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# The St. John's Parish Messenger

LAUNCESTON, JUNE 15, 1892.

THE idea of this Messenger, mooted at our Annual Parishioners' Meeting in January, was heartily welcomed there. Encouraged by the hope that this welcome will now be made good we start this Monthly Messenger with the prayer that by God's blessing it may find a useful place in the organisation of the parish.

WHAT IS IT FOR?—Not a few will ask this question on hearing of our venture. Month by month the news will be given of events which may or should be of interest to all in the parish. I am sure from personal experience gained in ordinary course of visiting that a great many people would be far warmer in their attachment to our Church, and would also be helped to get out of that kind of *spiritual isolation* which has so benumbing an effect on the heart, if they knew a little more of what was going on in their own Church. So, from the record of the passing months, which we purpose to present to our readers regularly, we feel sure that many will learn to take a deeper interest in what may be going on. Example often fires duty. Moreover, we hope to find space to give a hint occasionally of the great work the Church is doing in a wider field than our own parish. I fancy that few who do not study these matters are aware how wide-reaching are the activities of the Church of England, both at home and abroad. Moreover, there can be no channel so convenient as this for giving full and accurate information as to coming events.

AND HOW ABOUT £ s. d.?—A very reasonable question. Here is the answer—The Messenger is issued at 1½d. a month, or 1s. 6d. a year. I have a great hope that there are a large number who will subscribe this moderate sum—even at a venture. The District Visitors will leave the magazine at *houses in the parish*. Those living outside the parish will, I hope, arrange with me personally as to delivery. But I am going to be so shockingly *un-businesslike* as to say that we will distribute the Messenger *free* where the subscription cannot well be given. I hope that some members of the Church, therefore, may feel disposed to add to their subscription to help in this free distribution.

## RECORD OF THE MONTH.

**Confirmation.**—As we go to press the time approaches for the confirmation. The *First Communion* of those just confirmed will be on Sunday, 19th inst. Why should not *all* communicants in the parish come with them to the Lord's Table and deepen the bonds of the fellowship of the Faith? And why not try the virtue of a kindly word here and there (as the chance offers) of sympathetic good-will to these new communicants from those of riper experience? We miss much from our undue reserve.

**Bible Lectures.**—These had to merge into the Confirmation Lectures for a time. They will now emerge immediately in their old shape. As there are only seven days a week in this parish unfortunately this temporary combination had to take place. However, a large proportion of those who attended the Bible Class came to the lectures on Church and Bible, which formed the scheme of the confirmation addresses.

**Sunday School Work.**—St. John's is happy in having Churchwardens who take a real interest in seeing the Church fulfil its duty. When, therefore, the need was pointed out of our beginning work in the growing part about Abbott Street the Wardens supported our proposal to start a Sunday School there. We have made this start in an empty shop with two teachers and two little classes. A nucleus of a library has been formed by a kind gift of Mrs. Stackhouse.

**Religious Instruction in Private Schools.**—The Diocesan Inspector will be happy to arrange with private schools to take up the Diocesan scheme of lessons. I shall be happy to give fullest information. A yearly examination is held. Several schools here have already taken it up.