

PARISH MESSENGER

FOR

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA

(ANGLICAN)

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Rector: The Rev'd Ernest Horth, Th.L.
(Telephone: 31 5218)
Assistant: The Rev'd Robert McKay, B.V.Sc., Th.Dip.
(Telephone: 31 4896)
Acting Organist: Miss G. Cohen (Telephone: 44 8436)
Office Secretaries: Mrs. J. Ikin; Mrs. J. Kilby.

THE RECTOR'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

In his book titled "New Wine and Old Wineskins" (IVP) Howard A. Snyder draws attention to the words of Jesus in St. Luke's Gospel, Chapter 5, verses 37, 38: "No one puts new wine into old wineskins, for the new wine bursts the old skins, ruining the skins and spilling the wine. New wine must be put into new wine skins." (Living Bible). He then asks the fundamental question, what did Jesus mean? His book proceeds to open up this question in a fascinating and revealing study of "church structure in a technological age".

Michael Griffiths in his book "Cinderella with Amnesia" (IVP) pursues a practical discussion of the relevance of the church in this latter part of the 20th century. He commences his introduction by saying, "Christians collectively seem to be suffering from a strange amnesia. A high proportion of people who 'go to church' have forgotten what it is all for. Week by week they attend services in a special building and go through their particular, time honoured routine, but give little thought to the purpose of what they are doing."

Two excellent books by Robert C. Girard (Zondervan) titled "Brethren, Hang Loose" and "Brethren, Hang Together" are worthy of your attention. In the first the author reveals his frustration with

the institutional, evangelical church, its inability to give control of itself to the Holy Spirit, its preoccupation with secondary things, and its lack of spontaneity, freshness and genuine spiritual power. His book tells the story of how a church found a new face. In the second book Girard builds on the first by telling the continuing story of what has happened. He reveals the weaknesses and imperfections, points to the risks involved and the areas of deep pain and sickness, as well as positive areas of progress and spiritual growth. The aim of this second book is to sharpen the vision of the church by focussing on the vital relationships with which it is supplied by its Head, Jesus Christ.

Going back to Snyder, he says "God is a God of newness. On the one hand he is the Ancient of Days, 'the Father of Lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change' (James 1:17), and Jesus Christ is 'the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8). But this does not mean that God is static or stationary. The history of God's people in the Bible and the history of the Christian Church show just the opposite. In every age the true biblical gospel is a message of newness and renewal.

God has not stopped doing new things. The Bible says, 'We wait for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.' (2 Peter 3:13). Many of the Old Testament prophecies already cited were fulfilled in part with the coming of Christ and birth of the Church, but the prophetic fund has not yet been exhausted. Unfulfilled prophecies and promises of new things remain. At the end of the Bible God is still saying, 'Behold, I make all things new.' (Rev. 21:5)."

We will celebrate Whitsunday on the 30th May. In doing so may our hearts, minds and souls be opened to the renewal of God's Holy Spirit. May we experience at St. John's the truth found in Scripture "Behold, I make all things new." A number of parishioners have commented about St. John's that they are looking for 'an outgoing, progressive, enlivened church'. If that request is to be reality then, as individuals and a congregation we personally must be 'an outgoing, progressive, enlivened people'. There are no magic short cuts nor supermen in ministry to bring about this change. Only the Holy Spirit can make such change by working in the hearts and lives of believing people — you and me. We therefore, wait on Him with expectation and anticipation.

Your friend in Christ,

RECTOR.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8 a.m. Every Sunday; 10 a.m. 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday; 7 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday.

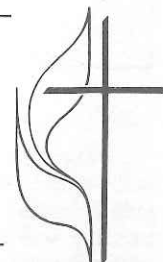
Family Service: 10 a.m. 2nd Sunday. Morning Prayer: 10 a.m. 4th Sunday.

Evening Prayer: 7 p.m. 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday.

(Laying on of Hands — 7 p.m. 4th Sunday).

WEEKDAYS

7.30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Holy Communion: 10.30 a.m. Wednesday.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

28th March	—	Denise Elizabeth Goldfinch
18th April	—	Shai Victoria Clayton
18th "	—	Jackaleen Johnston.

MARRIAGES

3rd April	—	John Lawrence Richardson to Lesley Maureen Long.
3rd "	—	Raymond Paul Dimmack to Barbara Jean White.
10th "	—	David William McKelvie Snare to Carolyn Louise Watson.
17th "	—	Christopher William Burgess to Susan Lorraine Mace.
17th "	—	Daryl James Pendrey to Jennifer Louise Gates.
24th "	—	Michael James Hepburn to Heather Joy Wilson.

DEATHS

21st March	—	Graham Reginald Davis
28th "	—	Hedley James Hayes
31st "	—	Clarence Joseph Ellis
6th April	—	John Richard Driscoll
16th "	—	Betty Patricia Poole.

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BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

May is the month for the half yearly opening of B.C.A. boxes, which may be left at the Parish Office of 'phone Celia Hill (261877) for collection. \$150.00 was mailed to Melbourne Office of B.C.A. following the opening of boxes in November. This is most pleasing and is always much appreciated by the Society. "Thank you" to all.

ASCENSION

When Jesus' work on earth was done he took leave of his disciples and went to be with his Father. A time for sad farewells, one might think. Yet the Church celebrates the Ascension with special joy. What is the reason for joy when Jesus leaves his people?

The Ascension is not the end of Jesus' work, but a new beginning! How could Jesus ever leave us alone? Because he has gone to be Lord of the universe he can continue his work of life and love—among us too. His work was not just a short episode in Galilee. In the person of the Holy Spirit the same Lord is present among us, still revealing the Father's loving heart, so that we too can believe—and sing songs of joy.

Dr. F. Hebart.

MOTHERS' UNION

Next meeting, Tuesday 18th May. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Hellinga who will demonstrate floral art particularly suitable for church arrangements and posies. This meeting will commence with a short service at 7.45 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

G.F.S. TOWNSEND

We are having a Beetle Evening in the Parish Centre on Tuesday, 25th May at 7.45 p.m. We invite parishioners and friends to come and enjoy a happy evening, closing with supper. \$1.00 donation and proceeds go to our G.F.S. Townsend Church Carpet Fund.

SUNDAY SCHOOL — TOWER GROUPS
JUNIOR CHOIR

Saturday — 8th May

BUSHMAN'S PICNIC

at Holwell

Bus leaves Parish Centre at 9.30 a.m. and has brief stop at Memorial Hall, Beaconsfield. At Holwell there will be various activities and a BUSHMAN'S MEAL including Damper and Billy Tea. Back at Beaconsfield in early afternoon there will be a session of BUSH DANCING and we will be back at the Parish Centre at 4 p.m. If weather is bad we will spend all the time in the Hall at Beaconsfield. Forms available through the above groups. Donation \$1.50 for first child. Family maximum \$3.00.

CHILDREN!! — Be sure to dress like a Bushman. (Bring your own mug with name on it).

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TEA

Next meeting TUESDAY, 11TH MAY at the Parish Centre — 6 p.m. Guest Speaker from the Christian Police Association. Cost \$3.00.



I FEEL LIKE A PENCIL IN GOD'S
HAND ... GOD WRITES THROUGH
US AND HOWEVER IMPERFECT AN
INSTRUMENT WE MAY BE, HE
WRITES BEAUTIFULLY'

Mother Teresa of India

God never intended his church to be a refrigerator in which to preserve perishable piety. He intended it to be an incubator in which to hatch out new converts.

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Big man and Pentecost

Many years ago, when cutting my ministerial teeth, I was nurtured by a big, elderly layman. He was big in body, voice, mind and spirit, with a wealth of wisdom gleaned from many mistakes as well as achievements in his Christian discipleship.

Big-Man loved celebrating the day of Pentecost when the Spirit was "poured out on all flesh." Pentecost was deeply imbedded in his faith and practice. When he read Acts 2, his big voice booming like a tuba, everybody listened; one knew that he was somehow deeply involved in the story.

In the "charismatic" movement of the 1930's Big-Man had been very active. He had welcomed it as a sign of revival in a moribund church.

After a few years as a most appreciated pastor, my old friend began to have serious questions. Then one difficult day, Big-Man resolutely turned his back on it. He even went to the point of publicly repenting in his home congregation. (He always did things with a touch of "class").

It was not that he thought the movement was all wrong. He continued to treasure many things about it. Big-Man was led to the conviction that the "charismatic" movement of that era was a grave distortion of the Gospel with exaggeration of the lesser gifts of the Spirit.

by Bruce Prewer

When I knew Big-Man he still spoke in tongues—and enjoyed it! He felt it was a means for him to express one aspect of his experience as a Christian. So he continued to speak in tongues, alone, in a cave three miles from the town where he lived.

As Big-Man saw it, the real test as to whether he was a genuine New Testament charismatic or not, was not what took place when he was in the cave, but what happened day by day in his secular community. There, in the town, he must use his gifts to exhibit the works of Jesus Christ in faith, hope and love. The cave was a helpful luxury to him; witness in the community was essential.

Caves and/or community? Balance? It's not only those who speak in tongues who have their caves!

Big-Man was my friend, brother, counsellor and prayer partner. How I grieved when he died. Often I remember him with affection and his wisdom gleaned from mistakes as well as achievements. Especially I remember him when I'm tempted to forsake tough discipleship within a secular community for a cave of my own spiritual enjoyment.

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MEALS ON WHEELS

The following parishioners are rostered for Sunday 9th May at 11.15 a.m. If unable to attend please ring Lesley or Michael Perkins on 28 1358 (home).

M. Perkins, M. Brian, M. Jansson, D. Gill, J. Green, M. Willson, W. Cowell, G. Swinnerton, M. Clare, V. Murgatroyd.

— PARISH NOTES —

WOMEN'S GUILD

The next meeting on Thursday, 13th May will be the Annual Meeting and we look for the usual good attendance when the office bearers for the ensuing year will be elected. Supper hostesses: B. Parramore, K. Ford, N. Peck.

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

Members of St. John's Auxiliary will meet again in the Parish Centre on Monday, 10th May at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses: Miss W. Green, Mrs. J. Green and Mrs. K. Sutton.

On Wednesday, 12th May we are holding our Morning Tea from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Donation \$1.00. The usual well-stocked stalls, cakes, preserves etc. and flower stall will be a feature. A cordial invitation is extended to the friends of St. Luke's Hospital.

Our last donation to the hospital of \$340 was directed towards the hospital trolley and two chairs.



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 churchwardens.

Mrs. A. Roach \$5.00, Mrs. M. Heacoate \$5.00, Mrs. H. Morgan \$10.00, T.E. & P. Burns \$5.00, Anon \$5.00, M. H. Maclaine \$5.00, Mrs. M. Carter \$6.00, Mrs. C. Latta \$4.00, Mrs. B. Phillips \$5.00, Mrs. J. Godfrey \$5.00, Mrs. J. I. Nichols \$5.00, Mr. and Mrs. E. Asmus \$1.00.

THANK YOU.

Reflections

BEATING BIRTHDAYS

"The bondage of birthdays need not be accepted," writes a man of 85 who went to work at 12 and retired at 82.

For more than sixty years he was a lay preacher, and he was still taking services most Sundays when he was in his eighties. In his seventies he became a hospital visitor, visiting sick people six evenings and four afternoons a week.

"I look forward to doing this work for a good while yet," he says.

After retiring he went to Oxford University for a course of New Testament studies.

"The best way I know of beating birthdays is to try to make life less grim for other people," continues his letter.

And so say all of us.

Dorothy O'Neill

KINDERGARTEN & SUB-PRIMARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

We commenced Sunday School for 1982 on 21st February with most children returning. We would be pleased to welcome some new children. Kindergarten - 3 or 3½ to 5 years: Sub-Primary - Grades 1 and 2, and it is a happy time for all.

We commence at 10 a.m. to approximately 11.15 a.m. There is no Sunday School during school holidays.

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Meeting Weekly:

- Home Bible Study - 7.30 p.m. Monday.
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study, C.M.S. House - 9.15 a.m.
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study, Rectory - 8 p.m.
- G.F.S. - 6 p.m. Wednesday.
- "Know your Bible" series for women in Rectory - 10.15 a.m. Thursday.
- C.E.B.S. - 6 p.m. Thursday.
- Choir - 7.30 p.m.
- Youth Group - 7.30 p.m. Friday.

Meeting Monthly:

- 2nd Monday - St. John's Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital 2.45 p.m.
- 2nd Tuesday - Men's Tea 6.00 p.m.
- 2nd Thursday - Women's Guild 7.45 p.m.
- 3rd Tuesday - Mother's Union 7.45 p.m.
- 4th Tuesday - G.F.S. Townsend 7.45 p.m.

*** DIARY SPECIALS (MAY) ***

- Tuesday 4th - 2 p.m. Diocesan Council.
- Saturday 8th - 9.30 a.m./4 p.m. Sunday School Tower Groups and Junior Choir "Bushman's Picnic".
- Tuesday 11th - Men's Tea Fellowship - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday 12th - 10 a.m./12 noon St. John's Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital Morning Tea.
- Sunday 23rd - 10 a.m. Service and Dedication for the Order of the British Empire.
- Tuesday 25th - 7.45 p.m. Beetle Evening - G.F.S. Townsend.

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Growing

Lord,

spare me not, for in my weakness,
I find your strength.

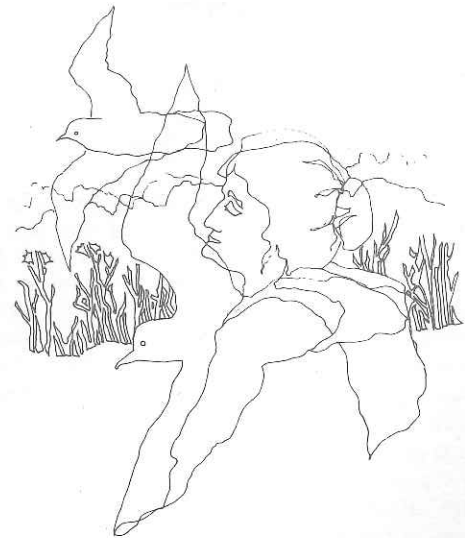
In my sorrow, I feel your comforting.

In humility, I rise on your wing.

In loving you, I am able to love others.

In rising, I glimpse your glory, and share
gladly with others, your fragment of joy.

Ruby Saunders



QUOTES FOR THE MONTH

"Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be."

Thomas a Kempis

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"Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change.
And when we are right, make us easy to live with."

Peter Marshall.