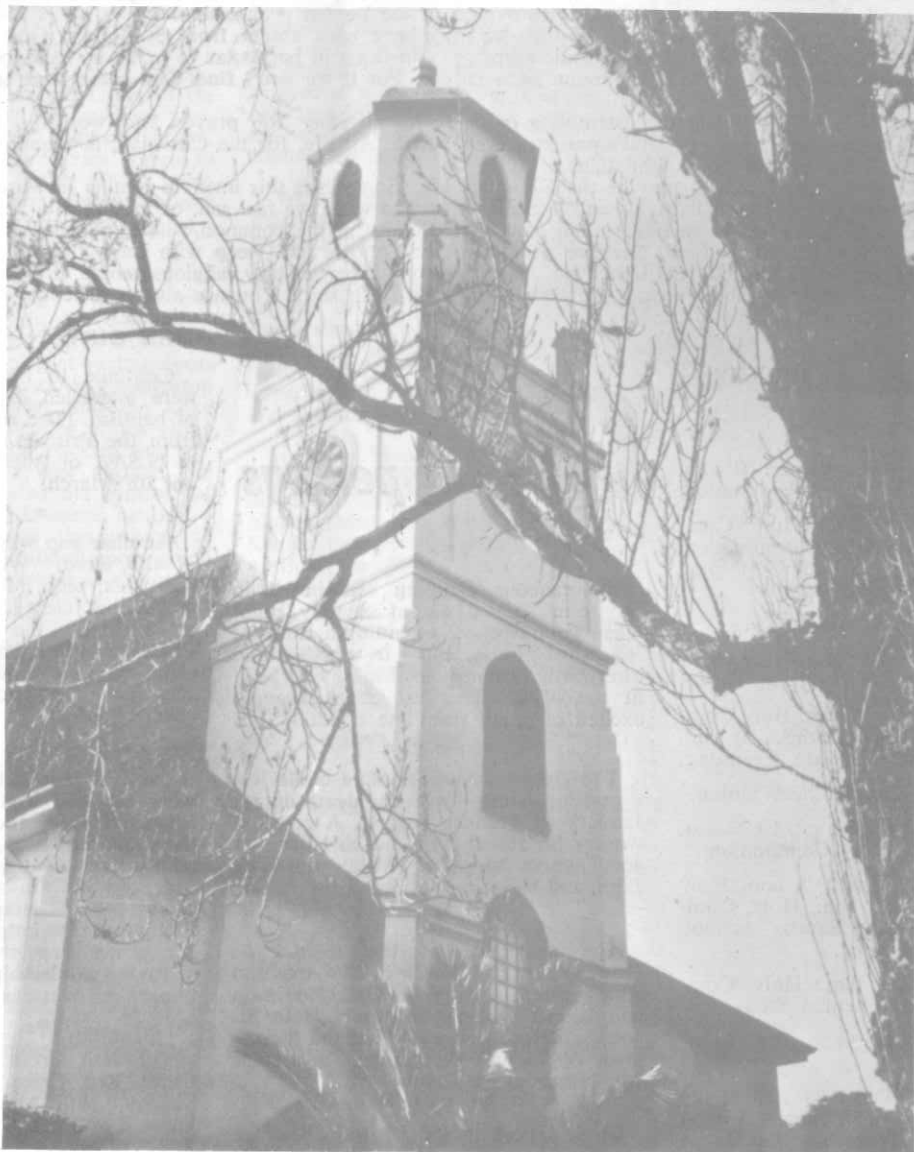


PARISH MESSENGER



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

Rector:
Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B., St.J., Th.L., Dip. C.C.A.C.
Telephone 31 5218

Assistant Staff:
The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Telephone 31 4896

Organist: Mr. Lindsay Hutchinson, B.A., L.T.C.L., A.Mus.A.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of St. John's,
The joy of Christmas Day was tinged with some sorrow when, as requested by the Bishop, I announced that our Deaconess was to leave us in order to assist in the parish of St. John, Devonport. We shall miss her willing help in the parish, and I, in particular, will miss my "Girl Friday". However, the need in Devonport is certainly greater than ours, and the new experience will be of great value in Jenny's future ministry. She came to this parish three years ago as an untried Parish Sister and leaves us a much beloved and well qualified Deaconess. All we can say is "Thank you Jenny, may God bless you".

This month we say farewell (until December) to our organist Lindsay O'Neill, as most of you know, he will be at Adelaide University for the remainder of the year.

We welcome, in his place, Mr. Lindsay Hutchinson, who comes to us from Melbourne. Already he has shown that he understands, and intends to continue the high musical tradition set by Mr. O'Neill, and we look forward to his time with us.

Lent is almost with us again and having cared for our minds and bodies with annual holidays of refreshment, we can now get back into good worship habits through the opportunities provided in the Lenten programme.

It is not that we have been absent from God, although we may have been absent from St. John's. God is always present at all times and in all places. But sometimes we need somewhere or something in particular to make us look for God, just as Moses needed the burning bush, and Jacob needed the dream of a ladder. For if we don't find God somewhere in particular, then we shan't find God anywhere.

Our constant need is to be faithful in the assembling of ourselves together for prayer and worship. By frequenting holy ground, we shall grow increasingly aware of God's presence everywhere. All life, for the Christian, is worship, yet there must also be times of particular worship with other Christians.

Sharing the Liturgy of the Church is part of the Christian life. Sometimes this involves joining in words which we may feel have no immediate meaning in our own lives, singing a psalm of praise when we feel sad, or joining in a prayer which may seem unrelated to our own needs. Yet this is part of sinking our own identity in the common whole, it is making ourselves one with the other, it is obeying the words of St. Paul, "Rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep."

Worship at St. John's (or in any church) is not for a small group of particularly religious people, it is for all of God's people. If you have got into poor worship habits, now is the time to make a fresh start. You are always welcome in "God's House".

Yours sincerely,
HUGH GIRVAN

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

February —

- 2 **Feast of the Presentation:** 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 6 **Sexagesima:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday School. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 8 **Tuesday:** 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 9 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 13 **Quinquagesima:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Matins. 10 a.m. Sunday School. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 15 **Tuesday:** 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 16 **Ash Wednesday:** 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 20 **1st Sunday in Lent:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday School. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
- 22 **Tuesday:** 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion. 8 p.m. Lenten Study.
- 23 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 **St. Matthias' Day:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10.30 a.m. Annual Conference. Women's Guild at Westbury.
- 27 **2nd Sunday in Lent:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 7.30 p.m. Evensong. 8.30 p.m. "20 & Overs".



Happenings

Spontaneous clapping was heard in St. John's on a recent Sunday night when young people attending a camp at Beresford House, came to worship and afterwards listened to Lindsay O'Neill at the organ. The last chord brought excited clapping from the children.

* * *

The Hospital Auxiliary and Guild lost a faithful member with the death during January of Frances Targett. A constant worker for the church and charities, her good works sprang from an unflinching faith and devotion to her Lord.

* * *

The assistance of the Revd. Joe Howe (formerly Church of the Apostles) added interest when Gillian Robinson and Lionel Outen were married in St. John's. Before going to Brisbane (hometown of Lionel) Gillian was a regular worshipper at St. John's.

* * *

Took a peek at the Visitors' Book in the church narthex. As well as a great number of Tasmanian visitors during January, I saw entries from every state in the Commonwealth and a number from overseas. The book is worth a glance from time to time.

Continue to hear from people who were interested in the televised service of baptism. (The rector received a letter from the Primate.) If you have friends in N.S.W. or Victoria, they can see it on 5th March.

* * *

Another gap was caused by the death of the Revd. "Will" Rowlands in his eighty-six year. Mr. Rowlands, a Congregational clergyman, had given most of his life to the missionary cause. A Christian gentleman and scholar, he came to Launceston in his retirement and gave invaluable help to the ecumenical cause.

* * *

Congratulations to all those teenagers who did well in their exams. Also to Elizabeth Jack who gained selection in the State Swimming Team. Two of our adults have also gained honours. Miss Margaret Willson has gained a Diploma of Medical Therapy from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and Mr. Bruce Proverbs has been awarded a study scholarship which will enable him to go overseas next year.

* * *

The Red Cross needs collectors for their "Red Cross Calling" appeal on Sunday, 19th March. Let the Rector know if you can help.

Elizabeth Street

NORTHERN ARCHDEACONRY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Church of England Women's Guilds
AT WESTBURY

THURSDAY, 24th FEBRUARY
FROM 10.30 A.M. - 3 P.M.

Speakers:

Mrs. Freshney
(Roland Home for Boys)
and Mrs. Barwick (Social Welfare)

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR TO PREACH

Dr. Alfred Price, D.D., D.L., thirty years Rector of St. Stephen's, Philadelphia, National Chaplain, Order of the Purple Heart, "God's tall man of healing", will preach in St. John's at 8 a.m. on 20th February. Dr. Price comes to Launceston for the Order of St. Luke. Miss Brownrigg or Mrs. Sanderson will supply details of his meetings.

YOUTH GROUP

Four cars, bulging with people, clothes and food, left St. John's on Tuesday, 18th January, on a trip down the East Coast, stopping at various spots to Hobart and then back to Launceston via the Derwent Valley and the Lake Highway. After 600 miles of travelling and swimming, hiking, packing and unpacking, eating toast like granite, the 16 members appreciated the comfort of soft beds and home. It seems no one—except leaders?—found things hard to take since they're all talking about going again next year! Application for position of leaders are invited. Qualifications—durability! Anyone wishing to know about youth group activities contact Mr. Thurley on 31 4896.

IN-BETWEENS

A group for Matric students and those just left school, meets at 39 Elizabeth Street after Evensong on 13th February. Others welcome.

20 & OVERS

Resumes Sunday, 27th February after Evensong at 39 Elizabeth Street.

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

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

Afternoon tea hostesses—Mrs. Holyman and Mrs. Palliser.

Button Day will be held on Friday, 11th February. Button sellers are advised that St. John's selling area will be on the northern side of Brisbane Street (N.S.W. Bank corner of Brisbane and St. John Streets).

E. Palliser, Hon. Secretary

HOLY MATRIMONY

Whoever thinks that the marriage of one man to one woman for a lifetime of love, fidelity, trust and mutual gratification is natural to human beings is either naive, blissfully idealistic or woefully ignorant.

Mating is natural: marriage is not—at least, monogamous marriage is not. An alarming segment of the population thinks of marriage as nothing more than the mating game: "You please me and I please you, so let's get married and see how things work out." Depending upon the character of the partners, some marriages work out, but many do not; and for every one of the latter a deposit of hatred, abuse, and scorn is left like a layer of silt to obscure the purpose of real marriage. As a result, many people are sceptical about marriage and its chances to endure.

What the church teaches about marriage is mysterious, not unlike her teaching about regeneration in baptism, and the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament. Sacraments are always mysterious, in that we are not permitted to know exactly how God does what He does in a sacrament, but by faith, by history, and by corporate and individual experience we know what God does in His sacraments.

In Holy Matrimony He takes one male and one female of the species, listens to their vows pledged in faith, blesses them and gives them Christ to live in them ("I in them—and they in me"), to sanctify them, to redeem them, and to make them one in Christ.

It is the possessed, enjoyed, and adored presence of Christ that makes matrimony holy.

—A Parish Priest

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(By Ian Dunlop)

"Christianity seems to be based on a lot of negative commands, all beginning: 'Thou shalt not...'"

So does cricket. "Thou shalt not allow the ball to hit thy wicket. Thou shalt not prevent the ball from hitting thy wicket by placing the leg before it..." You might amuse yourself by trying to complete the decalogue.

There is a curious aversion to rules these days, especially if they are in negative form, and I think that this must come from a failure to understand their purpose.

It is sometimes thought that a relaxation of the rules would contribute to the general enjoyment, and that those who enforce rules are therefore hard-hearted killjoys. But just imagine an umpire at cricket who kept on relaxing the rules. "Poor old chap—he couldn't help having his leg before the wicket. Everybody does it these days. Who made these rules anyway? What right has the M.C.C. to lay down the law, etc?" This man would not be increasing the pleasure to be obtained from cricket. He would be destroying it completely.

Rules are not arbitrary methods of spoiling the fun: they are the indispensable means whereby the general standard of enjoyment may be maintained. If you seek the general enjoyment of the two teams, you will uphold the rules. It may well involve temporary hardship to the individual. It is no fun to be out first ball.

This is not to say that all rules must be in all cases enforced. Some rules are bad rules and ought to be changed. But it is necessary to remember that rules nearly always rely upon the authority of experience and not of reason.

I doubt if anyone would arrive at the present rules of cricket by the pure use of his reason, and a rationalist watching the game for the first time might easily fail to see the reason for some of the rules. But generations of cricketers have found by experience that these rules are conducive to the best, and therefore the most enjoyable game. You can usually only criticise as the result of long experience.

By and large, this is true also of the Game of Life. The rules are rules for a good, and therefore an enjoyable life. They often have to penalise the individual for the general good.

But it is not true to say that Christianity is based on negative commands. Our Lord's summary of the Law is positive. "Love God, love your neighbour." Many of the other commands in the New Testament—"be kind", "forgive", "be generous"—are in positive form, but of course they entail a negative counterpart: "Do not be unkind", "do not be unforgiving", "do not be mean". Does it really matter if some of them come out in their negative form?

—Church Times

LENT AT ST. JOHN'S

HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday: 8 a.m., 10.30 a.m., and 7.30 p.m.

Each Tuesday: 7.30 p.m.

Each Wednesday: 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

STUDIES

Each Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Hall. Deanery Studies based on "One People" by John Stott.

"THE MEANING AND THE MESSAGE"

A series of addresses at Evensong given by Mr. Lloyd Bath, M.A., Th.L., sometime Dean of Students, Ridley College, Melbourne. Mr. Bath will deal with current questions in the light of St. Luke's account of Holy Week.

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