

- ANNOUNCEMENT -

Following the departure on 7th December of the Rector and family to their new appointment in Canberra, the Reverend Brian Mattingley will be joining the ministry team during December.

Arrangements are well in hand for a Locum from January 1987 and an announcement is expected shortly.

As we welcome the Reverend Mattingley to St. John's, we wish the Rector, Ida and the girls every blessing in the years ahead, at the same time expressing our grateful thanks for their ministry with us over the last five years.

CHANGE TO OFFICE STAFF

The Vestry is happy to announce that Miss Val Murgatroyd has been appointed Parish Office Secretary/Administrative Assistant from Monday, 5th January 1987. Many in the congregation will already know Val, and we wish her well in her new appointment. The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year, reopening 5th January.

BROADLAND OLD GIRLS' SERVICE AND BREAKFAST

7 am Holy Communion Service on Tuesday, 9th December, followed by breakfast in the Parish Centre.

CMS SUMMER SCHOOL

23rd-26th January 1987. Woodfield Lodge, Dysart. Missionary Speakers: Steven & Narelle Etherington (from Oenpelli, Northern Territory). For further details, contact Miss Sybil Brownrigg on 31 1520.

SUMMER CAMPS

Details of summer camps for young people are on the table in the Narthex. Sailing Camp: Teenagers 14-17; Montgomery Park Camp: Boys and Girls 8-11 yrs; East Coast Canoe Camp: 11-13 yrs; Primary Boys' Camp: Boys 6-12 yrs; Rocky Cape Camp: 12-15 yrs.

SUPPLEMENT TO CHURCH NEWS

DECEMBER 1986

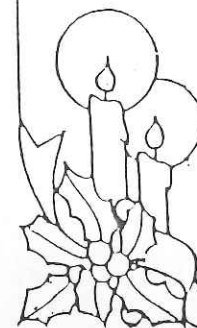
ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

PARISH MESSENGER

Christmas Services

Wednesday, 24th December
8.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols
11.30 pm Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Holy Communion
Friday, 26th - St. Stephen
8.00 am Holy Communion
Saturday, 27th - St. John
8.00 am Holy Communion
Sunday, 28th - The Innocents
8.00 am/7.00 pm Holy Communion
10.00 am Morning Prayer
Wednesday, 31st December
11.30 pm Watchnight Service
(Holy Communion)



Postal Address: 157 St. John Street, Launceston, 7250
Office Telephone: (003) 314896 (9am-1pm)

Rector: The Rev'd Ernest E. Horth (315218)
Assistants: The Rev'd Brian A. Curtis (314566)
Sister Jan Syme (314896/341234)
Organist: Mr. William Pierce (311676)
Assistant Organist: Miss Gaylene Cohen
Lay Readers: Mr. Bruce Proverbs
Mr. Lloyd Bath
Mrs. Lana Wall
Mr. Tony Walsh
Mr. Glenn Clark
Office Secretaries: Mrs. J. Ikin, Mrs. J. Kilby



THE
RECTOR'S
LETTER



Dear friends in Christ,

News of our departure for Canberra has caused a great deal of grief both to parishioners and ourselves. After five years involvement in the life of the Parish plus the wider community, sharing in both the joys and sorrows, it is no easy thing to move elsewhere. As a family, we have experienced considerable stress while packing and preparing for this move. All of us feel exhausted by the cost involved but are grateful of your prayer support. Trying to settle into a new environment will take quite a bit of energy and emotional resources.

These past five years have been a mixture of agony and excitement. During the infamous 1984 much harm was done by the controversies that centred on the Chancel Steps Project. While my own self-confidence suffered, individual parishioners felt hurt and grieved. However, wonder of wonders, it is since that eventful year that deep and lasting spiritual change has taken place in the life and ministry at St. John's - Praise the Lord!

I make no secret of my vision to see the beauty and usability of St. John's enhanced by the Chancel Steps modifications, along with some new carpet. What has been more important though, is the rich experience of being part of the increase in love and forgiveness, to take part in the growth of lay ministry and the spiritual development of individuals in their walk with Jesus. What a joy to see so many parishioners offering themselves in service for our Lord and His Church.

Ida, Kathryn and Louise join me in thanking you for your prayer support and love. Few people seem to realize how difficult it is, in the modern day, to survive as a family in St. John's Rectory. The constant demands of the Parish and wider community, the demands of such a large house, plus the loneliness and vulnerability of not having neighbours. Our special thanks to all who understand and who helped relieve some of the difficulties. Only in the recent Long Service Leave, when the pressure was off, did we come to appreciate and relax in the Rectory.

We sincerely believe the Lord is calling us out of St. John's into this next field of service for Him. We equally believe the Lord has the man of His choice



lined up to come as your next Rector. May he recognize the Call and obey it. May he and his family be the richer for your love and care of them. As you seek after a new 'under-shepherd' for the flock, let me leave you with some encouragement from Scripture -

"God who is rich in mercy; out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses: made us alive together with Christ, and raised us up with him: and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace: in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus." (Eph.2:4-7)

Jesus has drawn us together, even with all our faults and failings, "that he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace". My heart-felt appreciation is expressed to the Reverend Brian Curtis and Sister Jan Syme for all their help and encouragement, plus the special contribution of each to the life of the Parish. My thanks to all "The Ministry Team" and the army of parishioners involved at the front-line for the Lord. Particular thanks to Mrs. Joan Ikin and her "girls", they have carried the burden of the day in any organisational restructuring or the mountains of letters to be typed and the phone to be answered.

All at the Rectory leave you with our fondest love and prayerful encouragement in preparation for the next exciting chapter in your witness to Launceston and beyond.

Your friend and Rector,

ERNEST E. HORTH

REPORTS

WOMEN'S GUILD

There was a good attendance at the November meeting, which was the final meeting for 1986. Members are reminded that the Christmas Dinner is at Archers Manor on 11th December at 7pm. Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year to members and parishioners.

MEALS ON WHEELS

As from January 1987, the Meals on Wheels Roster will be organised by the Parish Office. Those on the January roster will be notified in due course.

