



Newsletter

June 2014

Look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before you.
Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.
Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Proverbs 4: 25 - 27 ^{NLT}

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

The Ascension of Christ



After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Mark 16:19,20
NIV

Ever forgotten an anniversary, birthday or significant event. I once visited my mum and noticed some birthday cards displayed on the mantelpiece. “Whose birthday?” I asked. “Mine” she said. Oops!

But before you are too quick to judge my ‘senior moment’ as Christians we also forget, or overlook, one of the most significant events on the Christian calendar. That event is the Ascension of Christ. The ascension of Jesus is one of the accepted doctrines of Christianity. The Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed all confess that Christ ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father.

The secular world has hijacked Christmas and Easter. These 2 great events in the Christian year are milked dry for their commercial value. The Church, however, still has the

resurrection (despite the TV series) and Pentecost. Pentecost receives due attention every year as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church though the importance and implications of the resurrection only receives lip service in some circles. But between the resurrection and Pentecost, and helping us to understand them both, is the Ascension. Last Thursday (29 May) is the day we remember the Ascension. Maybe it slips under the radar because it falls midweek but let's take a moment now to have a look at this important event.

The Ascension is recorded in Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:36-53 and probably most famously in Acts 1:6-12.

Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or

dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

It is interesting to note that when referring to the ascension the New Testament refers to the event as being "taken up" indicating that the "taking up" was empowered by someone other than Jesus himself. The fact is that God was the power behind the

event and provides further evidence of his approval of his Son and acceptance of the sacrifice he made. It also indicates that the earthly ministry of Jesus was complete.

There are some important points that enlighten our understanding of this important doctrine.

First, it is a predicted event. Through the Holy Spirit, David wrote in Psalm 110

"The LORD says to my lord:

"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Jesus quotes Psalm 110 in Matt 22: 41-45. He acknowledges the Spirit's authorship, that David refers to the Messiah and that the Messiah will sit at the Father's right hand. Jesus himself predicted his ascension when he replied to Pilate "From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

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Christ has generously divided out his gifts to us. As the Scriptures say, "When he went up to the highest place, he led away many prisoners and gave gifts to people." When it says, "he went up," it means that Christ had been deep in the earth. This also means that the one who went deep into the earth is the same one who went into the highest heaven, so that he would fill the whole universe.

Ephesians 4:7
-10 NIV

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(Matt 26:64). In the place of power Jesus rules on God's behalf. The Ascension assures us that the Lord reigns.

In bringing to a close Jesus' earthly ministry, the Ascension closes the account of the resurrection. The empty tomb will forever remain empty because the one who laid there is no longer on planet Earth. To disprove the resurrection and the ascension was the goal of the enemies of the fledgling Christian religion. And enemies there were in the Jews and the Romans. Both had an interest in the failure of "the Way". The Jews would remain God's chosen

people and the Emperor in Rome would have no rival for the worship of the masses. A body then is all the proof they needed. There was none because "he is not

here" (Matt 28:6) The Ascension assures us of a living saviour.

More importantly without the Ascension there would be no Pentecost. Jesus said "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you"(John 16:7). We often forget the link between the Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit instead restricting it to his death and resurrection. It was not his departure from this life that made the coming of the Holy Spirit possible; it was his departure from this planet. And in the heavenly realm he is accessible to all who call on his name and intercedes for them with the Father. Only when he sat down at the right hand of God was he finally in a position to send the Holy Spirit. The Ascension, therefore, promises us the power of the Spirit.

The Ascension is not the last we will see of Jesus. The men



in white assured the disciples that *"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."* The New Testament repeatedly teaches that one day Jesus will be back. When he does it will be in glory, coming to raise the dead, judge everyone and usher in the kingdom of God. So the Ascension assures us that we will see the returning Lord.

So let's celebrate the Ascension by giving praise to Jesus who is our living Lord. Let's give thanks for the promise of his Spirit and rejoice that he reigns. Finally let us look forward to the day when he returns in glory as Lord of all!

Blessings,

Jan

A professional is just an amateur who didn't quit

You don't have to be great to start, but you do have to start to be great

Unless you try to do something beyond what you have already mastered, you will never grow

Congratulations to the nominees for George Town Volunteer of the Year Award. With mayor Broomhall from left - Mr Leon Hodges, Mr Peter Hale, Mr Peter Cox, Sam Tame accepting on behalf of his mother Anneke, Mrs Julie Hicks accepting on behalf of her husband Frank , Mrs Beryl Tiernan, Mr Leon Hodges, Mrs Janice Room.



Café Church at St Aidan's

Out of the mouths of babes

A mother was struggling to get the ketchup out of the bottle when the phone rang. She asked her four year old daughter to answer it, then heard her daughter say, "Mommy can't come to the phone. She's hitting the bottle."

At Café Church on 11th May we focused on asylum seekers and what God was saying to us. Here are some readings that we found challenging: -

Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Humans were created for a special purpose, to be God's image bearers in this world. This gives an inherent dignity to humans regardless of gender, race, religion or age.

Leviticus 19:33-34 *When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born.*

Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 10: 17-19

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

Jeremiah 7:6-7 *if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.*

Jeremiah's blessing upon Israel depended upon real and radical repentance at least partly defined in terms

of their treatment of refugees.

‘Hebrew’ – the name of a refugee people who welcomed and made room for the stranger because they had been strangers in Egypt.

Jesus was a refugee when his family fled to Egypt.

Luke 10:25-37 – *The Good Samaritan*

In summing up I am sure that you would all agree that:

The Gospel welcomes refugees

We are to minister actively to those in need with practical compassionate care.

Jo Tevelein

A woman working for meals on wheels would take along her four year old daughter along with her.

Her daughter was always fascinated by the appliances of old age - canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.

One day she caught her daughter staring at a set of false teeth in a jar. "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"



Riverlinks

June 2014	
1st Sun	Kids' Church – 10:30am at St Oswald's Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
2nd Mon	MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish office
3rd 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
4th 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
5th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
6th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Youth Group – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
7th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton
8th Sun	

June 2014	
9th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
10th Tue	
11th Wed	
12th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
13th Fri	
14th Sat	3dm Workshop – 9:30am at Longford Baptist Church
15th Sun	Children Youth & Families Ministry Workshop – 1:30pm at St Aidan's
16th Mon	
17th Tue	
18th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
19th Thur	Prescare Legana – 10:45am
20th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town

The **deadline** for the July Newsletter edition is **23rd June**

Calendar

June 2014	
21 st Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am at St Aidan's Trivia Night & Silent Auction – 7:00pm at George Town Memorial Hall
22 nd Sun	CCCGT – 4:30pm Messy Church at Cornerstone
23 rd Mon	
24 th Tue	
25 th Wed	
26 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
27 th Fri	
28 th Sat	
29 th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:00am at St David's Riverside followed by shared lunch
30 th Mon	

July and other dates 2014	
27 th July	Preaching Workshop
8 th August	TBF at St Helens
24 th August	CY&F Ministry Workshop
31 st August	Riverlinks Together

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
1 st	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
8 th	10:00 am	Communion	
15 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
22 nd	10:00 am	Communion	
29 th	-	No service	
George Town			
1 st	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
8 th	9:00 am	Low Head George Town	Morning Prayer Together @ 10.30
15 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
22 nd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
29 th	-	No services	
Riverside & Trevallyn			
1 st	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
8 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & worship
15 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
22 nd	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
29 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Riverlinks Together
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
8 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
15 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
22 nd	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office

399 West Tamar, Riverside - 6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Tasmanian Bible Forums

Hearing God's
Word together in
Tasmania



Revelation Unwrapped with Revd Dr Tim Foster

Saturday 21st June

10.00am - 3.00pm

@ St Aidan's Anglican Church
21-23 Arthur Street, East Launceston

\$15 (includes morning tea & lunch)

RSVP for catering by 17th June to Anne
e: office@riverlinks.net.au

p: 63274742

Creating faith conversations 1

Are you prepared to 'give an account for the hope you have'? What would you say when you're given an opportunity to share the good news? Can you tell someone the story of your spiritual journey?



Join us for part one of a workshop that will help prepare you for your role as a witness to Jesus, whether you're involved in a regular ministry setting or not.

When: Sunday 15 June 2014 1:30-3:30 pm
Where: St Aidan's Church Arthur St, East Launceston
What to bring: Bible, paper, pen
RSVP: by Thursday 12 June to James Oakley 6327 3482
kids_families@riverlinks.net.au



Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Saturday 21st June. 6:30 for 7pm start

Trivia Night

Tables of eight, \$10pp includes light supper

@ George Town Memorial Hall

Lots of giveaways & lots of fun!

Contact Louise to book

0474 508 164

Raising funds for Cancer Council Relay For Life

CAMP CLAYTON'S

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY CONFERENCE

6 - 9 JULY 14

6 - 9 July at Camp Clayton

Full Conference \$100

(includes all accommodation & meals)

Day Rego \$30 per day

Keynote speaker: Chris Pretorius

Register: www.campclayton.org.au/caymc14.html

Registrations close 27 June

More info: youthwork@campclayton.org.au 6425 1893

DISCIPLESHIP & MISSION WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY JUNE 14TH
9.30AM - 4.30PM**

**@ Longford Baptist Church,
159 Wellington Street, Longford**

This is the first one-day workshop aimed at introducing some of the core principles of discipleship and mission that Barneys have found really helpful in the local context, as well as sharing stories and offering a couple of helpful tools to equip churches and local people to be disciples who make disciples.

This will also be a great opportunity to network and connect with leaders and churches from across Tasmania who are keen to grow healthy churches with a strong emphasis in mission and discipleship.

\$50 per person, bookings and more info: www.tasbarneys.org/3dm

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Thanks to Ondrej Paska (See Matthew 14:24-33) 01-04-2008

**PETER FINDS HIS FAITH TO BE MUCH
STRONGER IN THE WINTER** 11

May Messy Church

Financial support for Children, Youth & Families Ministry

Envelopes are available in all our worship centres or from the Parish office, & deposits can be made directly to the Riverlinks CYF Ministry account:
067 600 1077 1716
Riverlinks Anglican Church



School Holiday Escape - The Rescue Mission



From Bishop
John's blog,
posted on
May 15.
imaginary
diocese.org/
bishopjohn/

Bishop John's
Presidential
Address to
SYNOD is
now available
online at
www.anglican
tas.org.au
or a hard copy
is available
on request
from the
Parish office

World's poor foot the bill for Budget repairs

I am appalled that the Australian Government has transferred the bill for our nation's debt burden to the world's poor. Yes, to the world's poor! May God have mercy on Australia!

We, Australia, are a wealthy nation and while we need to reduce our expenditure we should not be reducing it to the last and the least of the poor.

At the judgement of the nations, the righteous will answer the king, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And (Jesus) the king will answer them, *'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'* (Matthew 25:37-40)

Merciful God, open Australia's head and heart of generosity to the poor. Change this destructive policy in this Budget to a policy of care for the world's poor. In the name of Jesus Christ who exhorts us to this generosity, compassion and justice. Amen.

The Media Release from World Vision Australia (of which I am a Director) collects up a fuller response which articulates my response as a Bishop of the Church, although this is not a new area of concern for me re our previous Australian Government also failing the world's poor: [Australia's obligation to the poor.](#)

Further cuts to Australia's foreign aid budget mean Australia's overseas development assistance is contributing more savings than any other sector to the budget repair job, World Vision Australia said today.

"After receiving repeated reassurances that the aid and development budget would increase by CPI, the Budget papers reveal a freeze of the aid budget for the next two years," World Vision Australia CEO Tim Costello said.

"This represents a cut in real terms, and it will see a steady decline in the generosity of the aid program – both as a proportion of national income, and as a proportion of government expenditure.

"It is disheartening to see that the poorest people in the world will foot the bill for Australia's fiscal repairs," Mr Costello said.

Mr Costello said that while Australia was facing some fiscal challenges, the burden should not fall heavily on programs which assist the world's most vulnerable, including many of our closest neighbours.

"Of the major savings identified in the Budget forward estimates, more than 20 per cent comes from foreign aid – the biggest single contribution of any category.

"Australians are by nature generous people – this is demonstrated by strong support for charities and a huge range of community groups making up our strong civil society, which makes this budget completely out of step with Australians' own sense of responsibility to those less well off than us."

The Budget papers reveal the total slashed from the aid budget over five years is now estimated at \$7.6 billion.

The two-year freeze in the aid budget follows both sides of politics gutting the total aid budget and diverting aid funds to meet domestic asylum-seeker costs.

As a percentage of GNI, the foreign aid budget will decline from 0.33 per cent in the current financial year, to 0.29 per cent in 2017-18.

"Peace and prosperity across

our region is in our country's best interest and a well-targeted and effective aid program is an important contributor to this goal.

"Our overseas aid program delivers a stunning level of human benefit per dollar spent."

Mr Costello said World Vision acknowledged the Government's commitment to prioritising economic development, and welcomed recognition of the key role played by education, health and empowering women and girls, in enabling sustainable economic growth.

"Australia is well-placed to be a global leader in this year when we hold the G20 Presidency," Mr Costello said. "It's critical for our nation to embrace our global responsibilities and set other nations an example of good global citizenship."

World Vision looks forward to the release of the Government's aid policy statement, performance benchmarks and detailed country and sectoral funding breakdown, which will be crucial for meeting the Government's commitment to delivering an effective and transparent aid program.

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalm
82:3,4 NIV



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

Right & below:

“The Rescue
Mission” School
Holiday Escape



Below:
Café
Church



Contact us:

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

6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry