



# Newsletter October 2014

We, your people, will always thank you.  
We are like sheep with you as our shepherd,  
and all generations will hear us praise you.

Psalm 79: 13 <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

## Fighting The Inner Gourmet



So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

I have a well-thumbed copy of C. S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters*. For those who aren't familiar with the book, it is a fictional account of a series of letters from Screwtape, a senior devil, to his 'nephew' Wormwood, who is on his first tempter's assignment on earth. Through the eyes of these two devils, you get to trace the spiritual life of Wormwood's 'patient' as he becomes a Christian and then develops in faith until his death during WWII.

One chapter that stood out to me on re-reading it recently had Screwtape encouraging his nephew to lead the 'patient' around a string of different churches, rather than committing to worship at one. His reasoning was ...

*In the first place the parochial (local) organisation should always be attacked, because, being a unity of place and not of likings, it brings people of different classes and psychology together in the*

*kind of unity that the Enemy desires... In the second place, the search for a "suitable" church make the man a critic where the Enemy wants him to be a pupil.*

(Remember that this is fictional devil talking, so 'the Enemy' is how Screwtape refers to God.)

It seems to me that Lewis puts his finger on some dangers for modern Christians and our relationship with the body of Christ.

Firstly, we can develop an overly casual attitude to meeting regularly. Almost everything in our culture is a 'low-commitment' activity. (I know that there are some things that we *do* commit to firmly. We wouldn't dare miss footy training, or one of the kids soccer games! And that, on the whole, is a good thing.) But we only go shopping if we feel like it. We hold off on weekend plans until the last minute. We don't sign up for camps, buy concert tickets, book travel or make holiday commitments until the

eleventh hour. We click 'maybe' on facebook invitations.

This 'if I feel like it' attitude can very easily flow over into our church involvement. After all, society views it as a voluntary activity. And if we're not really going to get much out of it, then shouldn't we sleep in on Sunday and spend time with family?

The trouble with this attitude is that it neglects the very real claim that Jesus has on each of our lives. We do not belong to ourselves, but to Christ who bought us at the cost of his life (1 Cor 6:19-20). And although Paul was writing these words in the context of our sexual behaviour, the principle remains the same - what we consider 'ours' - our bodies, our minds, our thoughts, our time, our energy - really belongs to Him. And He has given us a clear pattern of regularly meeting with His people (eg Acts 2:42-47), and also clear instruction to continue meeting together (Heb 10:24-25). The purpose of this is to have the space and time to help each other

to hold fast to our faith (Heb 10:23), to stir each other up to good works (Heb 10:24), to exhort one another to righteousness and to resist the deceitfulness of sin (Heb 3:13), to be equipped for ministry, build up the body of Christ and grow to maturity in Christ (Eph 4:11-16).

Secondly, we modern Christians are at risk of church shopping. We are so spoiled for choice of where and how we worship, and whom we invite to disciple us. We have become 'church connoisseurs'.

*What He (God) wants of the layman in church is an attitude which may, indeed, be critical in the sense of rejecting what is false or unhelpful, but which is wholly uncritical in the sense that it does not appraise - does not waste time in thinking about what it rejects, but lays itself open in uncommenting, humble receptivity to any nourishment that is going ... There is hardly any sermon, or any book, which may not be dangerous to us if it is received in this temper.*

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

*Ephesians 4:11-15 NIV*

*continued  
from  
previous  
page*

So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Hebrews  
10:35-36 <sup>NIV</sup>

As Lewis remarks, we are at risk of developing an attitude towards the church (and I don't just mean Sunday services) that is critical, rather than receptive. Instead of giving where we can, and receiving from God what He has seen fit to provide, we place ourselves in a position of judgment on how church is done, or who it is done with. And if we are not please, we vote with our feet. No doubt there is a place for discernment - for ensuring that the members of our family are being fed, and that *what* they are being fed is true and biblical (e.g. Acts 17:11). But no church is perfect - every church should consciously be a hospital of the soul, where broken and sinful people come together to receive from God what they need for life. It is therefore important to settle, commit and contribute.

Thirdly, and most subtly, we can develop a 'gourmet' taste for church. True we might remain in the one faith community. We might attend regularly. But our attitude can remain hard and judgmental. Perhaps the

music wasn't really up to scratch. Or the sermon was dull. Or the bible study was superficial. Or the prayers weren't really very inspiring. Perhaps the flowers or banners or pew sheets or coffee or one of a hundred other details weren't quite right. And our attention is captured by these minute details such that we miss the presence of the living God! We miss his words to us. How ludicrous that we don't hear the words of the Creator of the Universe because we didn't like the first song!

So how can we avoid these pitfalls? And, for those of us with children or teenagers, how can we prepare them for church engagement in a way that helps them to receive what is available with gratitude and without grumbling? How can I prepare for church as a servant of Jesus and son of God, rather than as a consumer or a critic? (I'm grateful to John Piper for these observations, from his blog at [www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/how-do-you-prepare-for-sunday](http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/how-do-you-prepare-for-sunday))

1. We can **prepare to receive**.

We should expect to meet God as we hear His Word read and explained, as we sing His praises. We can prepare for this by *praying* for humble, grateful and receptive hearts. We can prepare by *reading in advance* the portions of Scripture that we expect to hear, and meditating on (or thinking about) them. With children, this might look like reading from a child-friendly bible translation (CEV and NIV are great translations), and praying simply with them the God would speak to us. These are useful things to do before meeting with God's people in any setting - Sunday service, weekday evening home group, prayer group etc.

2. We can **prepare to respond**.

We should not expect to remain unmoved by God's presence among us! We should *pray* that God would create soft hearts in us, that will respond to Him in love and obedience. We might *reflect on* and *repent of* anything that stands in the way of us responding to God.

3. We can **prepare to serve**

**others**. God chooses to use ordinary people to build up and bless each other. What an amazing privilege! God can use everyone, from the smallest and least of us, to those with the highest profile and most obvious gifts. Your part might be a prayer with someone, an encouraging word to a child, a challenging question for a friend, a kind gesture to a stranger, or a warm greeting to a newcomer. We can prepare by *praying* that God will use us to edify the church, and by *discussing* beforehand the opportunities that might be presented. Particularly with children, it can be helpful to talk over, even role play, a new situation before they encounter it.

So don't play into the hands of our enemy! Make the most of your time with God and His people, approaching Him, and them, with gentle, humble, receptive hearts.

James



Dear God,  
Help me log on  
without fretting  
Guide me, as I  
am interneting

Bless my  
downloading  
and uploading

Keep my  
browser from  
exploding

May my  
website be  
protected.

Let not my  
password be  
rejected

Keep my line  
always

connected

And all my  
inputs be  
accepted.

Please protect  
my computer  
from crashing

drive

And to  
remember to  
back up my  
hard drive.

Amen

# Riverlinks

October 2014	
<b>1st Wed</b>	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> <b>Healing Service</b> – 10:00am at St Oswald's <b>Men's Shed</b> – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside <b>Home &amp; Study Groups</b> – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
<b>2nd Thur</b>	<i>(each Thursday)</i> <b>mainly music</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's
<b>3rd Fri</b>	<i>(each Friday)</i> <b>KYB Study Group</b> – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town <b>Youth Group</b> – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston <b>Fellowship Night</b> – 6:30pm at George Town
<b>4th Sat</b>	<b>Women's Breakfast</b> – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton <b>Men's Bible Conference</b> – 10:00am at The Branch Kings Meadows <b>CMS Annual Meeting</b> – 12:30pm for lunch & 3:00pm for meeting at Christ Church Longford
<b>5th Sun</b>	<b>Kids' Church</b> – 10:30am at St Oswald's <b>Messy Church</b> – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
<b>6th Mon</b>	
<b>7th Tue</b>	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> <b>Prayer Group</b> – 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
<b>8th Wed</b>	

October 2014	
<b>9th Thur</b>	<b>Crafty Circle</b> – 10:00am at St David's <b>Parish Council meeting</b> – 7:30pm
<b>10th Fri</b>	<b>Tasmanian Youth Convention</b> at Bicheno
<b>11th Sat</b>	<b>Tasmanian Youth Convention</b>
<b>12th Sun</b>	<b>Tasmanian Youth Convention</b>
<b>13th Mon</b>	<b>Cadorna</b> – 2:00pm
<b>14th Tue</b>	<b>International Pregnancy &amp; Infant Loss Remembrance Event</b> – 7:00pm at "Dayspring" 8 Hobart Road Kings Meadows
<b>15th Wed</b>	<b>SW Healing Service</b> – 10:00am at St Oswald's <b>St Oswald's Fellowship Group</b> – 2:00pm <b>Ainslie Service</b> – 2:15pm
<b>16th Thur</b>	<b>SW Card Making</b> – 10:00am at St David's <b>Prescare Legana</b> – 10:45am
<b>17th Fri</b>	<b>SW "Hearing The Sounds You Love"</b> – 11:00am at St David's <b>Fellowship Night</b> – 6:30pm at George Town
<b>18th Sat</b>	
<b>19th Sun</b>	<b>CY&amp;F Ministry Workshop</b> – 1:30pm to 3:30pm at St Aidan's East Launceston

The **deadline** for the November Newsletter edition is **24th October**

# Calendar

October 2014	
20 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
21 <sup>st</sup> Tue	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
24 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
25 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
26 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Preaching Workshop – 2:00pm in the Parish office  CCCGT Messy Church – 4:30pm at the Catholic Church
27 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
28 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
29 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
30 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
31 <sup>st</sup> Fri	* Parish office closed *
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	

November and other dates 2014	
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Bible Society Public Talk with Michael Raiter - 7:30 to 9pm at Door of Hope
14 <sup>th</sup> November	Preaching Workshop with Michael Raiter - 9am to 1pm at St Aidan's
30 <sup>th</sup> November	Riverlinks Together 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday & Farewell to David & Julie Rogers-Smith with Bishop John at St Aidan's

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
5 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
19 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Baptist Church	Communion Combined Service
26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Baptism
Riverside & Trevallyn			
5 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Kids' Church
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
26 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
12 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
26 <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)



**MEN'S BIBLE**  
Conference

# Habakkuk

TRUSTING GOD IN DANGEROUS TIMES with PETER ADAM

**Saturday 4 October, 2014**  
The Branch Christian Church  
2 Innocent Street, Kings Meadows  
(parking behind Woolworths)

Registrations from 10.00am To register phone 6334 8145 or  
\$20 payable on the day Email: mens.bible.conf@gmail.com



## Preaching Workshop

David's final preaching workshop will be held on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October** 2-4pm in the Parish office

Working with God's help to be DEEP preachers  
Disciplined in preparation  
Engaging in communication  
Edifying in content  
Passionate – convinced & convincing



## CMS –TASMANIA INC

The Annual General Meeting of Members of CMS Tasmania will be held on



**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014, 3 pm**  
**at Christ Church Longford**

The AGM will follow a lunch at 12.30pm and a meeting at 1.30 pm celebrating the work of CMS

## Creative Storytelling

Whether in a formal setting or an informal one, a story well told is memorable, enjoyable, and an effective way to communicate truth to adults and children alike



**When:** Sunday 19 October 1:30-3:30 pm  
**Where:** St Aidan's Church Arthur St, East Launceston  
**What to bring:** Bible, paper, pen  
**More info:** James Oakley 6327 3482 or kids\_families@riverlinks.net.au





## SHARE International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Event

**7 pm on 14 October at Dayspring,**  
8 Hobart Rd, Kings Meadows

A memorial event remembering babies who have died from miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death or infant loss

For more details contact Robyn on 0419 544 110 or  
[robyn@rmcounselling.com.au](mailto:robyn@rmcounselling.com.au)



## Seniors Week in Riverlinks

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October , 10am**  
Healing service with Holy Communion  
at St Oswald's

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 10am**  
Card making at St David's

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 11am**  
"Hearing the sounds you love"

- a presentation on the benefits of early intervention of hearing loss, negative effects hearing loss has on relationships & overall quality of life, encouraging more awareness, openness and discussion on hearing loss in the community. Presented by Natalie Sankey from Australian Hearing.

Free hearing checks will be conducted by Australian Hearing at approximately 1pm after the presentation and lunch.

Gold coin donation.

Bookings essential - Parish office 6327 4742



**Preaching Workshop with Michael Raiter**  
"Preaching that connects - bringing  
God's Word into people's lives"

**Friday 14 November, 9am-1pm**  
at St Aidan's East Launceston

**PLUS**

**GOD'S STORY | OUR STORY**  
HOW THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO OUR SOULS



**A Public Talk by Michael Raiter**  
**Thursday 13 November, 7:30-9pm**  
at Door of Hope Auditorium, South L'ton

Our stories define us: who we are and what we believe. They speak of the meaning, purpose and hope we desire for our lives. Yet God is increasingly absent from our cultural stories in Australia. At the same time there seems to be a deeper hunger in us for something better. Could there be a connection? Come and hear how our stories and the story of the Bible may actually intersect.

You can find out more at  
[www.biblesociety.org.au/events](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/events)  
or contact the Bible Society 1300 242 537



# Youth Outreach

## ***Pun Liners***

*Just went to a very emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.*

*Two fish are in a tank. One turns to the other and asks "How do you drive this thing?"*

*My friend recently got crushed by a pile of books, but he's only got his shelf to blame.*

Most of you know or know of Job Edmunds, our trainee youth worker. Job has been working with us for the past 18 months, primarily building up and working in our youth ministry with our partners at St John's Launceston. Well recently we've had an exciting opportunity to expand Job's hours and role with us.

Thanks to a generous grant from Clarendon Children's Services, and from the Diocese of Tasmania, we will be able to employ Job for 30 hours per week (he currently has 12), to:

- Connect with disadvantaged and 'at risk' youths in high schools in disadvantaged areas of Launceston and George Town;
- Connect with youths who are involved in the criminal justice system, and who are at risk of a custodial sentence;
- To act as a 'bridge' between these youths experiencing disadvantage, and volunteers from the parish of Riverlinks;

This is an exciting opportunity for our mission to our local community, and Job is absolutely the right person for the job! But the initiative will only work if we are able to get behind him and support him – if the local community sees us connecting with young people because we love God and love them! This is where the opportunity is for real growth of the Kingdom, and for real transformation in the lives of young people.

Please commit with me to praying for Job and the young people he will meet, and for volunteers to step up and offer what they can. There are opportunities for active people, intellectuals, artists, craftspeople, and for just about anyone who doesn't see themselves in one of these categories! Please consider how God might be calling you to invest your time, talents and treasures into these youths and into His Kingdom!

God bless!

*James Oakley*

# Am I Finely Tuned Or Highly Strung?

I am all for precision. Believe me, it can mean the difference between pain and pleasure, hurt and healing, death and life.

## Medical Precision

I had a total knee replacement recently and I wanted the doctor and his team of blue-coated, blue-masked and blue-capped scalpel-wielding assistants to go in for precision overkill.

Robotics, computer generated models, keyhole surgery, second opinions; bring them on. I wanted nothing left to chance, guesswork or near enough is good enough. I wanted, and I want exactitude.

## Relational Precision

This different kind of precision is no less critical.

We must treat each other with care and compassion. With humility and understanding. With gentleness and grace. With integrity and truthfulness. This is relational precision.

And when we fail to do this, we must seek to amend,

heal, restore and reconcile. This, too, is relational precision.

I spoke to a person abruptly the other day and I quickly sought to address the matter and the manner. Even if I thought the matter was one of principle, the manner still needed remedial attention.

Yes, I am all for relational precision

## Theological Precision

I've been in my share of theological debates and battles. I've won. I've lost. We've called it a draw. Some have been with the enemy. Many have been with people on my own team.

Through all the blood, bruises and body blows, has it been worth it? Is it really a matter of life and death? Of heaven or hell? Pleasure or pain?

Am I, are you, are we, finely tuned or highly strung?

I make no apology for seeking to be as finely tuned as I can be. But forgive me when I have been too highly strung.

David Mansfield



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

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

*Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point*

*There is no such person as a person without influence*

*J. A. Motyer*

**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

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otherwise stated



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