

**ADVENT.**—Special sermons will be preached during the season of Advent. The Rector will speak on the "Greatest Thing in the World" (Love), "Love Shown in Sympathy," "Love in Helpfulness," "Love in Courtesy." On the Second Sunday in Advent (Bible Sunday) the Rector will take as his subject in the morning "Pile-Drivers," and the Curate in the evening "Spanning the World." A special course of Advent addresses will also be given at the Wednesday evening services by the clergy.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** falls on Tuesday this year, and the special times of services on that day at St. John's are:—Celebrations of Holy Communion, 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m.; Matins, 10 a.m.; and Holy Communion and sermon, at 11 a.m. There will also be a celebration at St. Oswald's at 9 a.m.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE.**—A Watch-night Service will be held as usual.

**SUMMER SCHOOL.**—A Missionary Summer School will be conducted in February at Launceston by the C.M.S., the dates being February 17 to February 22, 1924. Principal Wade, of Ridley College, Melbourne, and the Bishop of Gippsland are expected to take part. Mr. Perriman, our own Missionary, will also be down from the Northern Territory on furlough.

#### DONATIONS.

The publisher of this little paper desires to thank the many kind friends who have furnished the money to pay the expenses. It has been issued every month, and, although the printer has raised the price, the whole cost has now been fully provided to the end of the year. We also thank Mr. A. A. Castley, who has received the subscriptions and paid the accounts. During the month of November the following amounts have been gratefully received:—Miss Bennett, £5; Mrs. L. Ford, Miss Lawson, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Robertson, 2s. each; Mr. H. L. Wilks, 6s.; Mrs. Horton, 3d.

#### OFFERTORIES.

Sunday, 4th November, £10 16s. 6d. 11th November, £19 8s. 5d.; 18th November, £13 7s.; 25th November, £13 5s. 8d.

#### MARRIAGES.

"Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow."

Clarence William Henry Wilson and Mary Alice Riley.

John Dean and Eliza Jane Hunt.

Selwyn Harry Findlay and Mollie Gaunt.

William Henry Freeman and Elma May Lewis.

Ernest John Robinson and Myrtle Nelson.

Edward Henry Robinson and Isla Gwentyth Morris Gee.

Albert Wheeldon and Susanna Lucy Grace Edwards.

George Harold Patmore and Violet Muriel May Crawford.

#### BAPTISMS.

The parents of the following children have made very solemn promises, and the prayers of the whole congregation are asked that, by the Grace of God, all of them may in due course be brought to the Bishop to be confirmed:—

Kate Beresford Martin.

Iris Joy Berryman.

Lilian Patricia Dargan.

Jack Colin Smith.

David Bruce Doe.

Jack Leslie McEwan.

Joyce Henrietta Campton.

Frederick William Dawe.

Barbara Maud Bailey.

Charles John Bailey.

#### BURIALS.

The beautiful words of our church service were used at the graveside when the following were laid to rest:—

Caroline May Thompson.

James Robert Ballard.

Ivy Edna Bain.

Marianne Hurst.

Emily Stevenson Frazer.

#### C.M.S. DEPOT,

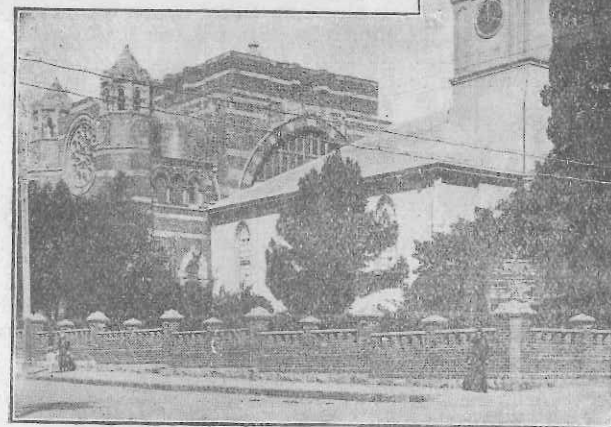
92 St. John Street, Launceston.

When purchasing Xmas Gifts, patronise us!

Dainty Morning and Afternoon Teas are also served.

# St. John's Parish Messenger

A Monthly Message from the Mother Church of Launceston. St. John's Church was opened 1825, but our records go back to 1811.



VOL. IV.—No. 12.

FREE.

DECEMBER, 1923.

#### STAFF:

REV. D. ROSS HEWTON, The Rectory, adjoining the Church, St. John Street.

Phone No. 525. REV. F. A. CARR, Curate.

MR. PERRIMAN, Missionary in the Field.

MISS ISABELLE KELLY, Parish Worker, Mission House, Canning Street.

MR. G. F. HOPKINS, Organist, 39 High Street.

MR. TACEY, Verger.

#### APPOINTMENTS:

SUNDAY SERVICES, 8, 11, and 7—Sunday School, 10 and 3. Holy Communion, 8 a.m. (every Sunday), 10 a.m. (second Sunday), 11 a.m. (first and third Sunday).

WEDNESDAYS—Ladies' Sewing Guild, Girls' Friendly Society, Teachers' Class. Baptisms, every Wednesday, 11 a.m. Special Service, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.

THURSDAYS—Choir Practice; fourth Thursday, Mothers' Union.

SATURDAY—Sowers' Band, 3.

ST. OSWALD'S, TREVALLYN—Service every Sunday, 7. Holy Communion Fourth Sunday, at 11 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION, CANNING STREET—Service every Sunday, 7 p.m.

CORMISTON—Every alternate Sunday, 3.30 p.m.

A CORDIAL INVITATION is hereby given to ALL to Attend our SERVICES. YOU will be Welcomed, Shown to a Seat, and, if necessary, provided with Books

## RECTOR'S NOTES.

As the President of the Local Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, I am pleased to run my eye through the latest popular report issued by the Head Office of this Society in London. Like many of its predecessors, it is a literary gem. It is a most readable little volume, with the title "The Bridge-Builders." Its distinguishing articles are "The Pile-Drivers," "Spanning the World," "The Brotherhood of the Bridge," and "People Who Pass Over."

Since reading the above I recall that in nearly every bit of landscape I always think a bridge adds to the beauty of the scene.

When an English engineer applied for a concession to bridge the rivers of Morocco, the Sultan refused. "I cannot think of such a thing," he said; "God created the world without bridges."

Strange as it may appear to the modern mind, the belief has prevailed in many parts of the world that, just as men mark off the boundaries of their fields, so the Powers have placed seas and rivers to determine the bounds of the habitation of nations. To pass beyond such boundaries was looked upon as a tempting of Providence. Some ancient peoples saw in each river the home of a god. It is a widespread notion that to pass above a person's head portends his death; to pass over the head of a divine river or of a river-god was an impious crime. Moreover, to enable travellers to cross dry-shod over a river, was to rob the river-god of the nourishment he would derive from the bodies of men and women who might otherwise be drowned.

For these and other reasons, bridges appear comparatively late in history. We read of no bridge in the Bible. To this day many tribes in Central Africa oppose the building of bridges.

Ancus Martius built the earliest bridge over the Tiber in the seventh century B.C. Following a secular custom, the Romans went once a year in procession to this bridge, and the Vestals threw into the river a number of dummies shaped of rushes in the form of men bound hand and foot. Many scholars believe these took the

place of human victims, which at an earlier date were offered annually to placate Father Tiber.

When the river-gods had been pacified the ancient bridge became a sacred object. At Rome the priest who offered the preliminary sacrifice acted also as the architect. The maintenance of bridges was entrusted to the colleges of pontifices, at whose head stood the Pontifex Maximus (the chief bridge-builder). In course of time this title was assumed by the Emperors, and seven Christian Emperors in turn bore the name. About the eleventh century the Pope of Rome claimed the title exclusively.

This old history is rich in symbolical meaning to us who conceive that the Bible contains information of the bridge, and the Society that sends it abroad is a bridge-builder.

Men have called in religion to overcome the obstacles which hinder the free fellowship of peoples. They have also sought in religion the means of bridging the gulf between heaven and earth.

When the ancients looked upwards they saw in the rainbow a symbol of their hopes. This arch spanning earth and sky is the oldest of all bridges. The pious Hebrew looked upon it as the pledge of God's goodwill towards men for perpetual generations.

These thoughts lead us to say that our hope is that St. John's may ever remain as the Church in this Diocese which pre-eminently believes in the open Bible, and that the privilege of reading it should be given to all men, and that is why we advocate Home and Foreign Missionary enterprises in season and out of season.

I have just discovered a most beautiful volume of the sacred Scriptures, in the very largest type, hidden away in the tower of St. John's Church. It was presented by the churchwardens, Messrs. A. Harrap, E. Boys, and R. Parker, on the 17th November, 1861. It now lies open on a table near the western door, and, I am sure, will be of use to visitors to the church. Several elderly people have already told me that they can read the print therein without spectacles.

On the lofty Andes, which form the dividing line between Chili and the

Argentina, stands an imposing statue of Christ erected to commemorate the peaceful settlement of the boundary dispute between the two peoples; and upon the pedestal these words are engraved:—"He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition." This is the reconciliation which the world needs supremely to-day—the Atonement which Christ alone can bring to pass. Reconciling men with God, He reconciles them to each other. He is the one divine Pontifex Maximus—Himself both the Bridge and the Chief Bridge-Builder—and all who labour at bridging a way between the peoples are His fellow-workers.

The following quaint mandate was issued by King Henry III. for the Protection of the Brethren of London Bridge in the year 1252:—

"The King to the Archbishops, etc. Greeting . . . And we also desire of you that when the aforesaid Brethren, or their Messengers, shall come to you for your alms for their support, or for that of the aforesaid bridge, ye shall courteously receive them and cause them to be so received in all your Churches, Towns, and Courts; and that ye will bestow upon them of your goods according to your charity, and the sight of our precept, the alms which they desire."

DAVID ROSS HEWTON,  
Rector.

St. Andrew's Day, 1923.

## GENERAL NOTES.

THE ENTERTAINMENT given by the G.F.S. in the Academy of Music on the 6th November deserves a very special mention. The unanimous verdict of the audience that filled every part of the building is that it was one of the best amateur performances they had ever witnessed. The members of the Society are very grateful to their patrons, and particularly because every item was so enthusiastically received. When the flowers were being presented by various friends at the close the scene was quite thrilling. It is something to boast about when we can announce that the actual net proceeds amounted to £38 8s. 8d. Thanks are due to Messrs. Findlays for the loan of the piano, McClymonts for furnishings,

and Mr. L. Potter and all the others who assisted in the programme and sales of sweets. With the sum raised and other moneys, it is proposed to complete the choir stalls in St. John's Church. The two back seats of the choir, it will be noticed, are at present only makeshifts. The G.F.S. are holding a final evening for the year, in the form of a Fancy Dress Social, on Wednesday, the 12th December, in the Schoolroom.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION.—A very useful work has been carried on at the Mission House during the year, under the direction of Miss Isabel Kelly, and her friends are preparing to give her a good send-off when she leaves for her holiday at Christmas. As we anticipated, the annual Sale of Work on 1st November for Missions was a record, and the G.F.S. and other helpers from St. John's must be pleased to hear that £42 was handed to Miss Murray for C.M.S. The annual Christmas Tree will be held on Tuesday, the 18th December, and the friends of the poorer children of the parish are invited to help with toys and other suitable articles.

THE ORGAN.—Mr. G. F. Hopkins is again hard at work, for by the s. Port Melbourne there has arrived five large cases containing additional pipes for this instrument. We are informed that something like 1200 new pipes are now available, ranging from those about the size of a toothpick to others 16 feet in length. We are promised something special by Christmas Day.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—St. John's Prize-giving is fixed for Monday, the 3rd December. St. John's S.S. (together with the Mission S.S.) are holding a picnic at the Show Grounds on Saturday, 8th December; St. Oswald's, Trevallyn, at the Race-course.

THE CHURCH ROOF.—A contract has been signed by the wardens for placing red roofing tiles over the organ chamber and part of the chancel apse, which is the first step in furthering the building of the fabric of St. John's which has been possible for some time.

CURATE.—We are glad to add Rev. Frederick Ambrose Carr to our staff, and feel sure he will do good work at St. John's.