

**East Launceston**

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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

**Peace Haven**

185 Penquite Rd  
Norwood

**Pipers River**

School Rd  
Pipers River

**Riverside**

399 West Tamar Hwy  
Riverside

**Trevallyn**

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**Parish office**

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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 20<sup>th</sup>  
of each month unless  
otherwise stated

**BELOW & RIGHT:  
BELL BAY  
SEAFARER'S MIS-  
SION  
25<sup>TH</sup> ANNI-  
VERSARY DINNER  
AT BASS & FLIN-  
DERS CENTRE**



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**Contact us:**

**Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)**  
6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

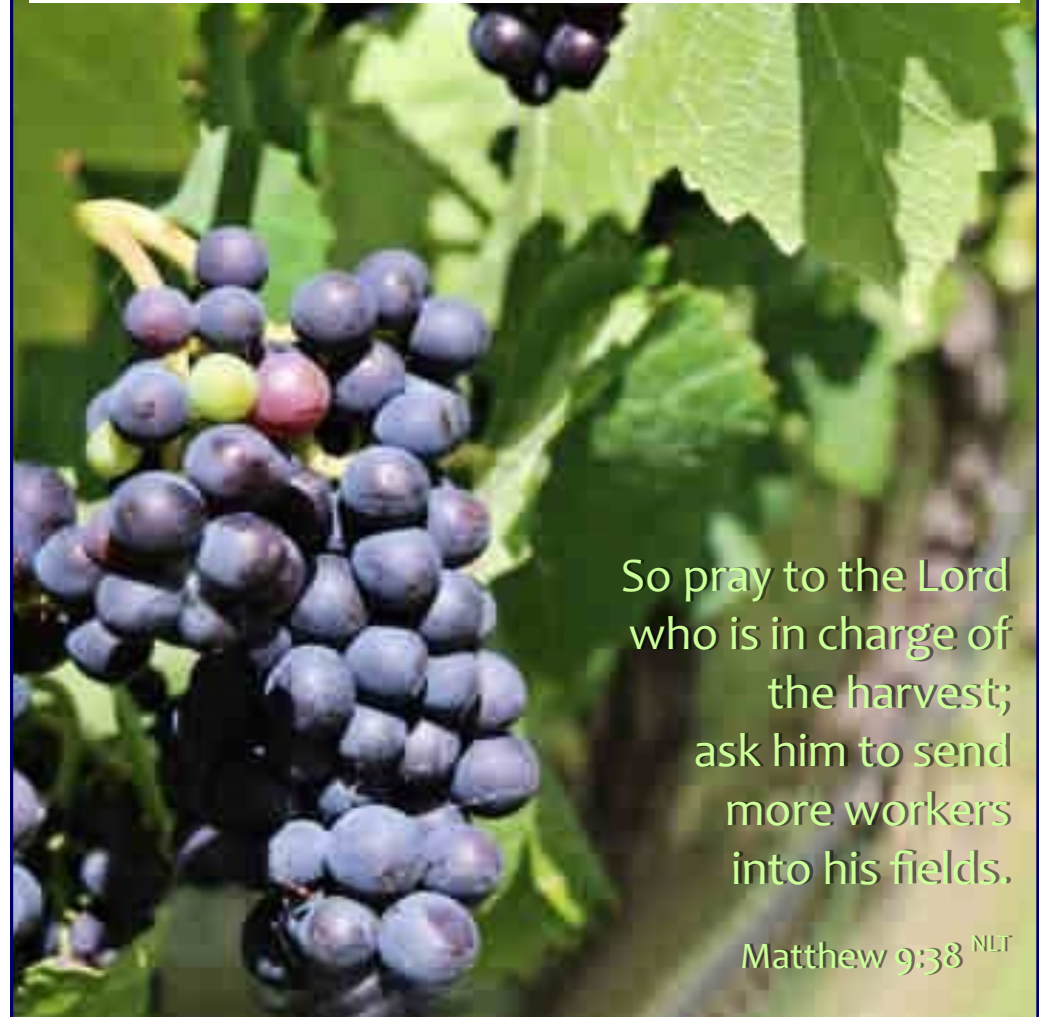
**Children & Young Families Ministry**  
6327 3482 kids\_families@riverlinks.net.au

**Website** www.riverlinks.net.au

riverlinks



**Newsletter  
March 2016**



So pray to the Lord  
who is in charge of  
the harvest;  
ask him to send  
more workers  
into his fields.

Matthew 9:38 <sup>NLT</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

I PLEDGE  
TO GET  
IN THE WAY  
TO LET  
THEM STAY

LOVE MAKES A WAY  
but if you don't, they stay

## Sanctuary

#Sanctuary

#LoveMakesAWay

Across Australia, many church communities have stated publically that they will open the doors of their church buildings and offer a place of sanctuary to asylum seekers who are under threat of being returned or sent to off shore detention centres. The number of church communities with representation across many denominations that have added their name to the list since the Cathedral in Brisbane announced its plan to be a place of sanctuary is now over seventy.

So what is it all about and does it have anything to do with us, the church communities of Riverlinks?

Should we be doing anything and is it something we should be talking about?

The answer is yes.

In the last two and a half years over one hundred Christian leaders, again from across a broad range of denominations have been

arrested in Australia for peacefully sitting and praying in politicians offices. Many have been let off with a warning but others have been exposed to the extremes of being strip searched and being fined.

What is happening in Australia that is causing this ripple through our normally sedate and peaceful church existence? What is it that drives Christians to stand against government policy and declare that they are prepared to be arrested in doing so? What is it that causes a church community to decide to break the law and risk ten years in prison for doing so?

I am a member of the grass roots Christian organisation called Love Makes A Way. It is everything I was raised not to do. That isn't why I joined, but it certainly causes us to question those traditional values of Church not mixing with state. I have been involved in three actions in Tasmania, including one where I risked arrest.

I've been growing increasingly restless as I reflect on the chasm between what I know in my heart is important, and what I actually do. I don't want to settle. I don't want to give up. I want to know God better. And while my goal isn't to wake at 5am every morning for a 2-hour devotional, I know that there's a lot of room to grow to prioritise this relationship in deed and not just word. And, as famous prayer warrior, A.W. Tozer, a preacher hungry for the Lord, once put it: "The man who would truly know God must give time to him."

In God's kindness, I've been spending much more time with God in recent months, and I have pursued a new devotional habit that has continued uninterrupted for 79 days (and hopefully still going by the time this goes to print!).

To some, this won't sound like a long time at all. And you're right! But for many years I have been so inconsistent with my time with the Lord that even this short pattern of daily devotions has been cause for celebration.

Along the way, I've been delighted to discover that desire has followed discipline. I'm not excited to admit it, but I often don't want to read the Bible. And desire is a powerful force. Earlier this year John Piper made a blunt assessment of why we don't read the Bible. He said: "The reason we don't read the Bible is because we don't want to read the Bible."

If I wanted to read the Bible and spend time with the Lord, I would. But too often I don't want to and I don't. And yet, I can say that as I have persevered, the desire has been slowly growing. And as I pray that it continues, I'm also glad I didn't wait for desire to get started.

If you can relate to this frustration and desire to grow, I'd like to share with you – not as an expert but as a brother – some of the things that have helped me.

*\*See the full article at [www.biblesociety.org.au/category/news/christian-living](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/category/news/christian-living)*

While there are many challenges and priorities competing for our time – make time for God. You won't regret it.

I worship you with all my heart. Don't let me walk away from your commands.

I treasure your word above all else; it keeps me from sinning against you.

I praise you, Lord! Teach me your laws.

**Psalms 119: 10-12** CEV

To truly give is not to ask anything in return.

To truly give is to have to make sacrifice.

To truly give is to make it about the one who receives, not the giver.

To truly give is not to count the cost.

To truly give is from the heart and compassion, not the head and economics.

Australia has so much to give, now, give it truly.

Christina Booth

Steve Kryger

18 February  
2016

This article first  
appeared at  
www.bible  
society.org.au

What God  
has said isn't  
only alive  
and active!

It is sharper  
than any  
double-edged  
sword.

His word can  
cut through  
our spirits  
and souls  
and through  
our joints and  
marrow, until  
it discovers  
the desires  
and thoughts of  
our hearts.

Hebrews 4: 12 CEV

## How's your quiet time?

Imagine a nutritionist who doesn't eat vegetables. Or a personal trainer who doesn't exercise.

It's difficult to imagine, isn't it? These activities are so central to what these professionals know to be "life to the full" that it would be quite a shock if they didn't actually do them.

Now, imagine a Christian who doesn't spend regular time with the Lord.

It's a scenario that should be just as shocking, but may in fact be very easy to imagine because it is the common experience of many Christians in Australia today.

Never before have we had such universal access to the Bible – paper, audio, phone, tablet, computer, television, even on your watch! And yet according to the Bible Society, only 2 out of 10 Australians are engaging with God's word on a daily basis. This isn't 2 out of 10 Australians. This is 20 per cent of Australian Christians!

It's a staggering statistic that highlights an awkward

contradiction that many Christians know far too well: We believe that time with the Lord is important, but we don't spend time with the Lord. I confess that this too often describes me. And the more I speak with my brothers and sisters, the more I realise that I am far from alone.

In a recent survey of 300 Christians, I invited people to rank from 1-10 the extent to which they agree with the statement: "It is important for Christians to spend regular time alone with God." The ranking of 10 corresponded with "strongly agree", and the average response was 9.5. No surprises there.

In the next question I asked people to reflect on the current state of their devotional life on a scale of 1-10. 10 corresponded with "extremely satisfied", and the average satisfaction ranking was 5.6. Many Christians are far from satisfied with the quality of their devotional life – is this you too?

Why would I, as a Christian, do something that is contrary to the law? Why would I risk arrest? Is this what a Christian should be doing?

To live the gospel is to do as Jesus commanded. His command is to do all things in love, for love is the greatest thing. Jesus also commanded us to follow him, his words and his actions. These are paramount to living the Christian life.

### Matthew 22:35-40 (ESV)

<sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.

<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

When Jesus said this he was challenging not only the leaders of the Synagogue but all who knew that within the



Jewish faith, there are well over 600 laws that Jews must obey, so to challenge an institution and tradition of established law and reduce those laws down to two was a slap in the face to the religious authorities of the day. Jesus knew this, he was all about letting them know how wrong they were but using non-violence and love to do so. This is perhaps what angered them the most.

So what does that mean for Christians today? We have slowly and comfortably fallen into step with the state in our western societies, where we think being persecuted is when someone at work laughs at us for our foolish beliefs. We have mistaken the term peace maker as

Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it.

Remember the Lord's people who are in jail and be concerned for them. Don't forget those who are suffering, but imagine that you are there with them.

Hebrews  
13:2,3 CEV



Stopping refugee boats arriving is not a self-evident good. It might stop people drowning inconveniently in view of Australians at Christmas Island. But if they do not get on a boat and are, instead, killed by the Taliban, they are just as dead as if they drowned.

The real difference is that our conscience is not troubled by their un-noted death somewhere else.

*Julian Burnside*

someone who stays silent and we have forgotten that Jesus and his followers risked death and prison on a daily basis to preach the gospel. The Church in Australia has fallen into the trap of thinking that being politically correct is our guide, that we can choose which neighbour we should love. But I want to challenge that thinking, I have decided, along with many others, that being God correct is what we are called to do and to support any law or restriction that persecutes another person and that contravenes the instruction to love God and our neighbour, who we do not get to choose, is a law to be challenged, questioned and stood against. I believe that this is living the gospel. It is worth the risk of being arrested or persecuted and in our country, death is not on the agenda so what is stopping us.

When God called me to work in the area of asylum seeker and refugee justice, I did my usual Jonah act. I tried to run the other way. What could I do? Who was I to challenge a government? He had chosen

the wrong person. My heart was aching for the plight of asylum seekers and it was breaking knowing how our governments treated them. But I was a busy mum and carer, with a full time job and other church commitments. I knew that what God was calling me to do would offend people, it would stir the pot, but he reminded me that he had turned over tables in the temple and he wanted me to be a table turner as well. He wanted me to use my anger, which I have plenty of, to do his work, in a loving and righteous way. He would open the doors and I just had to walk through. He still reminds me, in my ambitious drive, that he requires 'one heart at a time' and I cannot change the whole world in one grand sweep. I need my reigns pulling back from time to time as I face the frustration of negativity and attack, which has now gone well beyond a rare snigger at my 'naive faith', including many Christians who have walked away from me and have also personally attacked what I do. I work hard to act in a

## Mission to Seafarer's 25 Years of Ministry in Bell Bay



The Bell Bay Seafarer's Mission recently celebrated 25 years of continuous service to Seafarer's in the port.

Past and present volunteers and supporters met for a dinner to commemorate this milestone, very appropriately held at the Bass & Flinders Centre in George Town.

MC Cliff Walker shared some anecdotes, Rennie Zanchetta gave a brief history of the mission, and Dr Frank Madill spoke on the many changes

of the last 25 years and challenges we face into the future.

Please pray for the continuing work of the mission, for the volunteers who give so much of their time to run it, and especially for the seafarer's from around the world who visit the port.





## Harvest Festival

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 9:00am  
at Christ Church, Low Head**

Non-perishable items donated on the day will be given to the Benevolent Society

All welcome, with morning tea to follow the service in the Boat Shed

## Palm Sunday Picnic

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

City Baptist Church would like to invite everyone within the Anglican Church to join them for an informal BYO picnic lunch

12:30pm in Princes Square, Launceston

**All welcome to come for the picnic only or join the Walk for Justice as well**

## Walk For Justice

Join other Christians for a Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees, a national event

Gathering in Princes Square at 1.45pm, walking to City Park via the Mall

For further information, contact Kerrie Snow kangasnow@gmail.com



World Day of Prayer

**AUSTRALIA**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

**10:00am**

St Francis' Catholic Church, Pomona Rd, Riverside  
and

Star of the Sea Catholic Church  
Goulburn St, George Town

*2016 host country is Cuba and the theme, prepared by the women, is "Receive children, receive me" with a focus on children. The scripture readings for the service are Isaiah 11:1-10 and Mark 10:13-16.*

*The Bible study texts are Mark 10:13-16 and Luke 19:1-10*



## Recommitment to Ministry & Blessing of Oils Service

*There will also be opportunity to meet with Bishop Richard Condie*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

at Christ Church,  
William Street, Longford

11.00am Recommitment & Blessing of Oils Service for Clergy and Laity

12.30pm Lunch



**If you're buying chocolate this Easter remember to look for these symbols.**

**People shouldn't be bought and sold**



non-violent loving way, including my words and my thoughts: I'm slowly getting better at it.

The asylum seeker issue is a huge one, we cannot solve it on our own and we need to remember that God has already conquered evil. He calls us to bring those who are clinging to the dying, desperate dark into the light.

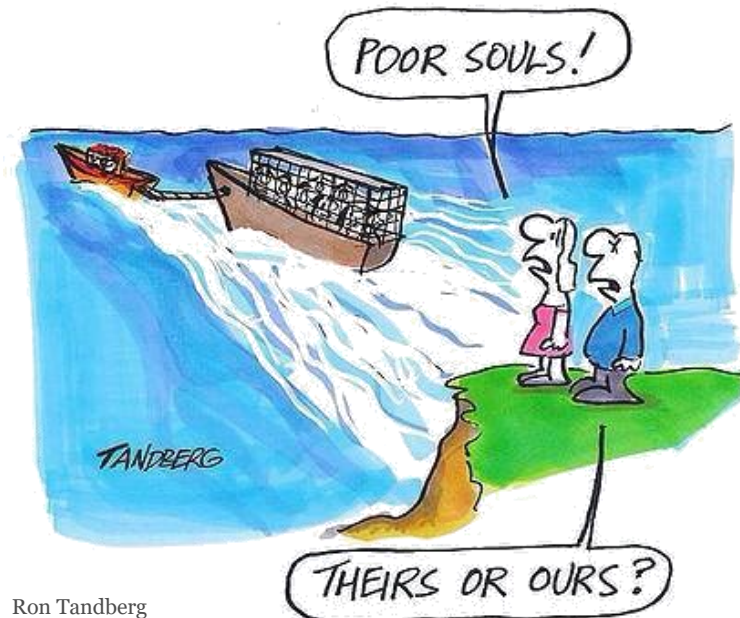
People notice when you live the gospel, they are attracted to it, they want what you have and even anti-Christian and atheist friends and strangers applaud the actions

of the church when they see Christians act according to the commands of Jesus.

What you need to do requires a conversation with God. But being brave in a comfortable society can often be harder than being brave when we are in danger. Asking him to show you is the first brave step.

That is what God calls us to do, you and me: to love, bravely, and the door will be opened, hearts are being changed and turning over tables is living the gospel.

Christina Booth



Ron Tandberg  
naururefugees.wordpress.com

The Lord your God is more powerful than all other gods and lords, and his tremendous power is to be feared. His decisions are always fair, and you cannot bribe him to change his mind. The Lord defends the rights of orphans and widows. He cares for foreigners and gives them food and clothing. And you should also care for them, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

Respect the Lord your God, serve only him, and make promises in his name alone.

Deuteronomy  
10: 17 - 20 CEV

# Riverlinks

March 2016	
1 <sup>st</sup> Tue	(each Tuesday) <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 in the Parish office – 7:30pm Stanford's group at St Aidan's
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	(each Wednesday) <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
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thur	(each Thursday) <b>mainly music</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's
4 <sup>th</sup> Fri	(each Friday) <b>KYB Study Group</b> – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town <b>Re:Fuel</b> – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston <b>Fellowship Night</b> – 6:00pm at George Town <b>World Day of Prayer Service</b> – 10:00am Catholic Church George Town & Catholic Church Riverside
5 <sup>th</sup> Sat	<b>Women's Breakfast</b> – 8:00am at St John's L'ton <b>LMST &amp; PC Retreat</b> – 9:15am
6 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
7 <sup>th</sup> Mon	(each Monday) <b>Child's Play</b> – 9:30am at St O's
8 <sup>th</sup> Tue	<b>CBM Book Launch "Beneath the Baobab Tree"</b> – 10:00am at Hotel Grand Chancellor Launceston

March 2016	
9 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
10 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<b>Parish Council meeting</b> – 7:30pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Fri	
12 <sup>th</sup> Sat	<b>Bible Society 2016 Project Launch</b> – 4:00pm at St John's Launceston
13 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
14 <sup>th</sup> Mon	*** 8 Hours Day *** <b>Cadorna</b> – 2:00pm
15 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
16 <sup>th</sup> Wed	<b>Ainslie Service</b> – 2:15pm
17 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<b>PresCare Legana</b> – 10:45am
18 <sup>th</sup> Fri	<b>Fellowship Night</b> – 6:00pm at George Town
19 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
20 <sup>th</sup> Sun	<b>Palm Sunday Picnic</b> – 12:30pm in Princes Square Launceston <b>Walk for Justice for Refugees</b> – 1:45pm starting from Princes Square Launceston

# Calendar

March 2016	
21 <sup>st</sup> Mon	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	
24 <sup>th</sup> Thur	<b>Recommitment to Ministry/Blessing of Oils</b> – 11:00am at Christ Church Longford
25 <sup>th</sup> Fri	*** Good Friday ***
26 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
27 <sup>th</sup> Sun	*** Easter Sunday ***
28 <sup>th</sup> Mon	*** Easter Monday ***
29 <sup>th</sup> Tue	*** Diocesan Holiday ***
30 <sup>th</sup> Wed	
31 <sup>st</sup> Thur	
1 <sup>st</sup> Fri April	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat April	<b>Mission-Shaped Ministry Taster</b> – 10:00am at St Aidan's

April and other dates 2016	
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Mission-Shaped Ministry Taster at St Aidan's
29 <sup>th</sup> May	Riverlinks Together at George Town

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	All In Service	
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Praise, Prayer & Proc. Communion Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am -	Low Head George Town	Harvest Festival No service
20 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River ABU Service	Communion Baptist Church
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	George Town	Good Friday
27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship 10.30 Oikos @ St O's
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Oikos @ St O's
27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
13 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
20 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
27 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

The **deadline** for the April Newsletter edition is **22<sup>nd</sup> March**

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

399 West Tamar Hwy, Riverside - 6324 0039 [office@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)