



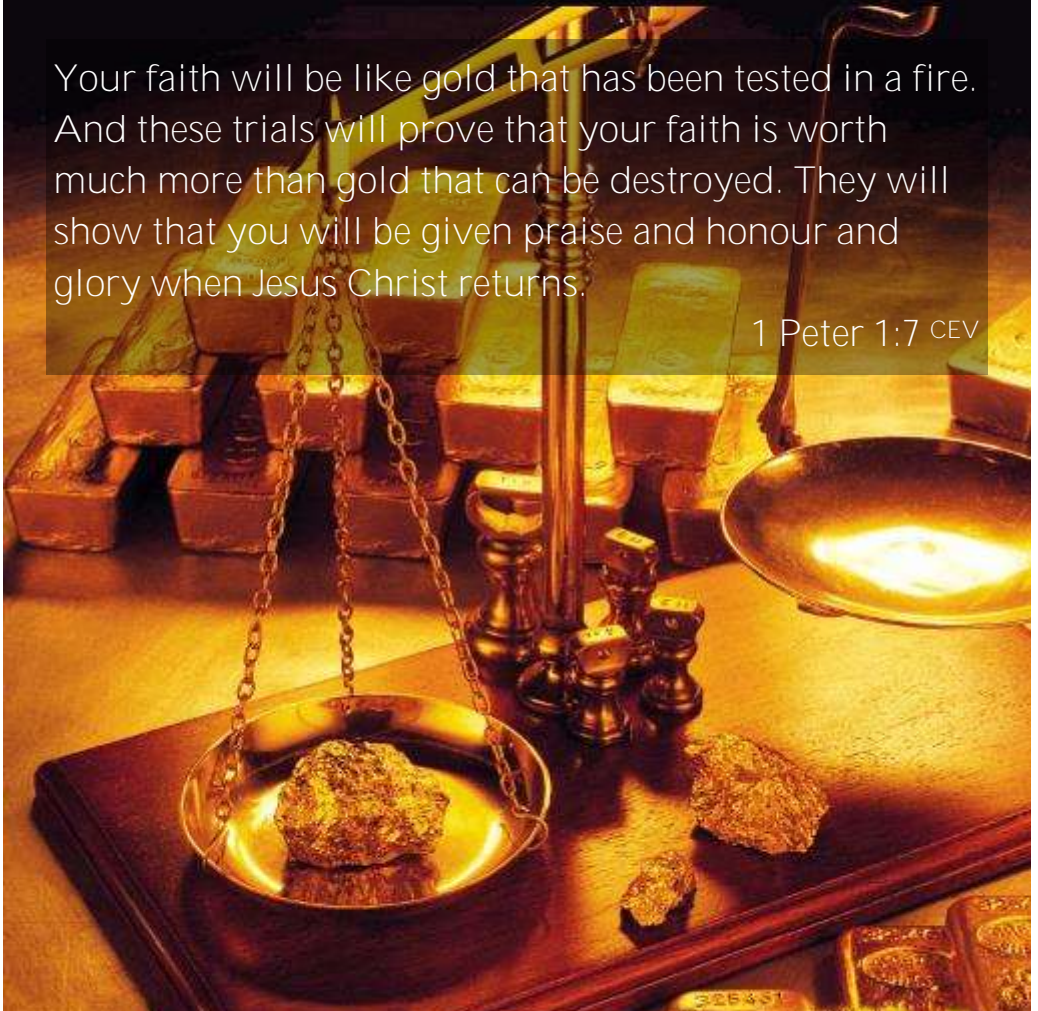
Newsletter

October

2016

Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honour and glory when Jesus Christ returns.

1 Peter 1:7 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

Christians are right to be people of the book, but Simon Gillham asks if we can do it without being quite so “bookish”.

From Southern Cross magazine, the official publication of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney



Weave in
faith;
God will find
the thread



Never under-
estimate the
impact one
life can have
on another

Inclusive people of the Word

A few weeks ago I met with Jimmy (not his real name) for the first time. Jimmy is a Christian man, regularly goes to church, and is striving to follow Jesus as a husband, father and worker in the city. I'd been asked to meet up with him because others were worried that he was stalling in his Christian life, not growing in maturity and maybe beginning to drift away. (What a great thing to have brothers and sisters who love you enough to notice and try to do something to help!)

As I got to know Jimmy over a cuppa, I started asking him about how things were really going. I looked for ways in which I might be able to give some help and encouragement. The struggles in his marriage with communication issues, misunderstandings and breakdowns in trust were nothing out of the ordinary. I suggested a few books I had read and found very helpful.

The fears he had for his kids growing up in a diverse and often hostile environment were real and heartbreaking – the rush of hormones, the confusing search for identity and affirmation. Again, all pretty normal stuff, and again I was able to suggest things I had read and found helpful and that my kids read and found helpful.

And so we steadily came to the heart of the matter: the matter of Jimmy's heart. How was

Jimmy walking with God? Did he have confidence that because of the Lord Jesus he was forgiven and at peace with God? Yes, all good there.

What areas of his life were still places of temptation, sin, guilt or shame? A few important points for prayer there. Did he feel he was growing as a Christian and making progress in living more as Jesus would have him? Well, not so much. In fact, not so much for quite a long time. And, knowing the word of God brings maturity and growth, “How are your quiet times going? Do you regularly read the Bible and pray on your own? Are you a part of a Bible study group?”

Silence. His gaze dropped and his eyes welled with tears. On a hunch, “Are you much of a reader?” His eyes lifted and his head tilted to one side.

The weight of guilt that Jimmy had been carrying now fell on me. It dawned on me that everything I had said, and every suggestion I had made, just heaped on more shame and a growing sense of helplessness. I should've known better!

“I'm guessing reading is a real battle for you, champ. Is that about right?”

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistic, 44 per cent of Australian adults don't have the literacy levels they need cope with everyday demands in

life and work. The literacy demands of fitting into the average Anglican church in Sydney would rule out even more. Only about a quarter of Australian adults complete university education of any level, and roughly the same number didn't finish Year 12 at high school. My church friends almost all come from the most educated quarter of the population.

In different parts of Sydney those stats are wildly skewed one way or another. People who come from a non-English speaking background are really up against it in terms of literacy. This goes some way to explaining why many of our churches struggle to welcome, integrate and care well for them.

Evangelical Christians are rightly insistent on being people of the word. The word of God is living and active. God creates and sustains all things by his powerful word. Specifically, God brings salvation and new life to all who believe that word, the

gospel of the Lord Jesus. The Bible is God's word in written form, and so naturally it is right to make sure that the Bible is at the centre of our life and ministry. Evangelicals then are people of the word, or in other words, people of the Book (the Bible). But must we be so "bookish"?

One of the great steps forward for Christians at the Reformation was that, for the first time in history, ordinary individuals got access to their own bibles, and increasingly in their own languages. We can't overstate what a tremendous and liberating blessing this was. That's why the translation and distribution of God's word in as many languages as possible ought to be one of our highest priorities.

Today we enjoy extraordinary access to the word of God, in so many forms and often for very little cost – or even for free! This access has, over the years, dramatically changed the dynamic of how we approach and interact with the word of God. We now have expectations about patterns of what Christians do with the Bible that have served so many of us so well over such a long time that we find it difficult to question them. It is important to question them, though, because I fear that we might be unintentionally creating elitist roadblocks for many ordinary Australians wanting to follow the Lord Jesus.

Following the path of least resistance makes rivers and men crooked



When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out okay



God never shuts one door without opening another



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page*

So let's come near God with pure hearts and a confidence that comes from having faith. Let's keep our hearts pure, our consciences free from evil, and our bodies washed with clean water. We must hold tightly to the hope that we say is ours. After all, we can trust the one who made the agreement with us.

Many or most of us would consider the personal "quiet time" (where one sits alone, reads the Bible and prays) as the bedrock Christian devotional activity. I am convinced that life goes better when I start my day in this way. It's a pattern that helps me to grow in faith, hope and love. And so for the whole of my Christian life I have enthusiastically encouraged others to have a quiet time with God every day. I have often talked about how it is an essential part of the Christian life.

What am I saying to Jimmy and the millions of people in our country who struggle to read and understand for themselves? Have I made the ability to have a quiet time the new qualification for being a Christian? Of course I would never say it like that. I certainly don't believe it for a moment, but I fear that is exactly what newcomers to our churches might "hear".

In the Old Testament overwhelmingly it was priests, Levites and kings who would read the Law – the people would listen. Jesus chided the Pharisees and scribes with a series of rhetorical questions about what they should've read, but the vast bulk of the people were expected to listen and hear the word (there are about six times as many references in the Bible to hearing or listening to the word than there are for reading it).

One of the obvious differences

in dynamics, then, is that throughout the Bible and for most of church history, reading the word of God was primarily a group activity. At the Reformation, under Thomas Cranmer, the Church of England adopted a pattern of morning and evening prayer. Twice a day the people of a village would hear the church bell, gather, pray a series of familiar prayers and hear the word of God read to them.

Part of the genius of old school Anglicanism is that, after a little while, anyone could follow and take part in the services whether they could read or not. There was an expectation that you would come each day and hear the word of God together and respond.

I am not arguing for a minute that we should just adopt 450-year-old ways of doing things and expect them to work the same now as then. I do want to ask, however, that we consider what are the new ways of ensuring that those who can't read are embraced and included in our fellowship, and regularly fed on the word of God? I

f we are serious about reaching our city with the good news of the Lord Jesus – serious about reaching the 44 per cent who struggle with literacy, including many migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds – we need to boldly reconsider how they will hear the word of God.

Let me quickly suggest some

ways forward. Let's actively recapture a habit of reading the Bible out loud with one another, with no expectation that everyone will read. This should happen first at home with flatmates, couples, families, extended families, dorm groups – whomever we live with. We can do it in our workplaces or meet in parks, cafes, churches, trains – wherever works. Hebrews 10:24-25 is not just about turning up to church on Sunday.

We can publicise some of the many ways in which people can hear the word of God electronically these days (www.faithcomesbyhearing.com, www.megavoice.com, www.biblegateway.com, etc).

Let's make our Bible study groups look and feel less and less like school, and more and more like brothers and sisters hearing and obeying the word. We must understand the word or there is no point reading it, but understanding cannot be the goal of Bible study. Some of us may help others with the understanding bit and different people may come to the fore as we get serious about application and transformation. One body, many parts.

We need to think through the demand that novelty in church services makes on literacy. New songs every week and different corporate prayers each week are stimulating for the highly literate, but intimidating for the person who is trying to memorise things to fit in.

There's also a need to rethink our habits of relying on books to deal with pastoral issues. If you have the extraordinary privilege of being a good reader and you read a good book, perhaps you could make the costly decision to spend time talking about it with others at church rather than just passing it on. If you think that you will not learn anything by having a conversation about something you read with someone who can't read, with all respect, I think that can only be because you've never done it.

Over the years, mates I've read the Bible with who struggle to read themselves have noticed things that I missed and asked questions that I don't know the answer to. Because they have relied on me to do the reading, they've been a huge help in keeping me consistent. Because I'm not doing it alone, my prayer life is far less self-centred and I am much less easily distracted.

To Jimmy's great credit he will still take my calls, but it doesn't take a genius to figure out that we have a mountain to climb to re-establish some level of trust and genuine mutuality in our relationship. His willingness to forgive and readiness to listen tell me that he may not have wandered that far from Jesus after all.

We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things.

Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that.

We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer.

Hebrews 10:22-25 CEV



Riverlinks

October 2016	
1st Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton
2nd Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
3rd Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's
4th 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
5th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St David'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
6th Thur	*** Launceston Show Day ***
7th Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> KYB Study Group – 10:00am at Baptist Church George Town Good News Club – 3:30pm at St David's Riverside Re:Fuel – 6:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
8th Sat	Tasmanian Bible Forum – 10:00am at St Aidan's SU Future Makers Dinner – 6:00pm at Punchbowl Christian Centre
9th Sun	Riverlinks Together – 10:30am with Bp Richard Condie at St MM's George Town & followed by a BBQ lunch

October 2016	
10th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
11th Tue	
12th Wed	Clergy Conference Healing Service & Holy Communion – 10:00am in St Oswald's Hall with lunch to follow
13th Thur	Clergy Conference mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
14th Fri	Clergy Conference Diabetes Education Seminar – 10:00am at St David's
15th Sat	
16th Sun	Shared Lunch with Naomi Skeat Project SAM – 12:30pm at 113 Cormiston Road, Riverside
17th Mon	
18th Tue	
19th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
20th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's PresCare Legana – 10:45am

The deadline for the November Newsletter edition is 24th October

Calendar

October 2016	
21 st Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town Anglican Women's Retreat at Maryknoll
22 nd Sat	
23 rd Sun	CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at the Baptist Church
24 th Mon	
25 th Tue	
26 th Wed	
27 th Thur	mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
28 th Fri	Pizza and Praise Meetup – 5:00pm at 121 Macquarie Street, Hobart
29 th Sat	Diocesan Training Event – 10:00am at St Michael's Collegiate School, Hobart
30 th Sun	
31 st Mon	



November and other dates 2016	
18 th December	Traditional Carol Service at St MM's George Town
20 th December	Usual Unusual Christmas Service at Hillwood
24 th December	Carols in Trevallyn Reserve

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
2 nd	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
9 th	-	No service	
16 th	10:00 am	All In Service	
23 rd	10:00 am	Communion	
30 th	10:00 am		
George Town			
2 nd	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Communion Communion
9 th	10:30 am	George Town	Riverlinks Together
16 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Uniting
23 rd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
30 th	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
2 nd	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's
9 th	-	No services	
16 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Communion 10.30 Conversations Café @ St O's
23 rd	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Holy Communion 10.30 Worship @ St O's
30 th	10:00 am 10:30 am	Riverside Trevallyn	Praise & Worship 10.30 Worship @ St O's
Each Wed	10:00am	Riverside	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
9 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
16 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
23 rd	10:30 am	Holy Communion	

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

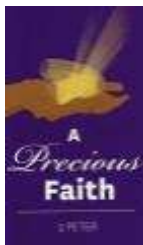
Tasmanian Bible Forum

with **Bishop Richard Condie**

Saturday 8th October

at St Aidan's East Launceston

Bp Richard will give three talks from 2 Peter: A Precious Faith - "To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ" - 2 Peter 1:1



Cost \$20 (includes morning tea & lunch)

9:45am to 3pm

RSVP to the Parish office 6324 0039 or office@riverlinks.net.au by Monday 3rd October to book your place



Bishop Richard Condie will be visiting the Parish to speak at **Riverlinks Together** Sunday 9th October,

10:30am

at St Mary Magdalene's Church, George Town



We will be sharing in a BBQ lunch together after the service, so please bring a plate of finger food to share (sausages & bread provided)



"Life Matters"

Healing & Holy Communion service with guest speakers Robin & Elizabeth Smith
Wednesday 12th October, 10:00am
at St Oswald's Hall, Trevallyn
Followed by lunch

Diabetes Education Day
Friday 14th October, 10:00am
Three sessions from Diabetes Tasmania: 1-Facilities, 2-Diabetes as you age & 3-Healthy eating with Dietitian Emily Gatenby
A healthy lunch is included for a gold coin donation
RSVP to the Parish office by 11th Oct



Confident Disciple Making
A diocesan event for Clergy & Lay people
29 October 2016 (10am - 5pm)
St Michael's Collegiate School

Registration is FREE
Lunch will be available for purchase onsite at a modest cost (please indicate any special dietary requirements at registration).
Hot drinks will be available via gold coin donation.
There will be a variety of resources available for purchase on the day

*Jesus commands us to "go and make disciples of all nations".
But how do we do this in 21st Century Australia? Isn't it nearly "mission impossible"?*

FRIDAY - Optional Pizza and Praise Meetup 5pm - 9pm. \$5 donation to cover pizza costs at 121 Macquarie St, Hobart (Behind the Cathedral)
SATURDAY - Check in & coffee from 9:15am.
Keynote address by Colin Marshall, afternoon workshops & 5pm finish

Register online at:

bishop431.wixsite.com/diocesantraining2016

Stewardship

October is stewardship month for the Riverlinks Parish.

This is our opportunity to seek spiritual guidance, review our support for the Parish and commit to the next twelve months' financial contributions for the Parish, Children's Youth & Families Ministry, and local & overseas missions.

Parishioners are encouraged to use the offertory envelopes, which are available in all centres and from the Parish office, or deposit directly to the Parish account, as many already do, details of which are printed below.

Ken Pedley
Treasurer

Financial Position

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
July	12,985	13,750
August	13,754	13,750
September MTD	<u>10,619</u>	<u>13,750</u>
TOTAL	37,358	41,250
Profit/Loss Year To Date		<u><u>- 3,892</u></u>

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory and CY&FM contributions

For offertory direct deposits: -

BSB 067 021
Account # 1000 6848
Name: Riverlinks Anglican Church

For Children, Youth & Families Ministry direct deposits: -

BSB 067 600
Account # 1077 1716
Name: Riverlinks Anglican Church

Remember this saying,
"A few seeds make a small harvest, but a lot of seeds make a big harvest."
Each of you must make up your own mind about how much to give. But don't feel sorry that you must give and don't feel that you are forced to give. God loves people who love to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of good things for others.

2 Corinthians
9:6-9 CEV



by Sam Chan
 www.espresso
 theology.com
**YOUR WORLD
 TO JESUS IN 60
 SECONDS**



A couple were walking down the street when a driver reversed out of his driveway hitting the woman.

Her husband called 000.

The operator asks their location. "We're on Euclid Road."

"Can you spell that for me please?"

"Well... umm ... how about I just drag her over to Oak Street so you can pick her up there?"

Supermodel secrets they wont tell you

Tracy Trinita, Indonesia's first supermodel, was in Australia recently.

So how can we be a supermodel? Apparently it's all to do with what *society* determines is "beautiful."

In Rubens' time, when everyone was thin, being beautiful meant being plump. And now, when we're all - *ahem* a bit plump - being beautiful means being thin.

In Australia, where many are pale-skinned, being beautiful means being tanned. But in Asia (*full-disclosure I am Asian*) where many are tanned, being beautiful means being pale-skinned.

Society is cruel. It constructs beauty as something that we can never attain. For women, it's the impossible dimensions of Barbie. For men, it's the impossible proportions of Captain America.

Society construct *beauty* and tells us we can never be beautiful.

God does the opposite. God constructs *us* as beautiful.

We don't make ourselves beautiful for God. That's *his* job.

The Bible says that those who know and worship Jesus - tall, short, plump, thin, tanned, pale - will be *robed with God's beauty*.

God makes us his supermodels.

Jesus is the Catwalk, the Truth, the Life.



At age 14, Tracy Trinita was given a modelling contract. She modelled clothes for top designers on the catwalks of New York, Milan and Paris.

Surrounded by fame and glamour, she felt terribly empty. Real happiness eluded Tracy until she realised that people with faith were happier. But which faith? Her family had Muslims, Hindus, Christians, which faith should she consider? So Tracy cried out to God - "Please reveal yourself to me!"

Hear her story at goo.gl/CVlujW

Russia restricts Christians

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law a range of restrictions on religious freedom, despite objections from human rights advocates & church leaders. Touted as surveillance and antiterrorism measures, the laws place the most significant restriction on religious activity since the Cold War. The “Yarovaya law”, named after Russian politician Irina Yarovaya, cracks down on those supporting or financing terrorism – including extremists on social media.

But it also restricts any missionary work to official church workers and religious buildings. Such a crackdown could outlaw house churches, home Bible study groups or even Christians emailing non-Christians to invite them to church. Joel Griffith of the Slavic Gospel Association told Mission Network News that this depends on how the measures are enforced. “It’s been signed into law – now it’s all going to depend on how this gets interpreted down the food chain within the Russian Federation,” he said. “It could stop missionary activity to anybody but representatives, registered organisations and groups. It would require every missionary to have documents with

specific information proving connections to a registered religious group.”

There is particular concern that President Putin, a former KGB agent, may have been influenced by the Russian Orthodox Church, which is being used as a force for Russian nationalism but has been hostile to Protestant evangelistic work. The head of the Protestant Churches of Russia, Sergei Ryakhovsky, and several other evangelical leaders, issued a public letter directly calling on Mr Putin to strike out what they called a “repressive and unconstitutional” law. “The obligation on every believer to have a special permit to spread his or her beliefs, as well as hand out religious literature and material outside of places of worship and used structures, is not only absurd and offensive but also creates the basis for mass persecution of believers for violating these provisions,” the letter said. “Soviet history shows us how many people of different faiths have been persecuted for spreading the word of God... This law brings us back to a shameful past.”

If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. If you belonged to the world, its people would love you. But you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and that is why its people hate you. People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me.

John
15:19-21 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
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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



Above & left: Riverlinks
Together @ St David's



Above: Parish Annual Meeting

Below: Post-meeting lunch



**Next Riverlinks Together
Sunday 9th October
10:30 am at George Town
with Bp Richard**

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