       | 9:00 am  | Low Head       | Baptism          |
|                       | 10:30 am | George Town    | Together @ 10.30 |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | 9:00 am  | Pipers River   | Communion        |
|                       | 10:30 am | George Town    | Communion        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | 9:00 am  | Low Head       | Communion        |
|                       | 10:30 am | George Town    | Communion        |
| Riverside & Trevallyn |          |                |                  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>       | 10:00 am | Riverside      | Communion        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>       | 10:00 am | Riverside      | Praise & worship |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:00 am | Riverside      | Communion        |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | 10:00 am | Riverside      | Communion        |
| Each<br>Wed           | 10:00am  | Trevallyn      | Healing Service  |
| Peace Haven           |          |                |                  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>       | 10:30 am | Morning Prayer |                  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | 10:30 am | Holy Communion |                  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>      | 10:30 am | Holy Communion |                  |

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08-24-2009

**I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A BENEVOLENT  
GOD CAN LET BACK-TO-SCHOOL HAPPEN TO  
GOOD PEOPLE**

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)

# Lord's Prayer Gathering

Acting Greens leader Richard de Natale has proposed that the Lord's Prayer not be prayed at the opening of parliamentary proceedings. All Christians interested and able are invited to support a gathering on

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**  
(the date of the next sitting of parliament)

**at Launceston Town Hall, St John St.**

**12 noon** (the time Federal Parliament will open)

**to simply pray aloud together the Lord's Prayer**



Preaching Workshop  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
2 - 4pm  
in the Parish Office

SCC Refresher  
Training - Launceston  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February  
1.00 pm daytime session  
7.00 pm evening - Venue TBC  
*RSVP - essential* (minimum 8 required)  
RSVP to SCC - 6220 2025

## REVELATION SERIES

David Rogers-Smith's sermons from the Revelation preaching series are now available to download or stream from the Parish website.

To refresh, revisit, or hear any you may have missed visit:  
[www.riverlinks.net.au](http://www.riverlinks.net.au) and click on the preaching link

AWF Fellowship Day  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
From 10:30am with morning tea at St Barnabas, Scottsdale  
Guest speaker is Debbie Searle  
RSVP to Evelyn (6393 6405) by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February



# The Prayer



Should I pray for a parking spot near the shopping mall entrance or close to the church door?

Should I pray about that **swimming costume I'm dying** to buy or the twenty-function vegetable peeler I just saw advertised on TV that would make me more like a Masterchef?

**After all, I am God's child, and doesn't he want the best** for his children? In which case perhaps I should pray for a parking spot some distance from the shops and walk off those extra Christmas kilos. Surprise, surprise, the Lord miraculously provides ample parking the further I have to walk!

And if I take that parking spot next to the dedicated disabled space, just one away **from the church door, aren't** I doing a service (or is it a disservice) to the late-comer or the new-comer who may need to shed those kilos more than me?

Is not this kind of praying, and the view of spiritual reality that lies behind, it

barely more than half a degree of separation from the prosperity theology that has blighted parts of the church for too long?

It also happens almost every time I go to church - whether **that's big church on Sunday morning** or small church on Monday night. Our prayers **rarely get out of the doctor's surgery, the classifieds or the travel brochures. Now I'm all** for health, houses and holidays. As is the Bible. And **I'm into praying anywhere,** anytime and about anything. But are these the concerns that should crowd our prayers?

And I think I should pray about what I yearn for. **There's no better way** of putting a stop to contemplating the unhealthy yearnings and cultivating the healthy ones.

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

This could be a prayer - a prayer for a moment, but more likely the prayer of a lifetime. **continued next page...**

There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it hardly becomes any of us to talk about the rest of us.

*Edward Wallis Hoch*

When you throw dirt, you lose ground.

*Texan Proverb*

Two things are bad for the heart - running up stairs and running down people.

*Bernard Baruch*

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

Laughter is a  
tranquilizer  
with no side  
effects.

*Arnold  
Glasow*

Someday is  
not a day of  
the week.

*Author  
Unknown*

People often  
say that  
motivation  
doesn't last.  
Well, neither  
does bathing,  
that's why we  
recommend  
it daily.

*Zig Ziglar*

As we delight in the Lord, as we surrender our will to the **Lord's, for that is what we do** in prayer (Your will be done), our desires will surely, steadily, perhaps more slowly than we would like, be governed by his ways and his will.

I am aware, deeply aware, of three things that I yearn for, and yet want to yearn for more strongly .

- To be more like Jesus
- To see and end to suffering
- To love lost people

If I yearn for these things, will I not pray for them? If I pray for them will he not answer my prayers about them? If he answers my prayers about them will they not become the desires of my heart?

Imagine a community of people, a church if you like, who are praying to be more like Jesus, praying to be agents to end suffering, praying to have a deeper compassion for people who, without Jesus, remain under **God's judgement and face** the profound prospect of eternal punishment.

Imagine such a community after a week, a month, a year of such praying.

I need to remind myself that the Apostle Paul had such a passion for his fellow Jews, that he could say,

*My prayer and hearts desire for the Israelites is that they may be saved (Romans 10:1)*

And to Agrippa:

*Short time or long, I (pray) that not only you but all who are listening to me today would become what I am, except for these chains (Acts 26:13)*

Why does Paul have such yearnings?

1. He longed to be like Jesus

The crucified and risen Christ turned his life around. Once staggering under the unbearable demands of the law, now swimming in oceans of forgiving grace. Once a hate-filled murderer of Christians, now a love-filled missionary for Christ. Once committed to a menacing policy to root out the church of Jesus, now to the ministry of reconciliation.

What Jesus did for Paul, Paul longed he would do for others.

2. He hated suffering

Paul had suffered terribly at the hands of both Jews and Romans.

Governor Felix had just kept him in cold storage for two years. Two years! I get edgy if someone puts me on hold on the phone for two minutes. If I was kept on ice **for two years I'd be boiling** with revenge. But what does Paul say? Sure he wants people to be blindsided by **Jesus' grace. But he wants more, "except for these chains."**

**He doesn't want anyone to suffer the way he has - even those who have inflicted the hardship on him!**

**It's awful to see people in pain, whether that's physical pain or emotional pain. A lonely parent. A grieving widow. A sick child. An anxious father. A troubled teenager. A broken friend. A hungry and homeless refugee.**

How we long for such pain to be eased.

And if we so hate suffering, how much more do we hate the prospect of eternal suffering of those who die unforgiven.

3. He loved people

Paul yearned for the salvation of others. He obeyed the words of Jesus:

*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44)*

He grew in the compassion of his Master:

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he **said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. (Matthew 9:36-38).**

**It's quite understandable** how we pedestal people with **PHD's. It is certainly an achievement to be lauded. There's one in my family, and it's certainly not me. How I respect such an accomplishment. But what about people with a PHD from Paul's school of prayer and faculty of passion?**

**May our prayer and heart's desire (PHD) be for our Sovereign God to rescue lost people from the horror of hell to the safe haven of heaven through trusting in Jesus - and Jesus alone.**

David Mansfield

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

*Mark Twain*

My school days were the happiest days of my life; which should give you some indication of the misery I've endured over the past twenty-five years.

*Paul Merton*

*David Mansfield is the director of the Archbishop of Sydney's Anglican Aid*

**This article first appeared at [www.sydneyanglicans.net](http://www.sydneyanglicans.net)**

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Hillwood

Low Head  
Low Head Rd  
Low Head

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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



Above & right:  
New Year's Eve  
at St Oswald's

Below:  
CMS SummerView



### Contact us:

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