



Newsletter September 2015

Fig trees may no longer bloom,
or vineyards produce grapes;
olive trees may be fruitless,
and harvest time a failure;
sheep pens may be empty,
and cattle stalls vacant—
but I will still celebrate
because the Lord God saves me.

Habakkuk 3:17,18 CEV

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



Saying No to the Good and Doing the **next right thing...**

A WORD TO THE WISE

A budget helps
us to live below
our yearnings

To lead the
orchestra you
must turn your
back on the
crowd

Well done is
better than
well said

I shouldn't be, and yet I am always surprised at just how busy life for those inside the church can be. Just to organise a Sunday morning gathering, there are an enormous number of questions that we consider, whether consciously or subconsciously: which liturgy is appropriate? Are we celebrating communion? Which music shall we sing? Who is going to play the music? Who is going to read the bible passages? Who is going to preach? Is there **going to be a children's talk**, if so, who and on what? Who is leading communion? Who is leading prayers? What should we pray for? Who is going to welcome any visitors? Who is running morning tea? Who is going to set up anything? Who is going to clean up afterwards? Who is going to run the sound desk? Who is going to put together the Powerpoint presentation? That many of these questions are grouped together and answered in individual roles, such as the

service leader, does nothing to eliminate that these are all functional questions of operating a Sunday worship gathering.

And that doesn't even begin to scratch the surface of the wider life of the church: bible studies, fellowship group, leadership teams, youth group, Mainly music, Messy Church, Discipleship huddles, **Mentoring, craft groups...**

And then we have external Christian activities: Bible Society, volunteering in City Mission or Anglicare, **Gideons, CMS...**

And then we have external things, you know really basic stuff like family, household stuff and work, sporting clubs, and those other people that we like to spend time with – **you know, friends...**

I don't know about you, but I think that I grew another 5 grey hairs just reading through that list. It seems like there is a constant barrage of ideas and activities pressing in against us, asking for

attention, asking for time, asking for our focus. And if you look carefully in that list, **I didn't even include some of** the most important aspects of life: eating, sleeping, and spending time with God in prayer and reading his word. We are extraordinarily good at filling our calendars with a whole lot of good stuff.

I know that myself, I have felt and expressed frustration at how busy I feel at times, and I have certainly heard others express a similar frustration. Especially when so much of what we are involved in is *good*.

It is *good* that we would **gather as God's people** to worship him, and that in preparing to do so, that we would consider carefully each aspect of that gathering, as it reflects publicly on our understanding of who God is and who he has called us together as his people to be.

It is *good* that we would run outreach activities, or be part of the life of the body of Christ, building one another up and encouraging one another.

It is *good* that we would contribute through other participation, to the betterment of society, and be a Christian influence in broader society.

It is *very good* that we would care for our families, invest in relationships with others, and live out our Christian faith publicly, that we might be salt and light.

And it is absolutely *vital* that we would take care of ourselves.

So how are we meant to figure all of this out?

In seeking to answer this question, I have been reflecting on the image of the vine and the branches that Jesus paints for us in John 15.

Left to itself, a branch will look for the light and grow in that direction, and often I think this is the way that we approach ideas and activities in the church. We see an opportunity, we assess it as good and we pursue it. But **that isn't actually the pattern** that Jesus speaks of – instead he says, **"Abide in me, and I will grow you, and you will**



To be almost saved is to be totally lost

A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small package

Christianity is meant to be bread for daily use, not cake for special occasions

Nothing ruins the truth like stretching it

*continued
from
previous
page*

bear fruit". In other words, instead of looking around for light to grow towards, we need to get back to Jesus and seek his direction. Abide in Christ, and let him direct our growth and ensure our fruitfulness. And this applies to us together as the community of Christ, as well as individually.

Sometimes this will absolutely mean saying no to good things, but if Jesus is the source, it will always mean saying yes to the best!

And it would be remiss of me to point out that sometimes it will also mean pruning, because sometimes for us to grow and be fruitful, there are things that God needs to **prune first. I'm no gardener,** but in my mind, 3 reasons for pruning may be:

- Removing spent wood – sometimes there are things that we are doing, that under God have served their purpose, and for our branch to grow as it should, it is time for these things to be cut out.
- Disease – sometimes God needs to cut out of our

lives sinfulness – it might be wrong attitudes, it might be idolatry, it might be pride, it might be self-sufficiency.

- Shaping – sometimes **we're just growing in the** wrong direction and careful pruning will reshape us to be growing once more in the direction we should be.

The two active players in our growth, personally and corporately, are our vine, and our gardener. We need to abide in the vine, and let the gardener prune us, if we are to stop just being busy, and feeling tired and overwhelmed, and get on with being fruitful in Christ.

Sometimes, even when we are growing in the right track, we are going to go through seasons of being busy – and if we let it, it can threaten to overwhelm us and make us feel weary. I have had weeks in recent times which have felt like that – where I have questioned myself whether I am actually living out a life that starts with Christ, shaped by God. And being busy, doing what Christ calls

Rejoice
always,
pray
continually,
give thanks
in all
circumstances;
for this is God's
will for you in
Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians
5:16-18 ^{NIV}

us to do as we abide in him, **won't make us weary** (or make our hair prematurely grey!), because Jesus says that his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Mat. 11:30).

In those moments, I have been reminded of words my dad used to sing (they come from 1 Peter by the way): *Cast your burdens, onto Jesus, for he cares for you.* And then I remember that when I feel that way, Jesus invites me to come to him, and find rest in him, for his yoke is easy and his burden is light (Mat. 11:28-30).

So my job, as a follower of Jesus, is not to sweat the big stuff and allow it to overwhelm me, but to abide in Jesus, and step by step, take the long, slow walk of faith, and trust in my very big God. In recent times, I have come across a saying that helps with that walk, particularly when the big

picture threatens to overwhelm;

“Do it immediately, do it with prayer, do it reliantly, casting all care.

Do it with reverence, tracing His hand, who placed it before thee with earnest command.

Stayed on omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing, leave all resultings, do the next right thing” – Unknown author

So let me close with some questions for us to consider, both as individuals and as a community.

Are our choices beginning with Jesus? Are we truly abiding in Christ?

Are there areas in our own lives, or in the life of the community, that God needs to prune?

What is the next, right thing for you to do, as you pursue **God's will and his Glory?**

Josh

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew
6:19-21 NIV



Riverlinks

September 2015	
1 st Tue	<p><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 in the Parish office – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's</p>
2 nd Wed	<p><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</p>
3 rd Thur	<p><i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's</p>
4 th Fri	<p><i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town</p>
5 th Sat	<p>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton</p>
6 th Sun	<p>Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's</p>
7 th Mon	<p><i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play at St O's Ministry Support Team Meeting – 6:45pm</p>
8 th Tue	
9 th Wed	<p>Bishop John's Regional Farewell – 7:00pm at St John's Launceston</p>

September 2015	
10 th Thur	<p>Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm</p>
11 th Fri	
12 th Sat	
13 th Sun	<p>Hymnfest – 2:30pm at St John's Launceston</p>
14 th Mon	<p>Cadorna – 2:00pm</p>
15 th Tue	
16 th Wed	<p>St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm</p>
17 th Thur	<p>PresCare Legana – 10:45am AWF Tasmania Fellowship Day – 11:00am at St John's Launceston</p>
18 th Fri	<p>Fellowship Night – 6:30pm at George Town</p>
19 th Sat	<p>Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am at Holy Trinity Ulverstone</p>
20 th Sun	
21 st Mon	<p>Mental Health First Aid Training – 9:00am at Tramsheds Invermay</p>

The deadline for the October Newsletter edition is 21st September

Calendar

September 2015	
22 nd Tue	Mental Health First Aid Training – 9:00am at Tramsheds Invermay
23 rd Wed	
24 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
25 th Fri	
26 th Sat	
27 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at Uniting Church
28 th Mon	
29 th Tue	
30 th Wed	

October and other dates 2015	
3 rd October	Mission Shaped Taster Day at St A's
11 th October	Preaching Workshop
12 th -18 th October	Seniors Week in Riverlinks 14 October: Healing service, lunch at St O's & Minds Matter Q&A with Dr George Razay 15 October: Card Making demonstration, R'side 16 October: Information on Dementia - don't forget to come! (lunch included) plus Pneumococcal vaccine info session, Riverside
14 th -16 th October	Clergy Conference
17 th October	Men's Bible Conference

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
6 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
13 th	10:00 am	Communion	
20 th	10:00 am	Inclusive Service	
27 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
6 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
13 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
20 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Uniting Church	Communion ABU Comb Service
27 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
6 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
13 th	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship Contact Josh 0438 681404
20 th	10:00 am 11:00 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Contact Josh 0438 681404
27 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
13 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
20 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
27 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

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08-07-2015

CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?

Please send articles, comments, information & photos to the Parish Office
399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Tasmanian Bible Forum

Hearing God's Word Together in Tasmania



Saturday 19th September
10am to 3pm
at Holy Trinity Ulverstone

Simon Hattrell, the new Coordinator of the Bishop's CTM, will be speaking on Riches in Romans. \$20 per person & BYO lunch

Seniors Week in Riverlinks

14 October: Healing service, lunch and Minds Matter Q&A with Dr George Razay

15 October: Card Making demonstration

16 October: Information on Dementia - don't forget to come! (lunch included) plus Pneumococcal vaccine info session

Gold coin donation to each day's activity

Book for 16 October through the Parish office 63274742 or office@riverlinks.net.au

Mental Health First Aid Training

Cost: Free

Where: Tramsheds

4 Invermay Rd, Launceston

When: 21 and 22 September, 9am to 5pm

RSVP date: 16/09/2015 to 6213 3592 or

C.Hayden@anglicare-tas.org.au



mission-shaped ministry taster

@ St Aidan's
21 Arthur Street
East Launceston



3rd October

9:30 for 10am – 4pm

- worship
- presentations
- interaction
- lunch
- good coffee (& tea)

Bishop John's Regional Farewell

Wednesday 9th September
7:00pm at St John's L'ton

A service of Holy Communion followed by refreshments. RSVP to Carolyn McGinn, phone 6220 2015 or email bishop@anglicantas.org.au

LAUNCESTON HYMN FEST

Sunday 13 September
2:30-4pm | St John's Launceston

BIBLE SOCIETY

Men's Bible Conference

Saturday 17th October

at the Branch Christian Church, Kings Meadows 8

AWF Tasmania Fellowship Day
Thursday 17th September

Commencing at 11am with a communion service, in St John's, Launceston. Lunch will be provided, with a short meeting to follow.

RSVP by 13th September to Judith Moxon 0419 514 825

3 Lessons Learned from the Widow's Mite

This summer, my family and I visited a local store filled with treasure gathered from ship wrecks and other amazing places. Each piece of jewelry, or coin had a story. One piece took my breath away.

It was a tiny bronze chip minted by Alexander Jannaeus, King of Judaea before Christ's birth. It was a widow's mite. Here, so tiny and so small, was the mite from the story I love in the New Testament.

The Savior was in the Temple, in the treasury, watching people pay their tithing. They would cast coins into the treasury. The wealthy would pay a lot. Then a "certain poor widow," comes and throws in two mites. The same tiny little bronze chips at which I was looking. So small they would get lost and sift to the bottom of a bag of heavier coins.

The Saviour called to his disciples and told them, "...this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury." Because they had donated only a part of their money while she had given the Lord everything she had in tithes and offerings.

I believe, as do many Christians, that all I have came from God. And so I believe that by paying my tithing back to him, I am showing my gratitude. Here, he has given me everything and only asked for a small portion back.

In a world that is difficult with record breaking amounts of foreclosures and rising prices, wouldn't we all be grateful for a miracle? That is exactly what Malachi promises us in the Old Testament. He says, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the



Shannon Symonds

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The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

Proverbs
11:24 MSG



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A little bit punny...

windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

I have a fear of speed bumps, **But I'm slowly** getting over it

Malachi's promise is simple. Pay the Lord his portion or tithing and we will have more blessings that we can receive. Malachi isn't talking about the secret formula for getting rich quick, he is describing the way to find that sweet peace that comes from trusting the Lord.

Parallel lines have so much **in common. It's a shame they'll** never meet

When we do all we can to follow the Lord and pay tithing the Lord promises to take care of us

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

David A. Bednar, past university president and professor of business, while speaking of the law of tithing explained more about Malachi's promise to open the windows of Heaven. Bednar said, "We might want and expect a larger paycheck, but the blessing that comes to us through heavenly windows may be greater capacity to change our own circumstances rather than expecting our circumstances to be changed by someone or something else."

Someone stole my Microsoft Office and **they're gonna** pay. You have my Word

Bednar listed many ways the Lord can bless your life when you follow the widow's example and Malachi's advice to bring all your tithes to the storehouse and prove him or test the Lord's promise.

Bednar lists the ways the Lord might bless your family:

- Spiritual discernment to help you find opportunities like new jobs
- Gratitude for what you already have
- Greater capacity to act and change your own circumstances
- Better health and less medical expenses

Bednar also said, "The imagery of the 'windows' of heaven used by Malachi is most instructive. Windows allow natural light to enter into a building. In like manner, spiritual illumination and perspective are poured out through the windows of heaven and into our lives as we honor the law of tithing."

Bednar also reminds us to remember to align our wishes for our family's financial well-being with the

Lord's when he quotes from the book of Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord... so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts that your thoughts."

In other words, trust that the Lord knows what is best. That may not be the fancy new family car you were dreaming about, but it might be a dependable vehicle and a way to get your family to church.

- An understanding of the blessings of paying tithing is something best gained by experience. Try an experiment and pay a part of your income to the Lord or your church and see how you feel
- Teaching children about blessings and gratitude

Tithing is a wonderful way to teach children to trust in the Lord and remember that what they have is a gift from heaven. Give your child a piggy bank for tithing and encourage him or her to experience paying it and the blessings that follow.

After paying tithing consistently for over 20 years, I recently had a chance to experience the windows of heaven firsthand. We run a small business. Recently, we found ourselves waiting to be paid. Things got very tight. I asked my husband if he had paid our tithing. We pay 10 percent of our profit.

He said, "If I pay our tithing, we will have no money left." I realized I was going to have a chance to experience the widow's mite. We paid our last dollars in tithing. By noon, the next day, everyone who owed us money paid their bill. I knew they would. My wish to support my family aligned with the Lord's wishes as a righteous desire. We believed Malachi's promise.

Test Malachi's promise. Pay the Lord tithes and see what the windows of heaven have to show you.

Shannon Symonds

This article first appeared at www.familyshare.com



I took the shell off my racing snail, thinking it would make him run faster.

If anything, it made him more sluggish

I used to think the brain was the most important organ. Then I thought, look **what's telling** me that

Ever wonder whose cruel idea was it for **the word "Lisp"** to have an **"S" in it?**

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
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necessarily reflect those of
the clergy or the Anglican
Church.

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



Above:
Hymnalong
Singalong of
Golden Oldies for
the GT Combined
Churches service

Right:
Christ Church LH
bell tower works



Contact us:

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

6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Children & Young Families Ministry

6327 3482 kids_families@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au