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St. John's Parish Messenger

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 240

SEPTEMBER, 1971

Rector:

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

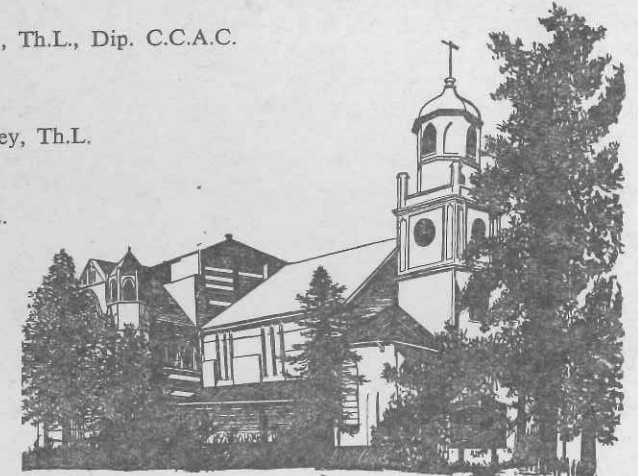
Assistant Staff:

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

Deaconess Jenny Shaw, Th.L.
Phone 2 3186

Organist:

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



This month, at the request of a number of his friends, the Panegyric given by the Rector at the funeral of Laurence Denham, is printed in place of the Rector's letter.

"Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits." (Psalm 103).

My task today is not an easy one, for I come here, as I am sure you all do, with a tremendous sense of loss.

We no longer have the physical presence of our vibrant friend Laurence Denham, and if your unoccupied moments have been like mine, then with me you have been thinking of the enormous contribution which Laurence made to your life, and not only to your life and mine, but to the lives of so many, who for a while, came under his influence. They may then have moved on to almost the whole globe, but no matter where they moved, they were never far from Laurence's thoughts, and his interest followed them.

Only last week he talked to me about some of the people he had known in China and how he hoped to see them if he was able to visit England next year.

Having no family, he was able to make all his family. No matter one's age, or problem, he was not only able to understand, but also to advise, not in a condescending manner, but as a friend at one with us.

So he could be and was, approached by young and old, by rich and poor, by the intellectual haves and have nots. His wide experience, and even his bachelor solitude, made it possible for him to win our confidence and evoke our support until we found that we had gladly given him a corner of our hearts, and this day we find it hard to believe that we, who placed so much reliance upon him, will have to face life without him.

Yet he would not have us mourn. He left me clear instructions: they are in part as follows:

"A service with a note of joy and thanksgiving for the happiness of life, the opportunities of service, the encouragement and affection of so many friends and the frequent assurance of God's Holy Spirit in and around me."

How typical of the man we knew. Look again at the key words: Joy, happiness, opportunities, encouragement, affection, service. I would like to believe that these words were chosen by him because they were, for him, a description of his own life. A life for which we come to give thanks today. There will be no self-pity because we have lost a friend, but gladness and thankfulness that here and there God raises up men who are giants among men, yet who are nevertheless able to be one with those of us who know our own limitations so well. Not that he was without fault, what man is? Surely there has been only one who was faultless. No, he knew and we knew his Achilles Heel, but there was so much else of him that was good and true that we forgave even as we were forgiven.

In requesting our hymns today, the note he left me drew attention to the line, "Fill me radiance Divine", which Laurence regarded as a wonderful expression, of a truth he knew, and we saw in him a reflection of that Divine Radiance. Surely here was the touchstone of all that the man was.

Perhaps it was not by coincidence that his earthly life came to an end on the eve of the day which we, in the Church Calendar, call "the Feast of the Transfiguration". This commemorates the occasion when Peter, James and John saw clearly the true nature of Jesus. He was the fulfilment of all Law and Prophecy, and He was more, He was the transforming Son of God.

Laurence knew in a personal way this same Jesus. For him through Bible, Prayer and Sacrament, he practised in the here and now, the daily actuality of walking with God. So we are not surprised when he requests that today we give thanks for the frequent assurance of God's Holy Spirit in and around him throughout his life.

Laurence Denham knew what it was to be in this world, but not of it. Yet this did not make him so other worldly that he was unable to be a man among men. One does not become a director of an international company without a high degree of professional competence. We then, remember and honour one who in church and commerce marked out the way for others to follow. We thank God for his life. We hallow every treasured remembrance of him, and in faith we commend to our Heavenly Father the soul of this, His humble, obedient servant.

My final words are a quotation used by Laurence after I last administered the Blessed Sacrament to him. For a moment he remained in silent prayer and then he opened his eyes, smiled at me and in a firm voice said, "Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all his benefits."

To that cry of faith we add our Amen, and we leave him with our Heavenly Father.



Happenings

Hospital is not the ideal place to spend a "Golden Wedding", but family and friends made it a happy day for Mr. & Mrs. A. H. Clark. Congratulations to them both, we hope Mrs. Clark will soon be back home.

* * *

So many special services, meetings and preachers lately, I have been in a whirl. After Canon Green's visit I thought Miss Brownrigg had the right idea selling autographed copies of his books.

* * *

Somehow I expected the Primate to be rather remote, kind of high and lifted up, but as I watched him yarning to people after the service I realised that he was no "Proud Prelate", but a very friendly "Father in God".

* * *

I wasn't the only one moved by the service for Laurence Denham. Upon reflection I think it will be the memory of the last organ piece that will remain with me. To me it was a triumphant song of victory, surely the right note at Christian Burial.

* * *

Was shocked to read that there are 24 million refugees who as a result of war, civil strife or natural disaster need the helping hand of Austcare.

* * *

As we think of the needs of others two statements by the Primate are worth noting: "We need constantly to remind ourselves that there is no such thing as value apart from human beings", and "There is the fear that we may learn to count human life as of less than ultimate significance".

* * *

Having been told the public will be welcome to listen to the debates when Synod meets at St. John's this month I remember the story of the bishop who put up with the young clergyman who kept popping up in such a way as to make himself appear silly. Finally the bishop said: "In the days of Balaam it was considered a miracle when an ass spoke. But times have changed."

* * *

If you have forgotten the story of Balaam you may read it in Numbers 22:21-35.

Elizabeth Street

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

- 1 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 4 Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Faith and Order Seminar, Teachers' College. 7.30 p.m. Youth Fellowship.
- 5 **Trinity XIII.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion — No Sunday School — Creche. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 8 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 9 Thursday, 7.45 p.m. Women's Guild.
- 12 **Trinity XIV.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins — No Sunday School. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 13 Monday, 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 14 Tuesday, 9-10 a.m. Mothers' Union "Wave of Prayer" in Chapel. 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 15 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 19 **Trinity XIX.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion — Sunday School. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8 p.m. Coffee Shop.
- 21 Tuesday, **St. Matthew.** 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 22 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 23 Thursday, 7.30 p.m. Synod Evensong.
- 26 **Trinity XVI** — Synod. 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 11 a.m. Synod Service — Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8 p.m. 20 & Overs.
- 28 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. Townsend G.F.S.
- 29 Wednesday, St. Michael and All Angels. 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

A BIBLE IN THE HOUSE?

There was a day in our grandparents' day when to ask this question would have seemed to be silly. Of course there was. But it's not so today. But some years ago the Bible Society campaigned for: "A Bible for every family, a New Testament for every Christian."

Every Anglican, nominal as he may be, should ask just where he stands here. You may have the Authorised Version, magnificent English it is true, but not the English of today, and not always understood by the people. One should today have a Bible that is readable as well as being accurately translated. If you are satisfied with that, then your New Testament must be a modern one, and of a size that will suit your use of it. If you're going to use it to go into the glove-box of the car or your pocket it needs to be small. And what edition will you buy? Revised Standard Version? New English Bible, Jerusalem Bible? Good news for modern man? The latter one costs 60 cents. Buy it? Yes. BUT READ IT EVERY DAY.

BIBLE STUDY

Mr. Thurley is willing to begin a Bible Study Group commencing the first week of September. It is proposed that the group shall meet at his residence, 39 Elizabeth Street on Wednesday morning following the 10.30 a.m. service of Holy Communion. Arrangements will be made to care for young children at this time. For any who wish to join such a group but find this to be an impracticable time we would be happy to hear from you and of your suggestions of suitable times in order that where there are a sufficient number of persons we may arrange other groups. Contact staff members by phone — 2 3186 or 31 4896.

MOTHERS' UNION

Miss S. Brownrigg gave us an interesting talk on the Chapter of the Order of St. Luke at our August meeting.

There will be a creche conducted at the Rectory on Sunday, September 5th, for the 10 a.m. service, by Mrs. J. Piper.

The "Wave of Prayer" when we remember fellow members throughout the world, will be observed with a service in the Chapel on Tuesday, September 14th, at 9 a.m. Please make a special effort to be present.

The next meeting will be on September 24th, commencing with a service in the Chapel at 8 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Margaret Greeney who will discuss "Visiting". Members are reminded of articles to be brought for our Mini-Market to be held on Wednesday, November 17th.

Supper hostesses: Mesdames J. Bonney and B. Ayers.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Members of the Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital will meet again in the Kindergarten Hall on Monday, September 13th, at 2.45 p.m.

Afternoon Tea Hostesses: Mrs. J. N. Gee, Miss W. Green.

A Card Afternoon and Stall will be held at the home of Mrs. A. H. Shepherd, 132 Elphin Road, on Friday, September 24th, commencing at 2 p.m. An invitation is extended to parishioners and friends.

We are pleased to report that Mrs. Dodery and Miss Green, who have been patients in St. Luke's are making steady progress and we look forward to having them with us again. Also Mrs. Targett, we trust that she will be restored to good health soon.

VESTRY FOR 1971-1972

As a result of appointments and elections at our Annual Meeting the following will serve on the Vestry for the next 12 months: Mr. M. M. Easther, Mr. D. S. Gill, Mr. R. J. Roberts — Church Wardens. Miss S. M. Brownrigg and Messrs. K. M. Atkins, L. Denham, B. M. Easther, A. J. Green, F. Ikin, M. C. Perkins, J. S. Stevenson, T. P. White.

The new Vestry were admitted during Evening Prayer on August 8th. The first meeting was held on Wednesday 11th at which the following appointments were made: Mr. J. Bonney to replace Mr. L. Denham on the Vestry; Secretary: Mr. J. Roberts; Treasurer: Mr. B. Easther.

SYNOD IN LAUNCESTON

The Second Session of the Thirty-eighth Synod will be held in St. John's Hall beginning with Synod Evensong on Thursday, September 23rd at 7.30 p.m. The Bishop will give his Presidential Address at this service.

Sessions will be held each day at 10 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 7.30 p.m., on Friday and Saturday and the closing Synod Eucharist with the Bishop's Pastoral Charge will take place on Sunday at 11 a.m.

Parishioners are welcome at all of these services and sessions.

If you can help with hospitality (bed and breakfast) for Synod members please notify the Rector.

WOMEN'S GUILD

A very pleasant afternoon was spent last month when members travelled to "Tresca", Exeter for our meeting.

The next meeting, on Thursday, 9th September, at 7.45 p.m., will be held in the home of Mrs. M. Easther, 13 Wyett St., when Mrs. Bernes will talk about "Products for 1972".

FIGURES DO TELL A STORY

Supporters of the Bible Society in Australia first heard the phrase, "God's Word for a New Age" about eight years ago.

The plan, entered upon in great daring, was to raise the annual number of scriptures distributed from 50 to 150 million. For various reasons the goal was not reached in the time set. But it has been reached now.

By 1964 the distribution was 70 million. This rose to 93 million in 1966. In 1968 it was 110 million, and in 1969 145 million.

Figures recently received for 1970 show that during the past complete year world distribution of the scriptures rose to 173,397,221.

THE LANGUAGE POSITION

Over the same period of years the number of new translations published has steadily risen too.

By 1962 some part at least of the scriptures had been published in 1,202 languages. Because of the increasing emphasis on translation as well as distribution, with new techniques of translation developing and a new sense of urgency felt by those who were concerned with it, the total rose quickly, sometimes dramatically.

The total number of languages with some scripture printed reached 1,431 in 1970. Now the figure is about 1,450.

BUT TO BE REALISTIC...

The fact must be faced, that out of the total distribution a quite large proportion are selections used for evangelistic or special purposes. These are often just one chapter of the Bible, or less.

There are two big obstacles yet to be overcome:

* Probably between 500 and 1,000 languages that are in use, but have no part of the Bible in them.

* Hundreds of millions of people in the world who still haven't a full Bible, or even a New Testament; and many of these are Christians.

The time has not yet come to rest upon the success of the past. The hardest work, the most daring sacrifice, the most imaginative and faithful approach to the challenge, still lies before us.