

# PARISH MESSENGER

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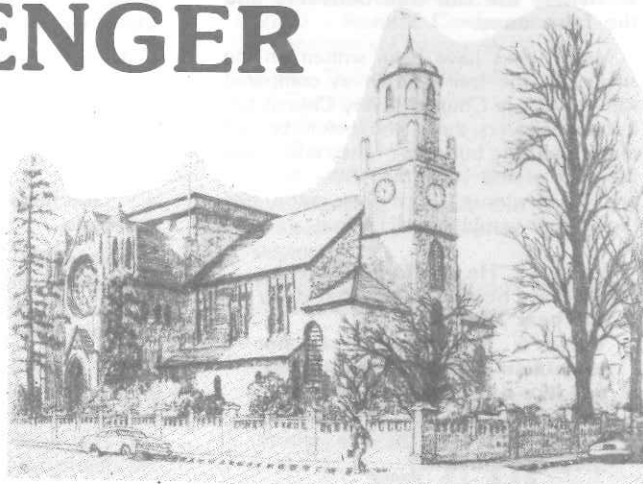
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Mr. Lloyd Bath, M.A., Th.L., A.L.A.A.  
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## OUR RELATION TO CHRIST — UNION AND FRUITFULNESS

- From the Sermon given by Rev. Ernest Horth

at the Commissioning of Sister Jan Syme, February 12th, 1984

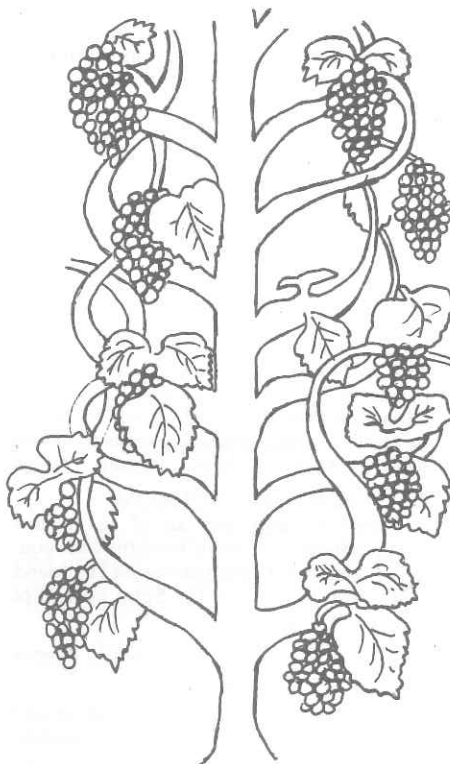
As Sister Jan Syme has in this service been publicly commissioned for ministry in this Parish, I have her very much in mind at this moment, yet what is shared from the Scripture now is relevant to us all, for all of us who love Jesus our Lord, each one is called to ministry, each one is a member of the priesthood of all believers, each one who names the name of Jesus is called to follow Him. Therefore, let us note right at the beginning that "Union and Fruitfulness" is our relation to Christ.

From our New Testament reading this morning John 15: 1-11, I take my text -

**Jn.15.4 "Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me."**

Let us briefly look at the first seven verses of John chapter 15 to see what they can teach us. Let us particularly note that we cannot bear fruit unless we remain in Him.

**1. The relation or union between Christ and believers is an intimate one.**



Verse four says "Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you." Jesus is the vine, the believers are the branches. While the branch is attached to the vine it has life, vitality, strength and productiveness. Separate that branch from the vine and the branch has no life of its own, it is dead.

Jan has just come out of College where a group of dedicated, like-minded people have supported and encouraged each other. All of them were training for service and leadership. A stimulating situation. Now comes a time of coming down to earth, homesickness, a bit scared, vulnerable to how other people react to her, wanting to be accepted and loved. Whatever happens, Jn. 15:4 is an encouragement to "remain united to Jesus and Jesus will remain united to you." Remove yourself from Jesus, take your eyes off Him and your soul will shrivel up because the sap it needs, the juice for the soul that flows from the vine, will be cut off. While you remain in union with Jesus, He will sustain you no matter how tough the situation, no matter how lonely the walk, for He is the Bread of Life and the Living Water. In Him you will never go hungry, your soul will be completely satisfied. Take your eyes off Jesus, put your faith in man instead of Jesus, and your soul will dry up and die.

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8 a.m. Every Sunday; 10 a.m. 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday; 7.00 p.m. 2nd and 4th Sunday  
Family Service: 10 a.m. 2nd Sunday, Morning Prayer: 10 a.m. 4th Sunday  
Evening Prayer: 7.00 p.m. 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday.  
(Laying on of Hands — 7.00 p.m. 4th Sunday)

### WEEKDAYS

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

**2. There are the true believers and the false ones.**

Many books have been written on the subject of the true Church as compared with the visible Church. Every Church has its false believers, those who look to be part of the true vine but aren't - they don't bear the fruit of the vine, they have no vital union with Jesus, for if that union was there, they would bear His fruit.

**Verse 2 - "He (the Father) breaks off every branch in me that does not bear fruit . . ."**

**Verse 6 "Whoever does not remain in me (Jesus) is thrown out like a branch and dries up; such branches are gathered up and thrown into the fire, where they are burned."**

A frightening picture, a serious picture for those out of union with Jesus. As the writer to the Hebrews states - "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." We are not playing a game, we are not engaged in a part-time hobby, we are involved with a relationship that changes lives and bears fruit.

There is a mission field right in the Church itself. Many people professing Christ have no inner union with Him. Talk of the vine is foreign language - their religion is not in a person but formal, outward, expressions. They have been Baptised, even become a church member, regular communicant, and sometimes an outspoken talker about religion. They hear countless sermons, participate in the sacrament, attend Bible Studies or even prayer meetings - but those not of the vine have no grace in their hearts, no faith, no inward work of the Holy Spirit, there is no fruit of the vine evident in them.

Here is a challenge to help these false Christians to return to the Lord repent and remain in Jesus, otherwise they will be pruned off and lost forever.

**3. The fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of a person remaining in Christ.**

**Verse 4 - "A branch cannot bear fruit itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me."**

Instead of trying to prove we are Christians by doing good works or making speeches, let the Holy Spirit show that we "remain in Christ" by the fruit of Christ in our lives. Gal. 5:22f "But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have given us life; he must also control our lives. We must not be proud or irritate one another or be jealous of one another."

Bishop J.C. Ryle wrote "Where there is no fruit of the Spirit to be seen, there is no vital religion in the heart. The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus will always make Himself

known in the daily conduct of those in whom He dwells."

Jesus Himself stated, Lk 6:43,44 - "A healthy tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a poor tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by the fruit it bears". You cannot bear fruit unless you remain in Jesus.

**4. God increases our holiness by His methods.**

**Verse 2b - "He prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will be clean and bear more fruit."**

The New Testament often speaks of the trial which will come upon us for our disciplining and maturing in the faith. If life was easy, we would have no need to plumb the depths of God's love and forgiveness. In the times of trial we are brought low, we have some of our rough edges knocked off, we are put through the refiner's fire, so our faith and love of Jesus will be richer because we found Him true to His word in the midst of our deepest needs.

**5. God promises his resources through prayer.**

**Verse 7. - "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it."**

The person abiding in Christ has the life and mind of Christ, and knows what to pray for according to His will, which God will grant. People complain about unanswered prayer, or claim God doesn't care, but they haven't yet learned to remain, to abide in Jesus.

James 4: 3f - "And when you ask, you do not receive it because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures. Unfaithful people! Don't you know that to be the world's friend means to be God's enemy? Whoever wants to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy."

Therefore, Jan and all of us in this congregation who share ministry with you, let us remain in Christ that we be His friend and reveal the fruit of His Spirit instead of ours or the world's

May each of us be challenged to deeper communion with our Lord.

May each of us be willing to pour out our hearts to Him, resting on Him, seeking His guidance and strength, waiting on Him, and learning from Him.

A powerless person, a powerless Vestry, a powerless Church, a powerless Sunday School Teacher or Rector or Evangelist is one who will not remain or abide in Christ.

As Jan commences her ministry in our midst and as we share with her in that ministry, may we all be pointed to the true vine, for there is the source of spiritual vitality and fruitfulness.

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**MOTHER'S UNION**

At our first meeting for 1984, Sr. Jan Syme was a very welcome guest. Jan shared with us her ideas on evangelism for everyone, illustrated with diagrams and a few brainteasers to keep us alert! Many thanks, Jan, and welcome to St. John's.

The March meeting on Tuesday March 20, will be our Annual General Meeting, starting with Holy Communion in the Chapel at 7.45 p.m. All members are asked to seriously and prayerfully consider standing for office, as all 4 positions - Enrolling Member, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer - will be falling vacant. Both our Enrolling Member (Mrs. Sue Cartledge) and our Treasurer (Mrs. Dorothy Grueder) will not be standing again for personal reasons. Please keep the AGM and election of officer-bearers in your prayers during March.

Young Mothers in the Parish family - Mothers' Union is for You! Ask any of our members, or ring Lorraine Watson on 31 9315 or Sue Cartledge on 31 5789 for details. Mothers' Union is vitally concerned about marriage and christian family life.

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**1984 - A SPECIAL YEAR OF PRAYER FOR PEACE**

All Mothers' Union members, and indeed all parishioners, are invited and urged to use the following Prayer for peace daily in their personal prayers as well as during meetings and services.

**PRAYER FOR PEACE**

*Blessed Father,  
The God of justice and peace;  
Give peace to your world;  
Inspire our leaders with vision and faith;  
Lead all peoples in the paths of justice,  
And make us willing instruments of your peace:  
Through him who is the Prince of Peace,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

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lenten offerings, make a special effort to help the victims still in need. Once I hear from the Vicar of Gisborne, I will pass on to parishioners any special requests for help.

Your friend and Rector,

*Ernest E. Horth*

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**MISS BROWNRIGG RETIRES FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

After approximately 50 years of service to our Lord and His children in St. John's Sunday School, Miss Brownrigg believes it is time to step down and make room for some younger people to have the privilege of responsibility. In addition, she believes the Lord has other areas of service for her to now give time and attention to.

Miss Brownrigg commenced her ministry as a pianist and Secretary of the Kindergarten section before moving on to a Grade One class, then 12 year olds. Her next step was to lead the Bible Class for many years and then the Companionship Group. In the later part of her Ministry she was a regular class teacher, then Secretary to the whole Sunday School and in 1983 was acting Superintendent.

Words seem a very shallow, insufficient method of saying thanks for such service to our Lord and the children of this parish. Sybil, we express our thanks for all you have given so freely of yourself for the benefit of others. We praise God that He has already called other parishioners to take up the tasks you fulfilled and we realise this has helped you recognise the rightness of your decision.

We assure you of our thanks and prayerful support as you give of yourself in other areas of parish ministry.

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**WOMEN'S GUILD**

At our first meeting for the year, we had the pleasure of welcoming two new members - Mrs. Shirley Lawrence and Mrs. Mollie Hanson.

Our fund-raising projects for 1984 will commence with a "St. John's Garage Sale", Morning and Afternoon Tea, plus stalls - on **Saturday, 31st March**. We hope that our fellow parishioners will use this day to rid themselves of unwanted possessions, bric-a-brac, even furniture etc. Produce, plants, cakes etc. for our stalls too would be appreciated. If transport of goods required, phone 27 2484.

**LUNCHEON:-JUNE 21st (Thursday)  
12 noon to 2 p.m.**

**September - MANNEQUIN PARADE -  
Date to be fixed.**

We value your support, without which we cannot financially assist our projects, which include The Roland Boys Home, Clarendon Children's Home, Glenview Home for the Aged.

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S GUILD - Annual Conference - "St. Andrew's Church Westbury"**

10 a.m. Tuesday, 13th March  
Transport available  
Phone 31 2796 or  
Phone 31 5750  
(as soon as possible)

**Next Meeting: March 8th 7.45 p.m.  
Speaker: Mrs Jean Butler on cooking**

**Supper Hostesses: Misses Butler and Parramore. Mrs. Fletcher.**

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

8 A.M. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion

**\*\* LENT STUDIES \*\***

commence after 7.30 p.m.  
Holy Communion Service  
**Ash Wednesday  
7th March  
and  
continue each Wednesday  
till Holy Week.**

**Subject**  
"Humanly Speaking -The Psalms"  
**Leader**  
The Reverend Craig Arnold

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**FREEZER BANK**

Sister Jan is organising a freezer bank - a new way in which we can show ourselves to be a caring church.

**Deposits:** Sometimes when cooking make an extra casserole, cake, batch of biscuits, etc. and put it in your freezer. Let Jan know that you have something for the freezer bank "on call".

**Withdrawals:** Let Jan know, as promptly as possible, of anyone in need, eg. through illness, bereavement, etc. We may even make use of the food for entertainment of visitors to St. John's.

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

The first meeting will be held on Monday, 12th March at 2.45 p.m.  
**Afternoon Tea Hostesses:** Mesdames Holyman, Green and Miss Barclay

Dear Friends

While on holiday in early January, the Rectory family was able to visit Macedon and Mount Macedon in Victoria. We were able to see, first hand, some of the devastation caused by the Ash Wednesday fires. Although many new homes are evident, ruins still remain. Nature has come back to life with new growth in some localities but the horror and ferocity of that day is still plain to see. Mount Macedon was a beautiful forest of pine and native trees, The Memorial Cross located on the summit could, prior to the fires, only be seen from only one direction, now it stands naked on the mountain top amongst the blackened remains of a once magnificent forest setting.

What grieved us most were the stories of continuing hardship being experienced by the victims. Some families are living in their fourth or fifth caravan since the fire. Real psychological trauma is still experienced by some who are sick of mud or dust, cramped quarters, laundry problems and identity crisis. These difficulties are compounded when they become victims again, this time at the hands of unscrupulous people taking advantages.

St. John's Women's Guild sent money to each of the parishes which lost churches. Mrs Kath Ford passed to me a copy of Gisborne Parish Paper with the cover title "Ash Wednesday 1983". Macedon and Mount Macedon are part of the Gisborne parish and I personally know the Vicar, the Reverend Ken Parker. I have written to Ken asking if there is anything we can do to help and I'm sure you will be only too willing to offer what assistance you can. During February a young man by the name of John has worshipped with us while in Tasmania gaining forestry experience for his University studies. John comes from the Parish of Gisborne and gives us a personal link with the people who are still in deep need.

Ash Wednesday is the 7th March this year. Could we make that day a special day of prayer for the bushfire victims and during Lent, in addition to our mission





The newlyweds - **Marilyn and Craig Arnold**, who were married at St Aidan's, on 4th February, 1984. Congratulations and God's blessings on your life together.

### PARISH FAMILY CAMP 11/13th May

Don't forget our camp at Camp Clayton, Ulverstone, as enrolments will begin soon. This should be a great opportunity to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere, and we hope **you** will be there, whether as a family or an individual. Details about costs and organisation will be announced shortly.

Why not consider joining our Camp Club? In this way you can spread the cost of the camp over several weeks instead of paying all at once. Enrolment forms will be available soon. The camp Treasurer will be Pam and Neville Windsor (Ph. 44 8669).

### ST. JOHN'S BASKETBALL CLUB

The 1984 winter roster begins on 10th March and this year we have increased our number of teams to four. Training has already begun at Broadland House gymnasium on Tuesday nights (women's teams at 7 p.m., men's teams at 8 p.m.). We still have room for a few more players (**any** age, **any** level of experience), so if you are interested, contact Neville or Pam Windsor on 44 8669.

Why not come along to our games as a spectator? We would love to have your support and what other entertainment for the whole family can you get for 50¢ or so? A copy of the roster will be placed in the Parish Centre, and that will tell you where our games are each week.

### BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

From the November box opening a cheque for \$175.00 was forwarded to B.C.A. Melbourne office, which has been acknowledged and the Society is always most grateful for our continued support.

Celia Hill

### CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CONVENTIONS INTERNATIONAL

The Annual Tasmanian Convention will be held at "Camp Clayton", Ulverstone, Tasmania, 6th - 8th April, 1984. Details re programme and registration form from the Parish Office. Bookings close 26th March.

### ANGLICAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A "Quiet Day" will be held Tuesday, 3rd April, at St. Mary's Hagley, commencing at 10 a.m. with Communion and ending at 3.30 p.m. B.Y.O. lunch and a folding chair for sitting on the lawns.

**The AGE-OLD QUESTION** asked by so many, "Why me?" or "Why my husband, wife, son, etc.?", or "Why such a good person?", always begs the return question, "Why not?". Christians are not guaranteed any special physical favours - they have a human body like the rest of the world does, and it can suffer like the rest. Since we share a world with other sinners, we can be affected by their sin also. When you feel so injured as to ask this question, turn again to the Book of Job. There is nothing wrong with the questioning, searching and seeking answers to our problems, as long as they drive us back to God. The real difference for Christians who suffer, as compared to others, is that they believe that God knows, loves, and cares for them, and will help them to bear whatever is their misfortune or problem, and in His good time will send the solution. To paraphrase Job, "Whatever happens, I will trust Him!". TRUST, and dependence on the will of the Father, is the beginning of wisdom. "Nothing can separate us from the love of God" cries St Paul. Make sure that nothing, not even sickness or trouble, separates YOU from HIM.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

5th Feb — Emily Jayne Ford

19th Feb — Belinda Jayne Bishop

### Marriages

4th Feb — Stephen Desmond Richmond to Lynda Carole Dexter

11th Feb — Gregory Mark Stokes to Lynette Jane Stone

25th Feb — Michael Higginson to Sandra Hammersley

### Deaths

18th Feb — Margaret Brown Sculthorpe

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### DIARY SPECIALS FOR MARCH

Friday, 2nd March

11.00 a.m. Memorial Service for Mrs. W. R. Menzies

Tuesday, 6th March

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
Mothers Union Diocesan Council

Wednesday 7th March

**Ash Wednesday Services**

Saturday 24th March

7.30 p.m. Concert prior to Miss Glover's departure for Geelong

Sunday 25th March

10 a.m. Morning Prayer -

Bishop Newell Preacher

Royal Commonwealth Society Attending.

Friday 30th March

8.00 p.m. The Reverend Bill Percy

Inducted as Rector of

St. George's, Invermay

Saturday, 31st March

10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. Women's Guild

"Garage" Sale

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### 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.

\* GEBS — 6.00 p.m. (Pages) 6.30 p.m. (Esquires) 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 7.45 p.m. — Mothers' Union.