

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
LAUNCESTON UNITING CHURCHES

Launceston *News*

DECEMBER 2019 – VOLUME 6 NO 11

A Vision for our community

The message central to this community is of transformed living where everyone is loved, accepted, and nourished.

Building a People of God in Launceston

Index

Page 3	Blessed...to be a blessing— Rev Caro Field
Page 4	Blessed to be a blessing and Lectionary Readings
Page 5	Photos from Chin Church
Page 6	Messy Church/Movie Magic
Page 7	Uniting Women
Page 8	Social Justice Spot
Page 9	Social Justice Spot
Page 10	Crossroads North
Page 11	Crossroads South
Page 12	What's on near you this month
Page 13	What's on near you this month
Page 14	Prayer Meeting invite/ Kids Campout
Page 15	Kids Page
Page 16	Contacts

Blessed to be a blessing.

There is a common saying: “it’s more blessed to give than to receive”; so common, in fact, that it’s almost become a cliché. I’m sure we will hear it a lot as we approach Christmas, the great season of giving and receiving. At Launceston North we have experienced the reality of this saying, and I want to share the story with you.

On October 18, I received an email from Rev Gospel Ralte from Ulverstone. He told me that he had been visited by a group of Myanmar migrant leaders from Launceston who represented a newly-formed Christian church (the Tasmania Chin Christian Church) who had some needs and were seeking assistance. Among other things, they were needing somewhere to worship, and were also interested in joining the Uniting Church.

Gospel gave them my name, saying that I might be able to help, and then sent that fateful email to me. This led to a flurry of emails and phone calls involving various people from Presbytery, LNUC and the TCCC, then a meeting involving some of the Myanmar leaders, myself and Mel Morris from LNUC, and Gospel and Grace Ralte, who kindly travelled from Ulverstone to meet at Newnham.

The result of all this was that the Launceston North congregation, with support from Presbytery, agreed to offer a home to the TCCC, and act as the ‘parent congregation’ as the TCCC worked towards becoming a Faith Community of the Uniting Church. The inaugural service of worship at Newnham church was scheduled for Sunday 10 November, and the day before this, a group of our Chin brothers and sisters travelled to Ulverstone to attend the Presbytery meeting, and we celebrated what God was doing in bringing them to us at Launceston North.

On the day of their first service, the church was filled with about 90 people- the TCCC normally has around 30 members, but had invited the other Burmese churches in Launceston to attend this special celebration. The church was packed with people, including a generous gaggle of excited children, some of whom participated in the worship, as well as making good use of the creative playground in the church’s back yard.

Once again, Gospel and Grace Ralte made the journey from Ulverstone to Newnham, this time joined by their children Ebenezer and Gloria. Gospel led the service in a mixture of Chin and English languages, Rohan Pryor and I were present, sharing messages of welcome from the Presbytery and Launceston North respectively. Gospel preached on the story in Exodus of Moses in the bullrushes, and how, when he was found by

Pharaoh's daughter, his sister Miriam approached the princess, offering to provide nurturing care for the baby. Gospel then strode over to where I was sitting and pointed at me, saying (in English) that I, and the LN congregation were like Miriam, in offering to care for this baby church. I was also told later that many of the prayers offered in Chin language that day were prayers of thanksgiving to God for the hospitality and generosity of our congregation towards the Chin people in welcoming them into our church.

But you know, through all of this, the thought constantly going through my mind was, "but.. how could we NOT welcome these brothers and sisters into our church?" As Christians, we believe that everything we have comes from God, and belongs to God, so how could we hold back God's good things from our brothers and sisters? I am convinced that our congregation at Launceston North will be richly blessed by having the Chin Church in our parish, just as much as they feel blessed to have found a home in our church. This is something that I certainly wasn't expecting when I came to Launceston, but I know God is in it. I'm excited, our church council and congregation is excited, and we all look forward to what God will do next, as we build this relationship as the TCCC works towards becoming recognised as a Faith Community.

Caro Field

Lectionary Readings for December

Sunday	1st Reading	Psalms	2nd Reading	Gospel
1st Dec	Is 2:1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:36-44
8th Dec	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Mt 3:1-12
15th Dec	Is 35:1-10	Ps 146:5-10 or Lk 1:46b-55	Jas 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11
22nd Dec	Is 7:10-16	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19	Rom 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-25
25th Dec				
29th Dec	Is 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Mt 2:13-23



Sunday 8th December

Christmas Party—Come along
To an all age interactive
worship



5:00—7:00pm



128-132 George Town Road, Newnham

Enquiries to **Mel** on 6326 5928.

Our *next* gathering will be on the 10th Nov

Save the date, and invite your friends.

Facebook: search **thehavenmessychurch**



MOVIE MAGIC NIGHT

Saturday 21st December

Featuring...



The Star

In Sony Pictures Animation's *The Star*, a small but brave donkey named Bo yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day he finds the courage to break free, and finally goes on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a loveable sheep who has lost her flock and Dave, a dove with lofty aspirations. Along with three wisecracking camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his new friends follow the Star and become accidental heroes in the greatest story ever told - the first Christmas.

Doors open at 6:00pm with the **movie starting at 6:15pm**

For more information, please contact **Mel Morris** on (03) 6326 5928

Email: LNUC.office@gmail.com

Launceston North Uniting Church 128-132 Georgetown Road, Newnham

Movie images taken from Pinterest.com.au and simplywallpaper.net



UnitingWomen 2020 will be held at Club Tropical Resort in Lee Point, Darwin. The entire program will be held at the resort, and participants are encouraged to stay on site if possible (yes, even locals!) to maximise the community experience.

The four day program is being shaped around the process that women in Arnhem Land use to turn spiky pandanus leaves into beautiful mats and baskets. Using the metaphor of the pandanus process, we will engage with our own journey towards unity with Christ and with each other.

We will grow into a community of girls and women from a range of ages and cultures, and our connections will deepen as we take part in workshops, join in worship, pray, lament, celebrate, listen to each others' stories, and experience God together.

Registrations are now open for this amazing experience. Go to

<https://unitingwomen.org.au/about-2020-conference/>

For more information.

Advent is a time of **waiting** – all the Mums among us well know how those last weeks of pregnancy are so-o-o long.

Advent is a time of **preparation** – in most societies getting ready for the arrival of a babe involves thought, action, expenditure & planning.

Advent is a time of **commitment** - when a couple make a babe, they make an ongoing commitment.

Advent is a time of **giving & receiving** – the joy of making a gift and observing the joy of the recipient is another great blessing.

Advent is a time of **hope / expectation** – this is the greatest blessing of all, life without hope is no life at all. This hope embraces all the above.

The Synod Advent study for 2019 leads us to make space in our lives to explore this hope and live to translate it for **our planet, our country, our church & ourselves**. It reminds us that our God is a “God who comes” – came in ancient times, came at Bethlehem in Jesus and returns daily wherever he is sought.

As people committed to social justice, we are called to reflect the hope we share in ways that sustain our planet, enrich the lives of our nation, renew our church & grow our souls. Are you acquainted with Norman Lindsay’s children’s book ‘The Magic Pudding’ in which the pudding never diminishes, as each slice is consumed the pudding regrows? The Christian hope is more than a Christmas indulgence, it is magic – the more of that hope we share and give away, the more it grows.

St Matthew has a bracket of stories (chapter 24) leading us to ‘put our own house in order’ before the Son of Man comes. The time of waiting, the time of preparation is certainly not a time of sitting and watching. The Christian faith is not a spectator sport, though how well we play the game will be observed. After all we each live by how we see the other, whether we care to admit it or not.

St. John Baptist dared to be different (Matt. 3), he suggests the question, 'what God given talents, gifts, or fruit do we have to prepare the way for the God who comes?'

Many of us listen to, or read, the daily news, too much is 'bad news' and we become immune to, or decry it. Matthew Fox who is a sometime visitor to Australia from his seminary in California urges us 'to pray the news'. We have good news to share, Matt.11:28ff. Recently ABC TV portrayed a story of Ian Chapple the SA cricketer who is now an active advocate for refugees. Watching the news one evening when harsh treatment of asylum seekers was reported, Chapple muttered rude words at the TV, his wife challenged him, 'swearing at the TV will do nothing for anyone!' He took and acted on that challenge.

In my practical thinking logical farmers mind I have great difficulty in accommodating the relationship of the Holy Spirit with Mother Mary (Matt. 1:18-25) but there it is. Just about the last thing a young engaged couple, living in a respectable conservative community wanted was an unexpected pregnancy. But there it was! What inhibitions, what fears, what constraints might the Holy Spirit be calling us away from during this Advent.

How does all the above relate to our planet, our country, our church, ourselves? Through Social Justice we are called to make Advent an adventure.

One act of kindness and the whole world is that much more kind.

Blessings,

Ian R F



CROSSROADS NORTH

6:00pm — 8:00pm Uniting Church Hall

Third Tuesday of each month



Hello here is the Crossroads North bit for the month. We had a very busy day on Saturday going to the wings Wildlife Park. We were all up early to meet the bus at 8.30 am that took a very crowded bus full of people from both groups from Launceston to meet up with our friends from Devonport and a few people from Hobart. In all we had about 71 people who enjoyed spending time together having a lovely lunch (provided by the lovely staff from the park) and having a look at the animal, there were too many to name here. I have included some photos of some of the animals below. The weather was on our side this time and while it rained on the way down the sun came out when we got there and we had some time to wander through the paddocks looking for animal to "talk to".

We would like to thank the bus driver for getting us all there safely and the wonderful staff who looked after us for the day.

Next week we are going to enjoy Christmas tea celebrations where Santa will make a visit and we will be entertained by Keith Treasure and his band, with devotions by Caro field. Our minister from the North group.

This will be our last meeting for the year but we will be back in 2020 for another year of learning and fun, starting with a BBQ at the new river bend park at Invermay. The cost will be \$5 ahead all welcome.

Our committee will have a planning meeting some time in January to workout what programs we will run in 2020. We hope you all had e a safe and peaceful Christmas and a happy new year.



CROSSROADS SOUTH

TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER, 2019



Come and enjoy our

COMBINED CHRISTMAS DINNER

**NORTH LAUNCESTON BOWLS CLUB
1 GEORGETOWN ROAD
NEWNHAM**

Cost \$25

6PM.-8PM.



***Keith and his band will be there – helping us
to enjoy our singing and dancing.***

***Don't forget your small gift for the Santa bag
Please have it marked 'Lady' or 'Gentleman'***

On the weekend of 17th-19th April 2020

***Crossroads will be holidaying in Hobart with lots exciting adventures to
be had. So as you plan with your NDIS plan for next year don't forget to
put our holiday weekend in your plan***



***Enquiries: Loris Towers ph.: 6344 6119
Janet Day ph.: 6344 2679; 0409446279***

What's on near you this month...?



Launceston North

December

Sunday Worship (Newnham) 9.15am

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 24th, 29th

Sunday Worship (Lilydale) 11.15am

1st, 15th

Haven Table Top Games (Newnham) Friday

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th 7:00pm

Messy Church (Newnham) Sunday 8th 5:00pm

Church Council (Newnham) Mon 9th 6:30pm

Crossroads (Newnham) Tuesday 17th 6:00pm

Lilydale Laughternoon in Recess

January

Sunday Worship (Newnham) 9.15am

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Sunday Worship (Lilydale) 11.15am

5th, 19th

Haven Table Top Games (Newnham) Friday

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st

Messy Church (Newnham) In Recess

Church Council (Newnham) NA

Crossroads (Newnham) NA

Lilydale Laughternoon: In Recess

Pilgrim's Monthly Schedule of Activities for the month

Sundays 10:00am: Family Worship including JAM (Jesus and Me)
and Pathfinders.

First Sunday of month: Holy Communion

Third Sunday of month: Fellowship Lunch at Noon at
LAM's: Restaurant and Grill, Riverside

Second Monday: Pilgrim Church Council meets at
6:30pm

Wednesdays: 1:00pm–1:45pm – Mid week
Communion in the Ida Birchall Room

Fridays 6:00pm: Music Group meet in the
Worship Centre



Launceston South Healing Service/Meeting



Meets next at **Maggies at 2:00pm on the 15th December**

For further details, please contact **Juanita Miller on 6331 5185.**

See other pages in this publication regarding other regular activities

South Esk Parish

Every Sunday	Morning Service—Launceston South Briggs House, Scotch Oakburn 85 Penquite Road	9:30am
Every Sunday	Morning Service—Hadspen Main Street, Hadspen	11:00am
Fourth Sunday	Evening Service HC—Evandale	5:00pm
Mon—Fri	Evandale Morning Prayers	8:00—8:30am
Every Monday	BIBLE STUDY 80 Poplar Parade, Youngtown	1:30pm—3:00pm Diane Griffiths Ph.: 6344 1643
Every Monday	TENNIS Courts, Mary Street, East Launceston	9:00am—11:00am Margaret Spencer Ph.: 6344 3297
Every Wednesday	Drop In at the Hadspen Hub Old Church Building	10am-11:30am
Monday 9th	PARISH COUNCIL - LNUC	6:30pm Hilary Parry Ph.: 6344 6210
Every Tuesday	BIBLE STUDY Norwood	10:00am Juanita Miller Ph.: 6331 5185
Tuesday 3 rd	Crossroads South—St Michaels Hall 1-3 Chant Street, East Launceston	6:00pm—8:00pm Janet Day Ph.: 6344 2679
Every Wednesday	KYB Bible Study Hadspen Church Centre	3:00pm Edna McCormack Ph.: 6393 6273
Wednesday	East/LV UCAF	Check details Sue Harman Ph:6344 2573
Every Thursday	Hadspen Kids Club	3:30pm—4:30pm
Every Friday	Crafty Corner Punchbowl Christian Centre Punchbowl Road, Punchbowl	9:30am—11:30am Mary Rothwell Ph. 6344 4813 or Hilary Parry Ph.: 6344 6210



Prayer Meeting

In Recess until February 2020.

God grant you peace at Christmas
And fill your heart with cheer,
God grant you health and happiness
Throughout the coming year,
God guide you with His wisdom
And keep you in His care –
This is my special wish for you,
This is my Christmas prayer.

Merry Christmas





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Our Vision and Mission Principles



The vision of our church is the story we are called to live within our changing world.

It articulates our passion, our collective inspiration and our joy as people shaping our lives by the story of God among us. We seek to be accessible to all who are interested in Christ and all who identify with our values.

Our Mission Principles seek to capture God's ongoing story of love, grace, and mercy known to us through Jesus Christ. They mark how we will respond as life-giving communities of faithful people.

Launceston News

Monthly newsletter of the Launceston Uniting Churches. A place where we can celebrate our community, share stories, news, and events of our local parishes and beyond. The invitation is there for anyone with something to share to send in your "article", or advertisement for inclusion. Let's get celebrating!

Justice and International Mission

Information contact: Ian Farquhar



Contacts

Pilgrim

Minister: **Rev. Rod Peppiatt**

Mobile: 0419 883 137

Email: rod.pilgrim.uca@gmail.com

Web: <http://pilgrimlaunceston.org.au/>

Office: (03) 6331 8466

Chairperson: Wendy Cocker

Launceston South

Minister: **Rev. Chris Duxbury**

Mobile: 0435 365 289

Email: cvduxbury@hotmail.com

Chairperson: Hilary Parry

Launceston North

Minister: **Rev. Carolyn Field**

Mobile Contact: 0418 363 707

Email Contact: carofield@gmail.com

Web: launcestonnorth.unitingchurch.org.au

Office: (03) 6326 5928

Chairperson: Chris Dancer

Mobile: 0408 951 177

Editor: Mel Morris

(Mission & Resource Facilitator—LNUC)

LNUC.office@gmail.com

Mob: 0421 963 960