



# Newsletter Christmas 2015

Bethlehem Ephrath, you are one of the smallest towns in the nation of Judah.

But the Lord will choose one of your people to rule the nation—someone whose family goes back to ancient times.

Like a shepherd taking care of his sheep, this ruler will lead and care for his people by the power and glorious name of the Lord his God.

His people will live securely, and the whole earth will know his true greatness, because he will bring peace.

Micah 5: 2,4,5a <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



## From The Enabler

Dear Friends,

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."* [Luke 2:10-11]

Christmas, in many homes, is the highlight of the year. It can be a time to get together with family and friends, to share food and exchange gifts. For many children it is a time of great wonder and joy, and the most treasured memories of many adults come from the family Christmas experience of their childhood. It is a moment of great significance for our lives as Christians, where we come together to celebrate the joy of **'God-with-us' in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

The lead up to this Christmas has been challenging for Maree and me in several ways. Moving house over the last couple of weeks has

been taxing for a relatively sedentary couple who are suddenly feeling their age. Also realising how much **'stuff' we have accumulated** gives us pause especially when we think of the millions of refugees who are fleeing the horrors of war or poverty with just the clothes on their backs and a few meagre possessions. For all of us there has been a backdrop of upheaval with media focus on international tensions, global warming, terrorism, migrant crisis in Europe and so on. So it is with relief that we are blessed in Australia to have a Christmas holiday (holy-day) break.

This event and the days leading up to it offer an opportunity for renewal of our faith and strengthening of our hope. As we face into the many challenges that lie ahead we recall that our greatest hope is in our communion with Christ and with one another in prayer, **in reflection on God's Word,**

Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. **Jesus is God's** perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that now only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year.

Joel Osteen

in participation in the Eucharist and in our shared mission to bring the Good News to the world. This Good News, as the Christmas **story reminds us, is ‘news of great joy that will be for all people’ (Lk 2:10).** Our prayer is that this joy will touch the hearts of all this Christmas and strengthen our hope in challenging times.

May you all have a Wonderful and Holy Christmas celebration and **God’s Blessing in the New Year.**

In His Love,  
*Roger and Maree*

Christmas,  
my child,  
is love in  
action.  
Every time  
we love,  
every time  
we give,  
**it’s Christmas.**

Dale Evans

He who has  
not Christmas  
in his heart will  
never find it  
under a tree.

Roy L Smith

## Silent Night

**I don’t know if you’ve ever heard the Simon and Garfunkel song “Silent Night / 7 O’Clock News”? If not, it’s worth listening to (and you can find it on the internet here: [bit.ly/1K0bLiG](http://bit.ly/1K0bLiG)**

The song plays the first verse of that classic Christmas Carol:

Silent night, holy night  
all is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin mother and  
child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

But sitting behind the track  
and the music, and becoming

louder and clearer as the song progresses, we heard **the news anchorman’s** voiceover of the headlines of the day: the wealthy use their power to oppress the poor; the lives of many ravaged by drugs and addiction; racial tension and inequality; war and war-mongering; crime, violence and murder. Although the events narrated in the newscast were from the 3rd of August, 1966, there is nothing in them that would be out of place in the nightly news today. We still hear of politicians urging us to war.

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Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values.

Thomas S  
Monson

We still hear of atrocities committed against whole populations, for religious, ideological or racial reasons. We still hear of massacres and atrocities in apparently stable and safe countries. We still see a massive disparity in wealth between rich and poor in our own country. We still see racism, hatred, division, oppression, violence.

**I don't know what Simon and Garfunkel intended to convey with the tension between the two streams of lyrics in their song. Perhaps they wanted to mock the Christmas promise of peace on earth to all on whom God's favour rests (Luke 2:14). Such cynicism wouldn't surprise me. But for me, the tension is a reminder of something else – we live in the time of tension between God's promise of peace, and the present reality of a violent, destructive world. How is such a tension to be reconciled?**

Firstly, we need to remember **that God's promises are not treated in the bible as wishful thinking, or as pie-in-the-sky.**

They are treated as real and present. In fact, if you look closely they are treated as **more real than the 'reality'** that surrounds us! Mary, Zechariah and Simeon all **talked about Jesus' coming** and coming victory as something that has already been achieved (Luke 1 and 2). Jesus himself talks about his work as the present fulfilment of Old Testament promises (Luke 4:21), not as something in the vague or **distant future. God's promises – of peace, of reconciliation, of presence with God – are promises that are real now.**

Secondly, we need to **remember that 'now' is not** the final chapter of the story. Even though the present reality looks bleak, we need **to remember God's promise** to wipe away all evil, brokenness, sickness, disease and death, and to perfectly restore his creation – and us in it! The present evil reality that we see is not only **less real than God's reality, it is** also flimsy and fleeting. Remember that Paul is able to speak of his troubles as

**'light and momentary' (2 Cor 4:17)** – even troubles that he described as being hard-pressed, perplexed, persecuted, struck down. The horrors and struggles of our **present world are 'light and momentary' compared with the weight of glory that awaits us when God's kingdom comes in full.**

Finally, we should take time to remind ourselves of how this tension works out in **practice. We see the world's brokenness presented to us in the nightly news, and we might be tempted to the cynicism that Simon and Garfunkel show in their song. But if we look at the track record of God's people interacting with a broken world, there are plenty of reasons to hope. In the aftermath of natural disasters – such as the earthquake in Nepal – we see God's people (and others) mobilising to bring relief to those affected. We see Christians staying long term, establishing orphanages, hospitals, schools. In the face of crippling diseases – say, leprosy in India, or fistulas in**

the Horn of Africa – we see Christian doctors like Paul Brand and Catherine Hamelin establishing long-term medical missions to bringing healing and social restoration. Under the thumb of racial oppression and segregation – like in the US and South Africa – we saw Christians, like Dr Martin Luther King and Bp Desmond Tutu, standing up effectively and peacefully for equality and justice.

All these truths have their origin, base their hope, in the humble birth that we celebrate at this time each year.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests!

Merry Christmas to you all,

*James Oakley*

It was Christmas Eve in at the meat counter and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one.

In desperation she called over a shop assistant and said, 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?' 'No, madam,' he replied, 'they're all dead.'

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# mainly music Christmas Party



# Christmas Carol Celebration



# Trevallyn & Riverside Christmas Lunch



# Riverlinks

December 2015	
24 <sup>th</sup> Thur	*** Christmas Eve *** Pipers River – 7:00pm Carols in Trevallyn Reserve – 7:30pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Fri	*** Christmas Day *** George Town – 8:00am Low Head – 9:00am East Launceston – 9:00am Riverside – 9:00am
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	*** Boxing Day ***
27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Tasmanian Christian Convention 27 <sup>th</sup> December to 2 <sup>nd</sup> January at Camp Clayton
28 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
29 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
30 <sup>th</sup> Wed	(each Wednesday) Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's
31 <sup>st</sup> Thur	<b>New Year's @ St Oswald's</b> – 6:00pm
January 2016	
1 <sup>st</sup> Fri	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	
4 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
5 <sup>th</sup> Tue	

January 2016	
6 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
7 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
8 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
9 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Faith & The Arts Summer School at Poatina 10 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> January
11 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
12 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
13 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
14 <sup>th</sup> Thur	CMS SummerView at Camp Banksia 14 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> January
15 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
16 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
17 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
18 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
19 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
20 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
21 <sup>st</sup> Thur	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	

\*\*\*\*\* Please check with your own Home Group for 2016 restart dates \*\*\*\*\*

The deadline for the next Newsletter edition is 1<sup>st</sup> February



# Calendar

January 2016	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	
24 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
25 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
26 <sup>th</sup> Tue	*** Australia Day *** Free Community Fun Day – 11:00am to 2:00pm in Lions Park Trevallyn
27 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Parish office reopens
28 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
29 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
30 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
31 <sup>st</sup> Sun	World Leprosy Day
February 2016	
1 <sup>st</sup> Mon	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	School Term 1 begins
4 <sup>th</sup> Thur	
5 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
6 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
7 <sup>th</sup> Sun	

Diary dates for 2016	
8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>MST &amp; PC Retreat at 'Moana'</b>

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	-	No service	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
George Town			
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion ABU Uniting
17 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Service
24 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion ABU Baptist
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:30 am	George Town	ABU Uniting
7 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 11:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship The Gorge (Picnic)
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 11:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Lions Park (BBQ)
24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 11:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Tailrace Park (BBQ)
31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00 am 11:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship Beauty Point
7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion Oikos
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
24 <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)



# Messy Christmas





# A message from The Bishop Elect - The Venerable Dr Richard Condie

**It's funny  
how we 'do'  
Christmas.**

Christmas is not something that we do, it is something that was done.

It celebrated the long awaited arrival of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

We had nothing to do with is, but what we can do is praise God for the coming of the Lord, who washed away the sins of the world by dying on the cross.

Monica  
Johnson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First I want to thank you for the incredible privilege and honour you have bestowed on me by electing me as your next Bishop. My prayer has been that I would receive whatever outcome of the **election as God's gift to me.** I am humbled by His gift and pray that I might be faithful and honour God in the trust you have put in me for this role.

Helen and I are feeling excited and very blessed to be entering into this next phase of life and ministry. But I must say I am also feeling a little daunted; the ordinal is right in describing **the role as "weighty"**. But we know that God has gone before us, and we can trust Him for our future together with you.

Back in 1990 we had our first holiday in Tasmania and I bought a limited edition hand coloured print of an 1851 map of Tasmania, which has

hung in our lounge room ever since. I bought it because we loved Tasmania, I love maps, and it is really beautiful. But of course, now I see how God has kept this special part of Australia in our hearts all these years, and has now given us the precious gift of coming to join you in ministry there.

Helen and I both come from Brisbane where we grew up, and have slowly been working our way down the east coast of Australia. For me, university in Armidale NSW, study in Melbourne, early ministry in Murwillumbah in northern NSW, then working at **Ridley College and St Jude's** in Melbourne, and now Tasmania. A warning: we may be on the way to Antarctica!

Helen comes from a Christian family like me, and we have been married for 25 years this year. She trained as a Doctor in Brisbane (doing an elective in Hobart in 1986 for

a few months!) and has worked as a GP for all of our married life. She is a wonderful Mum to our two kids, loves to read, play tennis, travel and experience the beauty of nature. She is incredibly hospitable, and is the loveliest person that I know.

We have two young adult children; Sarah, who will be 22 in a couple of weeks is studying International Studies at RMIT in Melbourne, and Matt who is 19 and after a gap year this year, will commence Industrial Design at RMIT next year. They are both looking for somewhere to live in Melbourne, and we will be very sad to leave them. They are delightful young people, and are both keen to come and do some bushwalking in Tasmania. (Matt and I walked the Overland Track in 2014).

My great passions in ministry are seeing local churches flourish, and church agencies reach their full potential in serving God in the world. We have such a great gospel to both proclaim and live out in

our daily lives, and I long to see us all continuing to influence our communities with this gospel in a lively and engaging way. I am passionate about sharing the **good news of God's love** so that men and women, boys and girls, come to know Jesus as their saviour. And I am also passionate about the church standing for justice, for the oppressed and marginalised, and showing **God's love through our deeds** of compassion and mercy.

Over the last 13 years, I have had the privilege of leading **St Jude's Church in Carlton**. It is a large inner city church of 6 different congregations, and over 20 staff. God has been so kind in blessing our ministry to children and youth, families, students, singles, marrieds and workers, residents of the public housing estate, many migrants, refugees and international students. Under God we have sent men and women into ordained ministry, people to global mission field, and equipped many others to serve God in

Christ was humble.  
He obeyed God and even died on a cross.  
Then God gave Christ the highest place and honoured his name above all others.  
So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.  
And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree,  
**“Jesus Christ is Lord!”**

Philippians  
2:8-11 <sup>CEV</sup>



- confident that God will be faithful in bringing his work in Tasmania to completion
- longing for you with **Christ's compassion**
- and praying that your love may overflow, that you may know His will, and be found pure and blameless on the day of Christ, with a harvest of righteousness.

Between now and the end of January, I will be working **hard at St Jude's to prepare** for a transition for them. Please pray for them and for us (it is a very emotional time), that God will protect His church in Carlton. From February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>, we will take some holidays, move house and prepare for this new ministry. We look forward to meeting many of **you at St David's on March 19, 2016 at 11am.**

The Diocesan Office will handle all my communications over this time, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with them.

Warm wishes in Christ,



Richard Condie

On your part, I ask that you will hold us in your hearts (and prayers) as we share **God's grace, and as I defend and uphold the gospel among you.** (We might leave the **"imprisonment" for another day!**)

Thank you once again for this privilege, and for the many warm wishes we have already received.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



East Launceston  
21-23 Arthur St  
East Launceston

George Town  
3 Anne St  
George Town

Hillwood  
Hall - Jetty Rd  
Hillwood

Low Head  
Low Head Rd  
Low Head

Peace Haven  
185 Penquite Rd  
Norwood

Pipers River  
School Rd  
Pipers River

Riverside  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

Trevallyn  
34 Bain Tce  
Trevallyn

Parish office  
399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside  
6324 0039  
office@riverlinks.net.au

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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



**Left:**  
Christmas Carol  
Celebration  
at St David's

**Below:**  
Trevallyn &  
Riverside  
Christmas Lunch

**Bottom:**  
mainly music  
Christmas



**Below:**  
Messy  
Christmas



**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