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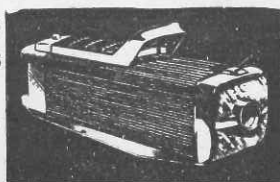
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POWELLS ELECTRIC SERVICE

69 York Street, Launceston

St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 218

SEPTEMBER, 1969

Rector :

Archdeacon Henry A. Jerrim,
Th.L., E.D., C.F.
Phone 2 3186

Assistant Priest :

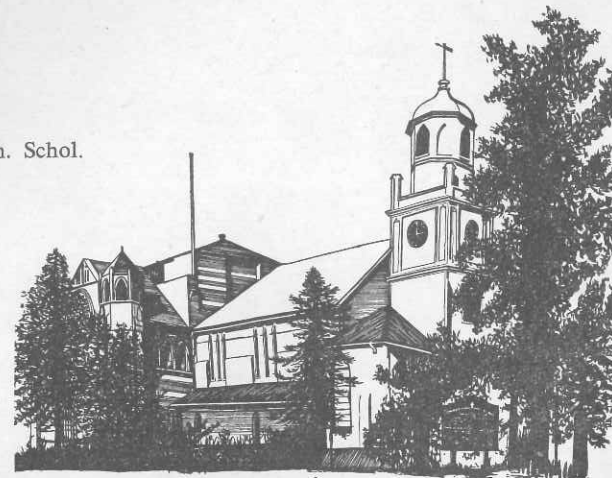
The Reverend M. Johnson, Th. Schol.

Parish Sister :

Miss J. B. Shaw, Th.A.

Organist :

Mr. Lindsay O'Neill,
F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.
Phone 31 2998



THE RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

September will be an important month in the life of the Church of England in Australia, for during this month, the General Synod of our Church will meet in Sydney. This body only meets every three or four years, hence the sessions last for almost two weeks. According to the number of clergy in a diocese, so this affects the number of representatives. a diocese has in General Synod. Tasmania is represented by four clergymen and four laymen. I am privileged to be one of the clerical representatives and Mr. John Gee is one of the lay representatives. During September, I ask you to remember this important gathering.

At the Annual Meeting a motion was passed asking the Vestry to consider the time of morning services, with particular reference to a service in the vicinity of 9.30 a.m. A definite announcement concerning the time of this service will be made in the October "Parish Messenger". The Vestry has decided to continue the 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, but for three months we will experiment with a new service which will be the main morning service. The choir will be present at this service.

Please watch for further information. We have been concerned about the smaller congregations at 11 a.m. and it is felt the earlier hour may be advantageous for many people. We are conscious that public transport is geared to 11 a.m. services in the city.

Whatever we do, will be for an experimental period, and it is our one desire to provide the best services for all at the most convenient times. Please convey your comments on this matter to the clergy or churchwardens, so that they can be considered when we make a final decision.

With all good wishes and God's blessing,

Yours very sincerely,

H. A. JERRIM.

ORGAN RECITAL

St. John's Church, Saturday, 6th September, 8 p.m.

Recitalist: JOHN BIRCH

Organist and Master of the Choristers of
Chichester Cathedral, England

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

September —

- 2 Tuesday, 8 p.m. G.F.S. at Mrs. Vermesy's home.
- 3 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 4 Thursday, 8 p.m. Choir Practice.
- 6 Saturday, 8 p.m. Organ Recital—Mr. John Birch.
- 7 **14th Sunday after Trinity.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Holy Communion (Creche). 7 p.m. Evening Prayer.
- 8 Monday, 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 9 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Fellowship Tea.
- 10 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 11 Thursday, 8 p.m. Choir Practice. 7.45 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 12 Friday, 4.20 p.m. Confirmation Class. 5 p.m. Boys' Choir Practice. 7.45 p.m. C.M.S. Annual Meeting.
- 14 **15th Sunday after Trinity.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Series II). 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Matins. 7 p.m. Evening Prayer.
- 15 Monday, 7.45 p.m. Order of St. Luke — St. John's Kindergarten Hall.
- 16 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Evening Mothers' Union.
- 17 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 18 Thursday, 8 p.m. Choir Practice.
- 19 Friday, 4.20 p.m. Confirmation Class. 5 p.m. Boys' Choir practice.
- 21 **16th Sunday after Trinity.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion followed by Communion Breakfast. 9.45 a.m. Family Service. 11 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evening Prayer.
- 24 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 25 Thursday, 2.30 p.m. Musical Market Organised by Mothers' Union.
- 26 Friday, 4.20 p.m. Confirmation Class. 5 p.m. Boys' Choir practice.
- 28 **17th Sunday after Trinity.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 9.45 a.m. Sunday School. 11 a.m. Matins—Preacher: Mr. McKeown, Secretary, Mission to Lepers. 7 p.m. Evening. "20 & Over" Club after Church.

EVENING MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of the St. John's Evening Mothers' Union will be held on 16th September commencing with a service in the Chapel at 8 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Watson who will show slides and talk on her world trips.

The creche on Sunday, 7th September for 11 a.m. service will be attended by Mrs. Le Fevre and Sister Shaw.

Supper hostesses for the next meeting will be Mesdames Jerrim and Boon.

All mothers of Sunday School children are invited to join our group and will be made most welcome.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting of the Women's Guild will be held at the home of Mrs. Record, 59 Ann Street, on Thursday, 11th September, at 8 p.m. Supper hostesses will be Mesdames Record and Sheldrick. Our new member, Mrs. Harris, will be our guest speaker and will show slides and talk about her trip to the East.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Wave of Prayer will be observed in the Northern Archdeaconry on Friday, 12th September and the time allotted to St. John's Branch is from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. There will be a service in the Chapel to which all members are invited.

A Musical Market will be held in the Kindergarten Hall at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 25th September. A warm welcome is extended to all. Proceeds in aid of the Clarendon Children's Homes.

A REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The following request has been forwarded by the Rev'd A. Chipman

The Province of West Africa and the Nigeria - Biafra Conflict

(Extracts from a letter from the C.M.S. Home Secretary, dated 25th June, 1969)

"You may already know that the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Church of the Province of West Africa met in Takoradi, Ghana, on 7th-10th May. The Right Rev. Moses N.C.O. Scott, Bishop of Sierra Leone, was chosen to succeed the Most Rev. Cecil J. Patterson as Archbishop of West Africa, Archbishop Patterson having intimated his desire to retire as Bishop on the Niger and Archbishop after 35 years of service in West Africa. The Right Rev. John E. L. Mort announced his resignation as Bishop of Northern Nigeria, because of his wife's ill-health. Canon Gideon N. Otubelu was designated Bishop of Enugu, a new diocese to be formed in due course out of the Diocese on the Niger. The Rt. Rev. L. M. Uzodike was appointed Bishop on the Niger. A message was issued from the meetings.

"These matters would seem to be no more than customary (although important) business of a Provincial Episcopal Synod and Standing Committee. But the Takoradi meetings and their aftermath have been far from ordinary. Over-shadowing them was the bitter and still unresolved Nigeria-Biafra conflict. Bishops and others were at Takoradi from both sides of the fighting lines. There were deep differences of conviction about the rights and wrongs of the question. Nevertheless, all the participants in the Takoradi meetings subscribed to a Message to the leaders of Nigeria and Biafra, and "to our brethren and fellow citizens of West Africa". In this they reiterated an earlier plea by the Bishops that the Nigeria-Biafra contestants should be prepared to "abandon exclusive positions" and they urged "that the fighting should stop immediately".

An angry outcry

"No sooner had the Bishops and others returned home from Takoradi than there was an angry outcry in Nigeria. Strongly worded front-page articles appeared in the newspapers, and there was turmoil in church circles, with the passage through one diocesan conference of a resolution hostile to the Takoradi proceedings. There were personal attacks in the press on Archbishop Patterson, one newspaper even urging that he should be arrested! There were two main objections. First, the Takoradi Message, in addressing "the leaders of Nigeria and Biafra" was held by many Nigerians to accord unwarranted recognition to breakaway Biafra. Second, it was alleged that a Nigerian Bishop ought to have been elected as the next Archbishop of West Africa, and that this was prevented by improper lobbying by those representative of Biafra.

A plea for prayer

I do not need to emphasise the distressing nature and the gravity of these developments. They constitute a great test for the leadership of the Church of the Province of West Africa. They are deeply hurtful to those principally concerned, and especially to Archbishop Patterson, at the close of his long period of service in West Africa. We can help at this time, by undertaking to pray specially about the situation, and for those at the centre of the controversy."

G. F. S.

The next meeting of the G.F.S. will be held at the home of Mrs. Vermesy, 179 St. John Street, on Tuesday, 2nd September, at 8 p.m.

CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO NEAR EAST REFUGEE NEEDS

by A. C. Forrest, a Canadian journalist now travelling in the Near East.

(Amman, Jordan)—About ten percent of the population in the lands of the Bible are Christians. The rest are Muslims. In the war Christians in the same percentage lost their lands and fled over the Jordan River. But there are no Christians in the refugee camps in Jordan.

There is said to be a camp in Lebanon from the 1948 war that is "a Christian Camp". But among the 80 or 90 thousand people in the tents of East Jordan, for example, the refugees are all Muslim. At Baq'a Camp near Jarash, the ancient Roman ruins north of Amman, there are about 29,000 refugees. They have most basic facilities in a limited sort of way. There are two bath houses with nineteen showers each, a library, a community centre, and UNRWA schools set up in tents.

The dust is deep at Baq'a; and the wind blows. In a YMCA tent there is a dart board that has been used so long that it resembles a mound of hay. Baq'a has a sewing class, bakeries, a literary class, a YWCA kindergarten, and a mosque.

I asked the UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) guide if there were a church. "But there are no Christians," the guide said.

Comparisons between Christians and Muslims are meaningless. A more fruitful pursuit would be to find out what the Koran has to teach us—which is quite a bit, and what roots these two faiths have in common. However, it is a fact that Christians were apparently more able to cope with upheaval when it came; and somehow they have made it on their own without being forced to take to the camps. Christians in the Near East have emphasised education to their children; Christian schools have worked hard in this part of the world to educate their own, and Muslims as well. One of the results of this is the assurance and self-reliance that knowledge brings.

While we are putting in a good word for Christians in the Near East, there are other characteristics that distinguish them. One is concern for others. Many workers and agencies helping refugees here are Christian, supported by Christians around the world. The simple Christian conviction that one does what he can for others in trouble or in need is an active principle.

Human family

Another characteristic is that no one asks whether a refugee is Christian or not. He is a child of God, a member of the human family; and that is enough. This is unfortunately not a universal human principle. The question about religion in the camp at Baq'a was completely irrelevant. The workers there had obviously never thought about it.

Another Christian characteristic is dramatised here by its absence. It is the Christian sense of congregation, or community. There are elements in the Muslim family life that substitute for it. But when the family is ruptured, as in the recent war, there is no community unit to take over the concerns of the destitute.

A senior refugee worker at Amman told me that what he, an American Lutheran layman, misses most are close friends and congregational ties at home.

Some of the refugee camps would be easier places to accept if in addition to the amenities they try to provide, voluntary agencies would attempt to develop the fellowship characteristic of the community of believers, where even the unacceptable are accepted and burdens are shared.

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

The refugees have been a familiar phenomenon throughout history, but never before has the refugee problem reached such dimensions as in the last twenty-five years. We live in a world of political and social changes and revolutions which create new refugees daily and increase the sum of human suffering and need.

The conscience of humanity smarts under this dehumanising situation. The churches and many voluntary agencies contribute generously to the spiritual and physical welfare of refugees and co-operate their efforts with governments and inter-governmental bodies.

But all these best efforts together, including our own, cannot dam the drifting tide of refugees or quickly restore to the uprooted individual a sense of belonging, of purpose, of being a wanted member in the family of God. Cain's question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and Jesus' command, "If ye love me, feed my sheep", raise the human question to the divine level. We are compelled by the very love of God to give expression somehow to our love for our uprooted brothers.

Faced with today's reality that there are millions of refugees and among them many youth who, living in a strange environment, feel unwanted and handicapped, the YMCA considers it a Christian duty to help them through its educational programmes and social services as long as there is a need for such help.

ST. JOHN'S AUXILIARY TO ST. LUKE'S

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, 8th September at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses Mesdames Waldron and Palliser.

At our last meeting we were pleased to welcome four new members, Mesdames K. Ford, J. N. Gee, D. Wherrett and G. A. Purcell.

Our Annual Meeting was held on 18th August, 24 members attended which was very pleasing. All office bearers were re-elected.

On 26th September at 2 p.m. a Card Afternoon will be held at the home of Mrs. A. Shephard, 132 Elphin Road. Afternoon tea will be served and a stall will be held.

UPPSALA DISCUSSIONS

On Thursday evenings, 11th, 18th and 25th September, there will be discussions on the findings and resolutions of the World Council of Churches Assembly held at Uppsala last year. The meetings will be held in Chalmers Hall and will commence at 8 p.m.

BAPTISMS

David William Jackson, Victoria Newton, Meredith Newton, Stephen Charles Wilson.

MARRIAGES

Stephen William King and Kathleen Joy Spencer, Maurice James Brown and Wendy Louise Newman, Ronald Graeme McMullen and Dianne Margaret Knight, David Russell Parker and Lois Joy Digney, Andrew Frearson Govenlock and Sandra Kathleen Allanby, James Winston Francis and Pamela Anne Barton, Richard Ernest Williams and Pauline Joan Chamberlain.

BURIALS

Noel Minna Grice, Hilton McBain, Frances Isabel G. Eardley-Wilmot, George Arthur Green, Frances Victoria Maude Doe, Hilda May Hall, Dulcie Marion Green.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to all those who have been bereaved.

WATCH FOR THE

G. F. S. FAIR

IN OCTOBER

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED