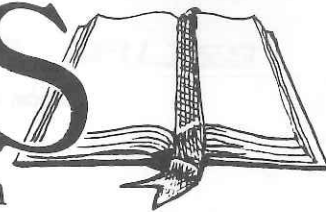


# GOOD NEWS

from St. John's Anglican Parish, Launceston



D E C E M B E R 1 9 9 0

**Where is He?  
Star leads  
the  
Wise Men.**



Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

When Herod the king heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: *'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd my people Israel,'*"

Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child, and when you have found *him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

*Matthew 2:1-11*

**Join us in worship any Sunday  
8am — 10am — 7pm  
Wednesday 10.30am**

CHRISTMAS - "FROM A DISTANCE"

"From a distance there is harmony and it echoes through the land.

It's the hope of hope,

It's the love of love,

This is the song of every man."

(Words from the song "From a Distance" sung by Bette Midler(USA) & Cliff Richards(UK)).

Christmas is a time of reflecting. A happy time for some and a sad time for others - a season filled with the reflections of life. We see brightly coloured decorations expressing the joy of life; the awe and wonder of children; good will amongst friends, colleagues and neighbours; family gatherings; work parties; social times; numerous barbeques and so on. It is a season filled with hope as people flock to churches or public parks to sing carols and enjoy, even for a moment, a harmony that lifts us and a love personified by a vulnerable nativity and an innocent baby Jesus.

As we reflect on Christmas dare we ask, "Why is it not possible for this peace and hope and love to exist all year round?" But even at Christmas there is sadness for those who suffer. For those who are trapped in the poverty of being deprived of love and shelter, of positive family and relationships, of peace with others, of peace within, of hope of any kind and of food enough to sustain life.

Let us praise God for the tremendous gains in world peace between the USSR and USA and in the European community. But as I write the same news bulletin tells of the end of the 'Cold War' and of the escalation of the armies in the Gulf Crisis, and while we have enough food in the world to feed everybody many still die of starvation. Where is the harmony, the hope, or the love in this?

As Christians we stand, with others, guilty for the injustices that we have known and yet omitted to do anything about. As Christians we can show a lead in the practical application of the hope and love we know. A hope and love that is lasting and not tinsel thin. A peace that is permanent and outlasts presents and pretty paper.

The Christ of Christmas gives us the sort of 'long range' perspective that we hear about in Bette Midler's song on the radio. 'From a distance' you see beyond the individual scars in the picture of life to see the total landscape. It is also true that we are accountable to a "God (who) is watching us - from a distance."

The stunning news of Christmas, however, is that God is not removed at a distance but HE IS NEAR. GOD IS WITH US - "EMMANUEL". The challenge of Christmas is whether we will allow Christ to come and change our lives continually and permanently as our Saviour and Lord such that we can share His hope with others.

DAVID HAYMAN

"BOOTS 'N' ALL"

A Scripture Union offering you the opportunity to share in a range of outdoor activities led by experienced 'bushies Christians'. Please contact the Group Leader well in advance as trips are subject to changes.

1st - 2nd December 1990

FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK

This trip is a walk around the peninsular track to enjoy the red granite mountains and magnificent beaches of the park.

Contact - Alistair Hose  
ph. [003] 31 7661  
"~~~~~"Also"~~~~~"

8th December 1990

MOUNT MAURICE

An easy family walk through rain forest and beautiful wild flower areas.

Contact - Andrew Madden  
ph. [003] 27 2512  
"~~~~~"Next walk, February"~~~~~"

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

On Sunday 10th February 1991 there is to be a Parish Picnic and Outdoor Service at 'Carnaroo'. please note this date in your diary. In past years this has proved to be a favourite with the youth of the parish and the young at heart.

Continue to pray for the organisers of the coming Bill Newman Crusade. Several churches have already registered for the Crusade and the choir now numbered about 60 people.

PARISH TEA & MEN'S TEA

TWO GREAT SUCCESSES !!

Thank you to the organisers.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our members join for Holy Communion on Wednesday 14th to give thanks for a happy year. Some of us can give thanks for over thirty years membership of this group.

\$340 has been sent to 'Clarendon Home' as a result of our luncheon.

The final activity for 1990 will be a special Christmas Communion and Morning Tea on 19th December. Please pass the word around and let us know if you would like transport, please 'phone Marj Easter on 31 5750.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas as we rejoice in our Saviour's birth.

ANOTHER POET WRITES

HEAVEN ABOVE

Lord, Our Creator  
I thank you for Earth  
The ground, the sky  
And our individual worth.  
You made us whole  
In sending your Son  
And for this I thank you.  
How could I run?  
Your grace so amazing  
Your love so true,  
Your wonders abounding  
For this we thank you.  
For those who are sick  
And those in distress  
Your comfort is there  
Lord, you are the best.  
For our family and friends,  
For all whom we love  
We thank you, O God,  
Who reigns in Heaven Above.

Tanya Davidson.

MISSIONARY OUTREACH

FROM ST JOHN'S

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE WEST COAST  
To our wonderful friends at St John's, may this Christmas Season be a reminder of "the very great and precious promises" that God has given us in His Son Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4).

During the past twelve months we have experienced much of the fulfilment of God's promises in our ministry on the West Coast. As well, we have learnt to wait and to trust for His time and place.

We continue to praise God for the prayer support that has come from St John's and we are thankful too for the many practical ways in which we are being supported by folk there.

St John's ministry in Tasmania reaches out much wider than the Parish itself!!

To God be the Glory.

Henry and Jenny Ivey

! ! FOUND ! !  
These words were found in an old Bible about 1790;  
Men's works with empty chaff  
are stored  
God's scriptures, golden grains  
afford  
Reject the chaff, and spend thy pains  
In gethering up these golden grains.

Anon.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

1990

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
8:00am. Holy Communion  
10:00am. Morning Prayer  
7:00pm. Holy Communion  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve  
8:00pm. Nine Lessons and Carols  
11:30pm. Holy Communion  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
8:00am. Holy Communion  
10:00am. Holy Communion  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve  
11:30pm. Holy Communion

NEW PRAYER

BOOKS

The Vestry has decided to order 25 more copies of "An Australian Prayer Book" for St John's as the first 100 have been fully subscribed. If you would like to participate in this scheme we invite you to donate \$12, the price of a new book with a plastic jacket. This is a special bulk price offered to St John's through the generosity of the CMS Bookstore.

Your donation may be left at the Parish Office. Books may be given as a memorial or your own name may be inserted inside. Please include this information with your donation.

NOVEMBER REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Damien Robert Page  
Anna-Lee Louise Morrison

MARRIAGES

Grant Taylor & Cindy-Lou Sulcs  
Kevin Hampton & Tammy Blake  
Barry Tepper & Marcia Morgan  
Craig Waters & Lindy O'Berne  
Jeffery Grubb & Debra McIntosh  
Gerald Best & Wendy Jacobson  
Shane Dewsberry & Susanne Haas  
Gregory Sawford & Jacqueline Hall  
Darren Diprose & Lisa Ruffin

BURIALS

Lily Lange  
: : :

MEALS ON WHEELS

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 1990

R. Deavin, S. Perkins, M. Wing,  
W. Donaldson, M. Jansson, M. Willson,  
D. Plumridge, R. Mansfield,  
V. Murgatroyd.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1991

J. Ball, H. Burke, J. Green/H. Pitt,  
A. Neale, M. Perkins, P. Phelps,  
L. Philips, J. Roberts, D. Sheldrick,  
L. Knowles

Please note: ALL MEALS ARE COLLECTED FROM THE LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL. Also note: IF YOU ARE ROSTERED ON A DAY THAT DOES NOT SUIT, PLEASE ARRANGE YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE. THIS IS IMPORTANT

ST JOHN'S WELFARE AUXILIARY

A successful Morning Tea was held on 14<sup>th</sup> November and over \$300.00 was raised. We extend our thanks to all members and friends for their support.

A donation of \$200.00 has been given to the Revd David Hayman for his ministry as Chaplain to Tertiary Students.

The Auxiliary will be in recess until the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1991.

Seasons greetings to all from our President and members.

! ADVERTISEMENT !

"ENGRAVED IN MEMORY"

Special price for pre-Christmas sale!  
\$24.00

Enquiries; Jenny Gill ph. 31 1150 or a written message c/o the Parish Office.  
!!!!!!!

EDITORIAL NOTE

Parishioners are reminded that the deadline for the JANUARY issue is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1990.

Please leave items for publication at the "Parish Office BEFORE that date.

\* SUPPLEMENT \*  
\* TO THE \*  
\* CHURCH NEWS \*

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