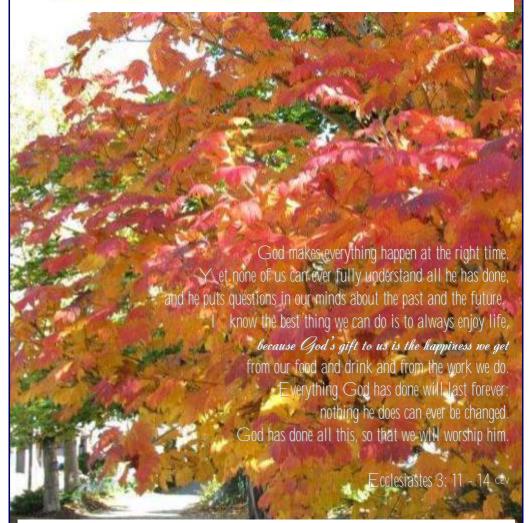


Newsletter April 2016



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



Exercising power in the way of Jesus

As I sit down to write, we have just recently heard that our Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has announced that he will bring the Parliament back to Canberra for extraordinary session to consider legislation that has already been rejected by the Senate. He has threatened the Senate that, if it fails to pass these bills, he will hold a double-dissolution election on 2 July this year.

This announcement demonstrates to me what we understand, in a worldly sense, of how power works, and how to exercise it. The exercise of power in our society is about being able to clearly articulate what you want, and to push through all the obstacles to get what you want. It is a process that removes people who stand in the way (and could actually hinder your program!), or that ignores opposition that is powerless to stop you. I'll add here, of course, that the way in which this power is exercised in our country is usually benign, pretty

compared with some places. Those opposed to the current LNP government and its policies may face the loss of employment or advancement, but are unlikely to face threats to life or limb.

In the world, then, exercising power is about a display of strength that advances one's own agenda.

Yet at Easter, what we see is a very different kind of power at work. When we reflect on the work of Jesus on the Cross, it is really important that we don't buy into the cultural myths about the crucifixion. The crucifixion is not about what happens when a truly good man is beset by evil. It is not about an example of power-It is not about lessness. weakness turned to strength, or even about defeat turned to victory!

The Cross is about Jesus using power, exercised through *meekness*, for the benefit of those he loves, even while they are his enemies (Romans 5:6-8).

Wise Words

At the heart of sin is the letter "I"

God gives his best to those who leave the choice to Him

Are you too busy acting like a Christian to be one?

Average is as close to the bottom as it is to the top

Let's be absolutely clear that wielded power Jesus throughout the experience of Holy week and crucifixion. He was adored by the crowds when he entered Jerusalem. He challenged the temple authorities about their misuse of God's house, and those same authorities were left in impotent anger. spoke and enacted He judgment on Jerusalem, in many of the parables and teachings that he gave in that last week, as well as in the famous cursing of the fig tree. Even at his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus refers to his power: 'Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen this way?' (Matt 26:53-54). Jesus was in control - powerful throughout the whole of this time, including during his trial, torture and death.

But Jesus' power is often overlooked because we confuse his *meekness* with *weakness*. They are not the same thing. We all

understand weakness - it is the absence of strength, the inability to do something, or to bring about a result. But meekness İS strength controlled. It is a decision to refrain from using power to advance our own agenda. The word that underlies this idea in the original language is the same one that is used to describe a tamed animal. A horse might be tamed, but be foolish to we would regard it as powerless.

No, Jesus' actions throughout his trial, torture and death were the actions of a powerful man – our powerful God – refraining from exercising his power, because that restraint is what brought about his victory and our salvation. Paul puts it like this in Colossians 2:13-15:

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

3 continued next page ...

In order to understand God, you must stand under God

Need an expert's opinion?
Pray

Eternity is a long time to think about what you should have done

He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else

If you think being meek is weak, try being meek for a week continued from previous page ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

God and Jesus are active throughout. They are exercising power the whole time, but it is a power that is cloaked in meekness, gentleness and humility.

As we reflect on Jesus' death

and resurrection this Easter.

If money did grow on trees, autumn would be the best season ever!

and in the weeks following, it is worthwhile reflecting on what we can learn of his ways, and how that might translate into our own way of doing things. The church through history has tried the way of worldly power, and it has consistently drawn her from path, Jesus' ensnared her in evil, suffering and shame. We do not need to look further back than the recent hearings of the Royal

Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse to see the damage and suffering that worldly power inflict. In many parts of the world, not least in the US and Australia, the church is again tempted to pursue worldly power - often by motives to defend the family or morality or our Christian western way of life. We should be deeply suspicious of these calls, that would pursue a potentially godly end by worldly means.

As we endeavour to follow our Lord and Saviour more closely, as we try to make his ways our ways, we need to be ever mindful to exercise our own power as he would – through humility, gentleness and meekness

James

It's so strange that autumn is so beautiful, but everything is really dying



Prison Fellowship

Ray Metcalfe from Prison Fellowship was the guest speaker at the CCCGT service in February.

Ray shared about his ministry which began when his friend was incarcerated in NSW. He began volunteering with Prison Fellowship there and continued when he moved to Tasmania, befriending inmates and witnessing to the Gospel through his life and care for those he met.

Prison Fellowship volunteers minister to inmates caring, visiting & praying for and with them as requested. They are helping to transform. restore and lives reconcile in our community.

Prison Fellowship not only cares for inmates, but also ex-offenders & their families throughout the State.

Offering of \$163 on the day was donated to Prison Fellowship for their Camp For Kids programme.

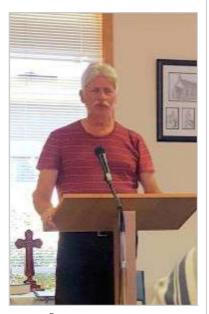
Prison Fellowship Australia

You can participate in this ministry by:

Volunteering - join Prison Fellowship's ministry to inmates, ex-inmates, and victims of crime. For more in fogoto to www.prisonfellowship.org.au

Praying - commit to uphold prison ministry in your prayers

Donating - enable prison ministry by providing much needed funds





Autumn is a season for big decisions - like whether or not it's too late to start spring cleaning

Autumn - time to drag out your winter clothes and see what kind of summer fun the moths had

I got tired of looking at all those leaves in my yard, so I got up off the couch and went into action.
I closed the curtains

Riverlinks

April 2016		
1 st Fri	(each Friday) KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town	
2 nd Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton Mission-Shaped Ministry Taster – 10:00am at St Aidan's	
3 rd Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's	
4 th Mon	(each Monday) Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's	
5 th Tue	(each Tuesday) 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	
6 th Wed	(each Wednesday) 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	
7 th Thur	(each Thursday) mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's	
8 th Fri		
9 th Sat		

April 2016		
9 th Sat		
10 th Sun		
11 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm	
12 th Tue		
13 th Wed		
14 th Thur	Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's (Week 1 of 3) Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm	
15 th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town	
16 th Sat		
17 th Sun		
18 th Mon		
19 th Tue		
20 th Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm	

The deadline for the May Newsletter edition is 25^{th} April

Calendar

April 2016			
21 st Thur	PresCare Legana – 10:45am Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's		
22 nd Fri			
23 rd Sat			
24 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at the Baptist Church		
25 th Mon	*** ANZAC Day ***		
26 th Tue			
27 th Wed			
28 th Thur	Understanding Yourself, Understanding Others – 7:00pm at St O's		
29 th Fri			
30 th Sat			

COVE.	LES.
	HE IS RISEN INDEED!

May and other dates 2016				
29th May	Riverlinks Together at George Town			
3 rd & 4 th June	SYNOD at Tailrace Centre, Riverside			

Service Times For Worship Centres

_					
East Launceston					
3rd	10:00 am	Morning Prayer			
10 th	10:00 am	Communion			
17th	10:00 am	All In Service			
24 th	9:00 am	Communion			
George Town					
3 rd	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Communion Pipers River Communion George Town Communion			
10 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Communion George Town Baptism			
17 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Morning Prayer ABU Service Uniting Church			
24 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head Communion George Town Communion			
Riverside & Trevallyn					
3rd	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Communion Trevallyn 10.30 Worship @ St O's			
10 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Praise & Worship Trevallyn 10.30 Oikos @ St O's			
17 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Communion Trevallyn 10.30 Oikos @ St O's			
24 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Communion Trevallyn 10.30 Worship @ St O's			
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn Healing Service			
Peace	Peace Haven				
10 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion			
17 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer			
24 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion			
25 th	10:00 am	ANZAC Day Memorial Service			

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

Understanding Yourself





Understanding Others

Based on the MBTI® this short course will help you to value your uniqueness and better understand your strengths and weaknesses. It will assist you in communicating more effectively with many different types of people.

7pm Thurs 14th/21st/28th April at St Oswald's Hall

Cost: \$15

Further details contact Cathy or Norman Lawrence: Ph 6334 1130 or norman.lawrence@hotmail.com Pete Woodcock is coming all the way from the UK to speak at this year's

Men's Bible Conference which will be held on Saturday 16 July at the Branch

SAVE THE DATE and start inviting your friends to this year's conference because you won't want to miss it!

Grief to Grace will be having their national conference in Hobart from 30th - 31st May



Healing the Wounds of Abuse

The conference will be looking at abuse, trauma, and how they affect the brain.

For more details contact info@grieftograceaus.org.au or contact the Parish office for a registration brochure

ANZAC Day Memorial Service

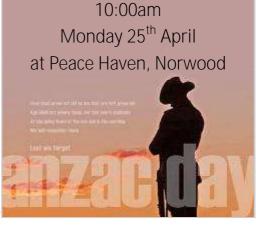


Meet the Northern Ministry Network Team

🧁 Get a feel for what's possible

Set some priorities for your Parish

Bring a team to meet the team



New Bishop told, "You need a Bible"

Celebrating the arrival of a new church leader is usually an occasion for politeness. But when Tasmanian Anglicans got a new Bishop (regional leader) this week, he was given a very direct set of instructions. They worth reading by Christians all parts of Australia. whatever and brand of Christianity you follow.

"But Richard, at this point, you are here to listen, and what fun it is to be able to preach to you, when you are not allowed to interrupt, object, or walk out!" said Peter Adam, who used to run Melbourne's Ridley College, to Richard Condie, stepping up to lead Tasmania's Anglicans. "It is a rare and thoroughly enjoyable treat."

As at most services for new church leaders, there is a heap of promises to be made. Adam summarised them in one line: "A Bishop without a Bible is no Bishop at all." But added: "And it is not enough to use the Bible in the liturgy, if you don't preach from it. It is not enough to have learnt the message of the Bible, and not continue to study and learn from it. It should be a book which is old, but always new; familiar but always strange; known, but always giving us new and deeper revelations of God and his ways."

Adam promised to pursue Condie throughout his ministry with some key questions of his own.

"Questions I will ask you at regular intervals for the rest of your ministry:

- Do you still trust the Scriptures?
- Are you still studying the Scriptures, and learning at ever deeper levels as you study?
- How long is it since your reading of the Scriptures changed the way you live or do your ministry?
- Are you using the Scriptures in your preaching, not merely as a launching pad for the rocket of your own ideas, but as the substance, content and purpose of your preaching and for the substance of your application?
- Are you using the Scriptures in all other parts of your ministry: in counselling, evangelism, in pastoral conversations, and as the guide to your leadership and wider ministries?
- Are you giving God the microphone in your teaching and preaching, by projecting God's eloquent words in the Bible?



Claire VanRyn

First published in The Examiner Newspaper for Keeping the Faith column

The LORD is
King!
Tell the earth to
celebrate
and all islands
to shout.

Dark clouds surround him, and his throne is supported by justice and fairness.

> Psalm 97: 1.2 CEV

Look at the Beautiful Clouds

Have you noticed the clouds? Seems they've been particularly spectacular of late.

Were you a neighbour you might have seen me standing precariously on a rickety bench seat on the deck, neck craned to watch the cloud formations as they balloon and morph in a moody panorama.

There are those sweet little fluffy white ones, the kind in children's books, harmless as a bunny loping in the sun.

There are the clouds that multiply into an expansive pattern, repeated like ripples in sand stretching out ad infinitum.

And (my favourite), there are the clouds that growl. They have steely edges and are backlit to give the illusion of added dimensions. Crispest white is contrasted with rumbling grey, deep violent against a passive blue backdrop. Can you picture them? Billowing, curling like meringue, and dramatic as the stage makeup for a Broadway show.

I balance there, watching the performance, snapping a few pics with my SLR even while sensing the impending disappointment – because my awe always outstrips my technical know-how with a camera.

I learnt that there is such the thing Cloud as Appreciation Society with a membership approaching 40,000 people who believe that, "clouds are unjustly maligned." "We pledge to fight 'Blue-Sky Thinking' wherever we find it life would be dull if we had to look at cloudless up monotony day after day," the society's manifesto reads.

You had no idea that such strong sentiment existed for a bit of cumulous, right? Me too, but I found myself agreeing, especially about the Blue-Sky Thinking bit.

BST exists beyond the atmospheric. Like every time I'm miffed when something clouds my tidy plans. When I'm frustrated by delays, inconvenience, setbacks, hurdles and so on. I mean, doesn't God have my script?

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 gives some perspective to BST:

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

A relationship with God is not a free pass to a blue sky life. God doesn't make promises to smooth out our future, to ensure an easy ride. Life's tough. Rarely is there a completely cloud-free day. little Always, wafts discontent thread into the blue and threaten to boil into full-blown storm. And sometimes it's completely out of our control.

Yet, such beauty.

Give me a moody, cloud-pocked sky over the idyllic flatness of blue any day. As in nature, so in



humanity, the clouds – the tough, traumatic, heartbreaking times – create an inexplicable beauty. Beauty wrought through pain.

A few weeks ago I sat in the hospital beside my grandmother. She was dying, we both knew it.

Our hands were clasped and she rocked my hand in her timeworn one, the stories of lifetime etched there As I sat in the quiet, it hurt to see my robust Ma so reduced. This was Ma, whose suffocating bear hugs were legendary amongst US cousins, who taught us to dunk our Vegemite toast in our tea and whose faith was legacy recognised organisations including Gideons and Scripture Union.

The room was perfumed with flowers for her birthday the day before, and she rocked my hand and tried to speak.

"I love you, I love you, I love you," Ma said, before I slipped out of the ward. The last words she said to me

See, aren't the clouds exquisite?

God gathers moisture into the clouds and supplies us with rain.

Who can understand how God scatters the clouds and speaks from his home in the thunderstorm?

And when God sends lightning, it can be seen at the bottom of the sea.

By producing such rainstorms, God rules the world and provides us with food.

Job 36:27-31 ^{CEV} 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

Peace Haven 185 Penquite Rd Norwood

> Pipers River School Rd Pipers River

Riverside 399 West Tamar Hwy Riverside

> Trevallyn 34 Bain Tce Trevallyn 0409 799 419

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

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





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