

ST. JOHN'S PARISH MESSENGER.

secutive pages of a large-print Bible." Another:—"I have practically been an invalid from rheumatism all the year, but, thankful to say, now quite well, and no stiffness." Another:—"For 15 months I have not been able to go outside the house without the aid of a stick. On Friday night, after attending the Mission of Healing, I walked from one corner of the street to another and back without any artificial aid, and on Monday went down the town and did some shopping, and feel much better in health."

EASTER OFFERING.—Last Easter Sunday the offerings amounted to £600, and we are encouraged to ask for, say, £500 to complete St. John's Church organ. This is a pressing claim, and our reputation depends in some measure on doing it. We can never expect to get good results while the organist is perched up in a stone cabinet, without any way of communicating with the members of the choir. The console (keyboard) must be brought down to the floor of the church. We hope to get a definite statement of the cost, and, with the help of a generous congregation, to get the work in hand as soon as possible.

CHURCH DEBT.—The quarterly collections for the Interest and Sinking Fund will be taken up on Sunday, the 11th March. The Rector will preach in the morning, and the Rev. George Rowe, B.A., in the evening.

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK.—Holy Communion each morning at 7.30, viz., 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th March; on Wednesday evening, at 7.30, service with special music by the choir.

GOOD FRIDAY, 30th MARCH, is not to be regarded as a holiday, but a Holy Day. A short morning service will be conducted at 9 o'clock.

THREE HOURS' SERVICE, 12—3.—If you cannot remain throughout, come for part of the time.

SATURDAY will be spent chiefly in making the Lord's House beautiful.

Offerings of flowers are required, and ladies and gentlemen to decorate.

EASTER DAY, 1st APRIL.—All communicants rally to the Sacred Feast to-day. Choose the time that suits you best, and come not empty-handed—6 o'clock, 7 o'clock, 8 o'clock, 10 o'clock, and 11 o'clock. Evensong, 7 p.m.

OFFERTORIES.

Sunday, 7th January, £14 17s. 7d.; 14th January, £13 16s.; 21st January, £10; 28th January, £10 10s. 9d.; 4th February, £15 1s. 6d.; 7th February, £16 1s. 4d.; 14th February (Wednesday), £7 12s. 3d.; 16th February (Friday), £2 6s.; 18th February, £19 8s. 3d.; 22nd February (Thursday), £15 10s. 9d.; 25th February, £16 13s. 6d.

BAPTISMS.

Richard Owen Parry, Noel Edgar Foot, Edward Morris Jory, Joan Mary Brookes, Joan Freeland, David George Reid, Mervyn Frank Daves, Keith Eldon Daves, Constance Alice May Daves, Douglas Clarence Wilson, Clifford Charles Hepburn, Maxwell Ray Staunton-Smith, Mervyn William Ion, Lindsay Stuart Goldsworthy, Wilfred Henry Nas, Zelma Joan Pauline Johnstone, Enid Ireland Sheppard, Frank Charles Court, Maxwell Alfred Turner.

MARRIAGES.

Walter Vincent Rodger and Theodora Archer Fysh.

Alfred George Leonard Summers and Kathleen Gillespie.

Sydney Albert Mitchell and Muriel Edith Thomas.

DEATHS.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

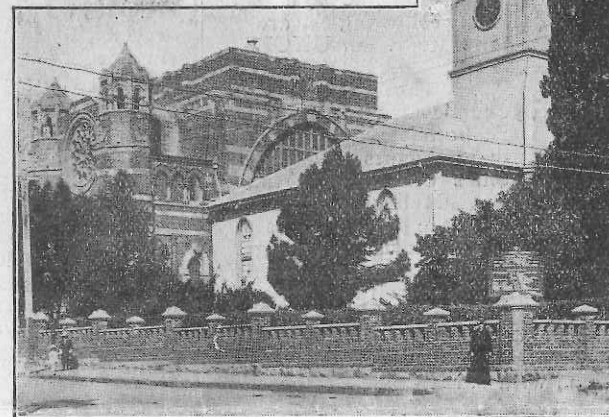
Lindsay Francis Hughes, 9 months.

John George Johnston, 64 years.

Ronald Frederick Guy Hughes, 14 years.

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. 3.

FREE.

MARCH, 1923.

STAFF:

REV. D. ROSS HEWTON, The Rectory, adjoining the Church, St. John Street. Phone No. 525.

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 11. 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.

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.

Mr. James Moore Hickson struck the keynote of his Australian mission in Launceston. It is rather remarkable that he should open up here in preference to the much greater city of Melbourne, but do you know he was only unconsciously following the order of events in our history. LAUNCESTON IS THE FATHER OF MELBOURNE. The founders of Melbourne, John Batman and John P. Fawcner, were both Launcestonians, and were both attendants at services at our St. John's Church at a time when the site of Melbourne was an unknown forest in the peaceful possession of naked aborigines. Amongst the valuable early records of this church I can show you the marriage certificate of John Batman with Eliza Thompson on 29th March, 1928, and the marriage certificate of John Fawcner, jun., with Eliza Cobb, on the 5th December, 1822, nearly 15 years before he started to look for the River Yarra. "Marvellous Melbourne" will witness some marvellous things during Mr. Hickson's mission, we have no doubt, for have we not seen marvellous things here already? The word "marvel" frequently occurs in the New Testament, but has lost some of its force since the days of the Bible translators. Out of comparative obscurity has come the word "wonder" to take its place. Jesus wondered at the unbelief of the multitude. He wondered, too, at the faith of a Roman soldier. In a life of such spiritual adventure, wonder plays a large part. The elements of surprise and astonishment enter in also. He wondered at the aptness of some disciples, and at the dulness and obtuseness of others. Personally, I have been agreeably surprised during the past few weeks at the manifest faith of so many in whom I had not expected to see it. I am delighted that there was no haggling or quibbling over Mr. Hickson's work in this city. All sorts and conditions of churchmen just accepted him, and received his message as on the authority of our Lord.

I have just been reading a book by Alexander Irvine. One day during the war he was being driven in a motor car through France from Doulers to Cambrai. "We stopped," he says, "at an army garage in a small village. Two men were engaged in an argument. It appeared that one of them had been sent from Corps H.Q. to do repair work. There were seven cars in "dry dock," all of them in need of repair and useless. The man in charge could not repair them. He was there as caretaker—to see that nobody ran away with them. Here was a mechanic sent to get them into use again, but the caretaker refused to let him touch them. He questioned the mechanic's authority; then he questioned the source of it. They were both soldiers; they both knew that cars were in great demand, but red tape and stupidity stood in the way. We gave the mechanic a lift on his way back. Did you ever see anything so stupid?" he asked.

I am so glad that nobody brought out a bundle of red tape in this city, but that all gladly accepted Mr. Hickson as a spiritual mechanic sent to put so many cars in repair.

The result is simply wonderful.

We usually associate long faces and sorrowful expressions with Lent, but Mr. Hickson's visit has made it a joyful season. Our Lord was prophesied to be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, naturally, because His mission was to go where He was most needed, and at the time when it was keenly felt, but that is in no wise incompatible with the fact that He was a man of joy. I am sure that our Lord Jesus laughed, and laughed often, for very joy. The New Testament writers seem to have considered laughter as unbecoming to the serious Messianic life, and that thought, that expression, has been so thoroughly hammered into our minds that we have excluded from our conception of the Master that which we expect in every healthy and happy life. As a Galilean carpenter, builder, and cabinetmaker, He was a workman who **needed** not to be ashamed of His work. That in itself makes a solid

foundation for joy. But when He left His carpenter's bench He went out into the larger mission of life, in the consciousness that His life was of the same texture as the life of God, and His joy deepened and widened as it flowed into the lives of men.

Lent and Good Friday are but expressive of His sadness, as a passing cloud or the flitting of a dark shadow affects the face of the sunlit sea. It is joy and light and love that He wishes His followers to possess. This joy becomes the possession of all men whose main purpose is linked with Him. Joy in Him becomes contagious. We catch the vitality of His radiant health.

It was as if the Missioner, having found a key which had been mislaid, produces it, and shows how a private door can be opened, that Jesus may walk into men's hearts.

When full of His joy, we speak with His tongue, think with His mind, and love with His heart.

I am sure that many people in Launceston have received actual healing of the body as the result of the laying on of hands, but I am equally confident that hundreds have been blessed in their souls.

We must remember Mr. Hickson's last words to me as he left Tasmania by the boat for Melbourne—"Do not let it drop! Carry on!"

On each Wednesday evening, at 7.30, we hope to see a goodly number of like-minded Christians who will join in special prayer for HEALING of mind and body and soul.

May the words of Christ, with their real and living meaning, speak with authority—"Thy sins be forgiven thee," "Arise and walk."

DAVID ROSS HEWTON,
Rector.

1st March, 1923
(St. David's Day).

GENERAL NOTES.

C.M.S. DEPOT, St. John Street.—Miss Lily Murray will be in charge of the monthly stall on Tuesday, the

6th March, from 2 to 5 p.m. Let us call it "AN AUSTRALIAN—CAPITAL—T." This is, bring a gift and buy a gift—one horizontal and one perpendicular. Do you see? Miss Tephi Garrard, the Tasmanian missionary in Africa, supported by the Depot, has just sent a letter telling of her work. Thanks to Miss Gregory, of Zercho's College, a few typed copies of it are available.

CANON FINNIS, after a life-long ministry in Tasmania, has retired, and intends to visit England, leaving by an early boat. Pending an appointment to Longford, Rev. C. T. Pargiter will take charge of that parish. Rev. Frank S. Griffiths is assisting the Rector of St. John's in the meantime.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—We are in need of teachers and a Superintendent, and the Rector requires every reader of this to take notice. We are adopting, for the help of Sunday School workers, a little publication called "The Trowel," which is issued monthly from Sydney. It contains lesson notes and other useful information, and might be found of use to many families where children are unable to attend Sunday School. The annual subscription is 4s., posted.

THE HEALING MISSION.—The Rector has received quite a sheaf of letters telling of many physical benefits obtained, and all speaking of spiritual blessings. One lady writes:—"I want you to know how very thankful I am that I had the desired opportunity to be among the intercessors during the services conducted in connection with the Healing Mission. For some time now I have had rheumatism in my knee, which was unusually troublesome on Thursday. Immediately after I had received Mr. Hickson's blessing the pain disappeared, and my knee is normal again. My shoulder also is wonderfully better. Never have I been in so spiritual an atmosphere, and I came away richer in faith, filled with fresh courage and renewed strength, to help me up the steep places in life." Another:—"For 11 years I have not been able to read a book, and now I can read two con-