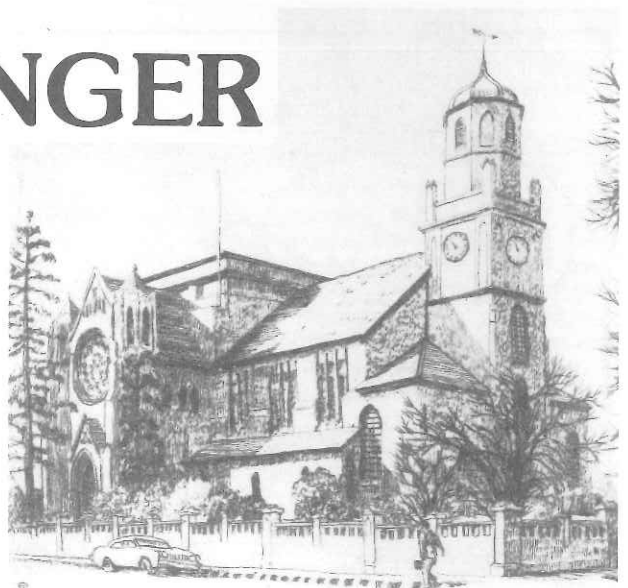


ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

PARISH MESSENGER

Postal Address: 157 St. John Street, Launceston 7250
Office Telephone: (003) 31 4896 (9 a.m. — 1 p.m.)

Rector: The Rev'd Ernest E. Horth, Th. L.
(Telephone: 31 5218)
Assistant: The Rev'd Robert W. McKay, B.V.Sc., Th.Dip.
(Telephone: 31 4566)
Organist: Mr. William Pierce, B.A. (Syd.),
F.R.C.O., F.T.C.L., L.Mus.A.
(Telephone 31 1676)
Assistant Organist: Miss Gaylene Cohen, A.Mus.A.,
Assoc.Dip.T.C.A.E., L.T.C.L.
Layreaders: Mr. Bruce Proverbs, A.A.S.A., F.C.I.S.
Mr. Lloyd Bath, M.A., Th.L., A.L.A.A.
Mr. Ross Mitchell, B.E.(Civil), M.I.E.(Aust.)
Office Secretaries: Mrs. J. Ikin, Mrs. J. Kilby



“ACCEPT ONE ANOTHER”

Have you a **personal** relationship with Jesus Christ? Yes? Great! But don't stop there.

Often we put so much emphasis on the **personal** side of Christianity that we forget we are part of the **community** of God's chosen people — with a responsibility to be with one another and get along with one another.

Jesus never meant us to be a “private Christian”. Is there even such a thing? His saving grace not only restores our relationship to God but also restores our relationships to one another.

Many recent articles and books by Christian writers have drawn attention to this subject. The following is an extract from one such article “The Shape of the Future Church”, written by Robert D. Brinsmead and published by Verdict Publications (used with permission). In it Brinsmead quotes from a book by Jurgen Moltmann, “The Open Church: Invitation to a Messianic Lifestyle” (London: SCM Press, 1978).

“To Christians divided along Jewish and Gentile lines Paul wrote, “**Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you**” (Rom. 15:7, NIV). People today are alone even in church. They are hurt most

by their lack of human relationships. Fine preaching cannot compensate for a church “devoid of genuine human contact.”

In practice the church has followed Aristotle's principle: “Birds of a feather flock together.” We associate only with those who think our thoughts and exclude those who are different, because they make us feel insecure. But this is contrary to Christ, who by the passion of his cross made us acceptable to God. . . .

With all of our rough edges and unagreeable dispositions, we are acknowledged by Christ, brought to the glory of God, and loved with passion. If this were not true, then who would we be — a leaf in the wind, a particle of dust on the street? But if it is true that we are loved with God's passion — and I believe that this is more certain than we think — then who are we?

We are no longer individuals but a congregation in which the one accepts the other in the way that one has already been accepted by Christ. The old and very bleak principle, “Birds of a feather flock together” is then no longer valid. Instead, people who are radically different take pleasure in and accept each other. *Christian* (and this means liberating) community, then, no longer means only to sit next to those with

whom I agree but also to sit next to those with whom I do not agree. Functioning with this meaning of community, we would no longer come together in order to confirm for each other the eternally same stories, jokes, and opinions, but would rather create an open and hospitable community which would bring friendliness into the unfriendly corners of this society.

Congregation, then, is no longer the sum of all those who are registered as members on the church rolls. Congregation is rather a new kind of living together for human beings that affirms:

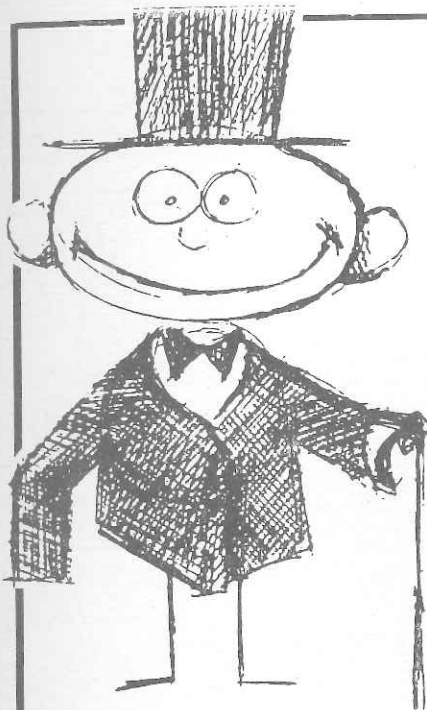
- that no one is alone with his or her problems,
- that no one has to conceal his or her disabilities,
- that there are not some who have the say and others who have nothing to say,
- that neither the old nor the little ones are isolated,
- that one bears the other even when it is unpleasant and there is no agreement, and
- that, finally, the one can also at times leave the other in peace when the other needs it.”

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.



Start preparing
now for
**ST. JOHN'S
PARISH
FAMILY CONCERT**

to be held
FRIDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER
7.30 p.m.
in the **PARISH CENTRE**

All offers of items for inclusion
in the programme welcome.

Don't be backward
in coming forward!

RSVP with full details to concert committee convenor —
Graeme Lillico, Telephone: 31 9517, or in writing to 23 Wilhemina Avenue,
West Launceston no later than 21/8/83.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Guild met on the 14th July with 19 members attending. Arrangements concerning the Spring Floral Festival in September are well in hand, and we look forward to a renewal of contact with ladies from varying Organisations and Churches during this lovely time of the year.

Contributions are being made towards a Flower Pedestal in memory of Mrs. Merle Anne White from her many friends in the Church. The Pedestal will be used in the Church, and suitably inscribed commemorating her loving association and commitment to our various Organisations.

NEXT MEETING —
Thursday, 11th August.

SUPPER HOSTESSES:—
Miss Barnes, Mesdames Thompson and Plumridge.

French author Voltaire predicted that in 100 years the Bible would be a forgotten book. One hundred years after his prediction his house was a headquarters for the Bible Society.

MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union have a new adopted son at Royal Derwent Hospital — **SIMON PRICE**. Simon is 12 years old, with a mental age of 14 months, and is very bright and affectionate. Any members wishing to visit Simon are asked to contact the Reverend David Lewis at St. Matthew's, New Norfolk. Please welcome Simon into our Parish Family and remember him in your prayers.

I have an idea that it is Christ we must present to young people and old alike; it is His claim on lives that needs to be experienced. I believe that He, if He is lifted up, will draw all men to Himself, just as He said He would.

—Bishop Newell,
addressing Youth Synod
1983, at Launceston.

HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

"If a kingdom is divided against itself,
that kingdom cannot stand.

If a house is divided against itself,
that house cannot stand."

To His followers Christ Jesus
commanded

"Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love
one another.

All men will know you are my disciples
if you love one another."

BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

\$125.30 has been forwarded to B.C.A. for the May box opening, making a total for this financial year of \$290.30, for which the Society is most grateful. I have a few spare boxes on hand if anyone cares to take one to help the Church in Outback Australia.

CELIA HILL (Telephone: 26 1877)

JOYCE LANDORF FILM SERIES

The Joyce Landorf film series, "His Stubborn Love", will be concluding Sunday 7th August, at St. Aiden's, commencing 4.30 p.m.

Joyce Landorf is an especially gifted speaker, able to entertain and encourage her listeners as well as provide positive suggestions on how to manage crises and problems of everyday living. She speaks from the heart — very warmly and honestly, using as illustrations her own personal feelings and experiences. We all found it easy to identify with her at different times and certainly were often moved by what she said.

The films have been a real blessing to the many, both men and women, who have seen them.

Thank you to those who were involved in the procuring and running of the films and a special thanks to those who manned the much-used creche for the hour.

If you were unable to see the films, or would like to refresh yourself on what Joyce Landorf has to say, you may be interested to read some of her books. These have been on sale at the screenings and are also available from the C.M.S. Bookshop. Titles include—

- "His stubborn Love,"
- "I Came to Love You Late",
- "Joyce, I Feel I Know You",
- "For Me and My Family",
- "The Fragrance of Beauty",
- "Mourning Song".

DIARY SPECIALS AND PRAYER POINTERS

- August 7 —
3.00 p.m. Music Recital
3.30-4.30 p.m. Confirmation Class
4.30-6.00 p.m. Joyce Landorf Film, St. Aidan's
- August 13 —
12.30-4.30 p.m. Discovery Afternoon
- August 15-18 —
Clergy Conference
- August 18 —
7.30 p.m. Pre-Synod Conference (Parish Centre)
- August 20 —
12 noon-5.00 p.m. RSCM Annual Meeting
- August 22 —
3.00 p.m. Bible Society State Committee Annual General Meeting and Dinner to follow
- August 24 —
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY
7.30 a.m. Holy Communion 1-4.00 p.m. Mothers' Union Overseas Day
- August 26 —
7.30 p.m. GFS Concert (in Parish Centre)
- August 27 —
2.00 p.m. GFS Townsend Progressive Games Afternoon (in aid of the Church Carpet) in Parish Centre

**THE
RECTOR'S
LETTER**



Dear friends,

Our gracious Heavenly Father gave my wife Ida and me a deliverance from serious injury in a recent car accident. Prior to my admission to hospital, Ida and I looked at the car before repair work commenced. When we saw the indent of my head in the damaged roof, we realised how very real was our deliverance and our hearts were uplifted to the Lord in thankfulness. Ida received no physical injury but her nervous system came under strain and our two girls (not with us in the car) received a considerable shock. The severe blow on the head has put me out of action, on and off, for a month.

We want to thank you for your love and prayers. I'm sure you understand why the parish office staff have been so protective of the Rectory family. You have all been wonderful — the cards, gifts, flowers and letters, plus verbal messages, have encouraged us. Furthermore, the manner in which the Reverend Bob McKay and members of the congregation have rallied to fill the gap, has reassured me and permitted me to "switch off" and rest. Numerous "shacks" have been offered for our use and one parishioner generously paid for us to have a weekend away. How can we ever thank you all for your kindness?

Please continue to pray for us. The enforced rest has made me realise just how crazy the tempo of life has been. My greatest fear, having enjoyed the "normality" of these last few weeks, is what will happen once I get back on the job again. I owe my wife and daughters a big vote of thanks for their patience and self-sacrifice for the benefit of my ministry.

PERMISSIVE PLUNDER

During the time of my convalescence I have noted the cry of agony and despair in the news media over the growth of vandalism, violence, marriage breakdown and

insecurity. Headlines appeared "Streets of fear! Kids told: Don't walk alone during the day" — too many are being violently or sexually molested. Another headline stated "Murder rate doubles in Victoria." There is growing concern expressed about violence and pornography, especially now with such ready availability of video tapes. The Family Law Act is being blamed for the escalation in marriage breakdown, custody and property implications. A popular radio talkback programme devoted a whole segment to discussion of vandalism and what society should be doing about it. Parents came in for considerable accusation. Only one person in the whole programme revealed something of the misery and hopelessness which has imprisoned individuals and families, encouraging expression of frustration and anger in acts of vandalism. This society of ours is sick. We squeal and moan about declining standards but want to be left alone in our comfortable armchairs expecting others to take action.

**WARNING SIGNALS FROM
SCRIPTURE**

The first chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans deserves our close scrutiny. We live, generally speaking in a careless and shameless society which is quick to stick the boot in and blame others. This first chapter of Romans makes me shudder when I reflect on its implications, e.g. verse 28 —

"Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done."

and verse 32 —

"Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them."

The scriptures are clear, unless we repent, we perish. Obviously, the more permissive we become the more we neglect "God's righteous decree", the more our society will be overcome by hurt and failure and confusion. How will we know what is normality any more? There is the need for us to do an about-turn, to make a change of direction in the pattern of life we live.

**VICTORY AND HOPE ARE
AVAILABLE**

Because of our declining standards, a blame we all must share and not just point at the parliamentarians, (although they too must face up to the implications of their decisions), we will gain no great advancement by thumping moral issues. In fact, such moralistic action may increase the feeling of depression and hopelessness because individuals desire to be free from their prison but their efforts to escape have proved fruitless. Only in Jesus, the Christ, will our society find the ability and will to live a moral and free life, a life of fun, enjoyment and fulfilment.

The Christian Church has been given by God an opportunity to proclaim the love of Jesus, the forgiveness Jesus alone can give, the new and abundant life available through and in Him. The Christian Church has been given by God a responsibility to support the weak, the poor and the afflicted, to minister to the fatherless, the widows and the distressed. Jesus Himself stated, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (Jn. 10:10) Furthermore, Jesus challenged, "Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice'. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matt. 9:13).

Unless we at St. John's become agonised by the lostness of this society and motivated to share the good news about salvation in Jesus Christ, so that others may be saved, we will have failed. Launceston has a large number of people crying out for forgiveness and hope. We know that Jesus Himself shared with those in need because of the accusation levelled at Him. "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" (Matt. 11:19).

May our witness and proclamation of the good news of salvation in Christ bring many "sinners" to repentance and new life, hope and fulfilment in Him. Otherwise we are wasting our time and energy; we will develop into a 'respectable' club, and St. John's will increasingly become irrelevant to the real needs of people in our society. Honourable though they be, we are not just here to conduct church services or sing church music. Unless we are evangelizing the lost and strengthening the new converts in fellowship, study, worship and song, we are no longer "making disciples". (Matt. 28:19,20).

Will you join with me in asking the Holy Spirit to lead and teach us in the way which is right?

Your friend and Rector,

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

Members of the Auxiliary will meet again on Monday, 8th August at 2.45 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

Afternoon Tea hostesses:
Mesdames L. Cornish, L. Ikin, and Dicker.

A very successful Annual Meeting. All office bearers were unanimously re-elected for the year 1983-1984.

Letters from friends at Barclay House thank members for the birthday gifts. It is nice to know that these gifts are so much appreciated by the patients and very gratifying to the Auxiliary members.

G.F.S. CONCERT
 in the PARISH CENTRE
 on FRIDAY, 26th AUGUST
 at 7.30 p.m.
 \$1.50 — adults
 50 cents — children
 \$3.50 — families
ALL WELCOME

In 1865, Dr. Sabine Baring-Gould, a clergyman in England, wrote the hymn, "Onward! Christian Soldiers," as a marching song for the children of his church school. The story is told — and if it isn't true, it should be — that when the bishop of the diocese heard the hymn he objected to the line, "With the cross of Jesus going on before." He said it "smacked of Romish practices." To meet the bishop's silly objection, the author suggested a change: "With the cross of Jesus left behind the door." According to the story, the bishop immediately surrendered.

"I SPY" REPORTS

A Tasmanian Sacristan has uniquely blended Paul's advice to the New Testament Church, "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss", with Isaiah's prophesy "the bricks are fallen, but we will build".
 All in the cause . . . ???



BASKETBALL CLUB

All players in the St. John's Basketball Club have enjoyed their first year of competition in the Northern Baptist Basketball Association roster.

Although we haven't had a successful year in terms of winning games we have improved our standard of play a great deal and have enjoyed the sport and fellowship which is what involvement in the Association is all about. Its aim is —

"to provide opportunities of fellowship among the people of our churches and to take every opportunity to further the cause of Jesus Christ."

We will finish the year with our own club end-of-year get together and an Association dinner in September.

The finals are to be held on August 6, 13 and 20, at Dowling Street. These are always exciting matches with a high a standard of play and plenty of atmosphere (especially at the grand final — August 20), so do come and join us as spectators if you can make it.

Next year we hope to field two men's teams as well as two women's teams so we need more players. There will be an informal Spring roster (especially for new players) during October and November. We could encourage anyone interested in playing with us next year or during the Spring roster to contact Neville Windsor (Telephone: 44 8669).

Finally, a big thank you to those people who came and supported us during the year, who helped on the stall and door and those whose very generous donations helped us get started.

PARISH REGISTER

Marriages

- 18th June —Graeme Leslie Paine to Christina Rosemary Gatenby
- 9th July —Grant Ronald Strange to Debra Gayle Black
- 9th July —Eric George McGuire to Lillian Faye Atkinson

Deaths

- 30th May —Rena Joyce Kelly
- 8th June —Annette Elsie Katrina Waugh
- 11th June —Thomas Edgar Burns
- 25th June —Colin James Jordan
- 26th June —Harriet Hunter
- 30th June —Lila Grace Watts
- 6th July —John Adam Bissell

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. R. Cornish \$10.00
- Mrs. K. Sutton \$5.00
- Mrs. H. A. Cox \$5.00
- Mrs. H. Palliser \$5.00
- Mrs. J. A. Whitney \$5.00
- Mrs. L. Cutts \$5.00
- Mrs. K. Robinson \$5.00
- Mrs. M. Carter \$5.00
- Mr. & Mrs. E. Asmus \$1.00
- Mrs. M. Gardner \$5.00
- Mrs. J. Darlow \$5.00
- Mrs. J. D. Godfrey \$5.00
- Mrs. J. Nichols \$5.00
- Mr. A. Meek \$10.00
- Anon. \$5.00
- Mrs. J. Roach \$5.00
- Miss D. Lockwood \$3.00
- Mrs. J. Ingram \$10.00

THANK YOU

PARISH ORGANISATIONS

Bible Studies

- * Monday Home Study 7.30 p.m.
- * Wednesday morning at CMS House 9.15 a.m.
- * "Know your Bible" series for women 10.15 a.m. Thursday.

Weekly Meetings

- * GFS — 6.00 p.m. Wednesday.
- * CEBS — 6.00 p.m. Thursday.
- * Choir — 7.30 p.m. Thursday
- * Youth Fellowship — 7.30 p.m. Friday.

Monthly Meetings

- * 2nd Monday 2.45 p.m. — St. John's Auxiliary to St. Luke's Hospital.
- * 2nd Tuesday 6.00 p.m. — Men's Tea.
- * 2nd Thursday 7.45 p.m. — Women's Guild.
- * 4th Tuesday 9.45 a.m. — GFS Townsend.
- * 3rd Tuesdays 10.00 a.m. — Mothers' Union.

Note — last two groups experimenting with morning meetings.

**SATURDAY, 13th AUGUST
 IS**

Discovery Afternoon

The afternoon is being set aside so that the people of St. John's can gather and help each other to:—

- Discover their talents
- Discover their spiritual gifts
- Discover how to use these in God's service.

- * We will begin with lunch at 12.30 p.m.
- * A creche will be provided for at least part of the time.
- * We aim to conclude by 4 p.m.

FOR EVERYONE