

# PARISH MESSENGER

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

### USUAL SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8.00 a.m. Every Sunday, 10.00 a.m. First and Third Sundays, 7.00 p.m. Fifth Sunday.

Morning Prayer: 10.00 a.m. Second Sunday. Family Service: 10.00 a.m. Third Sunday.

Evening Prayer: 7.00 p.m. Every Sunday except Fifth

(The evening service is held at 7.30 p.m. during daylight saving months.)

## Rector :

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

## Assistant :

The Reverend David Lewis  
Telephone 31 4896

Organist : Mr. Lindsay O'Neill, B.Mus., F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends at St. John's,

One of the tragedies of our time is the school dropout. The young person who for any of a half dozen reasons simply falls by the wayside in his school experience. Most of the time, however, a young person quits because the school experience has no meaning for him. He has no interest in the subjects and he has constructed the kind of world in which he believes education is not necessary. Here is the tragedy of wasted manpower, the loss of a tremendous natural resource.

But have you ever stopped to think that the spiritual dropout is an even more frightening loss? In the New Testament there is a strange and tragic story which slips in between the lines in the experience of the apostle Paul. One of his companions was a man named Demas. On a number of occasions Paul included this name in his greeting. Demas was a partner in the service of Christ. Then, in what was probably his last letter, Paul said, "Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thesalonica."

At first one wonders how a man who travelled with Paul, and who caught the passion of his life, could leave him when Paul needs all the help he can muster. However, the mystery of the whole matter is that anyone of us can gradually slip out of the centre of things, and get lost along the way.

Few of us decide at a certain point in time to quit the Christian cause. It happens so smoothly and imperceptibly we hardly know it's going on. It hasn't been one great event that did it. It has been a whole series of circumstances that led to a certain kind of deadness so that we no longer care. This is what produces the desertion of a Demas, the treachery of a Judas, the denial of a Peter.

We need in the church, more people of the kind who stay, close to the fire, who go for the second mile, who live by the disciplines when everyone else doesn't care. It is not without reason that Jesus said, "For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." The Christian way demands obedience. Our Lord says of worship "Do this." He says of service "Thou shalt love." These are not options for the Christian, they are imperatives.

Finally I would suggest that we can avoid being a dropout only by staying close to the teacher and learning the lessons that finally lead to our graduation.

Yours sincerely,  
HUGH GIRVAN

## CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

- 1 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 5 TRINITY VII: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 6 Monday: TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD. 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 8 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 9 Thursday: 7.45 p.m. Womens' Guild.
- 12 TRINITY VIII: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins. Broadland Primary Service. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 13 Monday: 2.45 p.m. St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary in Hall.
- 14 Tuesday: 6 p.m. Mens' Tea.
- 15 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 19 TRINITY IX: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 21 Tuesday: 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 22 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 24 Friday: ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY. 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 25 Saturday: 7 p.m. R.S.C.M. Festival Service.
- 26 TRINITY X: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 28 Tuesday: 7.45 p.m. Townsend Group.
- 29 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

## WOMENS' GUILD

No July meeting was held, instead Afternoon Tea was given to the senior parishioners. This was a delightful afternoon. Items were given by Mrs. Sargison and Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Stevens accompanied them on the piano. Mrs. Sargison and Rev. Girvan sang a duet which all delighted in listening to. It gave us great pleasure to have gentlemen attend our afternoon and we hope to see more in the future.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Peck, 19 Granville St. Mrs. Peck will speak on Handcrafts and Orchids. Supper hostesses will be Mesdames Peck and Palliser.

## NEW VESTRY

A lively interest in Vestry membership was shown at the Annual Meeting, and a ballot had to be held to elect congregational representation.

Mr. M. M. Easter was appointed Rector's Churchwarden, and Messrs. W. G. Lillico, M. C. Perkins and G. R. Swinnerton Rector's Vestrymen.

Messrs. D. S. Gill and R. J. Roberts were elected Peoples' Churchwardens and Miss S. M. Brownrigg and Messrs. B. M. Easter, R. R. Goldsworthy, A. J. Green, I. J. N. Routley and F. Ikin Peoples' Vestrymen.

New members are Messrs. W. G. Lillico, R. R. Goldsworthy and I. J. N. Routley.

The Churchwarden's report indicated that the next year will see extensive

programmes in building repairs and new expansion. The new Vestry will therefore face vital decisions effecting the parish for many years to come.

## UP-DATING SERVICES

The Annual Meeting unanimously decided to ask the Bishop for permission to use the English Alternative Services Series III Order for Holy Communion. When copies of the service are available it will be used at all Sunday Services of Holy Communion. However the 1662 order will continue to be used at the Wednesday 10.30 a.m. service.

This arrangement will continue for six months, after which a fresh evaluation will be made.

In recommending the English, rather than the proposed Australia '73 order, the Rector gave three reasons for his preference. (a) The English order (as it has been in use in England) is already available in booklet form. (b) Music for the service has been composed and is available. An R.S.C.M. school to introduce this music will be held in Hobart in September. (c) Confirmation materials based upon Series III are available, as are manuals for private devotions.

It may be some weeks before we change but notice will be given through the Pew Sheets.

## PARISH FAMILY WEEKEND

As announced in last month's Messenger, a weekend away has been arranged for families of the parish from

Friday evening 9th November until Sunday afternoon.

Discussion will be led by the Dean of Hobart and Mr. Ron Buckland of the Scripture Union. Dean Butterley, a former C.M.S. Tasmanian Secretary, is well known for his easy manner and challenging leadership. Ron Buckland has conducted seminars for our Sunday School teachers and youth leaders. We are fortunate to have secured the help of two such outstanding leaders.

There will be separate programmes for children and time for fun activities. Application forms will be available next month, but be sure to keep these dates free.

**RETREAT FOR WOMEN**

The Annual Weekend Retreat for women held at St. Michael's Collegiate School will be held from 31st August to 3rd September, beginning on Friday evening and concluding after breakfast on Monday. Women returning to Launceston could leave on Sunday evening.

The Ven. A. S. Goldsworthy of Shepparton, Victoria, will conduct the retreat and applications must be returned to the Sister-in-Charge by 18th August. Cost \$8.00. The Rector will provide further details.

**MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER FOR AUGUST 12th**

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| M. Perkins   | I. Routley    |
| B. Easther   | M. Whitfield. |
| M. Easther   | G. Lillico.   |
| J. Stevenson | G. Hill       |
| N. Woods.    | D. Atkins     |

After completion of our duties, a Bar-B-Q for drivers and helpers will be held at "The Cottage," St. John's Church.

**MOTHERS' UNION**

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Peck, the crochet expert for being our special guest at our last meeting. Fun was had by all — beginners and experienced. Another new member, Mrs. Leslie Donaldson, was welcomed.

Unless news to the contrary in the pew sheet, our next "get-together" will be taking a different form on Tuesday, 21st August at 8 p.m. in the Kindergarten Hall. The speaker from the Police Drug Squad in Hobart will speak about the important topic — "Drugs and its Problems." It is open to all members of the parish and public. We do hope many will take advantage to hear first hand information on this important subject. Mothers' Union members — a plate of supper.

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

The Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday August 13th at 2.45 p.m.

The retiring officers are — President: Mrs. H. Holyman, Secretary: Mrs. E. Palliser, Treasurer: Mrs. M. Easther, Vice Presidents: Mrs. R. Page, Mrs. A. Roake, Committee: Miss M. Bennett, Mrs. G. Wherrett, Mrs. E. Good.

Members of the Auxiliary were represented at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Hospital wing on June 24th, 1973.

On Wednesday morning August 22nd, members and their friends are reminded of the "Coffee Morning" to be held in the Parish Hall at 10.30 a.m. Details were given in last month's Parish paper.

Members are sorry to learn that Miss Vera Andrews is again in hospital, we do trust that she will soon be restored to good health. Miss Andrews is responsible for the lovely home-made bread and rolls that are so often seen on our stalls.

**FLOWER ROSTER**

Church	Chapel
August 5 —	
Mrs. Stevenson	Mrs. Higgins
August 12 —	
Mrs. White	Mrs. Girvan
August 19 —	
Mrs. Robinson	Mrs. Hill
August 26 —	
Mrs. M. Easther	Mrs. Smith
September 2 —	
Mrs. Cornish	Mrs. Greuber

**MODERN LANGUAGE IN WORSHIP**

The use of contemporary language in worship and liturgy has made great strides during the past decade.

The publication of the New English Bible, not to mention other translations, the increasing use of books like Youth Praise and other hymns and songs in present-day language, and the popularity of simple but powerfully written prayers using everyday terms of reference have all helped to bring fresh relevance to the many forms of worship practised by the churches of our land.

It is said by many that the price paid for such up-dating is too high; that in place of the flowing cadences and sonorous phrases of earlier literary styles we have only the drab commonplace utterance of 20th century journalese. More importantly it is claimed something more vital is missing from these latter offerings; power to inspire and challenge the hearers after even constant repetition.

But whatever the weakness of present experiments it cannot be denied that a living, contemporary Church must use a living, contemporary language both for worship and for communication with those outside its fellowship. For these reasons we welcome the increasing prominence being given to, for instance, an agreed modern version of the Lord's Prayer and other classics of Christian Liturgy.

No new version is bound to please everyone straight away but constant usage will point out areas where improvements can be made. Someone has to start somewhere and in saluting pioneer liturgical reformers who are prepared to lead the way and draw much of the fire of criticism, we hope their efforts will receive the intelligent and reasoned response they deserve.

C. of E. Newspaper



**HAPPENINGS**

Were you at church when a recently married sidesman pulled out his handkerchief and thereby emptied onto the narthex carpet his pocket of the confetti so carefully placed in his wedding suit by his mother.

How wrong can you be? Laurie Mitchell was all set last month for his trip to the Gold Coast, but made a detour to St. Vincent's. Good to know he is home again.

Congratulations to the young people who organised the "Generation Service." It was very different and mod, but quite worshipful. If numbers are an indication of approval we should have another soon.

Which reminds me that I overheard Lindsay O'Neill teaching the children a modern setting for the Venite. I understand this and some modern hymns will be mixed with the traditional at this year's R.S.C.M. Festival on 25th August at 7 p.m.

Hear Bruce and Valerie Proverbs are having some wonderful experiences in England. Easter they spent at Tavestock, (an ancient abbey Church). The Tavestock paper reported 1,600 communicants between Palm Sunday and Easter. They also attended the annual pilgrimage to Glastonbury which legend says was visited by Joseph of Arimathea in A.D. 63. Ten thousand took part in this years observance. In October Bruce and Valerie will visit the Holy Land.

Noticed Nat Sonners, the former Rector of Oatlands leaving our hall and learned that, although nearly blind, he comes to Launceston to play for the monthly gatherings for the Society for the Blind. Nice to know our Vestry has made the hall available for the blind folk.

The men keep rather quiet about their monthly tea, but next month's meeting ought to stir them. Max Bushby, M.H.A. is to speak on "Politics and the Permissive Society."

Heard about a Rector's sermon on the relationship between fact and faith. "That you are sitting before me in this church" he said "is a fact." "That I am speaking to you from this pulpit is a fact." "But it is only faith that makes me believe anyone is listening."

*Elizabeth Street*



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