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THE PHARMACY, 112 BRISBANE STREET

ST. JOHN'S

Parish Messenger

STANDING NOTICES.

WEEKLY MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, Parsonage—

7:30—Bible Lecture.

WEDNESDAY—

11—Litany and Baptisms.

2:30—Flower Mission.

7:30—Evening Service and

Baptisms.

THURSDAY, Parsonage—

7:30—Teachers' Meeting.

FRIDAY, Church—

4:15—Instruction to Children.

Parsonage—

7:30—Girls' Bible Class.



No. 7. LAUNCESTON, DEC. 2, 1892. 1/6 per annum.

R. C. NUGENT KELLY, M.A. (Oxon.), Incumbent.
FRANK PARNALL, B.A. (Lond.), Assistant Curate.

MR. J. C. GENDERS,
MR. W. PERRIN,
MR. E. WHITFIELD,

} Churchwardens.

Vergers: W. F. PIKE, Charles Street.

Church Grammar School.

VISITOR: THE BISHOP OF TASMANIA.

HEAD MASTER: THE REV. A. H. CHAMPION, M.A.,
Exhibitor of Trinity College, Cambridge.

SECOND MASTER: C. W. ROCK, M.A.,
Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge.

THIRD MASTER: D. J. THOMAS,
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SERVICES.

SUNDAY	Morning	11-0
	Evening	7-0
	Litany	11-0
WEDNESDAY	Evening Service ...	7-30

HOLY COMMUNION.

First Sunday in month	11-0 a.m.
Second ,, ,,	10 a.m., 7-0 p.m.
Third ,, ,,	11-0 a.m.
Fourth ,, ,,	8-0 a.m.
Fifth ,, ,,	10-0 a.m.

(And at other times according to notices.)

BAPTISMS.

Wednesday... .. 11-0 a.m. and 7-30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

St. John's 10-0 a.m. and 3-0 p.m.
Abbott Street 3-0 p.m.
Children's Service, Fourth Sunday in month, in church, 3-0 p.m.

The St. John's Parish Messenger

LAUNCESTON, JANUARY 2, 1893.

1893.

It is a great pleasure at the end of six months trial of our *Parish Messenger* to be able, through its pages, to wish you a "Happy New Year."

The unfortunate thing about "new years" is that they start with last year's burden on their shoulders, and last year's burden has certainly grown heavy for many a one. There is grave anxiety in matters of business which can scarcely be called an unnecessary care, for it is not always by any means an anxiety to accumulate, but often enough an anxiety to meet the obligations and duties of life, whether as citizens or fathers of families, employers as well as employed. Many who have kept things together well enough while trade was normal find themselves stranded in the ebb tide, and the tides of trade seem to be (though that is rather a question) as much beyond human control and responsibility as the tides of ocean. Well, may this New Year see the weary load of anxiety lifted from the hearts of all those who are bearing it bravely and unselfishly now!

And we may perhaps in the end gain some strength of mind from this "ill wind" of adversity; they say it is the cold dreary winds of England that have helped to make the sturdy character of the British race.

If the self-denial born of necessity bears fruit in the self-denial born of sacrifice, and if the sympathy between the various members of the community is strengthened by common difficulties, then the New Year may at its close leave us better and braver and truer for the burden it brings with it now.

Perhaps we shall all go forth to meet the New Year with more hopefulness and courage if we recognise, even from the pressing difficulty of the moment, that life has more to say to us of duty than of mere pleasure. The Master's mind is constantly recalling us to this standard of true happiness, a happiness which outbids pleasure. Let us suggest as a motto for our Christian progress this year one of His practical sayings: "IF YE KNOW THESE THINGS HAPPY ARE YE IF YE DO THEM."

There is so much about which we really can have no manner of doubt: let us make these points real first. Shall we then start this year with the determination that by the grace of God we shall seek our happiness in that kind of faith which makes the word and will of Christ the supreme rule of life? There is no need to accumulate neglected duties this year to carry on into next. Put Christ FIRST in the heart, not Christ to "hear about," and have "clear views" about, and wondrous subtle theories about, but Christ the Son of the Father of your neighbours, the Christ who "went about *doing good*." Let us see how much we "know of these things," and then become "happy" in the "doing of them."

If ye *know* these things, happy are ye IF YE DO THEM.

RECORD OF THE MONTH.

Church Building Scheme.—The most important event to record this month is the meeting held in the Schoolroom, on Thursday, November 24, when the Building Committee brought up their long-expected report as to the extending of the Parish Church. The general tenor of the report and the outline of the proposed plans have been long pretty well understood. There was, therefore, not much opportunity for excitement in a meeting which was called for the purpose of receiving and adopting, in a businesslike and legal manner, the formal proposals to be made. Mr. Alfred Green, as Chairman of the Building Committee, spoke in favour of the scheme submitted and moved its adoption. The appointment of Treasurer (Mr. Perrin) and of a Committee to carry out the work were the other matters of importance. All these motions were carried with absolutely unanimous voting. Now, if God give courage to our hearts, we are free to proceed to take active measures. It is not my purpose to anticipate the announcements of the official Committee, but I hope to have some news under this head to report next month.

Annual Parish Meeting.—This will be held on Thursday, the 12th January, in the Schoolroom. Where the sense of responsibility and membership is alive, there will be felt a call of duty to attend the chief business meeting of the parish in the year. The Churchwardens ought to feel when elected that they have the parish really as well as nominally alive to the trust they impose upon their Wardens. The Sidesmen, too, and all other officers elected ought to be chosen carefully and prayerfully. It certainly is an honour to be appointed to serve God, even by serving in the most mundane duties. I don't know the work or office in the church even that of bellringer—which cannot be made a means of service if the right spirit is put into it (I know a very touching fact *à propos* of bellringers. I must give it some day); and I don't know any office however spiritual which cannot be made a mere worldly sham, if discharged in a worldly spirit. Well, let us pray God to give us a humble reverent spirit when we are "about the King's business."

The Sunday School Anniversary Services were held on the first Sunday in Advent. Although we had a very hard day's work before us, forty-six of the teachers and others who were interested in Sunday-school work met at 8 o'clock to have a quiet hour of prayer and thanksgiving at the Lord's Table. Special intercession for teachers and scholars formed part of this service. If all parents and teachers would frequently consecrate their work afresh in the spirit of Christ's sacrifice, which we place in our minds at such a time, we might find our zeal increase and our power deepen. The children sang the usual special songs and hymns, the hymns of course being infinitely nicer than the songs, which are a concession to the weak. It was a sad reflection in everybody's mind that seven of our band of Sunday-school workers were in sorrow, as indeed were most of us, from the summons having come from God for one of our valued workers to leave us. It was a deeply suggestive contrast to hurry from the prize-giving to the graveside. But so God ordered it. His contrasts are very significant: our part is to take full note of them and lay them to heart—never to ignore them in any way.

The Treat.—A gloomy morning on the day of the Sunday School treat made many hearts anxious. I confess I was astonished at the hardihood of parents who sent their little children out on such a day. But they took the responsibility. We had a brief twelve minutes service in church at 10 o'clock, then the sun shone and we risked a drive out, only to find our worst fears realised. However, I am glad to say the children showed a very wise spirit, and I heard no foolish complaints or grumbles. A gathering with tea in the Schoolroom finished off a not very satisfactory day for the children. The sports were held the following week, when we had better weather.

The Combined Schools met for a Special Service on Sunday, December 3, when the Church was filled to overflowing with the scholars of three parishes—in fact, it was difficult to arrange such numbers. Rev. W. H. Webster, Curate of Holy Trinity, preached to the children on their duty as "Soldiers of Christ."

Sunday School Examination.—Our school has I am proud to say entered for the first time in the Diocesan examination. This seemed to require some courage on the part of the youngsters. About 37 entered. The results are not yet known. These courageous ones, with the members of the Friday young women's class, subsequently accepted an invitation to an evening's recreation at the Parsonage. Tea was served on the verandah, and games played vigorously and happily till dusk. They seemed to enjoy themselves.

Christmas.—Four services were held on Christmas Day, including Children's service at 3 o'clock, and all were bright occasions of joyous worship of the Child Christ, and thanksgiving to the Father of all for His "unspeakable gift." There were 47 at the 8 o'clock celebration, and 50 at midday (97 in all). A very marked increase on the number last year, 38. Of course, the day falling on a Sunday makes a great difference. Offertory, £15 16s. 10d., for Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The Christmas decorations were very effective, and gave outward expression very fitly to the sober joyousness of the thoughts of the faithful at such seasons. I am not sure that the most beautiful point in church decoration is not missed by many: that is the thought that such decorations are only possible as the result of self-sacrificing service. Decorations don't make themselves; but heads must often be weary and bodies tired if the pleasure of a brightly adorned church is to had. Simple though it is, this work thus has its spiritual significance, for it too has the spirit of *service by sacrifice* in it.

I always feel myself there is something very far from satisfactory about our decorations. There are always many symbols—some heathen ones, such as the "garland"; some the invention of the church when she had lost her early simplicity, such as the triangles and three-fold circles; but the one great symbol used in the first dawn of Christianity—the symbol of our salvation, the cross—this is conspicuous by its absence. I have not only forbidden it but I have removed this symbol when it was (very naturally) put among the devices. And I have done this because I have been given to understand that the sight of it might wound tender hearts. Whether I ought to listen to such rumours or not, I don't know. My reason for the line I take is simply this: that I am unwilling to have the sign of Christian peace made an "occasion of stumbling" or a matter of discord among Christian people. I have too great a reverence for it. Is it quite out of place here to protest against the symbol of Christ's Passion being made into a "pretty" piece of jewelry? The thing is so horribly irreverent. The tragedy of the Lord's Sacrifice becoming a mere toy to be fitted up with those playthings of pride—jewels!

ST. JOHN'S DAY.—The dedication festival of our Parish Church ought to be a time of spiritual refreshing and rejoicing for all who have the welfare of the parish at heart. I am not without the hope that before many years we shall see many glad to give up a mere day's pleasuring in order to share with others a day of quiet spiritual refreshment, and to make the social side of the faith too a help in our parish life. I did hope, I confess, that some might be found bold enough to organise a picnic this year. That will come; meantime failing this we invited all the members of St. John's Church Union to an "At Home" at the Parsonage. The services of Holy Communion at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. were made times of special prayer on behalf of the parish, and special self-examination and renewed self-dedication too I hope by many of the 35 who presented themselves before the Lord in "The Great Thanksgiving." We had also a bright "Union" service in church at 7 p.m., when a good number were present and six new members admitted.

[May I venture to hint that Parsonages are very much like other houses. Nearly 100 persons were invited: *about 15 were good enough to answer the invitation*, and it was difficult to know whether to provide for 12 or 100 guests! These things are awkward for housekeeping.]

The St. John's Church Union has resolved itself into the missionary organisation of the parish, and Mr. N. Brownrigg acts as Secretary and Treasurer. His duty as Treasurer is to hand over to any missions named such sums as may be given for mission work. The mission cause we intend to try and keep in its due and close connection with all other Christian work; and so we take it up on the basis of "Home and Foreign Missions."

Discharged Prisoners' Aid and Rescue Society.—The first Annual Meeting was held on 28th November, when a satisfactory report was submitted. The Archdeacon in the course of some remarks said he believed that drunkenness was not so much a *cause* of crime as was often imagined, though it is a very common fault among those who commit crime. This remark has, I believe, been greatly challenged. I feel very confident myself that the Archdeacon is right. I have always felt that judges (who are often quoted) are not very reliable witnesses on social questions—their experience is gained in too narrow a circle. Drunkenness is a sad enough curse in all truth, but there are crimes far worse. It is not drunkenness that runs a "land boom," and spreads misery far and wide when the burst comes. The fact is, the worst social crimes do not come within the cognizance of judges very often, whereas a drunken idiot, who "runs amuck" like a wild beast, does. However, we are slowly getting on. Public opinion first is to be formed, then the law must

clumsily follow after: and the tendency is to making law and *real* crime hold some kind of relationship to each other. But there is a long road to plod over before they meet.

The Licensing Bench.—Public-houses are an absolute necessity, and it is ridiculous to suppose they can be "improved off the face of the earth." Yet they might often be improved in detail, and one of the surest ways of effecting this is to reduce the excessive number of them. Fewer and better is a safe rule. I think we can all feel pleasure in the remarks of the daily press recently on the action of our Churchwarden, Mr. Whitfield, in his capacity of Chairman of the Bench.

General Booth.—I believe the great General has made a bolder, braver, and more wholehearted attempt to deal with the awful "Social Question" than any other man living. But he looks like to fail. All I can say is that the Church should have done the work he is doing; and though individuals have done more *thorough* work, yet the Church as a *body* has done nothing. The General has apparently involved himself in serious obligations and his outlook is not bright. He looks like to fail; but his very failure will be noble. For some failures are nobler than many successes. It is the men who aim highest who do most to freshen the world with hope and faith.

The Epiphany (Friday, January 6). This festival completes the lessons of the Christmas season by teaching us the special reasons of Christ's coming—the "manifestation" of God to men. Like Ascension Day it used to hold a high place in the esteem of all Christians; but of late years these have both been ignored somewhat. The lessons for the Epiphany season show how Christ was manifested to the Gentiles—manifested as the Son of God, as the Light of the world, as the Messiah, as the Ruler of all things, as the Human Sympathiser with humanity, as the Saviour of all, as the Lord of the Church, as the Judge of Mankind. In the Reformed Churches of Europe, as in Eastern and Western Christianity, this day is universally observed. We shall have the service appointed for this day by our Church in a celebration of Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Excursion in S.S. Centennial.—Mr. Harrap has very liberally placed this steamer at the disposal of the Wardens for a trip down the river. It ought to be well patronised. The profits to go to paying for school building. Date not fixed yet.

The Y.M.C.A. closes its doors this month. The incident suggests two reflections, the one commercial, the other religious. 1. Don't go into debt and incur liabilities "in the name of the Lord" which the Lord has not given you assets to cover. 2. Does not "undenominationalism" lead to unreality and weakness?

Hope Cottage.—Parcels of clothing, blankets, house linen, meat, milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, dripping, jam, cake, etc., etc., as well as some Christmas gifts, cards, etc., have been thankfully received from Messrs. Hickson, Morgan, and Sutton; Mesdames F. Fysh, Kelly, Cooke, Dobson, Genders, W. Hart, Ritchie, Sharland, Soltau, Spicer, Waterhouse, Westbrook, Wetton, Young; Misses Hewitt and Stewart; also from two former inmates. £1 (for Christmas) from Mayor of Launceston; cooking utensils from Mr. J. S. Scarr.

To our Subscribers.—The *Messenger* will issue at the beginning of the month in future.

MEMORANDA.

January 3—District Visitors' meeting.

January 6—Epiphany. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Prayers for missions.

January 12—Annual meeting of parishioners—School.

[]—Trip in s.s. Centennial.

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

BAPTISMS.

Grant that Whosoever is here Dedicated to Thee by our Office and Ministry may also be endued with Heavenly Virtues.

- Nov. 16—Ernest Louis Pratt, Union street
 16—William Georgie Gartside, Prospect
 16—Reginald Clyde Tasman Collins, Melbourne
 16—Reginald Augur Davis, Invermay
 16—Leonard Stanley Moore, 249 Brisbane street
 30—Gordon Ronald Witcombe, 71 Patterson street
- Dec. 2—Muriel Ada Goetze, West Tamar
 9—Minnie Elizabeth Blake
 14—Muriel Ivor Evans, Lefroy
 14—Arthur Roy Richards, 26 Frederick street
 14—Leonard Hugh Cole, 30 Brisbane street
 21—Gordon William Ballard, Vincent street
 21—Frank Stuart Smith, Gunn street, Inveresk
 21—Rosie Jane Jacobson, Young Town
 21—Walter Henry
 28—Edgar Herbert Dell, 2 Frederick street

MARRIAGES.

Send Thy Blessing upon these Thy servants whom we bless in Thy Name.

- Dec. 1—Benjamin Lewis Matthews to Lilius Flood

BURIALS.

Oh Holy and Merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge Eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of Death to fall from Thee.

- Nov. 16—William Edgar Cyril Strutt, 98 Elizabeth street, infant
 22—William Chester, St. John street, 84
 26—Sydney Taylor, Arthur street, infant
 27—Lily Louise Genders, George street, 33
 28—Gertrude May Paterson, Bathurst street, infant
- Dec. 22—William Henry Leeming

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

DATE.	MORNING SUBJECT. THE COLLECTS FOR THE DAY.	AFTERNOON SUBJECT.
Jan. 1. Circum- cision.	{ The covenant of grace and the spirit of obedience. }	Escape from danger and escape from sin. Parts of 1 Sam. xxiii. and xxiv.
Jan. 8. 1 S. after Epiphany.	{ Light of knowledge and grace of duty. }	Death of Saul and Jonathan. Parts of 1 Sam. xxx., xxxi. and 2 Sam. i.
Jan. 15. 2 S. after Epiphany.	{ God's government and God's peace. }	David as King. 2 Sam. v., etc.
Jan. 22. 3 S. after Epiphany.	{ Our infirmities and God's remedies. }	Catechising in Church.
Jan. 29. Septua- gesima.	{ Our just punishment and God's great mercy. }	David's care for the worship of God. 2 Sam. vi., etc.