

MAY 1973
Supplement to the Church News

MAY 73

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,

During this month of May we observe the victorious season of Easter. Joy and gladness are its keynote. What Saint Paul described to some of his first converts as "our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing" consists in the assurance of the historic Resurrection of the Man who had died and was buried and was raised on the third day — to the glory of the Father.

It is the gladness and joy of the disciples at the miracle of the original Easter which the Evangelists especially emphasise. Nor did these feelings fade away at all with time. A generation later St. Peter could speak of the Saviour as him "whom you love, although you have not seen him; you believe in him, although you do not now see him; and so you rejoice with a great and glorious joy, which words cannot express."

And so it can be to this day. Partly, of course, this is a personal matter. When death strikes, as strike it must, it is on the personal level that the truth of the Resurrection is experienced, for the healing of the broken-hearted and the opening of the prison-house of their grief is only to those who will make the effort of faith and love.

However it is not only as individuals, in the bitter loneliness of bereavement, that Christians through the ages have experienced the marvellous difference to their happiness which the truth of Easter makes. It is also upon the community of Christians, on the Church, that this can have transforming power. As individuals we take the power of the Risen Christ into our own experiences. As members of the Church we together take His power into our world situation.

In a world where everything in politics and economics and the whole social sphere sometimes seems to be a "problem", and often an insoluble one at that, it is for the Church of the Risen One to confront the gloomy world with the spectacle of a joyous fellowship, refusing to be preoccupied with its own problems, however pressing, and insisting that it is still possible for the God of hope to fill men with joy and peace in believing.

If only the modern Church would act upon the apostolic injunction to rejoice in the Lord always, there is no telling how great could be the converting power of this Easter joy. Let us determine to discover afresh this joy and power during this Easter season.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Girvan

CALENDER FOR MAY

2. Wednesday : 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion 10.30 a.m. American Tea for Mother's Union.
6. EASTER II: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Holy Communion, 7 p.m. Evensong.
7. Monday : 7.30 p.m. O.S.L.
8. Tuesday : 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
9. Wednesday : 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion, 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
10. Thursday : 7.45 p.m. Annual Meeting of Women's Guild.
13. EASTER III: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Morning Prayer. 7 p.m. Evensong.
14. Monday : 2.45 p.m. St. Luke's Auxiliary.
15. Tuesday : 8 p.m. Mother's Union.
16. Wednesday : 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
20. EASTER IV: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Holy Communion, 7 p.m. Carol Service.
22. Tuesday : 8 p.m. Townsend Group.
23. Wednesday : 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
27. EASTER V: 8 a.m. Holy Communion 10 a.m. Family Service. 7 p.m. Easter Evensong.
30. Wednesday : 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
31. ASCENSION DAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER

May 13th —

S. Brownrigg, D. Cox, W. Donaldson, B. Easther, M. Easther, G. Hill, G. Lillico, M. Perkins, J. Stevenson, M. Whitfield.

If unable to attend please advise M. Perkins. Phone 31 3541.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Our May meeting will be our Annual Meeting and will take place at the Rectory at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 10th. All members are urged to be present.

At our last meeting Mrs. Holyman delighted us with some of her memories of the airline industry.

Some of our members made the Palm Crosses for this year's Palm Sunday observance.

Now that Lent is past, anyone who can help with flowers for the church should contact any of the ladies on the flower roster.

FLOWER GUILD ROSTER

Church

Chapel

May 6 —

Mrs. M. Easther

Mrs. Smith

May 13 —

Mrs. Cornish

Mrs. Greuber

May 20 —

Mrs. Swinnerton

Mrs. Thompson

May 27 —

Mrs. Page

Mrs. Crawford

MOTHERS' UNION

Please remember 2nd May, 10.30 a.m. when we are having an AMERICAN TEA to support Mrs. Robinson, our State President, to attend Central Council meeting in England. All welcome.

Anyone requiring M.U. Souvenir Tea Towels can order through our Secretary. Price \$1.00.

Miss Mack will show slides of her world trips at our next meeting on Tuesday, 15th May. Supper Hostesses: Mrs. Piper and Mrs. Bonney.

This month our competition will be a novelty gift. Gifts for Overseas Sale are to be collected too.

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

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday May, 14th at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses: Mrs. M. Easther and Mrs. MacLaine.

On Mothering Sunday, members of our Auxiliary, together with other Church Auxiliary members made and presented posies of flowers to all Patients and Staff at St. Luke's. These were greatly appreciated by each one.

The Afternoon at the "Dairy and Cheese Board" rooms proved quite successful. Our thanks to members who attended.



HAPPENINGS

"Well done St. John's" was the comment from the Rev. Norman Cocks, State Secretary for World Christian Action when he heard the amount given through St. John's to the Christmas Bowl Appeal was \$753.

* * *

Have been asked to pass on Easter greetings from Bruce and Valerie Proverbs. After time spent in New Zealand and the U.S.A. they are now living at 70 Willersley Ave., Sidcup, Kent, U.K.

* * *

Bruce Proverbs suggests an overseas branch of St. John's. During April it included the Proverbs, the Ikins, the Fords, Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Watson. The Fords expect to be back in Launceston in June, but Rodney will stay in England to continue with his organ studies.

* * *

St. John's lost a dear soul with the death of Evelyn Dodery. A member of the Guild and the St. Luke's Auxiliary, her life was full of service to others.

* * *

Hope you heard the "St. John's Singers" on Good Friday. Representing the choirs of St. John's Devonport and St. John's Launceston their presentation was of a standard not often reached, except by cathedral choirs and specialist groups.

* * *

Nice to see our Mothers' Union (mostly young marrieds) caring for the older ladies by bringing them to Communion in Holy Week and then entertaining them to morning tea.

* * *

An offer has been made of a television set for lending to elderly or sick and at home folk. If you know where it can be placed, contact the Rector.

* * *

Hear the Fitness Follies for Flabby Females is going well. If you want to join ladies it is on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Kinder Hall.

* * *

Noticed that some of our young lads are now serving in the Sanctuary. If my memory serves me right most of them are former choristers.

* * *

True confession often helps our prospective. The story is told of a questionnaire sent out by the parish church which asked: A. How far do you live from the church? and B. How long does it take you to get to church? The answers on one return were: A. One mile. B. About three months.

Elizabeth Street

SYMBOLS ARE A NECESSARY PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE-STYLE

One thing that has struck me in recent months is the search by many ministers and laymen for meaningful symbols.

If this continues to grow the time may not be far off when the Presbyterian Church that does not have a large cross in the sanctuary will be an oddity.

Now, before we start screaming about Romish practices corrupting the pure faith, let us ask ourselves whether in fact the Reformation did not see the demise of art in Protestantism? Denouncing the worship of images was laudable, but discouraging the use of art forms in Christian worship was to throw out the baby with the bath water. The result has been that for centuries many Protestant churches were barren of any art forms. One has not to dig too deep into the Scottish Presbyterian tradition to realise that organs and hymns were considered devilish!

Man, however, cannot live without artistic expression. If his worship is therefore stripped of music, dance and art it will soon have a debilitating effect on his total personality and no matter how intellectual and cerebral and even relevant the preaching may be, it too soon loses its ability to grip and challenge the worshipper.

The argument that God is a spirit and not worshipped in temples made by hands is true. It certainly warns us against locating our security in our buildings; and God knows we need to learn this truth today, as many instances in the church union fiasco have proved. But having granted that, it must be maintained that worship to be meaningful must be that offered by the total man, which means that his soul, his psyche, must also play an integral part.

This is the reason, I think, for the renewed search for symbols in Presbyterian circles. Crosses are back in vogue, as are engraved communion tables, symbolic stoles, and even symbolic acts like the danced offertory.

The real danger, of course, in many cases of experimental worship services is that they may be unwitting attempts to cover up a lack of true commitment and spirituality. If this be so, then no matter how beautiful and up-dated the symbols may be it will still be hollow and meaningless. The truth is that symbols must go hand in hand with the Word. A symbol that is not explained soon becomes an idol requiring the reformer's hammer. When used apart from proclamation as to its function, a symbol can easily lead a congregation to magic. One dreads even to suggest it, but is this not what baptism has become for many in the Church who want their children "done"?

True, symbols are not only expression's of faith — they are inspirers of faith. It is the symbolic act that will speak eloquently to our very functional and empirical generation.

Let us not forget that symbols can and have often become clashing cymbals, sound with no meaning, form with no content. But let us also remember that without symbols man cannot live and express himself.

— Australian Presbyterian Life.

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.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Ford, \$5.00, Mrs. Lee, \$1.00, Mrs. W. Annear, \$2.00, Mr. Atkins, \$5.00, Mrs. P. Williams, \$1.00, Miss Sutton, \$2.00, Anon. \$4.00.

Thank you.



EASTER CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 20th May

7 p.m.

MURDER OF THE UNBORN

It is striking how around the world today in many places abortion on demand is finding its place as a perfectly acceptable and valid health measure. It is a little frightening to note how public opinion can shift so far so fast. It's only just another example of how the Christian moral code can quickly wither when Christian faith has died. One of the results of this is that people then begin to have a purely mechanical or animal idea of sex, and can with cold deliberation plan the destruction of an unborn child. One is not talking here, of course, of those performed to save the mother's life. Helen Mason in an article in the "Manchester Guardian" writes: 'I support the cry of women for sovereignty over their own bodies, and I believe they have the inalienable right not to conceive. However, I think it should be remembered that once they have conceived, what they are asking for, and getting, is rights of life and death over not their own bodies but another person.' In her judgment, and this is the Biblical judgement, those who travel the abortion way are deciding to kill another person.

444 CONFIRMED

The rapid growth of the Anglican Church in Papua-New Guinea is highlighted in some statistics from a recent week.

At St. David's, Eiwo, the Rev. Caedmon Koieba baptised 157 people in one day. The following day Bishop George Ambo confirmed 444. The following Sunday, Bishop Ambo and Dr. Caedmon celebrated for the newly confirmed and there were 702 communicants.

By chance, the confirmation took place on the 11th anniversary of Bishop Ambo's consecration.

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