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St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 236

MAY, 1971

Rector:

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

Assistant Priest:

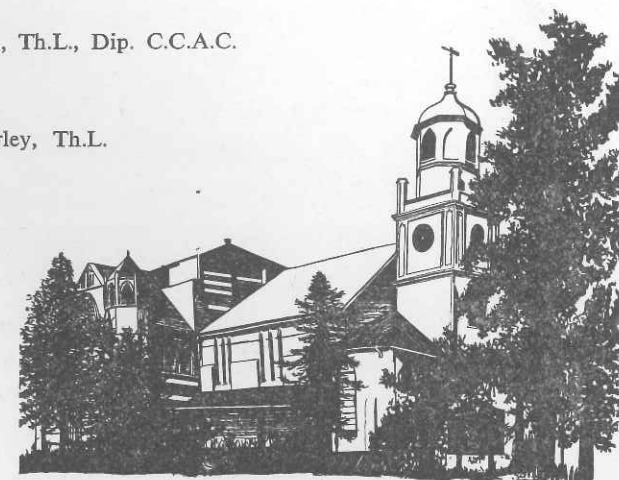
The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Phone 31 4896

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



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of St. John's,

All of you would agree, I am sure, that the great task facing the Church is that of Evangelism, that is the sole and ultimate purpose of the Church. All too often however we find the Church more concerned with preserving its buildings, or its organisations, or with money-raising which becomes a desperate struggle for existence. This is particularly true in many of our country centres today.

Some critics seeing the picture of the Church provide an either/or answer, we are offered a choice between purse or prayer. Surely this is false thinking. Our Lord's injunction to "Seek first the Kingdom of God" does not mean that we can leave financial matters to look after themselves. Nor is it right to believe that a subscription to the Church, of itself, engenders an interest in the Kingdom of God. If we are not careful to keep a right balance we will present to our community one of two false understandings of the Gospel. We will appear to be so heavenly minded as to be of no earthly use, or we will appear to be so interested in dollars and cents that our Gospel concerning God and man will be lost from view.

The task of evangelism might be described as the task of making the faith relevant to those outside the fellowship of the Church. The first step for us is to enable others to see that the Christian Faith is relevant to us. How can we do that?

I believe that the un-Churched are unmoved by our Church-going. It is simply answered by "if they like that sort of thing, I don't." We do not impress by getting together as a collection of rather peculiar people who like to do irrelevant things on Sundays.

How then can we show that we mean business? There are many meaningful ways, but one way to do so is by talking the universal language that everybody understands.

Cynically we say "money talks". But why be cynical about it? As far as the Christian Faith is concerned it talks, like it or not, and it says the things we make it say. As a Church, what are our financial affairs saying to the world and what are they saying to God.

I want to say more about this next month. However, I would ask you to think about this and then be able to compare answers with me.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN.



Happenings

Wonderful news. The speaker at the Anglican Women's Conference is Vernon Cohen. One of the most helpful speakers I have ever heard.

* * *

The Easter Carol Service was a thriller. A good mixture of old favourites, both carols and hymns, and new carols.

* * *

Sue Rogers made a lovely bride when she married James Smith of Stanley. They will make their home at Stanley.

* * *

Hear the Rector is to be heard again on the A.B.C. this time its on "Pause a Moment" at 9.15 a.m. on 17th-21st May.

* * *

The "Coffee Club" for teenagers held after Church each third Sunday night makes me regret my age.

* * *

"Inside Hanoi's Prisons", an account given in the April "Reader's Digest", is a must reading for those concerned about all that is happening in both North and South Vietnam. The course of action we might follow is well worth considering.

* * *

Who else got caught? The Max Easthers had to return from holidays minus their car. It's one way to make you walk to work.

* * *

Noticed that Helen Thurley (wife of our Assistant) is helping Sybil Brownrigg in the C.M.S. Bookroom. Found I got very friendly service.

* * *

Did you hear about the little girl who turned up to Sunday School dressed in faded blue jeans under a frilly petticoat and a beautiful dress. Pinned to the dress was a note from her mother, "I hope you don't think this was my idea."

Elizabeth Street

CALENDAR FOR MAY

- 1 Saturday, St. Philip and St. James, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m. Youth Group.
- 2 Easter III, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion, Creche, Sunday School, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 5 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6 Thursday, 9 a.m. Jumble Sale for Sunday School.
- 9 Easter IV, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Mattins, 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 10 Monday, 2.45 p.m. St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary.
- 11 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 12 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 13 Thursday, 8 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 16 Easter V—Rogation, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion, 7 p.m. Evensong, 8 p.m. Coffee Club.
- 18 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 19 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 20 Thursday—Ascension, 7 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 23 Sunday after Ascension, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Family Service, 7 p.m. Evensong, 8 p.m. "20 & Overs".
- 24 Monday, 8 p.m. St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary Slide Evening to which any interested persons in the parish are invited.
- 25 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. Townsend Group G.F.S. Annual Meeting and slides.
- 30 Whitsunday, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Mattins—recording for A.B.C., Sunday School, 7 p.m. Holy Communion.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The Australian Council of Churches and the Returned Services League have come up with a common policy on a controversial subject—conscientious objection to military service, when Bishop Garnsey, President of the A.C.C., and Sir Arthur Lee, National President of the R.S.L., agreed that voluntary non-military humanitarian service should be provided as an alternative to military service.

They also agreed that applications to be recognised as a conscientious objector should not be judged by one man, but by a tribunal whose members were specially qualified to evaluate the merits of individual cases.

This should help to solve a vexed problem, and ease many consciences, if the Government is prepared to follow up the suggestion by some positive action.

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

The next meeting of the auxiliary will be held in the Lecture Room at the hospital on Monday, May 10th, at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses Mrs. Waldron, Miss Andrews.

On Monday evening, May 24th, at 8 p.m., an evening will be held in St. John's Kindergarten Room. Miss M. Mack will show slides of her recent trip overseas. Supper will be served. Admission 50 cents.

We cordially invite members of the congregation and their friends to this function.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The April meeting was held at the home of Mrs. White, we did not have the usual good attendance of members. We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Targett Jnr. was not very well, we pray for a speedy recovery and look forward to her being with us again soon.

Some very lovely knitting to be given for unmarried and needing mothers was received from Mrs. Latta and Mrs. Swinnerton.

On July 8th the guild will be having another afternoon for our senior parishioners, this is a time away, but we look forward to seeing you so put this date in your diary now.

We are sorry to lose Kay Swinnerton for even a little while, she is going home to England for a holiday, our best wishes go along with Kay and her husband for a happy time, with our prayers for their safe return.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Palliser, 3 Wyett St., on Thursday, 13th May.

Supper hostesses, Mesdames Palliser and Ford.

MOTHERS' UNION

At our April meeting Mrs. Senior and the Rev. Hugh Girvan spoke on "Reading for you and your children". We were reminded of the amount of time and money spent on Christian literature in our homes compared with that on general reading. Books of interest from Mothers' Union Literature Dept. and C.M.S. Bookroom were on display.

The next meeting of Mothers' Union will be held on Tuesday, 18th May, commencing with a service in the chapel at 8 p.m.

Supper hostesses—Mesdames M. Easter, B. Easter and K. Atkins.

Mrs. Piper assisted by Mrs. Boon will conduct a Creche on 2nd May at the 10 a.m. service.

APPRECIATION FOR KNITTING

A letter has been received from Matron Ford (Queen Victoria Hospital) in which she asks "Would you please convey our appreciation to your Women's Guild and Mothers' Union for the parcel of knitted clothing.

"I can assure you that these clothes will be distributed to needy mothers. Thank you to both these organisations and also to friends who gave of their time and talent helping in this way which fulfils one of the constant needs of our society.

ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Annual Conference for "Anglican Women" will be held at St. John's on 1st and 2nd June, the theme being—

"1970's—Age of Despair and Discovery

The leader will be the Reverend Vernon Cohen, Warden of the Avalon Community, Lara, Victoria.

Attendance is open to all women of the parish.

Registration Forms are available from Mrs. Max Easter, or through the Rector.

CONFIRMATION

- Young people who desire to be prepared for Confirmation should attend in the Chapel on Sunday, 30th May, at 11.15 a.m., when details of the course will be explained.
- All candidates should bring their Baptismal Certificate to this preliminary meeting.
- Regular attendance at worship, or Sunday School; classes (including a week-end camp) and Youth activities is expected of all candidates.
- Candidates will be presented only when in the opinion of the Rector, they are ready to take an active part in the life of the parish.
- Adults desiring preparation should seek an interview with the Rector.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Sunday School will not be held during the school holidays. There will be a "children's talk" and suitable hymn at each 10 a.m. service. Bring your children to worship with you on these Sundays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL JUMBLE SALE

The date for this is Thursday, May 6th, and we ask that all clothing etc. be at the Rectory no later than Tuesday, 4th, ready for sorting and pricing on Wednesday. If you are able to help with either marking on Wednesday evening, or at the Sale on Thursday from 9 a.m., or both, we will be very grateful.

G.F.S.

Due to a number of girls going away for school holidays it has been necessary to delay our enrolment and admission service. It will be at the Family Service, 10 a.m. on June 23rd. We would like to see more girls in the 8-12 year age group. We meet every Friday night (except school holidays and long weekends) in the Kindergarten Hall from 7-8.30 p.m. We will transport them home if you can see them to here. If you have a daughter and are unable to bring her in please contact Miss Jenny Shaw at the Rectory and we will try to arrange some help with transport.