

CONFIRMATION.—The Bishop of the Diocese will hold a confirmation at St. John's on Sunday morning, the 16th September, at 11 o'clock. As this is the first Sunday His Lordship has given a service in this church for a long time, a good congregation may be expected. The offerings will be on behalf of the Diocesan Funds.

CORMISTON.—The services at this little church on the West Tamar have been abandoned for some time, and the Rector, at the request of the Archdeacon, is trying to arrange a fortnightly service.

ST. JOHN'S TENNIS CLUB.—The annual meeting has been held, and it is hoped the club will now enter upon a new era. Mr. A. A. Castley has been appointed Treasurer, and Miss Hewton Secretary. All the young people in connection with St. John's Church are encouraged to join. The fees are reduced to 15s. for men and 10s. for ladies, and information may be obtained at the Rectory. The schoolroom is also available on Tuesday evenings for badminton and other games for both sexes.

THANKS!—Mrs. Hewton desires to thank Mr. Hopkins, who so kindly stained and polished the floor on each side of the chancel. There are so many ways in which little improvements can be made, and we welcome these personal expressions of interest in God's House.

AN ENTERTAINMENT.—The children of the intermediate Sunday School are giving an entertainment in the Mechanics' Hall this week, which includes a sweet little cantata entitled "Spring Triumphant" and other items. Miss Hewton is the instructor, and the proceeds are for Sunday School purposes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.—The practice of new hymns is in progress, and parents are asked to encourage the children to learn them. If those interested will ask the children about it, it will help to make a difficult task a little lighter.

ST. OSWALD'S.—The services at this branch church are being well attended, and Rev. C. T. Pargiter is receiving much encouragement. He is hoping to reside in that suburb, if it can be arranged. At the last meeting of the committee very satisfactory

reports of the finances were submitted. Miss Murray acknowledges with thanks £1 1s. from the Kindergarten, per Miss Dowling, for C.M.S.

OFFERTORIES.—Sunday, 5th August, £13 15s.; 12th August, £20 13s. 9d.; 19th August, £13 15s. 11d.; 26th August, £12 2s.; 2nd September, £21 13s. (for Building Fund).

FLOWERS FOR HOLY TABLE.—9th September, Miss Sadler; 16th September, Miss Unsworth; 23rd, Mrs. A. Castley; 30th, Mrs. A. L. Green.

MISSIONARY SERVICE LEAGUE.—A "Lantern Talk" will be given by the Rector on Wednesday evening, the 19th September, in St. John's Schoolroom.

BAPTISMS.

Joan Elizabeth Warren.
William Lewis Ireland.
Esma Grace Blockley.
Reginald Roy Yates.
Stanley James Marston.
Winifred Muriel McHugh.
Thomas Charles Marshall.
Douglas Anzac Norman Dunn.
Lillian Jean Kerr.
Betty Jean White.
Marjorie Ethel Joan Masters.
Alma Jane Walmsley.
James Donald Kerr.

MARRIAGE.

James Henry Kerr and Alice Beryl Izard.

DONATIONS.

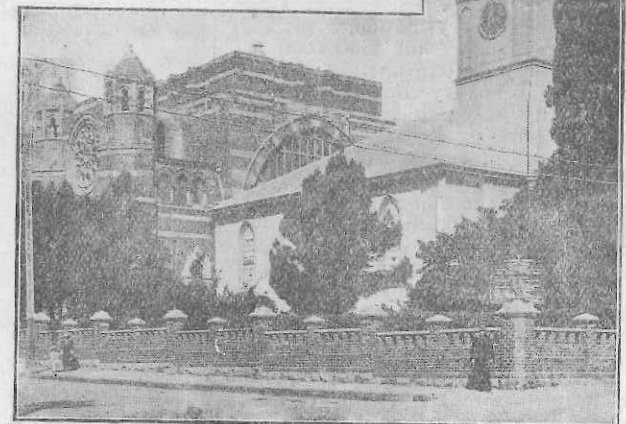
The publication of this little paper depends entirely on voluntary contributions, and our aim is to pay for each issue as it appears, and to this end readers are asked to see that their names are recorded in the list:—Mrs. A. Bracken, 5s.; Mrs. Pittam, 4s.; Mrs. Mitchell, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Jacobson, Mr. E. G. Green, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Wenn, Mrs. Sly, Mrs. Huxley, Mrs. C. Collins, Mrs. Rowlands, Mrs. A. Green, Miss Lawson, 2s. each; Mrs. Yeates, 1s.; Mr. Durand, 1s.; Miss Sanderson, 1s.; Mrs. Jones, 6d.; Mr. Irvine, 6d.

CAFE CHANTANT.

Wednesday, 12th September, 3 to 5.
All Parishioners Invited.

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. 9.

FREE.

SEPTEMBER, 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 1. 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.

Our annual "Men's Service" was held this year on Sunday, 12th August, and the church was full. The historic galleries were also requisitioned. If we did not get a thousand men, we did get over a thousand persons. It was an inspiring service, and one wonders why it is not possible to see the same number every Sunday. This little paper has a thousand readers every month, and it brings a message from one who is very conscious of his responsibility as the officer in charge of a great parish.

The Church of God is not a private enterprise set up for the pushing of the notions or the claims or the business of any one section of the people. The old part of St. John's Church was built by the Government for the use of all the people in Launceston as a place to worship God, and has since been greatly enlarged. It is open to the public every day. When the bell rings it is the notice for all who hear to prepare to meet their fellow Christians in the sanctuary, and this particularly on the Christian Sabbath.

We need sometimes to be reminded that one-seventh of our time belongs to God, and let me tell you that the lawful and right use of that seventh part of time ranks among the happiest moments of the Christian's life.

Amongst the commandments which are read out in our churches, there is the fourth, which says: "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy."

Six days shalt thou labour, . . . but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. . . . In it thou shalt do no manner of work, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy man-servant and thy maid-servant, thy cattle, and the stranger that is within thy gates." Now, I have no doubt many of you who saw me driving a horse and trap to Cormiston last Sunday afternoon wondered whether it was not inconsistent for a clergyman. Let me say in answer that the old Hebrew priests had a great deal of manual labour to do on the Sabbath days. The fires on the altar were not allowed to go out, and had to be replenished. The sacrifices required the slaying of many oxen and cattle, entailing a tremendous amount of work, and the utmost

cleanliness had to be observed by the Law of Moses, and meant the washing at once of all the linen clothing the men wore. This is what our Lord refers to when He said:—"Have ye not read in the law how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the Temple profane the Sabbath and are blameless?" (St. Matthew, 12, v. 5).

At this point I think I ought to say that those who try to upset the minds of the members of the Church of England by declaring that we are wrong in keeping Sunday as our Sabbath will have to answer at the judgment day for the wrong they are doing. Our Lord was the One who taught us that God will not hold us to the mere letter of any law when we honestly carry out its spirit. One day in seven is the absolute command. It can be shown that the Jews are not now keeping the Sabbath of Israel as at first laid down in the Old Testament. We need to read carefully the commandment as written in Exodus 20, and compare it with the corresponding passage in Deuteronomy 5, verses 14 and 15. There was a change made in the words of the commandment, and we Church of England people are familiar with the Psalm, "Forty years was I grieved with this generation, and said: It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known My ways, unto whom I swear in My wrath, that they should not enter into My rest." That is the explanation of the change. The honour and privilege that God had conferred on His people of keeping the Sabbath was taken away after 40 years in the wilderness, and the Sabbath was then attached to a date in the calendar year, viz., the anniversary of their deliverance from Egypt. Now, think for a moment. Our Sunday is attached to a day in the week, and it travels through the dates of the year—unlike Christmas Day, on the other hand, which is attached to the 25th day of December, and travels through all the days of the week, as the years go on. So, when the Sabbath was released from the seventh day of God's rest and attached to the ANNIVERSARY DAY of their deliverance, it began to travel through the days of the week. If you work it out you will see that an anniversary day will be a different

day in the week in each year, and the Jewish Sabbath, which some would have us keep, is hopelessly out of it because of this confusion. St. Paul told the Colossians to let no man judge them in respect of an holy day, or a new moon, or of the Sabbath.

Now, then there came the Christian Sabbath, the Lord's Day. That, again, was attached to a day in the week, and thus we are keeping it, but we are not keeping the anniversary of the deliverance from Egypt. If you will go to the Epistle to the Hebrews you will see the writer says, "There remaineth, therefore, a rest to the people of God." Do not let anyone disturb you regarding the keeping of God's Sabbath, for it transpires that in keeping the Lord's Day we have beneath our feet a more solid foundation than our friends the Jews and the Judaizers, who keep the Rabbinical Sabbath.

One of the greatest worries that our Lord had during His ministry on earth was occasioned by the Pharisees continually gibing at Him for not more strictly observing the Sabbath. There are feeble imitators of these Pharisees in our midst. All sticklers for the letter of the law came under His condemnation. I can almost fancy I see His commanding presence and hear His telling words: "But I say unto you that in this place is One greater than the Temple; but if ye had known what this meaneth, 'I will have mercy and not sacrifice,' ye would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath Day."

Sabbath literally means "Rest," and I need not point out to any of you that rest does not mean inactivity or slothful indulgence. We are required to devote six parts of the week to our own affairs, and the remaining seventh belongs to someone else. We ought to spend at least eight working hours of every week in acts of worship, religious work, or charity. If Christian people would only see their duty in this respect, what a different tale the clergy would have to tell! A clergyman in England makes the following lament:—"It is not in the matter of giving money that the lack of interest is shown, but in the difficulty of obtaining workers. Our Sunday Schools are miserably under-staffed,

and the teachers, instead of being people of leisure, who ought to be able to teach intelligently, are for the most part those who are fully occupied in other departments as well, simply because people qualified are indifferent to the claims of the church." If that is the state in England, there is no need for Australia to follow so bad an example. In congenial labour there is great pleasure. The Christian's privilege is to be a co-worker with Christ. In the providence of God we are living in a favoured country where people have plenty of leisure. Do not use your time selfishly, but make up your mind to give consistently one-seventh thereof to God and His work, and you will discover as the years go by that these hours are providing the material for the sweetest memories, and an insurance against regrets that may worry and vex at the end of this life.

Volunteers are required!
DAVID ROSS HEWTON,
Rector.

4th September, 1923.

GENERAL NOTES.

C.M.S.—A stall for the sale of useful articles is held on the first Tuesday afternoon in each month at the Depot, St. John Street, from 3 to 5 o'clock. Mrs. Rose is in charge this month. The promoters are often disappointed because missionary-hearted friends forget this afternoon. It makes such a difference if friends only come in for a few minutes.

MEN'S SOCIALS.—The two socials for men have been great successes, and most enjoyable evenings have been spent. The date of the next is following Trafalgar Day, Monday, 22nd October. It will take the nature of the annual meeting of the Men's Society for the election of officers.

ORGAN RECITALS.—An excellent programme of organ music, we hear, was recently given, but, as the Rector was not informed when fixing the date, he was unfortunately out of town. We hope that several of these recitals may be given and due announcement made, so that all the congregation may enjoy the privilege.