

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

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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 20th
of each month unless
otherwise stated

HILLWOOD
USUAL UNUSUAL
CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Tuesday 16th December, 7pm



in the Hillwood Hall Jetty Road,
Hillwood
Please bring a plate of supper to share
afterwards

Jesus is the
Reason
for the
Season

**Christmas Carol
Celebration**
Sunday 14th December
4:00pm
featuring Riverside
Primary School Choirs
Celebrate the season
& join us after for a free Sausage Sizzle
at St David's Church
399 West Tamar Rd Riverside

Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)
6327 4742 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry
6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website www.riverlinks.net.au

**Messy
Christmas**
Sunday
7 December
4.30 – 6.30pm
Light meal
provided
St Aidan's Church
21-23 Arthur St, East Launceston

riverlinks

**Newsletter
December
2014**

a child
has been
born for us,
a son is given
to us;
authority rests
upon him; and
he is named



*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



From the ex-Enabler

Life-changing lessons from everyday life

Just when you thought I'd gone and closed the door after me, here I am...for the *last* time; I promise!

I'm leaving you with a series of snapshots of life on this crazy planet that I've observed recently and what they made me think of. I think you'll find that they pretty much add up to what I've stood for among you over these past eight years together...



This is an amazing picture: fiery lavafalls from a lava flow from Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii. Since June 27, the flow has

crawled more than 21 kilometres, destroying cemeteries and homes in its path. You can see at the top of the picture where the lava burned through a wire fence and cascaded down a hill. It eventually consumed the entire slope, and pulled parts of the fence along with it before eating through the asphalt road below!

Here's the life-changing truths this reminds me of:

- God's Final Judgment is moving steadily towards humanity. We can't stop it, and like the towns in the lava flow's path, we can't escape it (Rev 20:11-15).
- God is slow to anger. That means he doesn't spontaneously blow up in anger. His anger is measured, just and perfectly

... but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

For in this

- Well, for a start, like the brave soul in the cage, we can sometimes feel trapped or overwhelmed by life's circumstances – poor health, difficult relationships, financial challenges, seemingly unsolvable problems, disappointing marriages, problem kids, work-related stress...Presumably the person in the shark cage had enough after a while and got out of there! What if we can't? Or what if we are exactly where God wants us to be, for now? He is sovereign over that monster shark and over all the 'monsters' in your life (Rom 8:28-29). Don't panic. Don't worry. Don't be angry. God is sovereign over all the sharks circling around your cage at the moment. Trust him. And when you do, he promises to be the cage around your heart and mind, guarding them with his supernatural peace (Phil 4:6-7). And resolve not to sink into the troubled waters of self-pity ('Why me, God?'). You already get far more blessing than you deserve and in Christ you will be spared the lava flow of God's Judgment that you do deserve (Rom 5:9-11). Resolve to learn the secret of contentment 'in any and every circumstance': knowing and experiencing God's enabling in ALL the deep waters of life (Phil 4:11-13).

- The world is a very insecure and threatening place to live – be it in Iraq, Syria, Northern Nigeria or our own finite and fragile bodies. In this realm we are as vulnerable as the person in the shark cage; but in the spiritual realm we have a mighty fortress in our God (Ps 46). *He* guards us by his divine power for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time (1 Pet 1:5). God is our cage. Moreover, in Jesus God knows firsthand and therefore sympathises with our human weaknesses (Heb 4:14-15). There is therefore mercy and grace to help us in our time of need (Heb 4:16).

So...with confidence keep drawing near to the throne of grace for understanding and help. God is sovereign. God is trustworthy. God is our peace, our fortress, our help.

Warmly,
David

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

Burton Hillis

Probably the reason we all go so haywire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained and often silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words.

Harlan Miller

continued from previous page

As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.

Donald E. Westlake

- What are you going to do to ensure people will never be able to insert your name in 1 Timothy 1:20? Do what God says through his apostle: don't let go of but hold firmly onto the gospel and a good conscience; each conditions the other, but faith in the apostolic gospel is primary. Keep actively recalling, reliving and rejoicing in the good news of Jesus – each day, in your home group, one-to-one with other believers, and at church. Keep being instructed and encouraged by the Scriptures and the people of God, so you don't 'wander away' into false beliefs and false living (1 Tim 1:6).
- Notice that the extreme action of expelling such people from the Christian fellowship isn't so much punitive as remedial. It is God's discipline 'in order that *they may learn* not to blaspheme' (1 Tim 1:20b; cf. 1 Cor 5:1-13; & see 2 Tim 2:25-26). Repentance (a change of mind leading to a change of life) is the goal. The church's leadership needs to understand and be willing to apply this teaching. It isn't loving to let others wander away from the faith; and if they hang around a while, they corrupt others. We need to be like the concerned fellow boat owners in the picture. Alert to what's happening, on deck and on duty, ready and able to help restore the sinking and the shipwrecked.

I'm mad about sharks and I love this picture! You'd have to be glad not to be those doomed fish dangling on the hook; but the person who took this amazing photo seems to have been somewhat vulnerable as well. That's a mighty big gap in the cage to the left of the picture!

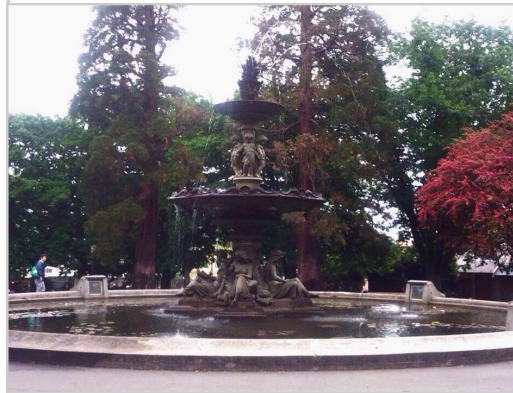


What, you might be asking, does *this* illustrate? I'm glad you asked!

timed. The Day of Judgment has been fixed. There is a Day and a Judge (Ac 17:31).

- The Day is coming slowly because the Lord Jesus 'is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance' (2 Pet 3:9).
- Some of the Hawaiian locals welcomed the lava flow with flowers! They see it as an important part of the natural world. Similarly, God's people welcome and even long for the Day (Rom 8:23-25); it will be a perfectly fitting, necessary and just End to this present evil age. God's faithful people will be vindicated and his enemies punished (Rev 6:9-17). The whole natural creation will welcome Judgment Day (Ps 96:10-13). It longs for God's righteous judgment and to 'be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God' (Rom 8:21; cf. 8:19).

So...are we living for the Day, waiting patiently, expectantly, faithfully and fruitfully? Are our lives centred on living for the Kingdom and its advance in the world?



Recognise this majestic fountain? Yep, it sits at the centre of Prince's Square in Launceston. Did you know that it was once a site of rowdy political meetings and hangings? I love fountains, be it this

one or the smaller one in City Park. I find them to be an oasis in the grey landscape of the city; a place to be still and calm, a place of rest and refreshment to soothe the soul; even a place of cleansing for naughty children and grimy coins!

hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Romans 8:23-25 NIV

continued
from
previous
page

By that will,
we have
been made
holy through
the sacrifice
of the body of
Jesus Christ
once for all.
For by one
sacrifice he
has made
perfect
forever those
who are
being made
holy.

Hebrews
10:10,14 NIV

Okay so you probably know where I am heading with this:

- Ask your preachers to do a series on the visions in the prophet Zechariah. I recently discovered how magnificent those visions are in their revelation of our great God and his great gospel. God's people are back from their exile in the Land but God's grand promises of restoration are yet to be fully realised. One of the book's last and most wonderful promises is this: God says,

On that day there shall be a *fountain opened* for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, *to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness* (Zech 13:1).

It is interesting that Prince's Square was once a site of rowdy political meetings and hangings, with its majestic fountain right at the centre of the square. Jesus was *hung*, on a cross, surrounded by a rowdy mob with political and religious agendas. The Bible insists that Jesus' cross stands at the *very centre* of world history and God's eternal purposes. Why? Because on the cross God in Jesus offered an unrepeatable sacrifice for sins, by which 'we have been *sanctified...perfected* for all time' (Heb 10:10, 14)! Similarly, John says: 'the blood of Jesus his Son *cleanses us* from all sin' (1 Jn 1:7). And how can we forget Jesus' foot washing of the disciples, the enacted parable which pointed to his death and memorably taught his followers the way of sacrificial service? When it was his turn to have his feet washed by Jesus, foot in mouth sufferer, Peter, blurted out, 'You shall never wash my feet.' What did Jesus say to him? 'If I do not *wash you*, you have no share with me' (Jn 13:8). Of course Jesus is referring to the cleansing from the guilt and pollution of sin that his death on the cross provides. We cannot possibly belong to him unless we lay aside our pride and self-justification and submit to *that* cleansing. But how wonderful when we do! Our spirit and conscience are cleansed from the dreadful stain of our evil rebellion

From the ex-Enabler continued ...



I took this photo in early November down at Seaport. It was also reported in the local news. After all, it's not every day that a boat is found half-sunk with the muddy waters of the Tamar breaching its deck. And

notice that it's got company: Concerned fellow boat owners discussing together what needs to be done.

I am immediately reminded of the apostle Paul's charge to Timothy:

that...you may wage the good warfare, holding on to faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have *made shipwreck of the faith*, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme (1 Tim 1:18b-20).

- Hymenaeus and Alexander had been members of the early church. They'd believed in Jesus as Lord and sat in fellow believers' homes for meals and church. Now they have been put out of the fellowship of God's people into the world (Satan's domain). What happened? Be it gradually or suddenly, they rejected their conscience and in turn the gospel ('the faith'). We know from the rest of the Pastoral Letters that this invariably leads to immorality (Titus 1:15; 2 Tim 3:1-5). The Christian conscience knows that the gospel and the morality it generates are true. Resist or reject what our conscience says about that and we will reject the gospel itself. We will resemble the little wooden boat in the picture: a shipwrecked faith and up to our neck in the murky waters of heresy and immorality.



Christmas gift suggestions

To your
enemy,
forgiveness.

To an
opponent,
tolerance.

To a friend,
honour
above
yourself.

To a
customer,
service.

To all,
charity.

To every
child,
a good
example.

To yourself,
respect.

To Jesus,
your heart.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you were born into the chaos of human history, and you lived and died with violence, oppression, and the shadow of war.
Send your Spirit of peace to all who live in this moment of history, and breathe new hope for the whole human race. Turn fear and hatred to trust and understanding. Change greed and selfishness to generosity and care.
Teach us to love you in every person created in God's image, and to spread the peace you died and rose again to bring.
Amen.

Left behind: snatched away in Iraq

Northern Iraq is full of broken lives. For every person rescued there is a cost. Here is a report from the front line that is confronting, but true.

Aida Hanna, her husband, and her four children were amongst those evicted from Mosul in Iraq's Nineveh Province, in July. Before the forcible removal of all the Christians, Aida's husband arranged for the eldest three children to escape. The youngest, a three-year-old girl, stayed behind with her parents. They hid out in their home for two weeks, eventually running out of food.

On the day they were ordered to leave Mosul, they took their daughter and walked to the bus that would take them to another city. Sitting in the bus, Aida noticed that the soldiers were looking at her daughter and talking among themselves. She grabbed her daughter firmly. But suddenly, one soldier came to her, snatched her daughter fiercely and took her off the bus. Aida followed him while screaming and begging him to let go of her daughter. Her husband was shouting for mercy too. The leader of the rebels threatened to shoot them both and he forced them back on to the bus.

"These moments were the hardest in my life", said Aida, "I felt that I was dead, unconscious of my surroundings, my heart was as cold as ice. I wished they could kill me, better than leaving my daughter behind."

Aida and her husband left their home country without knowing what happened to their three year old daughter. They don't know whether their daughter is dead or alive. The father feels guilty for not protecting his child. Aida's heart is weeping over her great loss.

Despite this dreadful situation, Aida's family believes that God is in control and they pray that their daughter comes back to them alive. Their hope and refuge are in God, the only one who can heal their broken hearts.

Report from a Bible Society worker in Iraq, this article first appeared at www.biblesociety.org.au

against God. Who needs the River Ganges or some or other pilgrimage when we have this glorious fountain opened by God himself? Why live your days with the guilt and stain of sin that no amount of religion or ritual or 'good living' can remove? Wash here in God's fountain. Be fresh and free all day every day! Tell others where they can wash, too. It's free, it's never closed.

- And keep immersing yourself in it, too. While the disciples didn't need a 'bath' because of Jesus' death, they still needed their 'feet' washed (Jn 13:10). We are justified once and for all time by faith in Jesus' death (Rom 5:1-11), but we still need daily cleansing for the grime that collects on our feet (1 Jn 1:8-9; Mt 6:12).
- Remember our first picture? The unstoppable, all-consuming lava flow that illustrates God's coming Judgment? The good news of the gospel is that God has opened a fountain that provides escape and shelter from the fire that's coming. My message to you and your church's message to others is: get in and stay in!
- Take another look at the picture. Did you notice what surrounds the fountain in Prince's Square? Beautiful leafy trees, including my favourite: Tasmanian Oaks. The prophet Isaiah foresaw that the Spirit-endowed Servant of God (the Messiah) would have a people called 'oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified' (Isa 61:3). Through Jesus' sacrifice, God calls, cleanses and plants his people in his world that he may be glorified. Like the trees in the square, we are all at different stages of our growth; but we should all be growing and glorifying God. And we will do that when we trust God in the hard times (Jer 17:7-8), delighting in his word and his ways (Ps 1).

continued on page 13 ...

If we walk
in the
light,
as he is
in the light,
we have
fellowship
with one
another,
and the
blood of
Jesus,
his Son,
purifies us
from all sin.

1 John 1:7

NIV

The Three Stages Of Life

One: You believe in Father Christmas.

Two: You don't believe in Father Christmas.

Three: You are Father Christmas.

Why is Christmas just like another day at the office?

You end up doing all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.

Operation Christmas Child End of year report

Well it's hard to imagine that Christmas is just around the corner. Have you been busy, frantic, or using this time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas? Well hundreds of thousands of children around the world caught up in war, famine, natural disaster, poverty & disease, who don't know Jesus let alone why we celebrate Christmas will have the joy of experiencing God's love through a simple Shoe Box gift. More importantly they will have the opportunity of hearing & learning about Jesus & His amazing love for them. As Samaritan's Purse's National Partners deliver the Shoe Boxes, relationships are formed with the local community & the door is open to share the love of Christ as well as providing practical long term help in their communities, to ease the burden of living in poverty & provide hope for a brighter future.

This is the "Power of a Simple Gift" which the Riverlinks community has embraced over the many years of involvement, & I thank you. This year 200 Christmas boxes were lovingly packed by the Riverlinks community, that is 200 children's lives we have impacted for Christ's sake. 200 children who will know that someone cares & is thinking of them, 200 children's lives changed for the better forever. That is certainly a reason to Praise our Lord, who gives good gifts to us as well, so that we may pass the blessings on to others less fortunate. As I John 3:18 says "You show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it." No matter what contribution you made, whether it was putting boxes together or buying items to go in, donations of money to cover the project costs, helping me at the Drop Off Centre or being part of my prayer team, please accept my sincere thanks for being part of God's team as we reach out to desperately poor children of the world with His love & hope.



Parish Office UG shop is now open

Cards available for immediate collection, priced from \$5

Payments accepted by cash, cheque or credit card



Faith and the Arts Summer School @ Poatina

Faith and the Arts Summer School is a practical week-long residential program that offers the chance to focus on a variety of creative arts in the context of a Christian faith community.

This summer Faith and the Arts will run from 4th - 11th January in the Poatina village. Choose from electives in music, dance, painting & drawing, jewellery, printmaking and more.

Register online

www.poatinaarts.org.au

More info: facebook.com/poatinaarts

The Summer School is suitable for any adult or mature teenager who is wanting to explore their creativity and develop artistic skill in the context of a supportive faith community. Participants choose just one elective to focus on for the week and whilst artistic experience is helpful, it is not required for most electives. Kid's Faith and the Arts (for primary school aged kids to age 13), is an exciting and integrated week of multi-disciplinary experience grounded in faith expression.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Christmas services in Riverlinks

Messy Christmas - St Aidan's East Launceston

4:30pm Sunday 7th December

Christmas Carol Celebration - St David's Riverside

4pm Sunday 14th December

Usual Unusual Christmas Service - Hillwood Hall

7pm Tuesday 16th December

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

St Alban's Pipers River - 7pm

St Oswald's Trevallyn - 11pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

St Mary Magdalene's George Town - 8am

St David's Riverside - 9am



CMS SummerView

Summerview 2015: 15-18 January | Camp Banksia, Port Sorell

SummerView is a conference and retreat for Christians who want to be inspired and challenged through good teaching, stimulating speakers and fellowship with others to learn more about God. It is the perfect opportunity to find out more about global mission and be encouraged to become more actively involved in God's work.

Participate in stimulating worship, Bible teaching, prayer times, electives and group discussions, as well as hearing from experienced speakers on mission.

This year we have collected 3367 Christmas Shoe Boxes from the Launceston & Tamar communities. Every year I am amazed & humbled that we collect so many, in light of our own economic climate. I can only conclude that GOD continues to faithfully fulfill His purposes, through us. This will go along way in helping Tasmania reach its goal of 18,000. My State Manager, Jenny Baxter has informed us that a 40ft container filled with Shoe Boxes is being shipped to precious children in Thailand & a 20ft container is heading for Cambodia. in light of the implementation of the "The Greatest Journey", a 12 week disciples hip course, in Thailand, Cambodia, PNG & Fiji, & the statistics of children finishing the course accepting the Lord as their personal Saviour, being 1 child in 3, we have great cause to Praise the Lord that we have touched so many children's lives with a gift of Hope this year.

Once again, thank you & I look forward to working & sharing with you all again next year. For who knows what we can achieve when we commit everything to GOD.

God bless you all.

Josie Ford

*Church & Community Relations Coordinator
Launceston & Tamar Valley
Operation Christmas Child*



Riverlinks

December 2014	
1 st Mon	MST Meeting – 6:45pm in the Parish Office
2 nd 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
3 rd Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home – 7:30pm St Oswald's
4 th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5 th 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
6 th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St Johns L'ton
7 th Sun	Messy Christmas – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
9 th Tue	Combined MST & PC Christmas Dinner – 6:30pm at the Pier Hotel George Town
***** Please check with your own Home Group for end of year break up, recess & 2015 restart dates *****	

December 2014	
10 th Wed	
11 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's PresCare – 10:45am Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 th Fri	
13 th Sat	George Town Christmas Parade – 6:00pm & GT Carols by Candlelight – 7:30pm
14 th Sun	Christmas Carol Celebration – 4:00pm at St David's followed by a sausage sizzle Launceston Carols By Candlelight – 7:00pm in City Park
15 th Mon	
16 th Tue	Usual Unusual Christmas Service – 7:00pm at Hillwood Hall
17 th Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 th Thur	
19 th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town
20 th Sat	

Calendar

December 2014	
21 st Sun	
22 nd Mon	
23 rd Tue	
24 th Wed	*** Christmas Eve *** Pipers River – 7:00pm Trevallyn – 11:00pm
25 th Thur	*** Christmas Day *** George Town – 8:00am Low Head – 9:00am East Launceston – 9:00am Riverside – 9:00am
26 th Fri	*** Boxing Day ***
27 th Sat	Tasmanian Christian Convention 27 th December to 2 nd January at Camp Clayton
28 th Sun	
29 th Mon	
30 th Tue	
31 st Wed	
***** Parish office closes 1pm on Christmas Eve & will reopen 19 th January 2015 *****	

January and other dates 2015	
27 th December - 2 nd January	Tasmanian Christian Convention at Camp Clayton
15 th -18 th January	CMS SummerView at Camp Banksia

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
	4:30 pm	Messy Church	
14 th	10:00 am	Communion	
21 st	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
25 th	10:00 am	Communion	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 th	9:00 am	Hillwood	Communion
	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
14 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
		George Town	Together @ 10.30
16 th	7:00 pm	Hillwood	Usual Unusual
21 st	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
24 th	7:00 pm	Pipers River	Communion
25 th	8:00 am	George Town	Communion
	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
28 th	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
14 th	4:00 pm	Riverside	Christmas Carol Celebration
21 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
24 th	11:00 pm	Trevallyn	Communion
25 th	9:00 am	Riverside	Communion
28 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
14 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
21 st	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
28 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

The **deadline** for the Christmas Newsletter edition is **15th December**

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

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