

evening, being assisted in the service by Mr. Lance Benjafield. The singing of the special hymns by the children was excellent. On the following Tuesday a tea meeting was given to nearly 100 children, and afterwards a good concert programme was provided, including a cantata entitled "The Magic Wood." Mr. A. A. Castley made a good chairman in the absence of the Rector, who had important duties elsewhere.

**CHURCH OF ENGLAND MEN'S SOCIETY.**—At the last meeting of the Men's Society the move which the ladies are making to provide the funds for the completion of the North Porch was commended. An estimate was made by the church architect a few years ago, and it seems that about £300 will be required for this purpose. Stand in Elizabeth Street and look at this unfinished work and you will almost hear the very stones crying out.

**KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS TREE** will be held in St. John's Schoolroom on Thursday, the 13th December, when the parents and friends of the little folk are specially invited.

**S. OSWALD'S, TREVALLYN** — The Sunday School Picnic was held at Mowbray on the 24th November, and everything passed off well.

The Sunday School Festival services will be held next Sunday.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS** — This department of our work has been well in evidence during the year.

Rev. R. D. Joynt, who has now been in the Northern Territory for over 20 years, is about to spend a furlough in England. He sends the very kindest messages to all his friends in Launceston, and hopes to revisit this part of the world before he returns to his work at Roper River. The Missionary Service League has held regular meetings at the C.M.S. Depot, 92 St. John-street, and organised and carried through a splendid programme at St. John's S.S. on Wednesday evening, the 26th November. The principal item was a missionary play entitled "Nada," founded on a true story from Africa. The clever actors were Elsie Brewer, Sybil Brownrigg, Molly Gatehouse, Mary Radford, Elsa Gibson, and Rosa Hall. Several items of excellent music were also

given by visiting friends, and the "Travel Talk" by Mr. C. H. Rose was really enjoyed; £5 was thus provided for the support of a native boy in Rev. H. A. Brewer's mission in Uganda.

Miss Peck, as you know, although unable for health reasons to return to India, has obtained a good appointment in Sydney, and has forwarded £10 as a donation to C.M.S. Depot funds in Launceston.

Mrs. and Miss Gardner will conduct a Christmas stall at our C.M.S. DEPOT on Tuesday, 11th December, 3—5 p.m., and will have on sale Christmas puddings and other articles suitable for the season. Proceeds for missionary funds. Will friends please remember?

#### BAPTISMS.

Elsie May Watson, Albert William Barton, William John Ruston, Trevor John Butterworth, James Ian Scott, Alexander Beaumont Hope, Charles George Burgess.

#### MARRIAGES.

Ronald Horace Green and Josephine May Headley.

Charles Albert Roberts and Gladys Ella Stephens.

#### OFFERTORIES.

Sunday, 4th November, £11 4s 9d; Sunday, 11th November, £26 1s 3d; Tuesday, 13th November, £1 12s 6d (for Diocesan Women's Council of Church Workers); Sunday, 18th November, £19 3s (for Sunday school funds); Sunday, 25th November, £11 8s. Envelopes—745, 12s; 746, 2s 6d; 747, 3s; 748, 6s; 749, 5s; 750, 1s; 751, 17s; 752, 4s; 753, £6; 759, 4s 6d.

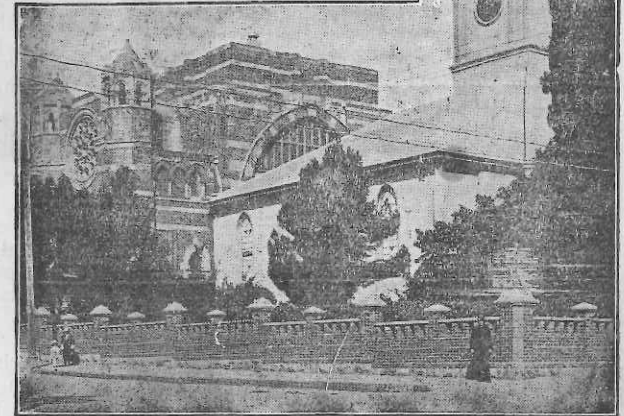
#### DONATIONS.

This little "messenger" depends on the voluntary contributions of readers who welcome it each month. The printer's account requires something further to enable us to pay our way up to the end of the year. Donations may be left with Mr. A. A. Castley, Brisbane-street: — Mrs. Wylie, 5s; Mrs. Page, 5s; Mr. Bessell, 5s; Rev. D. R. Hewton, 10s; Mrs. E. Meredith, 3s; Miss Bayles, 3s; Mrs. J. Abey, 2s; Mrs. Gray, 2s; Mrs. Balderson, 2s 6d; Porch Box, 1s 6d.

# 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.

The new portion (still unfinished), as shown below, was commenced in 1901.



VOL. IX.—

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FREE.

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#### STAFF:

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MR. PERRIMAN, St. John's Own Missionary, Northern Territory.

MR. A. R. GEE, Organist, 171 St. John Street. 'Phone 1670.

MR. A. FORD, Verger's Cottage, 39 Elizabeth Street.

#### 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). Young Men's Bible Class, 2.30.

**MONDAY**, 2nd and 4th—League for Young People, C.M.S. Depot, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY**—G.F.S., 7.30.

**WEDNESDAYS**—Ladies' Sewing Guild, Girl Guides.

Baptisms every Wednesday 11 a.m. Special Service, Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.

**THURSDAYS**—Choir Practice, 8. Missionary Band, 4.15. Fourth Thursday, Mother's Union, 3.

**FRIDAYS**—Boy Scouts, 7.30.

**ST. OSWALD'S, TREVALLYN**—Service every Sunday, 7. Holy Communion, Fourth Sunday, at 9 a.m.

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

**CORMISTON**—Every alternate Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

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

## RECTOR'S NOTES.

ADVENT.—Although this important season comes round each year with regularity, and for four Sundays our services radiate around this great doctrine, the preaching during the period often lacks something vital.

Vague generalities are all too common. The average Churchman wavers between an airy nothingness of thought and a dangerous tendency towards imagining that some lawless sect, which mechanically stresses the doctrine into a manifest error, possesses some truth that the Church in her teaching lacks.

Many sects have brought contempt upon the doctrine by foolish efforts to be considered wiser than the Church.

There is a distinct note of urgency during Advent. Wake up! Wake up! "What meanest thou, O sleeper, arise call upon thy God that we perish not."

This season teaches: (1) That Christ has come. (2) That He is daily coming, and will ultimately show Himself in power and great glory. (3) Although Satan would blind our eyes to these facts.

There are three words in the English language which stand out in my mind—Advent—Invent—Prevent.

ADVENT—expressing in one word the whole of our creed—Jesus Christ the only Son of God, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

How often have we repeated these words and yet may be asleep to their significance. A sleeping man is in darkness. All the fairest sights do not exist for him. While sleeping he does nothing. In that state he is no better than a dead man. All around there may be noise and activity, but he knows nothing of it.

God's hand is upon the shoulder of the spiritually asleep, and He is actually shaking the man. "My son it is time to awake." "The night is far spent, the day is at hand."

INVENT.—This word has a history in our language. To the popular

mind it suggests making something new. Marconi invented the wireless, we say.

The fact is, as the word suggests, it came into his mind, and he saw that from the earliest days of creation voices had been filling the air, although the inhabitants of the world were not aware of it.

"And the eyes of them both were opened, and they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day."

In our Church calendar (3rd May) you will see "The Invention of the Cross" (the finding of the cross). The story runs that St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, having been directed in a dream to search at Jerusalem for the cross on which Jesus was crucified, set out for Palestine and caused Mount Calvary to be excavated, and it is alleged her obedience was rewarded, and that she found the actual wooden cross. Personally I set little value on the legend, but use the illustration to urge that each of us must invent Christ. Open our eyes to the fact that Christ is standing by our side, calling to our dull and drowsy ears "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice I will come in and sup with him." What a great invention?

PREVENT—Is another word that was once an aristocrat in our vocabulary, but has greatly degenerated. In the days when our Prayer Book was first issued "Prevent" meant to go before as a Leader, hence the well-known collect "Prevent us O Lord in all our doings by Thy most gracious favour."

To-day the popular meaning of the word is the very opposite. And Satan is using it most effectually. What is preventing you from appreciating the work of Christ? Sin, of course, Beware of the beginning of doubts. Fly in prayer to God for the strengthening of your faith.

Perhaps the very health and material blessings you possess are preventing you. Is any individual preventing you?

You have much more leisure time than your grandparents. You have more pocket money than your ancestors. You play more than they did. Many of the modern improvements are really a snare to spiritual life. Your adversary the Devil, may be, is drugging you to sleep.

Life is passing. Opportunities are slipping away. Death will soon be here. Then it will be too late to begin the work which God sent us here to do.

Now let us use now the word in its old original sense, and pray that the Lord may prevent us, i.e., go before us as a great Leader in the realm of salvation.

"Be ye therefore ready for the Son of Man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

"Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching."

With season's greetings,

DAVID ROSS HEWTON.

7th December, 1928.

THE AMERICAN TEA, organised by the Ladies' Guild, during the month proved a very pleasant afternoon, and was greatly enjoyed. The fund for the erection of the North Porch benefitted by something over £10.

THE LADIES' SOCIAL COMMITTEE have another function in hand, to which we are all invited, to be held on Tuesday, 11th December, at 8 p.m., in St. John's Hall. Good musical programme and "Travel Talk" by Mrs. Ross Hewton, and supper. Subscription 2s. Proceeds also in aid of North Porch.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY — The meetings were well maintained during the year, and before going into recess for the holiday months a social was held. Mrs. Jauncey has given some special instruction in fancy needlework.

ARMISTICE DAY (11th November). — Both services at St. John's on that Sunday were extraordinarily well attended. At 11 a.m. there was a good muster of men at the military parade. At 7 p.m. the church was quite full, and the members of Toc H, with their friends, greatly augmented the congregation. The ceremony of Light was most impressive.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FESTIVAL SERVICES (St. John's) were held on Sunday, the 18th November. The singing by the children's choir showed evidence of careful training.

The picnic will be held at Rocherlea on the 8th inst.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION (SHOUBRIDGE HALL) — It is always a

pleasure to notice the activities in this part of the parish. The club for girls under the able direction of Miss Justin and the Misses Effie and Ella Scott has had a most successful year with a membership of about 30 girls, who deserve unstinted praise. Three open evenings were held, and nearly £9 raised thereby, which was divided between St. John's Mission, the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, and the Limbless Soldiers' institutions. The club will reopen next season in the usual way, when it is hoped with a larger membership, as we feel sure the girls realise what a great advantage the physical culture is, apart from the real pleasure they derive.

Mr. F. H. Cleaver, who has for some years run a boys' club in the same place, reports as follows:—"This club was brought to a close for the season on Tuesday, 27th November, when the boys had a jolly time, and supper of cakes, buns and ginger beer. Prizes were given to each boy for the highest number of points competing in each game, also for attendance and behaviour.

The season was most successful, due to the splendid help from Toc H, two or three of their members assisted every night, together with Rev. E. N. Gidley, who was always a favourite, and greatly missed when he left the parish. I have been very disappointed when asked by many boys to find them a job. Many of them are between 14 and 15 years of age. I have only been able to place three of them, not because jobs are not offering, but under the existing wages board one boy to one man only is allowed, in some cases, and one boy to two men in others. Consequently our boys cannot be absorbed in local industries. If I could place them in a position to learn a trade they would turn out good men. Unfortunately in a year or two they will be too old to be engaged as beginners, so that in a few years' time they will swell the ranks of unskilled workers and form the bulk of our unemployed. It is to be hoped these conditions will not always exist."—F.H.C.

The Mission Sunday School held its anniversary services on the 2nd December. The prizes were distributed by the Rector at the afternoon service. Rev. E. W. Julien, of St. Leonards, preached in the