

ST. JOHN'S PARISH MESSENGER.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—

The following is the syllabus:—2nd May—Tea, 6.30 p.m.; lecture by Mr. Scott. 9th May—Work for fair and music. 16th May—Shakespeare evening. 23rd May—Cooking demonstration. 30th May—Fancy dress social.

CHURCH BUILDING.—Mr. Whitfeld lived just long enough to see the work he and others had projected fully paid for. A suggestion has been made that individual parishioners be asked to undertake certain portions of new work. The north porch is calling out for a generous donor. Friends with lesser means might undertake innumerable carvings yet unfinished. We thank the gentlemen who did the asphaltting, and the thoughtful friend who provided the beautiful curtain at the back of the pulpit.

DONATIONS FOR "PARISH MESSENGER."

Mrs. Genders, 2s. 6d.; Miss I. Bennett, 2s. 6d.; Miss Bessell, 2s.; Miss L. Murray, 2s.; Miss Bennett, 1s.; Mrs. Holmes, 1s.; Mrs. Ping, 1s.; Mrs. Walters, 1s.

MARRIAGES.

Clyfton John Turner and Isabella Jane Challis.

Henry Colin Edgell and Joan Stewart Fisher.

Albert Edward Parish and Clara May Harding.

Roy Alfred Richard Callow and Ivy Pearl Brewer.

Patrick Joseph Dargan and Lilian Muriel Thompson.

Frederick Lawrence Morgan and Marjorie Robins.

Thomas Henry Burnett and Nellie Price.

BAPTISMS.

Veronica Woodfield.

Betty Lay.

Mollie Lay.

Loel Margaret Dennis Thompson.

Sutherland Dennis Thompson.

Mollie Dennis Thompson.

Barney Dennis Thompson

Marcus John Young.

Basil James Watterson.

Joyce Hilda Maud Martin.

Alfred Roy Maher.

BURIALS.

"In the midst of life we are in death."

Cyril James Beck.

John Molloy.

Irene May Cock.

Ernest Whitfeld.

William Holyman.

OFFERTORIES.

Sunday, 8th April, £14 os. 11d.; 15th April, £18 2s. 5d.; 22nd April, £13 8s. 10d.; Wednesday, 25th April, £6 11s. (for starving children of Europe); Sunday, 29th April, £14 4s. 10d.

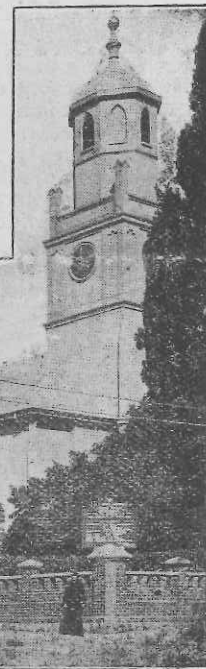
AUTUMN IS HERE.

"Boughs are daily rifled
By the gusty thieves,
And the book of Nature
Getteth short of leaves."

The whole history of man may be read in the falling leaf. The church bell tolled three times last month, for three stages of life:—WILLIAM HOLYMAN, 14 years, a schoolboy. His widowed mother has lost her comfort and her joy; her crystal cup is broken. It was most impressive to see such a large number of Grammar boys and High School pupils present in church to show their sympathy. CYRIL JAMES BECK, aged 29, though still young, had attained to the position of captain in the marine service. O Death! thou art the cruel enemy of our hearths and homes. ERNEST WHITFELD, in his eightieth year—"a shock of corn fully ripe." After a life of the utmost usefulness, called to rest. He was the historian of our church. Here are his own words in writing of St. John's Church building, in the erection of which he was an active worker as Treasurer-Warden:—"But at least we may claim that the portion now complete sets a very high standard, and by its very excellence does all that is possible to ensure that the work hereafter be carried on in a manner not unworthy of that already done. To God's greater glory should their work and ours alike and equally serve."

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. 5.

FREE.

MAY, 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 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.

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.

An important event during the past month was the annual meeting of the Church's Parliament. According to a resolution passed a few years ago, it was optional for the Bishop this year to have appointed Launceston as the place at which the Synod should meet.

Apparently the clergy of the North were not asked for their opinion, and they cheerfully journeyed to Hobart in accordance with the Bishop's summons.

His Lordship's charge or opening address was a well-prepared and noble utterance, which has attracted considerable notice on the mainland. In dealing with the Church's attitude on social subjects, the speaker said:—

"Here in our State there are urgent reasons for closer fellowship and co-operation, not only among ourselves, but with all other communions. There is a sag in morals and a growing spirit of lawlessness, all the more disquieting because the policy of expediency is being openly advocated as the best means of dealing with it. It should not be left to an enthusiastic few to place social service as an essential part of the Church's work in their desire to bring about the application of the principles of the Gospel to all human relationship, social, industrial, and political. Religion is no good if it does not inspire men to believe in a loving God who seeks their good, and who will help them to live their lives nobly according to His purpose; and if also it does not strengthen them in all their aims and efforts by a real fellowship with those who believe, as they themselves believe, that spiritual ideals alone make for true progress. This has its bearing on the attitude we should adopt towards all questions affecting the life of the State in which we are fellow-citizens."

The Hobart "Mercury" was not quite pleased at some other things which our Bishop said, having reference to the probable inconsistency of that newspaper in a leading article, on the one hand, describing betting as the "canker" of sport, and at the same time employing a paid "prophet" whose business it is to give advice to investors on races. The editor

excuses himself by claiming that his newspaper is a public institution, serving all sections of the people.

The same editor, however, furnishes us with a fine tribute to the value of the Church in the community, which may well act as a tonic to drooping spirits.

As the statement of the position is interesting and hopeful, I quote the words, as follow:—"Despite the indication of pessimism in the Bishop's address, we think that it will be generally agreed that the pressure of the churches upon public opinion is constant. All our standards—including those of the men that never attend church—are based on Christian teaching. The influence of the Sermon on the Mount is felt by every man, and by its standards our social arrangements are as nearly as possible settled. Thousands of men in Hobart could not pass the test as Christians required by the churches, but in thought and act, in dealings with their neighbours, they are practical Christians. The churches appear to have lost touch with these, yet they are believers and reverence all religious things, and see to it that their children are taught the faith. Many of them, no doubt, do not attend church because they feel that the standard of life set by many preachers is too narrow or too high, and does not provide for their varieties of humanity. The churches have created our civilisation, and maintain it to-day. Without them there would be utter chaos and desolation, and men would sink in despair. What they have achieved may be observed any moment in the streets of Hobart—happy, contented people obeying the laws, considerate for each other, doing their duty as far as in them lies. There is not much room here for pessimism by the clergy, but plenty of encouragement to keep the light burning. Theirs is a never-ending duty; the complete fulfilment of their task will always be ahead of them, and never within reach."

What is said of Hobart can be said equally of Launceston. Take the church out of our civic life, and it would astonish many men who sometimes listen to the empty-headed who speak and act as if it was of no consequence. I have read of a man

who had a dream that all the printing in the Bibles had been obliterated, and all pages had suddenly become blank pieces of paper. Everybody was dismayed. One man, however, said it did not matter; the Bible has been greatly quoted; we can collect, said he, almost every word of it in the literature of the world. They accordingly looked through all the libraries, but to the amazement of everybody, where any Bible quotations had been used, there was nothing but blanks, and it was, furthermore, discovered that most of the books worth reading were practically useless in consequence.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ and her creeds are truly a bulwark of the nation—

"We perish if we cease to pray."
DAVID ROSS HEWTON,
Rector.

1st May, 1923.

GENERAL NOTES.

CAFE CHANTANT (11th April).—Although the date of this function was altered to a week earlier than announced in last issue, it proved a most enjoyable afternoon, and all who attended were delighted with the daintily served refreshments, but more particularly with the excellent programme provided by the following ladies and gentlemen:—Songs, by Miss Isabelle Kelly (parish worker), Mrs. Mohr, Miss Effie Green, Miss Chick, Miss Edith Kelly (Broadland House), Mr. Atherton, and Mr. Taylor; recitations, Miss Symonds and Miss Parsell; pianoforte solo, by Miss G. Allen.

BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—We shall be sorry when the time comes for this school to leave the neighbourhood of St. John's, but for the benefit of the whole of Tasmania we rejoice that the new building is now really on the way to completion. The generous donation of £5000 towards a school chapel has awakened tremendous interest. It was a pity that the Prime Minister's visit for the laying of the foundation stone should have happened during Synod week. The Bishop was detained thereby in Hobart, and the clergy likewise. During the Rector's absence the

Headmaster (the Rev. J. W. Bethune) rendered valuable service in this parish, for which the very best thanks are due.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.—Sunday, the 6th May, when the offerings will be given to the Diocesan Fund for assisting poorer parishes.

MISS JULIA ADAMS.—The Council of Women Workers will give a welcome to Miss Adams on Tuesday, the 8th May, in St. John's School-room at 8 p.m. The Sunday School teachers meet the same evening to hear an address by the diocesan organiser. The teachers are asked to meet in the Kindergarten-room at 7.30, and afterwards join Miss Adams' meeting in the main building. A basket social is proposed, and a whole-hearted invitation is extended to all church people in Launceston.

WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.—This valuable institution is sorely in need of help, and we hope all who can will assist in the street appeal on Friday, the 11th May ("Mothers' Day").

MR. EDMUND CLARK, a visitor from England, specially sent out in the interests of the children of the Church.—The Bishop welcomed him at the Synod, and approves of his methods. Mr. Clark will spend ten days in St. John's Parish, commencing on Sunday, the 13th May. Please look out for his printed folder telling the hours and places of his meetings, and let all the lovers of children pray that God may use his servant, "Edmund Clark" for the benefit of the lambs of the flock. Sunday, the 13th May, is also "Mothers' Day," and all the congregation are again asked to wear a "white flower" in honour of mother.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—Sunday, the 20th May, we propose to observe as Missionary Sunday, Whitsuntide being most appropriate for the purpose—Monday, 21st, a big missionary meeting in St. John's Church at 8 p.m., and Tuesday, the 22nd, the annual meeting of the Church Missionary Society for Tasmania, in the Schoolroom, when delegates from Hobart and other parts of Tasmania will attend.

FLOWERS FOR HOLY TABLE.—6th May, Miss Lawson; 13th May, Mrs. Lawrence Green; 20th May, Mrs. Castley; 27th May, Miss Beaumont.