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St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 233

FEBRUARY, 1971

Rector:

Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B., St.J., Th.L., Dip. C.C.A.C.
Phone 2 3186

Assistant Priest:

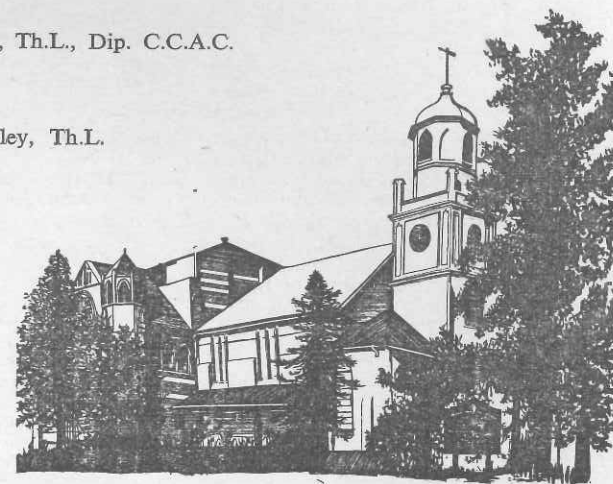
The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Phone 31 4896

Parish Sister:

Miss Jenny Shaw, Th.L.

Organist:

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



THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends of St. John's,

I can hardly believe that it is now a year since I came to worship and work with and for you. As I think about it I am reminded of the words of the song "Getting to Know You". Now that we have got to know each other better I hope that, together, we shall advance in the knowledge and service of our Lord and Saviour.

Although we are well past our Christmas celebrations I cannot fail to express my joy at the number of those who worshipped with us. Numbers alone are a dangerous guide to the spiritual life of a parish, however, I would like to think that they did indicate interest in, and sympathy for, the Gospel of God's love expressed in Jesus.

We begin the year by welcoming to our parish family the Reverend Graham Thurley and his wife Helen. Prior to training at Ridley College, Melbourne, Mr. Thurley was a teacher and this will stand him in good stead as he helps me at Broadland House School. For the past two years he has been assistant at Burnie. His special responsibilities at St. John's will be the Sunday School, Schools and Youth. Normally Mr. Thurley will be at Sunday School rather than the 10 a.m. service, but you will be able to meet him and his wife after the services on Sunday, 21st February.

I know that you will join me in congratulating our Parish Sister, Miss Jenny Shaw, on passing her final Greek exam, and thus gaining a Licentiate of Theology of the Australian College of Theology. We are fortunate to have her with us for another year.

Lent begins at the end of this month and I ask you to join in the "Renewal for Outreach" programme which we will launch on Saturday, 20th February. (Please note all the paragraphs in this "Messenger".)

It is becoming more and more obvious that there is a need for the involvement of the laity in the mission of the Church and this programme will help us to see the needs of this parish and equip us to meet them.

There have been attempts to do this at other times, but I hope this will not deter any of us from seriously putting to good use the programme we are now offering to you.

Many men and women in Launceston are giving hours a week to good causes or to sport and pleasure, all honour to them. I have no hesitation in asking Christians to give time for the cause of Christ. If we are not prepared to do this it will be obvious that Christ does not really matter to us, and the sooner we realise what matters most to us, the better it will be for the whole Church of God.

We have the staff and plant to make St. John's a spiritual power-house. Now is the time to do something positive about it.

Here is your opportunity to come to grips with the challenge of the "Gospel". Do return your enrolment without delay and be prepared to make your contribution to the cause.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

- 2 Purification, 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
 3 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 6 Saturday, 8 p.m. C.M.S. Rally in hall. Bishop Musa Kahurananga, Western Tanganyika.
 7 Septuagesima, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion and Sunday School. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
 9 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Fellowship Tea.
 10 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
 14 Sexagesima, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Mattins and Sunday School, 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
 16 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
 17 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
 21 Quinquagesima, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion and Sunday School. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
 24 Ash Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
 25 St. Matthias, 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
 28 Lent I, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Family Service, 7.30 p.m. Evensong.

REMEMBRANCE BOWL APPEAL

An amount of \$712.00 has been forwarded to the above appeal, from St. John's. This amount is made up as follows: \$140 from the "Twenty and Over Group", being the proceeds of a progressive dinner and the sale of Christmas cards, \$486.60 from the congregation, and \$85.40 from a collection made by the folk at Cosgrove Park, which was sent to us to pass on.

NEW POLICY FOR BOOK ROOM

The C.M.S. Book Room will have a new look this year.

Miss S. Brownrigg, well known at St. John's, will succeed another parishioner the present manageress Mrs. J. Stevenson.

Church people have not supported the Book Room as they might and for several years it has not been a profitable undertaking.

Miss Brownrigg has offered her services in an honorary capacity and will be at the upstairs room at 92 St. John St. each day—Monday to Friday—from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A smaller stock will be held in future but special arrangements with C.M.S. Sydney will ensure the prompt delivery of any book ordered.

A reading and rest area will also be available for those shopping in Launceston.

AFRICAN BISHOP AT ST. JOHN'S

On Saturday, 6th February at 8 p.m. in St. John's Hall you will have the opportunity to meet and hear Bishop Musa Kahurananga.

The Bishop comes from the Diocese of Western Tanganyika, a part of Africa which has for many years been an area of special support by the Australian Church through the Church Missionary Society.

Formerly a teacher, the Bishop became an evangelist and after training at Bishop Tucker College in Uganda was ordained in 1953.

Since his ordination he has had wide experience as Pastor, Archdeacon, and Vice-Principal of Kongiwa College. He became the first Bishop of the new Diocese of Western Tanganyika in July, 1966.

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

The first meeting of the Auxiliary will be held at the home of Mrs. Holyman, 8 Riverdale Grove at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses: Mesdames Doderly, Holyman and Palliser.

Members are advised that the annual Button Day will be held on Friday, 12th February. Button sellers please note that our position will be on the corner of Brisbane and St. John Sts., outside the Bank of New South Wales.



Happenings

Former Sunday School Teacher Diane Campbell married Neville Truskett, of Devonport, in St. John's on 19th December. As both are teachers they had a long honeymoon before getting out the chalk and duster again.

* * *

Two of our regular worshippers to marry in January were Craig Andrews and Susanne Franklin. We look forward to them continuing at St. John's.

* * *

The Jim Sandersons are recovering from "weddingitis". January saw the wedding in St. John's, of their daughter Elizabeth, to Geoffrey Stevens of Lithgow, N.S.W. Then their son, Bruce, now of Melbourne, married in St. Michael's, Kalorama, Victoria, Mavis Kosonen, whose family live in Western Australia.

* * *

We shall miss Raymond Frank Solomon, who died in Hobart on 10th January. His tall figure was well known in St. John's. A retired teacher, he had travelled extensively in recent years, and will be remembered for his wide interests and gentlemanly consideration of others. Mrs. Solomon has left their Elphin Road home to live in Kingston.

* * *

Florabella Elsa Alford, who died on 3rd January, was not well known at St. John's, but we do express our sympathy to her daughter, Mrs. E. Wakefield, with whom she lived. Before coming to Launceston Mrs. Alford had been a staunch supporter of the church at Branhholm.

* * *

After a holiday at Orford, a sun-tanned Laurence Denham is back at St. John's. I hear he is putting the brakes on this year.

* * *

After too short a time at St. John's the Aust family have left for Adelaide. Mr. Aust was a member of the Vestry, and John served at Evensong. It was good to see parents and three children worship together each Sunday.

* * *

Another departure is Mrs. Boyd who has gone to Sydney. As well as singing in the choir, Mrs. Boyd cared for the choir robes and the Chapel flowers.

* * *

Have noticed that getting back to good worship habits after holidays is not easy, but it is very rewarding.

Elizabeth Street

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Classes will re-commence at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 7th February.

G.F.S. JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE

Meetings resume on Friday, 5th February at 7 p.m. Any girls eight years and over are welcome to join now.

RENEW FOR OUTREACH
Lenten Programme 1971

Saturday, 20th February, 2 to 10 p.m.

"Why Renewal?"

an introduction course led by
Rev. Ron Fox

Sunday evenings, 7.30 p.m.

"The Theory of Evangelism"

Six addresses by the Rector on
Fundamental Christian Truths.

Wednesday evenings, 8.15 p.m.

"The Practice of Evangelism"

Six studies taped by the Rev. John Stott,
Rector of All Souls' Church, London,
followed by group discussion led by
Dr. Victor Pippet.

"Australia 69"

The Holy Communion in Modern
English each Wednesday in Lent at
7.30 p.m.

LORD, AM I CALLED TO DO THIS ?

"Go make Disciples of all Nations", said Jesus to His followers. Mat. 28.19. From the earliest days, only a very tiny percentage of His disciples have felt called to make this their full time life's work. For the majority of Christians, the people round about them have been their mission field, though regrettably in home minds, the idea has taken root that "evangelism" is a specialist task reserved for the clergyman and the itinerant preacher. The Bible knows nothing of such an idea! Certainly there are those specially called and gifted as Evangelists, but evangelism in the New Testament is the work of all Christians. CHOSEN TO TELL ABOUT GOD.

Peter for example, writing to the whole congregation says, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you might declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 1 Peter 2.9. indeed it is impossible to KNOW to the full the love of God in Jesus Christ, to have the assurance that all sins are forgiven, to have the joy of Eternal Life—hope in this world and the certainty of acceptance by God—Heaven in the next; without wanting to share these things with others. When God's love "has been shed abroad in your heart", you really do "love your neighbour as yourself" and how can such love stand aside and watch others treading the "way that is easy, the gate that is wide" that leads to destruction. Mat. 7.13. A PRACTICAL IDEA AS WELL AS BIBLICAL.

The internationally famous Rev. John Stott writes in his pamphlet "Parochial Evangelism By The Laity". "Lay evangelism is a practical idea. We are continually hearing of the shortage of clergy, the unreached masses, the growth of materialism, and the widening gulf between the Church and the people. If we are to be realistic, it is plainly impossible for the multitudes—to hear the Gospel, unless the chief burden is borne by the laity". AN ACCEPTED IDEA ALSO

Lay evangelism is already a generally accepted idea. Archbishop William Temple expressed his conviction in these words: "There can be no widespread evangelism of this country unless this work is undertaken by the laity." Here in Australia this conviction has found expressions in the Lay Institutes for Evangelism. AN IDEA FOR ME ?

How is this idea being put into practice? In many Parishes men and women are forming themselves into what are often called "Parish Visiting Teams". These teams meet together regularly, firstly for planning and training; training on three levels, Theological, Personal and Practical. Theological because we cannot preach the Gospel unless we understand it; Personal because the evangelists devotional life is more important than this technical competence; Practical because there is a technique to be learned, the ways and means and practical know how. Finally the time comes when the Team moves into action. At this stage working in pairs, and at times suited to themselves, they visit systematically the people of their parish. Speaking of this work in his own Parish, John Stott writes, "Each pair will be allotted a street or number of houses or flats to visit. It may take them many months to cover their beat, but by systematic weekly visiting they will succeed. They will go around with a Bible and some suitable evangelistic literature." He continues, "It should be clearly understood that this visiting is not undertaken for a period of three or six months in preparation for a mission, but regularly month after month, year after year." A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

This is the most exciting and challenging work ordinary men and women have ever been called to do.

Yes, it's frightening to even think of you taking it on isn't it? But you would feel so different after you were trained, you would know such joy as you undertook the work, that this would compensate a thousand times over for the occasional sinking feeling in your stomach.

Jesus said "Go!" God says "Love". Please pray, "Lord, am I called to do this?"

"RENEWAL FOR OUTREACH"

I wish to enrol for the course of six studies in THE PRACTICE OF EVANGELISM, to be held in St. John's Hall each Wednesday in Lent, and am willing to donate \$1 towards costs.

NAME

(Please Print)

ADDRESS