

at the piano. Proceeds £5 for prize fund.

A Christmas tree for the younger children of Shoobridge Hall will be held on Thursday, December 15, at 7.30.

**MOTHER'S UNION.**—The monthly meetings of St. John's branch concluded for the year on Thursday, November 24. After the service conducted by the Rector in the church, the meeting was held in the school-room, when Mrs. P. O. Fysh gave the address. The opportunity was taken to make presentations—a handsome leather handbag and an electric toaster—to Mrs. Ross Hewton, the president, who may not be in office when the meetings commence next year.

The sub-branch at Shoobridge Hall also held a final meeting on Thursday, December 1, when a presentation was also made to Miss Isabel Kelly, who has now been in charge for over ten years.

**REV. C. J. NASH, B.A., Th.L.** (1st class) has accepted the Rector's invitation to take up the work of Assistant Curate, and may be expected to arrive in time to commence duty on Sunday, January 15, 1933. Mr. Nash desires to proceed to England later in the year for further University studies.

**THE RECTOR.**—As previously announced, the Rector proposes to place his resignation in the hands of the Bishop, to take effect about Easter next year. In view of this important event in the history of the parish, the parishioners are specially requested to use the little prayer published in this issue regularly until the Board of Patronage have decided upon whom they propose to nominate as the future Rector of St. John's Church, Launceston.

**MILITARY PARADE.**—The military forces will attend a Church Parade at St. John's on Sunday morning December 18, at 11 o'clock. The Railway Band will play the hymns.

**THE GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY**, and the Church of England **BOYS' SOCIETY** held a combined social on Tuesday, November 29, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

**GARDEN FETE.**—The ladies who decided to hold a Garden Fete in the Rectory grounds on Saturday, December 3, were rewarded by a good attendance, notwithstanding numerous

other attractions. The weather was ideal and a very enjoyable social reunion of parishioners rewarded the lady workers for all their trouble. Just on £25 was the net result, and the ladies have decided to expend the greater part of it in renovating the exterior of the Rectory. The work is now in progress. A balance will also be handed to Miss Murray for "Our Own Missionary Fund."

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION** (Church of England).—Rev. E. Wynne Evans has made a very efficient hon. secretary of the S.S. Teachers' Association, and at the final social evening on November 21, in St. John's Schoolroom, a special vote of thanks to him was recorded.

**MARRIAGES.**—Gordon Charles W. Nichols and Jessie Margaret Tuffin, Jack Anthony Hart and Eunice Lilian Westlake, Roy David Tully and Mary Irene McManara, John Henry A. Murray and Lucia Jean Garrett, Cecil Harper King and Marjorie Rose R. Armstrong, Hugh W. Lowry and Maude V. Lockwood, Donald Gray Bishop and Gladys M. Colgrave, Walter M. Eliston and Maude E. Thompson, Victor Albert Hardy and Sylvia S. Robinson.

**BAPTISMS.**—Jill Campbell Gray, Milton Pennefather Harvey, Betty May Woolston, Amy Caroline Foley, Patricia Fay McAuley, Doreen June Wright, Neil Ayres, William Thomas Neville, Ronda Dolores Ellen Dale, Judith Mary Green, Dianne Beresford Fish, Raymond Arthur James Kiddle, Margaret Geraldine Walsh, Charles David McGiveron, Neil John Tatnell, Patricia Mary Boyd, Margaret Rose Williams, Cyril Albert Littlejohn, Desmond Rex Clayton, Douglas Byron McKenna, John Patrick Dargan, Beverley Dawn Spicer, Geoffrey Rex Cobern, Beverley Ann Collins.

**DONATIONS.**—We are greatly indebted to those who have so kindly sent donations to the printing fund of this little Messenger. The year closes with but a slight deficit:—Anon, 20s; Mr. F. Lester, 5s; Miss Home, 3s; Miss Rollins, 3s; Miss Windeatt, 2s; Mrs. V. Phillips, 2s; Mr. F. Jones, 2s; Laurie Smith, 1s; Church box, 3s 3d.

**OFFERTORIES.**—Sunday, October 16, £11 10s 10d; October 23, £8 12s 6d; October 30, £13 5s 3d; November 6, £12 5s 7d; November 13, £19 12s 6d (S. S. Anniversary); November 20, £11 12s 3d; November 27, £11 10s 5d; December 4, £13.

# 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.



Wynne Evans

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Nov. & Dec. 1932

Wishing you a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

D. ROSS HEWTON, Rector.

## A SPECIAL PRAYER

O Heavenly Father, who dost teach the hearts of Thy faithful people by sending to them the light of Thy Holy Spirit: We pray Thee to guide aright the counsels and decisions of those appointed to select a Pastor for this parish. And grant that he who is to be put in charge of this portion of Thy flock may be wise and loving, full of zeal, faithful in his ministry, earnest in precept and example, and gifted with power to set forward the salvation of souls and the extension of Thy Kingdom. We ask all this for the sake of Him Who is the Great Head of the Church, and Who ever liveth with Thee, and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 1932.

The Holy Communion will be celebrated at  
5.30 a.m.  
6 a.m.  
7 a.m.  
8 a.m.  
11 a.m.

Usual Service, 7 p.m.

Also at St. Oswald's Trevallyn, at 9 a.m.

The Christmas voices bid us rise today, and make life beautiful, because to-day the Holy Child was born, Who was the brightness of His Father's Glory and the express Image of His Person.

N.B. — Watchnight Service New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31, 11.30 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

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE!

This may be my last Christmas message to you as Rector of St. John's.

The prominent utterance of our Lord to the Hebrews of His time was almost identical with the message of John the Baptist, and nearly the same as that of St. Peter on the day of Pentecost.

The words as near as possible to the original meaning are: "Change your minds because the Kingdom of Heaven is close to you." (St. Math. 4 v. 17.)

Clearly it is implied that the general mind of the nation on the greatest and deepest subjects was wrong; further, that it lay within the power of the people to change it, although it might be difficult. The message comes with renewed power to Australians to-day.

If Christ came to Tasmania now as a teacher, would He or would He not tell us that we are taking a wrong view of life; of its responsibilities, its aims, its hopes, its destiny; a wrong view, too, of such subjects as sin and free-will; of death, and the life after death; and of God Himself?

The answer will be found in the startling words which follow the command: "Because the Kingdom of Heaven is close to you." In other words, the most glorious thing conceivable has drawn near to you, and is close by now, and you think wrongly if you suppose it is far off.

If the nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven is a fact, and we are behaving as if it were far off, then our mistake is utterly deplorable and disastrous beyond words.

Besides this, there is much in the teaching of Christ which tells us that the Kingdom is not only close by, but is to be entered into and occupied by us whenever we choose. That is God's gift to mankind, and obviously if our thoughts are steadily fixed on it our lives will be the lives of those who are full of thankfulness, hope, and joy.

Get a true grip of this idea and you way discover that the fact that Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year is another reason why God is seeking to open your spiritual vision to the true significance of this great Christian festival.

It is very evident that we must make a choice. How are we going to observe Christmas? Will it be part of our life of grateful service to God in conformity to His will, or of a

life which has no real meaning except as a provision for the things of this present visible world?

This will be read by many parishioners who have consistently attended church for many years, and know something of the joy of serving God, but others may likewise read these words who have shown only a moderate amount of Church-going when they considered it convenient to do so, and a moderate amount of almsgiving when they could spare it.

The motive in some cases may have been fairly selfish. Some people like going to church to join in the singing or to criticise the sermon, or to give a little because it would not be decent to let the plate pass.

The challenge is: "Change your minds, because the Kingdom of the Heavens is close to you."

Your religion may be merely self-pleasing, a long continued starving of a soul.

Then it is also very easy nowadays to profess keenness about social service and to embark on it eagerly, and yet give it up before very long because it is so difficult and so little seems to come of our efforts, and other people are so tiresome, and so forth.

If our only ideal is to be busy and active citizens we will certainly miss something of priceless value, which is spoken of in every page of the New Testament, a something which has been the mainspring of the greatest lives, and that something is all the time within our reach—"The Kingdom of the Heavens is near to you."

Something glorious is offered to you. It is too glorious to be put into plain words. The followers of Christ who know by experience what it is cannot explain to those who do not.

I offer a practical suggestion, as Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, make up your minds, definitely, not to think of going away until the Monday—spend the 25th December in the way our forefathers always did—First of all attend God's House and then go to your own home and enjoy the day with your own families if possible.

Let us all invite any lonely persons who are likely to miss the touch of home.

Make it a truly glorious day. Think about God. Tell yourself that He is offering you nothing less than Eternal Salvation.

The greatest sinners are not the outcasts from society, the swindling tax-collectors, or the degraded women,

but simply those who reject God's offer, and in doing so imagine that they get the good opinion of their companions and neighbours, as if that will count anything at the day of reckoning!

It is not difficult for a man highly respected for many good qualities, and a very useful citizen to put aside God's offer as if it were something of no great value, or as if it were out of his power to reach it, or only worth considering just before one's death.

You and I are on this earth for a few brief years, and to us our Creator gives the offer of a life of heavenly joy and unutterable wonder, which can begin at once. If, however, we choose to treat the offer with contempt, or take no pains to understand it, no words of mine can give you an idea of the awful nature of the loss.

If the celebration of the birth of Christ is only an occasion for a decent holiday at the seaside, and nothing more, let me tell you there is a loud-speaking voice which is proclaiming, "Change your mind, because the Kingdom of the Heavens is very close to you."

With best wishes for a very Happy Christmas season.

DAVID ROSS HEWTON,  
Rector.

December 10, 1932.

## GENERAL NOTES.

C.M.S.—We have been favoured by a visit from Rev. T. L. Laurence and his wife from Uganda, Africa. His lantern talks and addresses at various services have been greatly enjoyed.

Our branch of the Missionary Service League for young people has met regularly at the depot. The activities for the year were finalised by a most interesting service in St. John's on St. Andrews Day (November 30). Rev. Mr. Evans gave a very suitable address, and the Rector presented cards of membership to a large number who were admitted.

Preparations are already in hand for the next Summer School. The dates will probably be February 15 to 23, 1933, and the chairman Rev. S. M. Johnstone, M.A., Rector of St. John's, Parramatta, N.S.W.

REV. E. WYNNE EVANS—Who has done such good work as Curate of this parish for the past year, is to be admitted to the Priesthood at St. David's Cathedral, Hobart, on December 21 inst. (St. Thomas' Day).

The Tasmanian branch of the C.M.S. has decided to adopt Mr. Evans

as the branch's own missionary. The proposed arrangements are that he will bid this Parish adieu on Sunday, January 8, 1933, and proceed to Melbourne, there to marry Miss Gwendoline Frewin, daughter of the Rector of St. Clements, Elsternwick. After some special training the young couple will go on to the Northern Territory, where Mr. Evans will be Chaplain of the Roper River and Groote Eylandt Mission Stations.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—St. John's S.S. Anniversary Festival was held on Sunday, November 13. At the three services the special preacher was the Rev. C. C. Short, from St. George's, Hobart, whose vigorous addresses were greatly appreciated. In the afternoon the usual offerings of flowers and oranges were made. It was very inspiring to see the chancel and special platform packed with children. The church choir looked most effective in the stone gallery of the northern transept. St. John's and Shoobridge S.S. join together for the picnic on Saturday, December 10. St. John's S.S. prizes will be distributed, senior and junior, on Monday, December 12. Kindergarten, December 13.

St. Oswald's S.S. Anniversary Festival took place as mentioned in our last issue, on Sunday, November 20. The three services were all well attended, and the singing beautiful. The Rector distributed the prizes at the afternoon service, when the Rev. J. L. Laurence gave the address. The picnic was held on the following Saturday, November 26, and all enjoyed a perfect day.

Shoobridge Hall S.S. Festival on Sunday, December 4. The Rector conducted the afternoon service and distributed the prizes, which included three silver cups suitably engraved with the name of the school and winners, one girl and two boys. The donor was Mr. Ernest Harding, of Melbourne, who was once himself a scholar at the Mission School in the days of Sister Charlotte Shoobridge. The Rev. E. Wynne Evans conducted the evening service.

The annual invitation tea meeting for the scholars of Shoobridge Hall Sunday School was given to about 80 children on Tuesday, December 6. At 8 p.m. the same evening the children provided an excellent concert programme. Action songs and a play and short cantata, "Dame Durden's School"—most amusing and entertaining. Miss Steedman kindly officiated