



Newsletter Christmas 2017



... the angel was joined by a vast host of others
—the armies of heaven— praising God and saying,
“Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”
Luke 1:13,14 ^{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



From the Registrar Elect

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Micah 5:2 NIV

The Word became flesh

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

This is one of my favourite verses at Christmas time. The Word in this passage refers to Jesus - John makes that clear in this famous passage. But there's something that is a little bit concealed in the English translation, and in the familiarity of the verse. The words for "lived among us" almost literally mean "camped in our midst".

If you've ever been at a campsite where strangers are in tents next to each other, you'll appreciate something of the intimacy of this image. Canvas doesn't insulate very well against sound, and so you hear everything. You hear the kids waking up with sun at 5:30 am, you hear the grown ups having their final, child-free conversations at 11:30 pm. You hear every snore, every grunt, every word, every argument.

What's worse - you know that everyone around you is hearing your own family in it's in-edited glory.

And as annoying and intrusive as that is, over a few days, you develop a kind of friendliness and friendship in the campsite. You're more likely and willing to say "good morning" to your neighbours. You commiserate with them about the troubles of getting kids to settle when it's so light at night. You carefully avoid placing blame for the children who woke up earliest when the sun rose. And you agree wholeheartedly about how good it is to unplug, and to get away from all the bustle of daily life.

The distinctions that might apply in the city sort of cease to matter at the campsite. It doesn't really matter how well (or poorly) educated you are. Income doesn't really feature. The car you drive, the house you own, and the state of your furniture all stops mattering.

This is the sort of thing that God did in coming to “live among us”. He puts aside the things that divided us from him. And let’s be realistic - the things that divide humanity from God are pretty significant. Yet God decides to set them aside for a time, and to set up his tent among us.

That thought alone is enough to blow me away, and keep me blown away all through Christmas. That God would put up with the arguments, the drunkenness, the violence, the hate, the lust, the anger, the selfishness, the sheer mundane evil of humanity. That God decides to share a campsite with us, not just for a week or a summer, but for years (and then, through his Holy Spirit, for millenia!). I’m astonished, frankly!

But it gets even richer. The word used for “set up his tent” is the same root word that is used to describe the tabernacle of Old Testament fame. So in a sense, the language is saying that the

“Word” (ie, Jesus), “tabernacled” with us.

In the early Old Testament, the tabernacle was *the* place where God met with his people. It was the only place on earth where God’s people could get close to him, could pray to him, could worship him. It was a place to approach with fear and trembling. It formed the very centre of God’s people - their whole life was oriented toward the tabernacle. Toward the tent of meeting-with-God.

And now God, in Jesus, tabernacled with his people.

There was no more need of priests, or sacrifices, or rituals, or curtains. Ordinary men, women and children could meet God in the street, or in the synagogue, or in the market, or in the carpenter’s workshop. God tabernacled with his people.

And we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

James Oakley

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Luke 2:15-18 NIV

*continued
from
previous
page ...*

Celebrating around the Parish

This Christmas,
my wishes
for you are
endless;
I wish that
you have the
best health,
find love,
delightful days,
blissful year,
bright future,
energetic hours
and everything
that comes with
good tidings.
Merry
Christmas!







This season,
keep your
eyes and heart
open for
unexpected
ways that God
will reveal to
you the hope
of Christmas

Jack
Countryman



We can
participate in
every festivity
of the
Christmas
season, but
until we
receive the
gift of Jesus
Christ, we will
never truly
experience
Christmas

Mary
Southernland



FAHS Award of Merit to Peter Cox

During November the George Town and District Historical Society received notification from Assoc. Professor Don Garden, FFAHS, FRHSV, President of the Federation of Australian Historical Societies, that:

'At its annual general meeting in Brisbane on 21 October, the Federation of Aust. Historical Societies unanimously agreed, after the nomination of the George Town & District Historical Society, to offer Peter Cox the honour of an Award of Merit from the FAHS.



The award is recognition of Peter's significant contribution to the study and promotion of early Australian colonial history, especially in Tasmania.'

Congratulations Peter!

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Financial Position

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Year To Date 30NOV17	62,855	66,750
MTD December 2017	<u>6,364</u>	<u>13,350</u>
TOTAL	69,219	80,100
Profit/(Loss) to 30 November 2017		<u>(3,895)</u>

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:

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

Christmas Carol Celebration

Around 90 people attended the Carol service in St David's on 10th December. A great celebration with Riverside PS choir, led by "Chappy" Lindy, James' storytelling, plus Ian Chia & Stephen Janes providing music



Riverlinks

December 2017	
18 th Mon	
19 th Tue	Usual Unusual Christmas Service – 7:00pm at St Mary Magdalene's George Town
20 th Wed	
21 st Thur	Regis Aged Care Legana – 10:45am
22 nd Fri	*** PARISH OFFICE CLOSES ***
23 rd Sat	
24 th Sun	<u>CHRISTMAS EVE</u> Christ Church Low Head – 9:00am St Mary Magdalene's George Town – 10:30am St Alban's Pipers River – 7:00pm Peace Haven Chapel Norwood – 7:00pm St Oswald's Trevallyn – 9:00pm
25 th Mon	<u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> Christ Church Low Head – 9:00am St Aidan's East Launceston – 9:00am St David's Riverside – 9:00am Launceston City Community Christmas – 11:00am at the Albert Hall
26 th Tue	*** BOXING DAY ***
27 th Wed	
28 th Thur	
29 th Fri	
30 th Sat	
31 st Sun	New Years Eve Fellowship & Fireworks – 6:00pm at St Oswald's Trevallyn

January 2018	
1 st Mon	*** NEW YEARS DAY ***
2 nd Tue	
3 rd Wed	
4 th Thur	
5 th Fri	
6 th Sat	
7 th Sun	Faith & The Arts Summer School at Poatina
8 th Mon	Faith & The Arts Summer School
9 th Tue	Faith & The Arts Summer School
10 th Wed	Faith & The Arts Summer School
11 th Thur	CMS SummerView at Camp Banksia Port Sorell Faith & The Arts Summer School
12 th Fri	CMS SummerView at Camp Banksia Port Sorell Faith & The Arts Summer School at Poatina
13 th Sat	CMS SummerView Faith & The Arts Summer School
14 th Sun	CMS SummerView Faith & The Arts Summer School
15 th Mon	
16 th Tue	
17 th Wed	

Speak to your local Home Group leader about starting dates for 2018

The deadline for the February Newsletter edition is 22nd January

Calendar

January 2018	
18 th Thur	
19 th Fri	
20 th Sat	
21 st Sun	
22 nd Mon	*** PARISH OFFICE RE-OPENS ***
23 rd Tue	
24 th Wed	
25 th Thur	
26 th Fri	*** AUSTRALIA DAY *** CCCGT Family Day in Regent Square George Town Australia Day Family Celebration in Lions Park Trevallyn
27 th Sat	
28 th Sun	
29 th Mon	
30 th Tue	
31 st Wed	
1 st Feb Thur	
2 nd Feb Fri	
3 rd Feb Sat	

Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
25 th	9:00 am	Prayer, Praise & Proclamation	
31 st	10:00 am	Prayer, Praise & Proclamation	
January			
7 th	10:00 am	Prayer, Praise & Proclamation	
14 th	10:00 am	Prayer, Praise & Proclamation	
21 st	10:00 am	Prayer, Praise & Proclamation	
28 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
24 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
	7:00 pm	Pipers River	Communion
25 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
31 st	10:30 am	George Town	Communion
January			
7 th	9:00 am	Pipers River	Morning Prayer
	10:30 am	George Town	ABU Uniting
14 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	ABU Anglican
21 st	9:00 am	Pipers River	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	ABU Baptist
28 th	9:00 am	Low Head	Communion
	10:30 am	George Town	ABU Uniting
Riverside & Trevallyn			
24 th	9:00 pm	Trevallyn	Christmas Worship
25 th	9:00 am	Riverside	Communion
31 st	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
January			
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	St Oswald's Healing Service & HC (except 27 th December)	
Peace Haven			
24 th	7:00 pm	Christmas Carol Service	
January			
14 th	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
21 st	10:30 am	Holy Communion	



PEARLY GATES BULLETIN SERVICE © GHP, 2017

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



WHAT'S ON THIS SUMMER?



WE INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR THE



25TH DECEMBER
11:00AM - 2:00PM AT ALBERT HALL
(LIMITEERE ST, LAUNCESTON)

Delicious buffet meals, beverages, children's activities & much more.

Australia Day

January 26th

Lion's Park, Trevallyn

11am - 2pm

FREE!!!

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



NEW YEAR'S EVE



Watch the Launceston NYE fireworks display from the best vantage point in town!
Everyone is invited to share a meal from 6pm - please bring a main or dessert - and view the fireworks from St Oswald's deck at 9.30pm

ARTS WORKSHOPS
CREATIVE WORSHIP
TEACHING

Special Guest Joel Mckenroy

FAITH and the ARTS

wide - expansive - life

7-14 January 2018 | Poatina Tasmania
www.poatinaarts.org.au



Does your SCC Endorsement expire in 2018?
Interested in volunteering in a children's program?



Safe Church Communities Training Day 2018

LAUNCESTON

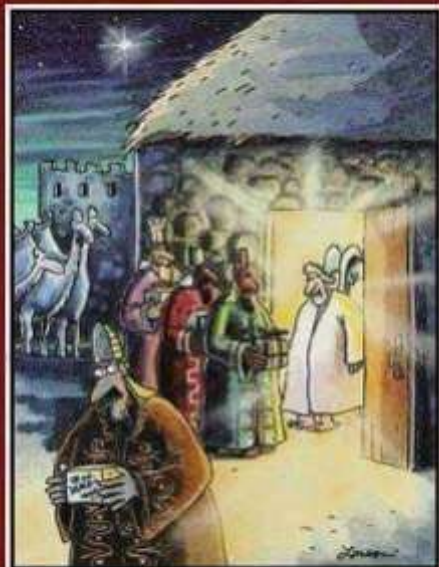
Saturday 10 February

Launceston Christian School

452A West Tamar Road Riverside

to register email scc@anglicantas.org.au

or phone 6220 2012 before Friday 2 February



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.





"Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got."

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the little fellow said. "My mum gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my dad gives me five dollars a week not to play it at night."

What can I give Him?

One year, those responsible for decorating their church for Christmas decided to use the theme of "Christmas lists." Instead of decorating with the usual shiny gold and silver ornaments, they gave each person a red or green tag. On one side they were to write down the gift they would like from Jesus, and on the other they were to list the gift they would give to the One whose birth they were celebrating.

If you were to do this, what gift would you ask for and what would you offer? The Bible gives us lots of ideas. God promises to supply all our needs, so we might ask for a new job, help with financial problems, physical healing for ourselves or others, or a restored relationship. We might be wondering what our spiritual gift is that equips us for God's service. Many of these are listed in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Or we might long to show more of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: to be more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind and good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled (Gal. 5:22–23).

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2

The most important gift we can ever receive is God's gift of His Son, our Saviour, and with Him forgiveness, restoration, and the promise of spiritual life that begins now and lasts forever. And the most important gift we can ever give is to give Jesus our heart.

By Marion Stroud

www.odb.org

You overwhelm me with Your gifts, Lord. In return, I want to give You the very best present that I can. Please show me what You want most from me.



If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.
Christina G. Rossetti

Farewell Service & BBQ



A special Riverlinks Together service was held on Sunday 10th December to farewell both the Oakley and Todd families as they prepare to move South.

James preached for the final in the Parish as the Children & Families Ministry Coordinator, and Kelvin led communion.

While it is with some sadness that we say goodbye, we wish you God's every good blessing as you begin new ministries.

Father O'Malley was driving home on Christmas Eve when got stopped for speeding.

The police officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, "Father, have you been drinking?"

"Only water", replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, "Then how come I can smell wine?"

The priest looked at the bottle and said, "Good Lord! He's done it again."

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12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO BRIGHT THIS YEAR



Dave Hack leaves behind the city lights of Perth for a week on the rough ocean, where he finds hope and peace in unexpected places.

Dave is the Young Adults Pastor at Riverview Church in Perth, and a member of the Common Grace board

Reproduced from the “Unexpected Beauty” series at www.commongrace.org.au

Hope on the horizon

Have you ever been so far away from the lights of the city that the night sky is no longer black?

One of my favourite experiences was a week spent on a tall ship off the coast of Western Australia. It was a week literally 'learning the ropes', beginning with discovering the names of over 100 ropes. It was a week facing my fear of heights, as I climbed masts over 30 metres tall. And it was a week breathing in the awe-inspiring beauty of the open ocean, while humbly discovering the overwhelming power of the wind and waves.

Late one night we were sailing 30 nautical miles out to sea, and with the lights of Perth city a faint glow on the horizon behind us I experienced a phenomenon like no other. I was sitting on the bow of the boat as it pitched up and down violently in a four-metre swell, when I realised the night sky had become a colour I'd never seen. With

no moon and no city lights to wash it out, the sky was filled with stars. Rather than a black night-sky, above me was a now bright incandescent ceiling, while below was a turbulent black sea. It was a little disorienting yet completely captivating; it was an inversion of what felt 'normal'.

But with no moon, there was no light to illuminate the roaring ocean. No way to see the oncoming relentless swells that were throwing around the hull of this 100-foot long ship. Up and down we went, as easily as I pick up and play with my young nephews. The turmoil and chaos of the ocean swell was unsettling for many of my crew mates, but to me there was an unexpected beauty in



it. Just like my nephews asking for 'more', I couldn't get enough of the thrilling, lurching movement. And it was lucky that I enjoyed it; on this night, it was my only option!

Movement on the ocean is only thrilling when you can see either the horizon or the heavens above. This was why I was on the bow that night. Without a reference point for your eyes to place you, your brain cannot make sense of the inner ear's sensation of motion, and that is why many become violently ill. Ask any salty sea dog and he'll tell you to "keep your eyes on the horizon!"

Isaiah 9:2-7 speaks to our need for hope in a troubled world, where the undercurrent of oppression and injustice is an unpredictable, black and stormy sea that rightly disturbs us. If we don't look to our horizon of hope found in our 'Prince of Peace', who has inverted the 'normal' order of the world, the sea will make us sick, immobilising us, and holding us back from playing our part in fairness and justice of his rule. It's our only option.

Isaiah 9:2-7 ^{CEV}

Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light. And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of darkest shadows.

Our Lord, you have made your nation stronger.

Because of you, its people are glad and celebrate like workers at harvest time or like soldiers dividing up what they have taken.

You have broken the power of those who abused and enslaved your people.

You have rescued them just as you saved your people from Midian.

The boots of marching warriors and the blood-stained uniforms have been fed to flames and eaten by fire.

A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler.

His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father

and Prince of Peace.

His power will never end; peace will last forever.

He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong.

He will always rule with honesty and justice.

The Lord All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

He was
created of a
mother whom
He created.

He was
carried by
hands that
He formed.

He cried in
the manger
in wordless
infancy.

He, the
Word,
without whom
all human
eloquence
is mute.

Augustine

*Wishing You All
A HAPPY
AND HOLY
CHRISTMAS*

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 Rd
Riverside

Trevallyn
34 Bain Tce
Trevallyn
0409 799 419

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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



Top: Riverlinks Together & farewell
BBQ for the Oakley & Todd families
@ St Aidan's

Above & right: Consultation meeting
with Bp Richard @ St Aidan's

Below: PC & MST Christmas Dinner
@ Gray's Hotel George Town



Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)
(Closed for holidays from 22nd December to 22nd January)

6324 0039 office@riverlinks.net.au

Website

www.riverlinks.net.au