

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,

My first desire is to thank all those who made November an outstanding month in the life of the parish. Our "Parish Family Weekend" at the Christian Youth Centre, Ulverstone, showed us the value of meeting for discussion in a relaxed family group. It was very worthwhile and those present voted with enthusiasm to make it an annual event.

The other outstanding event was our Parish Festival Service and Morning Tea. A full church heard an excellent address by the Rev. Charles Holmes and afterwards, most of those present at the Service enjoyed the fellowship of the parish family. To see so many young couples with their children augers well for the continuing life and witness of the Church.

From these joyous events I now look forward to sharing with you the joy of Christmas. As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, God-in-human-flesh, we are humbled and we are lifted to the heights. Humbled that God should thus act in history for man. Lifted up as we glimpse the potential of man in the face of Christ who was born and lived and died and whom God raised from the dead.

God, in the coming of Jesus Christ, touched the enormous spider web of humanity and set the whole world trembling. The movement continues and will continue to the end of time. We join in this action in our giving, in our loving, in our living as it effects the world for good.

Our celebration of Christmas and our joining in the Christmas Remembrance Bowl Appeal are linked. What we can give to relieve the needs of others may seem as a drop in the ocean, but even a drop creates ripples, and we can never know the end result of what we do. But we know that "no man is an island," separated from the human race, we are bound up together and we share our abundance, we give because He first gave to us.

My wife and family join me in wishing you a truly happy and blessed Christmas.

God bless you,
HUGH GIRVAN.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

- 2 ADVENT SUNDAY: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
3 Monday: 7.30 p.m. O.S.L.
5 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
6 Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Kindergarten Christmas Evening.
9 ADVENT II: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins (Broadland House) 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
11 Tuesday: 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
12 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
14 Friday: 7.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Broadland Old Girls).
16 ADVENT III: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Family Service. 7.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
19 Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
21 ST. THOMAS: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
23 ADVENT IV: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
24 CHRISTMAS EVE: 8 p.m. Carols.
25 CHRISTMAS DAY: 6, 7, 8 and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Evensong.
26 ST. STEPHEN: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
27 ST. JOHN: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
28 HOLY INNOCENTS: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
30 CHRISTMAS I: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Mattins 7.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
31 NEW YEARS EVE: 11.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS BOWL

Do you ever go to bed really hungry? Probably it would be hard to find a single person in our Parish who ever does so, even once a year.

Yet the fact is that two-thirds of the people of the world are going to bed hungry almost every night, and thousands are dying of malnutrition.

It is a clear Christian duty for us who are among the best-fed people of the world, to bring relief to our suffering brethren.

Last year \$750 was given through the St. John's Christmas Bowl Envelopes. We topped the state in church giving to the appeal. Let's see what we can do this year.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve —
8.00 p.m. Festival of Carols.

Christmas Day —
6.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion — Choral.
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.30 p.m. Evensong and Carols.

Please notify the Rector of any desiring Communion in hospital or at home.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 9th.

S. Brownrigg	G. Lilloco
W. Cowell	L. Mitchell
D. Cox	M. Perkins
M. Easther	J. Stevenson
B. Easther	T. White

MOTHERS' UNION

Our congratulations to Mrs. Bev. Smith, who has given much time and patience over a long period to design and embroider a magnificent Mothers' Union banner. The banner, which has been on display in the Embroiderers' Exhibition at the Library, will be sent to our link in Honiara where it will hang in their Cathedral.

To end our year together, we will meet at the Rectory at 8 p.m. on Monday 3rd December. Bring a gift for Clarendon and something "beautiful."

Nola Ayers, Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Kindergarten Christmas evening will be held on Thursday 6th December at 7.15 p.m. Parents are invited to attend.

The final Family Service for the year will be held on Sunday 16th December, at 10 a.m. This service will conclude the Sunday School year.

Owing to the change in school holiday dates, the Sunday School will not recommence until 17th February.

PARISH MESSENGER

Donations to the Parish Messenger help us to defray the cost of printing, postage and distribution together with the "Church News." Donations may be given to the clergy or Church Wardens. Mrs. Shepherd \$1.00, Miss M. Rooney \$1.00, Miss J. Johnston \$1.00, Miss Gregory \$2.00, Mr. G. A. Jones \$2.00, Mrs. Blackett \$10.00, Mrs. B. Phillips \$2.00, Miss Sutton \$2.00.

Thank You.



HAPPENINGS

First place this month to the Parish Family Weekend. My reporter tells me that the discussions were lively, the fellowship wonderful and the food sent the figure conscious home to diet. There is still debate about the slot-cars. If they are for the children, why did the dads hog so much of the time? Those who had to miss out will have their opportunity next October. Those who went this time insisted that there had to be a repeat performance next year.

Am constantly amazed by what a working minority can do. At present I have in mind the St. John's Auxiliary for St. Luke's Hospital. I hear that the Morning Tea, held as usual at Mrs. Holyman's was an outstanding success.

Last month I admitted to a liking for the mod music at the Generation Service. This month I pay tribute to Lindsay O'Neill and those who provided me with a supreme musical feast when I attended "Music for St. Cecilia's Day." It's not a case of either — or, but of both — in their place.

After the one morning service for our Festival Sunday, I am still wondering why we divide our numbers and become two different congregations by having two Sunday morning services. Aren't we missing out by keeping to a custom created for different times?

Good to know that there were those who responded to the Rector's call for help for the impoverished church at Zeehan, and those suffering from the long drought in Ethiopia. If we keep the Second Commandment we can never justify the charity begins at home philosophy.

Miss Kiddle has asked us to thank all who helped raise \$143 for the church carpet fund through the G.F.S. Fair.

A five-year-old boy had one line in a kindergarten Christmas pageant, appearing in an angel's garb he had to say: "I bring you good tidings!" After a rehearsal the boy asked his mother what "tidings" were. She explained tidings was news. Came the performance and he became flustered. After a long, embarrassing silence, he blurted out "Hey, I got news for you!"

It's not news that Christmas is here again, but with the usual Christmas tidings I sign off for this year. A happy Christmas to all from —

Elizabeth Street

FLOWER GUILD ROSTER

Church	Chapel
December 2 —	
Mrs. Stevenson	Mrs. Higgins
December 9 —	
Mrs. White	Mrs. Girvan
December 16 —	
Mrs. Robinson	Mrs. Hill
December 23 —	
Mrs. M. Easther	Mrs. Smith
December 25 —	
All ladies please help.	
December 30 —	
Mrs. Cornish	Mrs. Greuber

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

The Annual Morning Tea which was held at the home of our President, Mrs. V. C. Holyman, Riverdale Grove on Thursday November 1st, once again proved a wonderful success, yet another record was broken — the sum of \$411, including donations was a grand result. The "Doll" competition, which we had this year in lieu of a card afternoon realized \$118. Our sincere thanks to members, friends and supporters on these occasions.

To the President, Mrs. Holyman for her inspiring leadership and hospitality, we tender our thanks. All members enjoyed a sumptuous buffet luncheon after the morning tea, this was greatly enjoyed by members who are so loyal and generous at all times. Mr. & Mrs. R. R. Taylor of Valleyfield, Epping, again supported our stall generously.

At the Annual Meeting of the Hospital, the Secretary presented a cheque for \$800 towards the Building Fund from the Auxiliary.

On behalf of members, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to Rev. Girvan for his interest in the hospital and time given on certain occasions.

The "Compliments of the Season" to all and may God Bless you.

Eunice Palliser,
Secretary.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The November meeting was held at the home of the President, Mrs. White. A most enjoyable time was had by members trying to guess names for photos of members taken when they were children.

Members were pleased at last to have started the arrangements for the re-decorating of the St. John's room at Beresford House. This will be painted and refurbished, and is to be completed by Christmas.

It was suggested to members, and they were in complete agreement, that we send \$2.00 for each boy at Roland Home for Christmas pocket money.

The President and members take this opportunity to wish all parishioners a very happy Christmas and thank you one and all for any assistance they have given us over the past year.

June Harris,
Secretary.

XMAS

Seldom during this particular season of the year does a newspaper fail to receive at least one sincere and indignant letter complaining about someone using the word "Xmas."

Most likely the word was seen on a hastily scrawled sign advertising Christmas trees. For most storeowners — and certainly all newspapers — have learned to shy away from this abbreviation, which in recent years has come to be viewed as almost a smear against beliefs cherished by Christians.

A little investigating into the origin of the word tells a great deal, not only about language but about people. We are too little aware of the ways in which words and spellings are links connecting us with other human beings who lived hundreds of years before us.

Contrary to the common misconception, the "X" in Xmas stands not for an unknown factor and is certainly not a slur on the name of Christ, devised either through malice or laziness.

Nor is it another commercial denigration of the "meaning of Christmas." It is the Greek letter chi, which is the first letter in the word *christos*, from which we derive our word "Christ."

The use of X to stand for Christ began in the early days of Christianity when persecution drove the believers underground — literally — in Rome. The group was forced to take on the aspects of a secret society.

X was also considered a reverent sign because it was a reminder of the cross on which Christ was crucified.

Scholars and monks continued to use the symbol X as shorthand for Christ down through the Middle Ages, long after Christianity was established in Rome. As early as the 11th century, Christmas was referred to as Xmas.

Actually, it is a symbol hoary with age and inextricably linked with "the hopes and fears of all the years" and of the countless generations that have lived and died in the 20 centuries since the first "Xmas."
—Selected.



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Parishioners from the

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St. John's Church



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