



Newsletter

May 2017

The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

John 1:4,5 ^{NLT}



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

A Balanced Diet



Open your mouth and taste, open your eyes and see—how good God is. Blessed are you who run to him.

Worship God if you want the best; worship opens doors to all his goodness.

Psalm
34:8,9 MSG

Whether you are young or old, fit or struggling, encumbered by excess weight or thin enough that a stiff breeze makes life difficult for you, or anywhere in between, we all know the importance of a balanced diet. A balanced diet provides for all of us, in any condition, and at any age, the appropriate nutritional needs, and all the vitamins and minerals that our bodies need to stay healthy.

Don't worry, the newsletter hasn't been hacked by a lifestyle guru, and I'm not about to make you sign up to an eating plan, or a supplement program. But I do believe that there is something we can learn from this idea of balanced diet, when we apply it to our lives as individuals and as a community of faith.

We are called to be disciples of Jesus. A disciple is one who follows the teachings of, and models their life on, their leader, and so as we look at Jesus life, it is easy to see that he held in constant balance a three-dimensional life.

Jesus invested in his relationship with the Father.

There are many examples throughout the gospels, which show us just how important Jesus viewed spending time with the Father, whether it be before important choices (Luke 6:12-16), first thing in the morning (Mark 1:35), after a busy day at work (Matthew 14:23), or when the rubber was really hitting the road (Matthew 26:36)!

Perhaps though, the most instructive example for me is found in Luke 5:15-16. Here we find Jesus gaining celebrity status. The crowds have heard about what he has been able to do, and they are bringing themselves and the sick out in droves. As a leader in the church, I tend to think that more people must automatically be a good thing. This is exciting, there is some traction to Jesus message. Yet instead of simply making himself busier and busier, instead of the pressing need of the present that would, if I am honest, distract me at even the best of times, what do we see Jesus do? He withdraws

from the crowd, so that he can spend time alone with the Father.

That we need to be aware of our relationship with God is not going to be new to any of us. That we need to spend time in worship, in prayer and reading his word is not exactly rocket science. Yet in the busyness of our lives, it is often exactly this that is sacrificed, in order that we might “do” more – even those things that on the surface look like good things to do. The danger in not keeping our relationship with God in focus, if it is missing, or if it is diminished, is obvious. Jesus says: I am the vine, you are the branches, remain in me and you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, they are like a branch that withers, and is picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

As disciples of Jesus, we must invest in our relationship with the Father, and not just on a Sunday!

Jesus invited people into his life. Throughout the gospel, we see again and again that there are crowds that come

to Jesus, that there are large groups of people who would be his disciples, that there are 72 he sends out on mission, 12 that he calls as apostles and 3 from this group that are his closest friends. We see here a pattern of being available to the many, yet investing very intentionally and specifically into a few. A pattern of choosing a group to ‘do-life’ with, who would spend the three years of Jesus earthly ministry with him, and ultimately be responsible to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. These are the people who walked, talked, ate, laughed, cried, fished, prayed, and worked alongside Jesus.

Most of us are part of small communities at church. Many of us are part of smaller communities – whether home groups, or guilds or fellowship groups. Yet I am challenged, as I hope you are: who is close enough to see your life in the way that the disciples saw Jesus life?

One of the most significant times of growth in my ministry happened simply because a leader in my

The people said, “Lord, give us this bread and don’t ever stop!”

Jesus replied, “I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty.”

John
6:34,35 CEV

Strength is
more
impressive
yet less
effective
than wisdom



Life is life
tennis - the
one who
serves the
most seldom
loses



One birthday
isn't enough.

Be born
again!

church invited me to go for a walk each morning with him. Through this time we shared stories, hopes, challenges and fears. We talked about strategy, sermons, what God was saying to us. We shared exciting opportunities and prayed together. I didn't realise it at the time, he didn't say to me; "Josh, I'm going to disciple you, and I'm going to do it by walking", but by simply investing in my life in a such a way – intentionally travelling with me both literally and spiritually, we both grew as disciples of Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus we are called to invest into the lives of others deeply, significantly and intentionally.

Jesus reached out to the world around him. Again, it should come as no surprise that Jesus, despite keeping his relationship with God in focus, and investing into the lives of a few, kept God's mission at the forefront of his ministry. He reaches out in the power of God to the crowds: teaching, proclaiming the kingdom, calling to repentance, bringing healing. He goes to people's homes, he meets people where they

are at, he talks to people who no one else will talk to, he breaks social taboos. Simply put: Jesus doesn't just park himself at the temple. And he doesn't set up a roving tabernacle, hanging the shingle and expecting people to come to him. Jesus goes to the last, the lost and the least.

God is a God of Mission. Jesus never loses sight of it, and neither can we if we are going to be his disciples.

When we get these three dimensions of our lives as Disciples right, then we are truly going to be living as the people who God has called us to be. We will be disciples of Jesus, who in turn are making disciples of Jesus. And just as a balanced diet doesn't happen by accident, neither should we expect our lives to fall into this pattern naturally as disciples of Jesus. We must be intentional!

Are you living this Three-Dimensional life?

Where is the balance wrong for you?

What might you need to change?

What would be different if you did?

Children's & Family Fun Festival



Riverlinks Café served free morning tea & water to keep the crowd hydrated for the entertainment!



May we live simply so that others may simply live



Need a new look?


Get a faith lift



Patience is the ability to keep your motor idling when you feel like stripping your gears

Riverlinks

May 2017	
1 st Mon	<i>(each Monday)</i> Child's Play – 9:30am at St O's CMST Meeting – 6:45pm at the Parish office
2 nd Tue	<i>(each Tuesday)</i> Prayer Group – 1:00pm at St MM G/Town Home & Study Groups – 1:30pm at Collings' home – 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
3 rd Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> 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
4 th Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
5 th 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 Youth Group – 5:00pm at St John's Launceston Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
6 th Sat	Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's Launceston Spit Roast – 12:00pm at Colgrave's Home, 20 South St. George Town
7 th Sun	Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
8 th Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm

May 2017	
9 th Tue	
10 th Wed	
11 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's PresCare Legana – 10:45am Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
12 th Fri	
13 th Sat	
14 th Sun	*** Mother's Day *** 
15 th Mon	
16 th Tue	
17 th Wed	St Oswald's Fellowship Group – 2:00pm Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
18 th Thur	
19 th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
20 th Sat	Coffee & Dessert Night – 7:00pm at George Town Baptist Church

The deadline for the June Newsletter edition is 22nd May

Calendar

May 2017	
21 st Sun	
22 nd Mon	
23 rd Tue	
24 th Wed	
25 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's
26 th Fri	
27 th Sat	
28 th Sun	Top Brass! West Tamar Band Concert – 2:00pm at Holy Trinity Beaconsfield CCCGT Combined Service – 2:30pm at St Mary Magdalene's George Town
29 th Mon	
30 th Tue	
31 st Wed	
1 st June	
2 nd June	SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre
3 rd June	SYNOD at the Tailrace Centre

June and other dates 2017	
2 nd & 3 rd June	SYNOD
30 th July	Riverlinks Together @ St David's
19 th August	Tasmanian Bible Forum @ St Aidan's with Bp Richard Condie



Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
7 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
14 th	10:00 am	Communion	
21 st	10:00 am	All In Service	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
7 th	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:30 am	Hillwood Pipers River George Town	Communion Morning Prayer Communion
14 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
21 st	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Baptist
28 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
7 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
14 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
21 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
28 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	Trevallyn	Healing Service & HC
Peace Haven			
21 st	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
28 th	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



Congratulations James Oakley
 who achieved his
 Graduate Diploma of Divinity
 on 8 April 2017

**Knitters
 needed**
 for the
**Bell Bay
 Seafarer's
 Mission**



“Properly practiced, knitting soothes the troubled spirit, and it doesn't hurt the untroubled spirit either.”

Elizabeth Zimmermann

You can help seafarers all over the world with knitting! Warm woolly hats keep Seafarers warm through the long, cold days and nights spent on the open seas.

Each knitted item is a symbol of love and friendship that transcends language barriers and cultural differences. The item of clothing that you knit - the work of your hands - will bring warmth, comfort and a token of your appreciation to men and women who supply us with all the things we use every day.

Beanies can be left at the Parish office, or given directly to the Mission Coordinator Garry Jones.

All sizes & colours are greatly appreciated & gratefully received.



**TOP BRASS!
 WEST TAMAR BAND**

Featuring vocalist: Dee Brown
 Compere: Christina Holmdahl

Holy Trinity Church, Beaconsfield

2pm Sunday 28th May

Admission by donation,
 & afternoon tea will be served

Financial Position

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Year To Date 31MAR17	118,239	123,750
MTD April 2017	<u>11,743</u>	<u>13,750</u>
TOTAL	129,982	137,500
Profit/Loss Year To Date		<u><u>- 7,518</u></u>

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:

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

Palm Sunday Celebration



Jesus was in the centre of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, "Praise

God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!"

Matthew 21:9-11 ^{NLT}

What's That Smell?

Mother is
the Best

My mum is
really great,
she's as sweet
as she can be,

When I need
some help,
I know that
she is always
there for me.

Mum loves me
all the time,
even when I
am a pest.

She gives me
what I need,
not want.

Yes, my
mother is the
best



My two-year-old darling goes to daycare once a week. She loves it – spends most of the time making dirt pies outside, Mr Biddulph will be pleased to hear, and I'm always thrilled to see how much dirt her clothes have managed to carry home. That statement's not tongue-in-cheek, by the way. I really am stoked to see her grimy clothes, the clumps of dirt secreted in the toes of her shoes, and know that she's been engaged in some good, old-fashioned play.

Each time I pick her up, swinging her into my arms and covering her face with kisses, I notice a strange smell. When I put my nose to it, inhaling at her neck and in her ash-blonde hair, I realise what it is: someone else's perfume – the lingering fragrance of another woman's loving cuddles.

The evidence of a Jesus-centred (or should that be Jesus-scented?) life is like this, like a sweet aroma that people are drawn to, intrigued by, entranced by,

and which even rubs off on them. They take that aroma home, tucked inadvertently into the seams of their conscience. And perhaps they won't have words for it, perhaps they will only know it as something "good".

"... your name is like perfume poured out," Song of Songs 1:3 says.

Speaking the name of Jesus releases the fragrance of heaven. It lingers around us like a cloud, rubbing off on others.

But this verse – this vignette from Song of Songs that has lately compelled me to study deeper – holds another revelation. The perfume is not spritzed or dabbed sparingly on wrists and neck. It is "poured out".



We don't tend to pour perfume. Imagine drenching your *décolletage* with a whole bottle of Dior or using Chanel No. 5 like it was bath water. Frivolous much?

Yet, that is the expression used; "poured out".

Like water from a tap.
Like milk from a jug.
Like wine at a wedding.
Like rain from the sky.
Like a dam overflowing.

I'm struck by the generosity of it – something as precious as Jesus' name poured out, lavished. Not rationed.

The power of Jesus' name is a perfume poured out from a vessel with depth unmeasured.

Like a beautiful scent, he beckons...

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

"I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6

As I pull bunny-print pyjamas onto my little girl's legs,

guiding hands through armholes and buttoning up to the flannelette collar, I wonder if my perfume is as noticeable as the aroma she carried home.

I tuck her into bed, sing, pray, switch off the light.

As Jesus' Beloved, are there ways I can pour out his name like perfume, rather than spritz it in awkward, tight-fisted ways?

Claire Van Ryn

KEEPING THE FAITH

Published on April 23, 2017

This article first appeared at www.faithlikeamushroom.com

"Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognised by those on the way of salvation—an aroma redolent with life. But those on the way to destruction treat us more like the stench from a rotting corpse.

This is a terrific responsibility. Is anyone competent to take it on? No—**but at least we don't take God's Word,** water it down, and then take it to the streets to sell it cheap. We stand in **Christ's presence when we speak;** God looks us in the face. We get what we say straight from God and **say it as honestly as we can."**

2 Corinthians 2:15-17,
The Message.

A prayer for Mothers

Thank you,
Lord, for
mothers young
and old.

We thank you
for our own
mothers who
have nurtured
and cared
for us.

We pray for
women who
are not
mothers but
still love and
shape us.

We remember
our mothers,
grandmothers
& great grand-
mothers who
are no longer
with us.

Amen.

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



Above: Passover meal St A's



Above right: The ANZAC Tree
book launch at QVMAG

Right: Palm Sunday St A's

Below right: Riverlinks Café at
the Children's & Family Fun
Festival



Below: Breaking Bread
Together at the ABU service
St MM's George Town



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