



# Newsletter

## February

### 2018

What do we gain by all of our hard work? I have seen what difficult things God demands of us. God makes everything happen at the right time. Yet none of us can ever fully understand all he has done, and he puts questions in our minds about the past and the future. I know the best thing we can do is to always enjoy life, because God's gift to us is the happiness we get from our food and drink and from the work we do.

Ecclesiastes 3:9-13 <sup>CEV</sup>



*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



# I didn't know what MTB meant. Now I'm doing it

By  
Claire  
Van Ryn

[www.faithlikeamushroom.com](http://www.faithlikeamushroom.com)  
Published on  
January 15, 2018



Stand still and  
watch the  
world go by --  
and it will



God looks not  
to the quantity  
of the gift but  
to the quality  
of the giver



No man ever  
got lost on a  
straight road



We pause at the top of the track, checking tyres, shoe laces, helmet straps – but mostly – checking our resolve. Straddling the aluminium frame, my toes barely touch the dirt. The bike's not mine. It belongs to a friend who's about a metre taller.

And we push away, coasting along the gentle beginning of a track that quickly hacks like the pattern on a heart rate monitor. My face is a muddle of adrenaline-fed joy and white fear, my mouth's smile-scream catching the dust clouding around us.

The Lego block tread of my tyres propels me over cobbled rocks, some splintered and sharp. Around the sweeping berms\*. Over tree roots. A quick veer to avoid a blue-tongue sunning himself mid-track. Grasses and ferns lash at my legs. A jockey darts ahead. The perfume of Peppermint Gum

is intoxicating. Cicada song and the screech of rosellas compete with the whir of gears and our sporadic squeals as we hurtle along the rugged track.

This is our first ride.

My long-time friend and I thought we'd give mountain bike riding a whirl and we quickly discovered our inner child. The one that rolls its eyes at gym classes and treadmill runs. Out on these trails, the child whoops and skips and runs in circles saying, "Faster, faster!" We are alive, frighteningly alive.

As I have continued the sport, flying through the bush over butt-jarring rocks, dirt and gravel, I can see it as I see life.

Sometimes I'm in the cruisiest gear possible, pedalling uphill, trying to maintain momentum as my quads burn for relief. That's when I'm praying, "God help me!" and clinging to His

promises, willing the end of the ordeal to be just over the next crest.

**“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”**

– Philippians 4:13-14

Sometimes I’m flung downhill at such velocity that I know myself to be completely powerless. To brake could send tyres skidding and slipping. My arms are rigid with fear, white-knuckled, the sharp twists in the track quaking my nerve endings. The sensation is of dangerous exhilaration, just as when life throws up a tantalising opportunity and we race ahead to formulate the future. And we might make it to that point, but we could fall too, or the track could dart in a different direction entirely.

**“I will teach you wisdom’s ways and lead you in straight paths. When you walk, you won’t be held back; when you run, you won’t stumble. Take hold of my instructions; don’t let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life.”**

– Proverbs 4:11-13

Sometimes there’s a sudden bend and the heart drums with alarm. *“Oh no! It’s too sharp! What if I don’t make it! Look at that rock, that tree root!”* And then I remember that the worst thing you can do at these hooking, unexpected places is to look down at the dirt beneath the wheels. So I lift my eyes to focus them on the corner’s exit and the track beyond. Just as I find grounding, peace, when I lock my eyes on Jesus in the midst of shifting circumstances.

**“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”**

– Psalm 16:8



To lift your soul,  
first bend your  
knees



Is your prayer  
well done  
or rare?



We’re all  
invited to a  
heavenly feast,  
but we must  
RSVP!



Every time you  
turn green with  
envy, you are  
ripe for trouble



A clean  
conscience  
makes a soft  
pillow



God is our  
mighty fortress,  
always ready to  
help in times of  
trouble.

And so, we  
won't be afraid!

Let the earth  
tremble and the  
mountains  
tumble into the  
deepest sea.

Let the ocean  
roar and foam,  
and its raging  
waves shake  
the mountains.

Psalm

46:1-3 CEV

Sometimes I wake the next day and look down at legs that have become a camo-pattern of bruising. My left knee is yellowish, greenish purple, flowering out to similar smears on my shins, inner thighs, calves and a scratch or two for good measure.

It's ugly.

And I've never been a fan of my legs, my tree stumps. But now I look down and see strong knees and ankles, and bruises that tell stories of lessons learned, of endurance. God has picked me up, administered healing and graciously taught me more about Him, His Kingdom and what I'm doing on this break-neck trail called life.

**“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”**

– Romans 5:3-4

So what does MTB mean?

I've been reliably informed that it's how the cool kids refer to the mountain bike riding sport.

But I reckon it could also allude to the **Many Tough Bits** that life throws our way, and how we can **Make The Best** of it by always, always, keeping our hearts turned to and softened towards the **Man That Bled** for us.

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*‘Berm’ is MTB-speak for corner. One of those sweeping, man-made bends that allows you to get your bike practically horizontal without falling off. Another new word!*

*Photo by William Hook  
on Unsplash*



## Able and available

My husband was at work when I received news about my mother's cancer diagnosis. I left him a message and reached out to friends and family. None were available. Covering my face with trembling hands, I sobbed. "Help me, Lord." A resulting assurance that God was with me comforted me through those moments when I felt utterly alone.

I thanked the Lord when my husband came home and support from friends and family trickled in. Still, the calming awareness of God's presence I sensed in those first few hours of lonely grieving affirmed that God is readily and faithfully available wherever and whenever I need help.

In Psalm 46, the psalmist proclaims God is our sanctuary, strength, and steadfast supporter (v. 1). When it feels as if we're surrounded by chaos or everything we thought was stable crashes down around us, we don't have to fear (v. 2–3). God doesn't falter (v. 4–7). His power is evident and effective (v. 8–9). Our eternal Sustainer gives us confidence in His unchanging character (v. 10). The Lord, our secure stronghold, remains with us forever (v. 11).

God created His followers to prayerfully support and encourage one another. But He also affirms He is always able and available. When we call on God, we can trust Him to keep His promises to provide for us. He will comfort us through His people as well as through His personal presence.

By Xochitl Dixon

*Lord, thank You for  
assuring us You're always  
accessible because You're  
always with us*

Come! See the fearsome things the LORD has done on earth. God brings wars to an end all over the world.

He breaks the arrows, shatters the spears, and burns the shields.

Our God says, "Calm down, and learn that I am God!

All nations on earth will honour me."

The LORD All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm

46: 8-11 CEV



# Riverlinks


February 2018	
1 <sup>st</sup> Thur	(each Thursday) *mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
2 <sup>nd</sup> Fri	(each Friday) *Combined Churches KYB Study Group – 10:00am at the Baptist Church George Town
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	
4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Combined Churches Prayer – 2:30pm at Cornerstone Church
5 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
6 <sup>th</sup> Tue	(each Tuesday) 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
7 <sup>th</sup> Wed	(each Wednesday) Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Prayer Gathering – 12:00pm at St Oswald's <b>Men's Shed</b> – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside *Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home
8 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm
9 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Blooming Church Floral Festival – 9:00am at St David's Cathedral Hobart
10 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Safe Church Communities Training – 9:00am at LCC Riverside Blooming Church Floral Festival

February 2018	
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	Blooming Church Floral Festival – 2:00pm at St David's Cathedral, Hobart
12 <sup>th</sup> Mon	Cadorna – 2:00pm
13 <sup>th</sup> Tue	SHROVE TUESDAY
14 <sup>th</sup> Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY
15 <sup>th</sup> Thur	Regis Aged Care Legana – 10:45am
16 <sup>th</sup> Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
18 <sup>th</sup> Sun	
19 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
20 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
21 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm
22 <sup>nd</sup> Thur	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Fri	

*\*Speak to your local Home Group leader about New Year starting dates*

The deadline for the March Newsletter edition is 19<sup>th</sup> February

# Calendar

February 2018	
24 <sup>th</sup> Sat	
25 <sup>th</sup> Sun	CCCGT Combined Churches Service – 2:30pm at Baptist Church
26 <sup>th</sup> Mon	
27 <sup>th</sup> Tue	
28 <sup>th</sup> Wed	*** Launceston Cup Day ***
1 <sup>st</sup> March Thur	
2 <sup>nd</sup> March Fri	
3 <sup>rd</sup> March Sat	<b>Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> March Sun	Stephen Atkins Concert – 3:30pm at Tamar Valley Church, Exeter  Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
Back to school	
	

March and other dates 2018	
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Stephen Atkins Concert 3:30pm at Tamar Valley Church, Exeter
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Raising Boys with Steve Biddulph 7pm at Beaconsfield Primary School
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Preaching Training Workshop at Ulverstone
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Bible Society Hymnfest <b>2:30pm at St John's Launceston</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>Bishop's Lenten visit to Riverlinks 5pm at St Aidan's</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Raising Girls with Steve Biddulph 7pm at Beaconsfield Primary School
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> May	CMS World Mission Conference at Wellspring Anglican, Sandy Bay

## Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	PPP Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Together @ 10.30
18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Service
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
Riverside & Trevallyn			
4 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Harvest Festival
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 pm	Riverside	Communion
Each Wed	10:00am	St Oswald's	Healing Service & HC
Peace Haven			
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	
18 <sup>th</sup>	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](mailto:office@riverlinks.net.au)



## Fellowship Nights

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month,  
6:30pm  
**at St Mary Mag's,**  
George Town  
Bring something to share for tea.  
New people always welcome!

## Stephen Atkins Concert Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March

3.30pm-6pm

at Tamar Valley Church Exeter

Concert in aid of children's mission work in the Philippines, Mission Possible For Future Generations (MPFG)



## Launceston Hymnfest



## Bible Society 201<sup>st</sup> Birthday Hymnfest

Enjoy fellowship across the churches of Launceston, sing the hymns you know and love, and hear about Bible Society's bicentennial year and plans to bring God's word to the world in the years to come.

**Date:** 18 March, 2018    **Time:** 2:30pm - 4pm

**Venue:** St John's Launceston (157 St John Street)

**Music:** Singing lead by Rebecca Jee and organ accompaniment by Craig Stenton



## Raising Boys

Thursday 8th March, 2018

## Raising Girls

Tuesday 27th March, 2018

**Beaconsfield Primary School Hall—7.00pm start**

*BBQ from 6.00pm (gold coin donation)*

**FREE event however registrations are essential:**

*Email: [stewart.bell@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:stewart.bell@education.tas.gov.au) or text: 0457 861 687*

**Adjunct Care Available—limited spaces available**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Steve Biddulph was a family psychologist for 30 years. His shows are world famous for their humour, honesty, and powerful stories.

Steve is the authors of five books

including *The Secret of Happy Children*, *Manhood*, and *Raising Boys* - which have sold four million copies in 27 languages.

"Electrifying" - UK Telegraph

"Biddulph is a spellbinder" 60 Minutes

Steve's books will be available for sale on the night.



## **Financial Position**

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Year To Date 31DEC17	75,367	80,100
Profit/(Loss) to 31 December 2017		<u>(4,733)</u>
January 2018	<u>12,579</u>	<u>13,350</u>
TOTAL	87,946	93,450

*Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:*

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

# SummerView overview 2018

During Lent 2018, the Diocese of Tasmania will observe a season of Lament and Repentance for our failures in the past. Our hope and prayer is that this will be a time of spiritual healing for our Diocese and a preparation for where God will lead us in the future. We think it will be especially helpful to focus on the Psalms, carefully chosen for this season.

SummerView was blessed with fine weather, great music, inspiring teaching, first hand information from missionaries, entertaining MC's and the wonderful company of like-minded Christians following the CMS Vision of **"A World that knows Jesus"**.

We were fed from the word by **Peter Rogers** the International Director of CMS Australia in three evening talks from Luke titled *"Proclaiming Jesus in love and action"*.

*Luke 10: 1-24* More workers required

*Luke 12: 13-34* The Kingdom not the World

*Luke 12: 35-48* Ready for Service

**David Williams** presented the three morning talks. David is a missiologist and the Development and Training Secretary at St Andrew's Hall. He taught from the book of Ruth showing that God hasn't changed, but that we need to examine our attitudes as it is His love that transforms people when they obey him.

David emphasized we live in a time where many people are hostile to Christianity, seeing

religion as harmful and oppressive. We need to change that image through the way we live our lives.

**Ruth Pinkerton** – Director of Scripture Union Tasmania encouraged us to share our faith in word and especially deed in her talk *"Proclaiming Jesus – Disciple Making in Tasmania"*.

Visiting missionaries **David and Prue Boyd** shared of their ministries in the Democratic Republic of Congo once again emphasizing the need to live showing the love of Jesus in word, deed and relationship in bringing about "A World that Knows Jesus".

**Sarah** shared about her ministries in the Middle East, again emphasizing the relationship aspect of her work in teaching English, assisting refugees, and her use of storytelling in bringing Jesus into her interactions with others. A very vibrant young lady working in a traditional Muslim country.

**Peter Rogers** also spoke on **"What in the World is CMS doing?"** The selection, training and the care of missionaries worldwide was part of a comprehensive overview of the depth and

spread of CMS across the globe. Peter also emphasized the urgent need to upgrade the missionary training facilities at St Andrew's Hall in Melbourne. He asked us all to pray about this undertaking as the numbers of people presenting for mission training grows. This growth is a great point of praise, but accommodating them and their families needs to be addressed.

Peter's three specific prayer points for the redevelopment of St Andrew's Hall were:

- For God's provision to enable the re-development
- For the designers in the creation of a suitable and sustainable design
- For planning approval.

We also heard from our Tasmania State Director **Scott Sargent** – *"What in Tasmania is CMS doing?"* This included the launch of the Tasmanian CMS Branch Vision. Kate our newest missionary in training was interviewed as was Suraj an immigrant from Nepal who has been appointed by CMS Tasmania as a "Focus AFES" [Australian Federation of Evangelical Students] worker at UTAS Hobart. This is a very exciting outreach to the increasing number of

overseas students at the university.

**Ellie Firth** was also interviewed and congratulated on her new appointment with the Diocese of Tasmania working with James Oakley.

We were also blessed with a video link with **Tim** and the children [Emma was elsewhere working]. It was so good to hear first hand of their work in mission and to be able to pray with and for them.

Children at the camp were catered for very well. There were programs for pre-school and primary aged children. A residential co-located mission focused youth camp for children in years 7-10 was trialed. This was run by Anglican Camping Tasmania and CMS working in partnership, with encouraging numbers of young people attending.

Finally Peter Rogers issued a challenge to all attendees – **as a result of the three days what are you going to change?** Because if you don't change at least one thing nothing will have been achieved!!!

*Anne Morley*



Ash Wednesday  
14<sup>th</sup> February  
Psalm 51

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent  
18<sup>th</sup> February  
Psalm 25  
Child Sexual Abuse

25<sup>th</sup> February  
Psalm 22  
Family Violence

4<sup>th</sup> March  
Psalm 13  
Misuse of Power

11<sup>th</sup> March  
Psalm 88  
Indigenous Failures

18<sup>th</sup> March  
Psalm 130  
The Environment

Liturgy of the Passion  
25<sup>th</sup> March  
Psalm 31  
Failure to make disciples

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  
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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  
20<sup>th</sup> of each month  
unless otherwise stated



Above: Part of the passive games area run by Riverlinks at the Lions Park Trevallyn on Australia Day

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  
4524 West Tamar Road  
Riverside

To register: email  
lcc@anglicanparish.org.au  
or phone: 6324 0039  
before Friday 2 February

Morning Tea provided.  
Please bring your own lunch.

Initial Team Member 9.00 - 1.00  
\*Refresher Team Member 9.00 - 12.30  
Initial Team Leader 9.00 - 3.30  
\*Refresher Team Leader 9.00 - 2.30  
\*Coordinator/Refresher 9.00 - 3.30

\* Refresher training is a separate focus!

### 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