

SERVICE TIMES FOR AUGUST

Our services for the combined centres service, held on the second Sunday of each month, are known as **GROWING TOGETHER**

THE SERVICE TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

St. David's

Every Sunday
 9.00 Holy Communion
 On the second Sunday in month
 9.00 GROWING TOGETHER IN HOLY COMMUNION
 10.30 SALT ...

St. Oswald's

Every Sunday **except the second** in the month
 11.00 Holy Communion
 (On the second Sunday: St David's 9.00 Holy Communion / 10.30 SALT)
 Every Wednesday
 10.00 A service of Holy Communion
 and Prayer for Healing

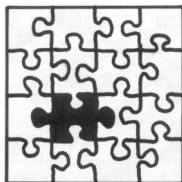
"GROWING TOGETHER IN COMMUNION"

- 13TH AUGUST AT 9.00
 10.00 - 10.30 - "muffin time"

SALT

Sharing
And
Learning
Together

The new name for the 10.30 service
"Finding the Right Peace"



~THE ECHO~

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Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the clergy or of the Anglican Church

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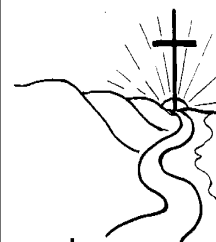
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Jesus
 is the way
 the Truth
 and
 the Life

~THE ECHO~

Monthly Newsletter of St Oswald's
 and St David's Churches. August 2000

Heart to Heart....

Where is God at Work in the Parish?

On Saturday 9th September, our parish is having a "Gaining a Vision for the Parish" day at St David's Riverside, chaired by Alister Palmer, the Diocesan Ministry Officer. There is an old saying "The person who aims at nothing is sure to hit it!"

The object is not to come up with some good ideas, rather to prayerfully gain God's direction for the parish. For this to be accomplished effectively, *prayer* is number one priority. But also *sincerity of heart, a real desire to hear God, a willingness to be willing and obedient in following the direction that our Lord gives.* In addition, we must remember the *importance* of realising that God is already at work in this parish. Our task is to discern His activity and become involved with it.

All this can be a bit scary when you consider the first disciples that Jesus called to follow him. There is no indication in the Bible that Jesus explained what the implications would be for them. All they knew as they left their nets and their occupations was simply the call of Jesus to "Follow me".

Below is an extract from Eugene Peterson "*The Contemplative Pastor*" (Eerdmans) This is to assist us in understanding a little of how God works.

Initiative

In running the church, I (the pastor) seize the initiative. I take charge. I take responsibility for motivation and recruitment, for showing the way, for getting things started. If I don't, things drift. I am aware of the tendency to apathy, the human susceptibility to indolence, and I use my leadership position to counter it.

... continued from page 1

bility to indolence, and I use my leadership position to counter it.

By contrast, the cure of souls is a cultivated awareness that God has already seized the initiative. The traditional doctrine defining this truth is prevenience: God everywhere and always seizing the initiative. He gets things going. He had and continues to have the first word. Prevenience is the conviction that God has been working diligently, redemptively, and strategically before I appeared on the scene, before I was aware there was something here for me to do.*

The cure of souls is not indifferent to the realities of human lethargy, naive about congregational recalcitrance, or inattentive to neurotic cussedness. But there is a disciplined, determined conviction that everything (and I mean, precisely, everything) we do is a response to God's first work, his initiating act. We learn to be attentive to the divine action already in process so that the previously unheard word of God is heard, the previously unattended act of God is noticed.

“Running - the-church” questions are:

What do we do?

How can we get things going again?

“Cure-of-souls” questions are:

What has God been doing here?

What traces of grace can I discern in this life?

What history of love can I read in this group?

What has God set in motion that I can get in on?

* Cure of souls = It is the work of the pastor, from the Latin *cura* which has a primary sense of “care”; ie caring for the souls (the people) of the parish.

Ross

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday 6th August at 12.15
at St Oswald's Hall
with Parish Luncheon

(Please bring something to share - food that is!)

"Keep Your Fork"

There was a woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order", she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what Scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. The woman also requested to be buried with her favourite Bible.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly. "What's that?" came the pastor's reply. "This is very important," the woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The pastor stood looking at the woman, not knowing quite what to say. "That surprises you, doesn't it?" the woman asked. Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

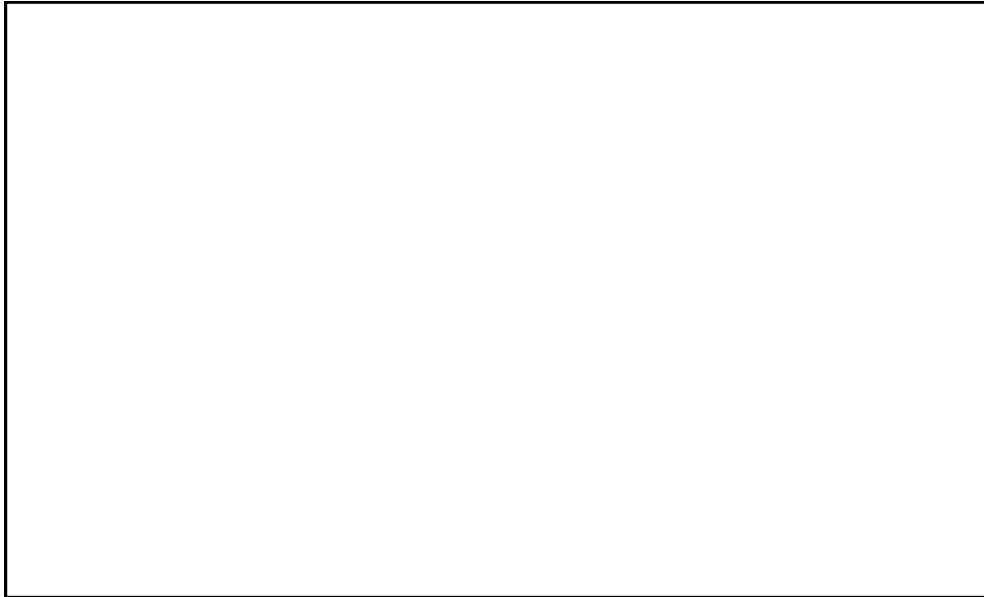
The woman explained. "In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork'. It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming...like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?". Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork....the best is yet to come".

The pastor's eyes welled up tears of joy as he hugged the woman goodbye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing another favourite Bible and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolised to her. The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

So the next time you reach down for your fork, let it remind you oh so gently, that the best is yet to come.

This beautiful story has come to us via Ken and Lestelle Ball



PARISH BUDGET

“Gaining a Vision for the Parish”

at

St David’s Riverside.

Saturday 2nd September

commencing at 10 am

Everyone is welcome and asked to keep

this special day in your prayers.

Please bring food for lunch.

What’s on this month ... August ...

Mon 31st July - Thur 3rd August Clergy Conference at Prospect

Sun 6 12.15 Annual Parish Meeting at St Oswald’s

Wed 9 1.30 St David’s Guild

Thurs 10 10am Parents and Toddlers at St David’s Hall

Mon 14 2.30 Cadorna House - Holy Communion

Wed 16 2.00 St Oswald’s Guild

Thur 17 2.30 Pastoral Carers’ meeting at the North’s

8.00 SALT leaders meeting at the Lawrence's home

Thur 31 1.45 Holy Communion at Tamar Park

Judy and Ross on holiday from Aug 14 - Sun 27

Worship, Learning & Serving

Some years ago, John Westerhoff, a leading Christian educator, suggested that we had lost our youth because of the gulf between worship and Sunday School. Westerhoff called on teachers and worship leaders to work more closely together to include children in the worship life of the congregation and to understand that children have gifts to give in worship. Having adults and children worshipping together is necessary, he suggested, if the "Body of Christ" is to be whole.

Faith: Caught... Not Taught!

Westerhoff's premise is that faith is "caught," not "taught." What better way for children to know what faith is all about than to be part of a community that laughs together, cries together, struggles and worships together -- a community that lives and shares its faith with all of its members and sojourners.

Question: How contagious is our worship? Is my worship?

Bishop John Harrower

St John’s Launceston

Sunday 6th - 10am

We would encourage as many as possible to attend this service. It will be the first time John Harrower will be preaching in the north of the State.

Those attending will have time to return to St Oswald’s for the Annual Parish Meeting at 12.15

