



Newsletter Christmas 2016

I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2: 10-11 ^{NIV}



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



How to NOT lose friends and influence people at Christmas

Teagan Russell get some practical advice from Dr. John Dickson

It's the time of year when we gather with friends and family, exchange presents and eat and drink too much. For most of us, we'll interact with unbelieving family or friends, including people we may not see that often.

How do we do this in a way as not to screw up these relationships, but also making the most of every opportunity?

Eternity asked Dr. John Dickson – Australian speaker, author and historian, and public advocate for the Christian faith - for some advice about engaging with our unbelieving family and friends at this important time of year.

1. What do you think about the greeting 'Happy Holidays' instead of 'Merry Christmas' which we've seen an example of this week (Peter Dutton)?

Nah, it's dumb!

In my experience, the only people who are really upset with the mention of 'Christmas' are the secularists who imagine that people of other faiths are disturbed by the mention of 'Christ'— either that, or they use this as an excuse to sideline religion from the public square! In reality, most secularists haven't taken the time to find out what, for example, Muslims or Jews think of Christmas greetings, or carols and nativity displays in shopping malls.

I would hazard a guess that most serious adherents of other faiths are complete grown-ups about all this stuff. They know Australia has been shaped by the Christian story, and they don't mind seeing a bit of religion in the public square.



Giving is a really big thing around Christmas, as well it should be. Christmas is about giving, and it all stems from the greatest gift the world has ever received - the gift of Jesus Christ.

Monica Johnson

For most cultures of the world, remember, religion has not been pushed to the sidelines. It is part of the public conversation. They do not see the occasional Christmas greeting—or carols playing through the PA at the shopping centre—as a challenge to their identity. It’s just what societies with a ‘bit of religion’ do!

(I’m not sure Peter Dutton would agree, but for my part, if someone was offended by my ‘Merry Christmas’ greeting, I would apologise in a flash and ask them what it is about the Christmas story they don’t like. Who knows where that conversation will go!).

2. What are the biggest mistakes you think Christians make when engaging with their unbelieving friends and family at Christmas?

Unfortunately, our biggest mistakes can be at opposite ends of the spectrum.

On the one hand, some of us make **the mistake of going in too hard at Christmas time**, taking the slightest hint of an opportunity to mention the Faith as an invitation to

download the whole gospel, while the eyes of our hearers’ glaze over.

When we do this, we are often forgetting that God can use the smallest, passing remark to pique the interest of others and turn them to Himself. We are also forgetting that with friends and family we are usually in it for the long haul.

Do we really want to blow the next opportunity to say something about Christ by being greedy or overeager with this opportunity?

On the other hand, of course, **some of us find talking about Christ to our closest friends and family the hardest of all.**

So much is at stake in these relationships. We don’t want to blow it. And often, over time, we slip into an all-too-comfortable willingness to say nothing about Christ, ever—lest we put anyone off! For many, this is the greater problem.

I would say, take a deep breath, remind yourself who ‘owns the room’ (Jesus), and

When you give up yourself, that’s when you will feel the true spirit of Christmas. And that’s giving that’s serving others and that’s when you feel fulfilled.

Joel Osteen

Don’t have anything to be thankful for?
Check your pulse!

*continued
from
previous
page*

What do
reindeer have
that no other
animals
have?

Baby
reindeer!

Why does
Santa have
three
gardens?

So he can
ho-ho-ho!

What do you
call people
who are
afraid of
Santa Claus?
Claustrophobic!

Speak of your faith in what-ever way feels natural and appropriate. It might be unnatural to 'Bible bash' over the Christmas ham, but it is certainly unnatural to hide your faith at the meal celebrating the Lord's coming.

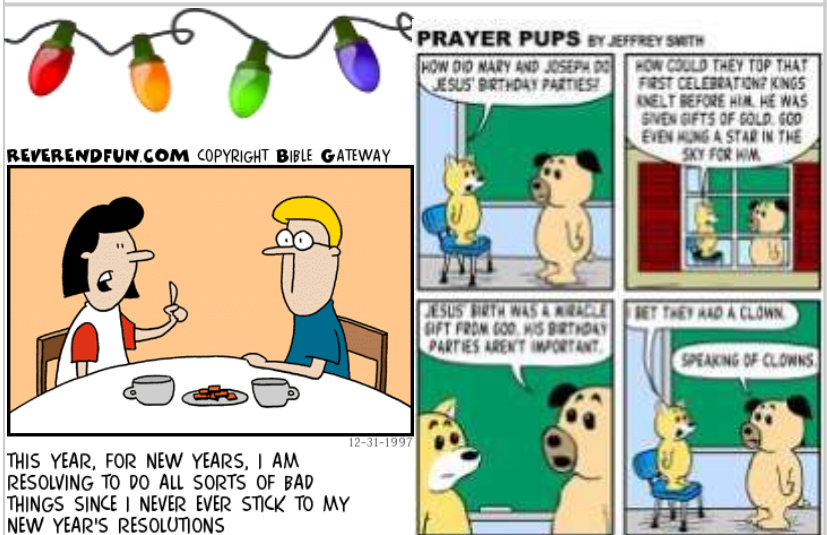
3. What's your advice for engaging with our unbelieving family and friends over Christmas?

Invite your loved ones to church to sing carols. Mention to family over Christmas lunch what you

loved most about church that morning - perhaps the preacher said something half interesting, perhaps it's a line in a carol. Or why not offer to say grace before the meal?

I offered to say grace 10-15 years ago at my extended family Christmas lunch. Now it's a tradition others request of me. And most of my family doesn't yet believe in Christ.

*This article first appeared at
www.eternitynews.com.au*



Messy Christmas



Messy Christmas

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



NOPE. THIS IS THE 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS. THE 12 DAYS DON'T END ON CHRISTMAS, THAT'S WHEN THEY START.

CHRISTMAS ACTUALLY ENDS ON THE EPIPHANY.
GOODY! MORE PRESENTS! WHAT DID YOU BRING ME FOR THE 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS?

KNOWLEDGE.

THE EPIPHANY COMMEMORATES THE DAY THE MAGI ARRIVED AND THE DAY OF JESUS' BAPTISM 30 YEARS LATER.

Riverlinks

December 2016	
24 th Sat	*** Christmas Eve *** Pipers River – 7:00pm Carols in Trevallyn Reserve – 7:30pm
25 th Sun	*** Christmas Day *** George Town – 8:00am Low Head – 9:00am East Launceston – 9:00am Riverside – 9:00am
26 th Mon	*** Boxing Day ***
27 th Tue	Tasmanian Christian Convention 27 th December to 2 nd January at Camp Clayton
28 th Wed	
29 th Thur	
30 th Fri	(each Wednesday) Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's
31 st Sat	New Year's @ St Oswald's – 6:00pm
January 2017	
1 st Sun	
2 nd Mon	
3 rd Tue	
4 th Wed	
5 th Thur	

January 2017	
6 th Fri	
7 th Sat	
8 th Sun	Faith & The Arts Summer School at Poatina 8 th to 15 th January
9 th Mon	
10 th Tue	
11 th Wed	
12 th Thur	CMS SummerView at Camp Banksia 12 th to 15 th January
13 th Fri	
14 th Sat	
15 th Sun	
16 th Mon	
17 th Tue	
18 th Wed	
19 th Thur	
20 th Fri	
21 st Sat	
22 nd Sun	

***** Please check with your own Home Group for 2017 restart dates *****

The deadline for the next Newsletter edition is 30th January

Calendar

January 2017	
23 rd Mon	
24 th Tue	
25 th Wed	
26 th Thur	*** Australia Day *** Free Community Fun Day – 11:00am to 2:00pm in Lions Park Trevallyn
27 th Fri	
28 th Sat	
29 th Sun	
30 th Mon	<i>Parish office reopens</i>
31 st Tue	
February 2017	
1 st Wed	
2 nd Thur	
3 rd Fri	School Term 1 begins
4 th Sat	
5 th Sun	
6 th Mon	
7 th Tue	

Diary dates for 2017	
11 th February	Annual Diocesan SCC Training Event
19 th February	Schools Sunday
4 th March	MST & PC Retreat
14 th - 16 th April	Launceston Easter Community Festival

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
25 th Dec	9:00 am	Communion	
1 st Jan	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
8 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
15 th	10:00 am	Communion	
22 nd	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
29 th	-	No service	
5 th Feb	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
25 th Dec	8:00 am 9:00 am	George Town Low Head	Communion Communion
1 st Jan	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
8 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion ABU Baptist
15 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Uniting
22 nd	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion ABU Service
29 th	10:30 am	Pipers River	Riverlinks Together
5 th Feb	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River Hillwood George Town	Communion Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
25 th Dec	9:00 am	Riverside	Communion
1 st Jan	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
8 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
15 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
22 nd	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
29 th	-	No service	
5 th Feb	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service
Peace Haven			
8 th	10:30 am	Holy Communion	
15 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
22 nd	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

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve	St Alban's Pipers River	– 7:00pm
	Carols in Trevallyn Reserve	– 7:30pm
Christmas Day	St Mary Magdalene's George Town	– 8:00am
	Christ Church Low Head	– 9:00am
	St Aidan's East Launceston	– 9:00am
	St David's Riverside	– 9:00am

New Year's at St Oswald's

See the fireworks from the best vantage point in the city

Thursday 31st December
from 6pm

for a bring & share meal
& watch the fireworks at 9:00pm
over the Tamar River

Australia Day

January 26th

Lion's Park, Trevallyn
11am - 2pm

FREE!!!

- *Mega Slide
- *Jumping Castle
- *BBQ & Drinks
- *Games
- *Giveaways



Schools Sunday 19 February 2017



see www.sutas.org.au/schools-sunday
for more info & how to get involved

Faith and the Arts Summer School

8 - 15 January 2017 in the Poatina Village

Arts Workshops | Creative Worship | Teaching

Explore your creativity... Learn New Skills... Find Your Voice... Come Alive!

Choose from electives in music, dance, painting & drawing, jewellery, printmaking and more. Register online at www.poatinaarts.org.au





safe CHURCH

Communities

Launceston Annual Diocesan SCC Training Event

Saturday 11 February 2017

@ St Johns 157 St Johns Street Launceston

Registrations close 27 January 2017

scenario training



10.00 - 1.00 Training

(Leader training to follow Member training at 1.00)

Tea and coffee provided

12.30 *Bring your own lunch if you plan to stay for the afternoon team session*

2.00 - 3.30 Team planning An opportunity to complete your Permission to Proceed online

Who needs to do initial training?

All those in a parish over the age of 18 appointed by the parish who engage in a responsible role with children and/or young people often in the context of a team, under the direction of a Leader

Who needs to do refresher training?

All those who have completed their initial training and who need their three year re-endorsement

Unsure?

Ask your parish coordinator

To register

Contact your parish coordinator

Phone 6220 2012

Email scc@anglicantas.org.au

learn as a team



From Bishop Richard Condie



Christmas in Bethlehem. The ancient dream: a cold, clear night made brilliant by a glorious star, the smell of incense, shepherds and wise men falling to their knees in adoration of the sweet baby, the incarnation of perfect love.

Lucinda Franks



Dear Friends,

I had the rare privilege of sitting in church as an “ordinary parishioner” yesterday. How wonderful it was to reflect on Mary’s words in the Magnificat! This most famous song (Luke 1:46 -55) reminds us that the birth of that baby was no ordinary birth. He was the one through whom the whole world would be turned upside down, or rather “right side up”: Performing mighty deeds, and scattering the proud. Bringing down rulers, and lifting up the humble. Filling the hungry with good things, and sending the rich away empty. Remembering his promises to Abraham’s descendants. It was a truly revolutionary birth, of a truly revolutionary man, God with us, in the person of Jesus Christ.

May you know something of the wonder and joy and revolution in your own life, as he “right sides” you once again.

A Happy & Joyous Christmas to all.

Warm wishes in Christ,
Richard

Please join me in giving thanks to God our Father:

- ◆For loving us enough to send his Son.
- ◆For the right-siding our world through Jesus, and
- ◆For the Hope of Glory.

Please pray:

- ◆That many, who would not normally have the chance to hear of Him, would find themselves in church this Christmas.
- ◆That all our churches would faithfully and boldly declare Him this Christmas week.
- ◆And that God would be pleased to draw people to himself.

Please pray especially for Summer ministry:

- ◆For Beach Missions
- ◆For Anglican Camping Tasmania Camps
- ◆For CMS SummerView
- ◆And for rest and restoration for our ministry teams over the summer period.

I would appreciate your prayers for my teaching ministry over the summer. I am speaking on Ezra-Nehemiah at the Belgrave Heights Convention Dec 29 to Jan 2 in Victoria, and then on Nehemiah for CMS SummerView January 12-15.

What can Yoda teach us about God?

The other day I went to buy a toy Yoda for my son. But when we asked how much it was, we were told \$130. How can a *plastic* toy be worth \$130?

In terms of *intrinsic* value - Yoda is only a blob of plastic worth a few cents.

But Yoda is worth \$130 because of *extrinsic* value - people are prepared to pay that much for Yoda. Or, as behavioural economists explain, people prefer to own this plastic Yoda than to have \$130 dollars in their pocket.

How much are we worth?

Without God, in terms of *intrinsic* value - we're only a blob of chemicals worth a few cents.

So, without God, we have to get value from *extrinsic* trophies - salary, career, family, qualifications, status, reputation, achievements.

But with God, in terms of *intrinsic* value - we are in the image of God. That's why every human life is precious.

And, if we let God adopt us as

his children, our *extrinsic* value comes from God - he gives us status, worth and reputation.

God pays the price by sending his Son Jesus to die for us and live for us. Or, as behavioural economists explain, we are so precious to God that Jesus prefers to die for us than to sit comfortably in heaven.

by Sam Chan

Reproduced from Sam Chan's blog
Espresso Theology - your world to
Jesus is 60 seconds



may your
Christmas
be a celebration
of God's
love!

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

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Riverlinks Anglican Parish
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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 & right:
Messy Christmas

Below: Fellowship Night 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