



Newsletter

March 2018

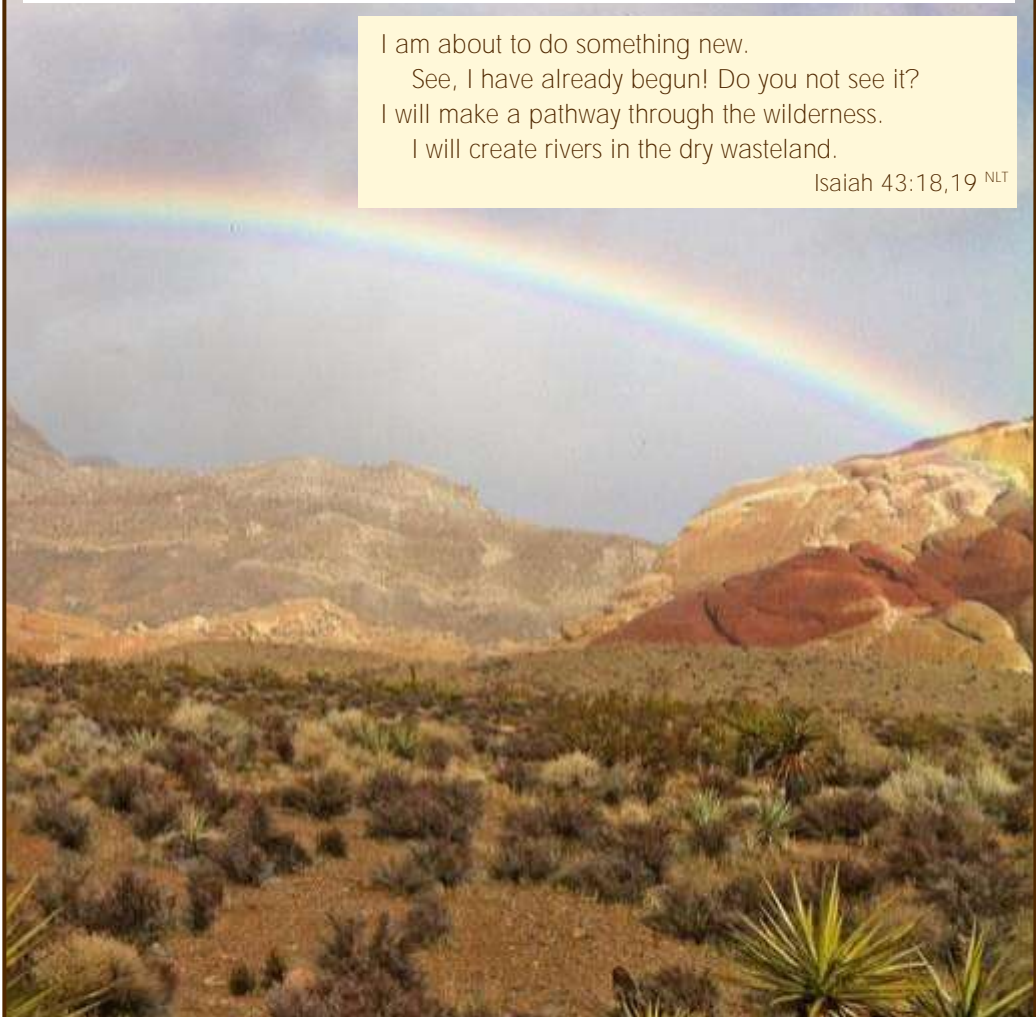
I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness.

I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18,19 ^{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



Tim Reid is a passionate follower of Jesus, a Church Engagement Manager for Open Doors and pathetic lover of romance films. He has travelled to meet with persecuted brothers & sisters around the world and works to share their stories in churches.



What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, God calls a butterfly



A sunrise is God's way of saying lighten up



How Not To Be Lukewarm, From Your Persecuted Family

"We [celebrate Easter] knowing that at any time a suicide bomber can come and disrupt our service, our worship, our praying. Then I think: Will it really be disrupted, or will I be sent into the fullness of worship?" — *A former Muslim and a mother of two, now following Jesus*

In the 2018 world watch list, Pakistan ranks as the 5th hardest country to live as a Christian; it is the most violent place for believers. For most of us, our situation could not be more different. Most of us in Australia or the UK don't attend church wondering, "Will I go home afterwards?" For many, myself included, the concern can unfortunately be the opposite: "What time will I get to go home?"

One of the biggest threats to the church in the west is that lukewarm attitude. This is addressed in the Bible, where Jesus says, "I will spit you out of my mouth" (Rev 3:16). A lukewarm attitude isn't usually embraced within a church, but without us even noticing the attitude can

grow over time. Like a weed, if it is not pulled out it has the ability to choke the good roots and destroy what was planted in the beginning. So what are some ways we can avoid being lukewarm?

Well, the answer is not persecution. Persecution does not guarantee a passionate, all-in church. There have been many persecuted Christians who walked away when the pressure got too hard to keep following Jesus. But those who continued to hold onto Christ above all else have a few things in common that we can do as well. In our changing climate, where the tide may be beginning to turn against Christianity, we can take the opportunity to learn from the already persecuted church now, before it begins in earnest here.

The first thing these brothers and sisters have is a robust prayer life. In many of the churches I visit I ask this question: Do you pray more in the good times or when

you have a problem? Every time, people say it's when they have a problem. Persecuted Christians are often facing nothing but problems, but those who also have an inexpressible joy (1 Pet 1:8)—these are the brothers and sisters who have a strong prayer life.

There is no shortage of commentaries and articles that talk about our ability to come to God with any problem, as witnessed time and time again in the Psalms. We do not have to pray with false thanks, or hide our true thoughts. God knows our hearts regardless, and as we talk with him more and more our relationship grows and our faith is strengthened.

The second thing our brothers and sisters have is a deep love and respect for God's word. While I was meeting with some ministry partners in central Asia, in countries all ranked very highly on that world watch list, time and time again they said "it is written" before going on to quote a passage of Scripture. For these believers, memorizing large

parts of the Bible to have on call at any moment was totally normal. It put me to shame—but it is infinitely easier for us to achieve since we have no restrictions on accessing Bibles or other Christian literature.

Memorizing God's promises and having his truths ready is better than any other reflex. How can we deeply love or trust a God we do not know? Memorizing the Bible will mean that any reminder we ever need of how great God is or how amazing his promises are will always be at hand.

The third thing that keeps Christians from falling away in persecution and keeps us from getting lukewarm is making disciples. Saudi Arabia is the 12th hardest country to live as a Christian and Christians are forced to keep their faith a complete secret. A believer in Saudi Arabia said, "It is unnatural—maybe even wrong—to keep one's love for Jesus entirely to oneself. I cannot tell my wife. Or my children. Or my parents. I found Christ in a



It takes more to plow a field than merely turning it over in your mind



We're supposed to have character, not be one



Prayer is a spiritual exercise. Are you in shape?



The golden rule will never tarnish



Faith is a journey, not a guilt trip



God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven. People did these same things to the prophets who lived long ago.

Matthew 5:11,15 ^{CEV}

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dream, and only he knows I follow him. But I have to [tell], or I'm dead."

We are called to be disciple-making disciples. This is as true for Christians in Australia or the United States as it is in any other country. If we share our faith regularly we are relying on the work of the Holy Spirit in others and ourselves, and so trusting God.

Having a strong prayer life, a deep abiding love for his Word, and making disciples are all common disciplines of the persecuted church that can have a profound impact

on our faith. In 2017 the western church faced some big challenges, and in the next few years it is likely more will follow. Now is a good opportunity to look to those who not just stand under persecution but thrive, and learn what keeps their affections for God new. A lukewarm attitude deserves your attention—it could prove just as deadly as a bomb.

By Tim Reid

GoThereFor.com



Financial Position

OFFERTORY	<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Year To Date 31JAN18	87,947	93,450
Profit/(Loss)		<u>(5,504)</u>
February 2018	<u>8,573</u>	<u>13,350</u>
TOTAL	96,520	106,800

Direct deposit account details for your Parish offertory contributions:

BSB 067 021
 Account # 1000 6848
 Name Riverlinks Anglican Church

Diocesan Season of Lament & Repentance

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 Lament, Repent and Resolve to live a new life to God's Glory, focusing on a different area each week.

1: Our Failure to Respect and Care for Children *Psalm 25*

2: Our Failure to Protect Families from Violence *Ps.22*

3: Our Misuse of Power *Ps.13*

4: Our Failure to Love and Honour the First peoples of Tasmania *Ps.88*

5: Our Failure to Protect the Environment *Ps.130*

6: Our Failure to Make Disciples *Ps.31*

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Richard plans to visit almost all the Parishes in the Diocese during Lent, to gather with whomever is available, to confess our sins, lament our failings and pray for God's blessing.

He will pray with whoever is at each location, and anyone in the Diocese is welcome to join him to pray in any location.

Please aim to come along to St Aidan's at 5pm on 22nd March. If you are unable to make this session, or if you would like to attend more than one session, he will be in the following Launceston area Parishes: -

Thursday 15th March

8am	Beaconsfield
2pm	St John's L'ton
4pm	Barneys Nth L'ton

Thursday 22nd March

8am	Holy Trinity L'ton
10am	St Marks Sth L'ton
12 noon	St Leonards
3pm	Evandale
5pm	Riverlinks (St Aidan's)



Open our lips,
O Lord,
and our
mouths will
declare your
praise.
Our sacrifice,
O God,
is a broken
spirit;
a broken and
contrite heart
O God,
you will not
despise.

*Subscribe to
Bishop
Richard's daily
prayer points
with the
PrayerMate
App for your
mobile or tablet*



PRAYERMATE™

Riverlinks

March 2018	
1 st Thur	<i>(each Thursday)</i> mainly music – 10:00am at St Aidan's
2 nd Fri	<i>(each Friday)</i> Combined Churches KYB Study Group – 10:00am at the Baptist Church George Town World Day of Prayer Service – 10:00am at St Francis' Catholic Church, Riverside World Day of Prayer Service – 10:30am at Salvation Army Church, George Town
3 rd Sat	State Election Polling Day – 8:00am to 6:00pm Women's Breakfast – 8:00am at St John's L'ton
4 th Sun	Stephen Atkins Concert – 3:30pm at Tamar Valley Church, Exeter Messy Church – 4:30pm at St Aidan's
5 th Mon	
6 th 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
7 th Wed	<i>(each Wednesday)</i> Healing Service – 10:00am at St Oswald's Prayer Gathering – 12:00pm at St Oswald's Men's Shed – 1:00pm to 4:00pm in Riverside Home & Study Groups – 7:30pm at Stott's home
8 th Thur	Crafty Circle – 10:00am at St David's Raising Boys with Steve Biddulph – 7:00pm at Beaconsfield Primary School Parish Council meeting – 7:30pm

March 2018	
9 th Fri	
10 th Sat	Preaching Training Workshop – 10:00am at Ulverstone
11 th Sun	
12 th Mon	*** 8 HOURS DAY *** Cadorna – 2:00pm
13 th Tue	
14 th Wed	MST & PC Meeting with Bishop – 7:30pm at St Aidan's
15 th Thur	
16 th Fri	Fellowship Night – 6:00pm at George Town
17 th Sat	
18 th Sun	Bible Society Hymnfest – 2:30pm at St John's Launceston Jesus & Old Testament Violence – 6:00pm at Milton Hall Lounge, Frederick Street Launceston
19 th Mon	
20 th Tue	
21 st Wed	Ainslie Service – 2:15pm

The deadline for the April Newsletter edition is 22nd March

Calendar

March 2018	
22 nd Thur	Bishop's Lenten visit to Riverlinks – 5:00pm at St Aidan's
23 rd Fri	
24 th Sat	Safe Church Communities Training – 9:00am at St John's Parish Centre Launceston Alive Easter Festival begins
25 th Sun	CCCGT Combined Churches Service – 2:30pm at Catholic Church
26 th Mon	
27 th Tue	Raising Girls with Steve Biddulph – 6:00pm at Beaconsfield Primary School
28 th Wed	
29 th Thur	
30 th Fri	*** GOOD FRIDAY *** Good Friday Redemption Service – 9:00am at St MM's George Town Good Friday Service – 10:00am at St David's Riverside Good Friday Service – 10:30am at Peace Haven Chapel
31 st Sat	
1 st April Sun	*** EASTER DAY *** Combined Churches Easter Celebration – 6:30pm at St John's Launceston

April and other dates 2018	
29 th April	Riverlinks Together
4 th & 5 th May	CMS World Mission Conference at Wellspring Anglican, Sandy Bay



Service Times For Worship Centres

East Launceston			
4 th	10:00 am 4:30 pm	Morning Prayer Messy Church	
11 th	10:00 am	Communion	
18 th	10:00 am	Morning Prayer	
25 th	10:00 am	Communion	
George Town			
4 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	PPP Communion
11 th	10:30 am	George Town	Harvest Festival
18 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Pipers River George Town	Communion ABU Service
25 th	9:00 am 10:30 am	Low Head George Town	Communion Communion
30 th	9:00 am	George Town	Good Friday Redemption service
Riverside & Trevallyn			
4 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Harvest Festival
11 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Praise & Worship
18 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
25 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Communion
30 th	10:00 am	Riverside	Good Friday
Each Wed	10:00am	St Oswald's	Healing Service & HC
Peace Haven			
25 th	10:30 am	Communion	
30 th	10:30 am	Good Friday Service	

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



an evening considering
**Jesus and
 Old Testament
 Violence**

Sunday 18th March
 6:00 to 9:00pm

Milton Hall Lounge,
 Frederick St. Launceston

Entry by donation, please
 bring food for a shared meal

Stephen Atkins Concert

Sunday 4th 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 201st 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



Preaching Training Workshop

Saturday 10 March

10am to 4pm in Ulverstone

Stephen Carnaby is doing a one day introduction suitable for current lay preachers (or inexperienced preachers), and those who are wanting to preach soon.

RSVP email:

dmd@anglicantas.org.au

LAUNCESTON ALIVE
EASTER FESTIVAL



*Courageous
community service*

Easter is a time to commemorate and reflect upon the most profound moment in world history. The original Easter inspired some of the world's finest art, music, literature, discovery and innovation. It is in this tradition that Launceston Alive seeks to celebrate with a festival of art, music, thought and food. Bringing people of faith together in unity and cooperation, to engage in a relevant, helpful, relatable way with those still exploring truth, to celebrate the wonderful and transforming power of Easter.

Saturday 24 March
to Sunday 1 April
in venues around Launceston
Visit launceston.org.au for full
details and tickets

World Day of Prayer Services Friday 2nd March



10am Salvation Army,
Sorell Street, George Town

10:30 am St Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church
Pomona Road, Riverside

SAFE CHURCH
Communities

TRAINING DAY

Saturday 24 March
at St John's Parish Centre,
Launceston

To Register

email: scc@anglicantas.org.au or
phone 6220 2012. Registering is
essential as training packs will be
provided. Morning tea provided.
Please bring your own lunch.

People who need re-endorsement in 2018 are
encouraged to attend this scenario-based
training.

If you have completed online ChildSafe
modules this year you are also encouraged
to attend as this day will broaden their
experience of safe practices within the
Anglican Church in
Tasmania.

All training
sessions starting
from 9am

**Register
by
Friday
16 March**



Safe Places



Ricky Pfeiffer is a proud member of the Returned and Services League – but refuses to step foot inside the door of his local club.

He served for a decade in the Australian Army Reserve and continues to offer friendship and support to veterans recovering from traumatic experiences.

“I’m a member of the RSL but I won’t go into any club that has poker machines in it,” he says. “RSL clubs should be places where you can go as a veteran and feel safe among like-minded people, not be a mini-casino with devices deliberately built to trigger and take advantage of people’s addictions”.

“I am very supportive of the RSL and the good work it does with advocacy and welfare, but poker machines don’t fit that model. They’re a grimy, destructive element”.

Ricky knows too well the devastating effects of a gambling addiction. One of his family members lost a multi-million dollar business because of poker machine gambling. “It was a large family business

that employed six family members and more than a dozen other employees,” he said. “And it just went. The shutting down of that business had a lot of ramifications for our family and for all those employees”.

Ricky says that at the time, he had little understanding or empathy. “It took me many years to realise that people with addictions can’t just stop,” he said. “It’s no good sweeping this issue under the rug. As a society, we need to do more to help people because they can’t fight an addiction by themselves”.

He says many people who have experienced trauma resort to coping mechanisms to ‘zone out’, leaving them vulnerable to addiction.

“Trauma is not just associated with veterans,” he says. “It’s

Speak up
for those who
cannot speak
for themselves;

ensure justice
for those being
crushed.

Yes, speak up
for the poor
and helpless,
and see
that they
get justice.

Proverbs
31:8,9 NLT

widespread. There are car accident victims, domestic violence victims, people who had a really hard time growing up – they'll sometimes turn to things like alcohol or poker machine gambling. Unfortunately, other people in society turn away, rather than get involved and help. They say, it's their problem, not mine".

"But this is not just about the person with the addiction," he says. "Poker machine addiction is like throwing a rock into a pond – there's a huge ripple effect. Some people turn to crime to feed their addiction. Others beg, borrow and steal from family members".

"I think as a society we owe it to those with an addiction to help them the best we can," Ricky says. "They'll deny it, fight and scream all along the way. But if you've got a gambling addiction and you're working, how does that impact on your work? If you're not working, how does that impact on your ability to get work? How does it impact on your home life? It goes on and on. We shouldn't turn a blind eye to this".

Ricky looks forward to a time when he can enter his local RSL

club to enjoy a meal, rather than travelling further afield to a pokies-free club.

"It's time to get poker machines out of local hotels and clubs," he says. "I want my local RSL to be a safe place where people can go for a meal, lunch, dinner, and not have the lights and noise of poker machines, just the noise of conversation," he says. "Back to the old ways of being able to go there to talk with other veterans. Conversation opens up healing for people who may not have other outlets to talk about their trauma".

Ricky says that he's sick of seeing Tasmanians lose their money to poker machines. "I'm just an ordinary bloke but I want to try to highlight the problems that poker machines have for our society," he says. "Small people don't have the big budgets and PR companies to get their message out. But if I'm given the chance to say something, I will. I want to be true, to be real. Because a lot of people turn away and say 'let others deal with it'. It's not as simple as that".

This article first appeared at www.anglicare-tas.org.au



SOCIAL
ACTION &
RESEARCH
CENTRE

One in 6 people who regularly uses a poker machine is likely to develop a problem with gambling.

At current bet limits and spin speeds, someone earning the average weekly wage in Tasmania can lose nearly half their weekly wage in an hour of poker machine use.

Vulnerable Tasmanians have easy access to poker machines because the machines are concentrated in lower socio-economic areas.

East Launceston
21-23 Arthur St
East Launceston
0438 378 233

George Town
3 Anne St
George Town
0439 821 038

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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399 West Tamar Hwy
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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: Shared lunch at
Barwick's home

*Send photos of your Parish events &
functions to office@riverlinks.net.au for
inclusion in the newsletter*



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(See Genesis 6-8)

03-04-2013

**THIS IS A PRETTY BIG PROMISE ... WE
REALLY DON'T NEED PAPERWORK OR LEGAL?**

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Contact us:

Parish Office (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

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Website

www.riverlinks.net.au