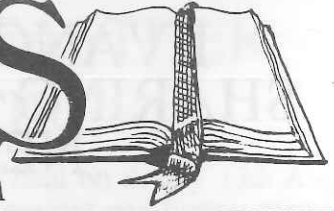


GOOD NEWS

from St. John's Anglican Parish, Launceston



SEPTEMBER 1990

DIRECTORY

RECTOR:
Rev. John A Brook 31 5218
ASSISTANT:
Rev. Paul Wood
CHAPLAIN TO TERTIARY STUDENTS:
Rev. David Hayman 31 3925
ORGANIST:
Mr William Pierce 31 1676
OFFICE SECRETARY:
Miss Valerie Murgatroyd
Office (9am to 2 pm) 31 4896
Address: 157 St. John Street Launceston. 7250

PARISH GROUPS

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL:
10am, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday 39 1771
FAMILY SERVICE:
10am, 2nd Sunday
SENIOR YOUTH GROUP:
Sunday 5.00pm 272374
SAM SINGLES & MARRIEDS
Tuesday 7.30pm 44 8596
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Thursday 4.30 - 5.30pm 31 1676
GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY:
Wednesday 6.00pm 27 3883
PLAY CENTRE:
Thursday 10.30am - 12 noon 31 6173
CEBS BOYS' SOCIETY
Thursday 6.00pm 31 8996
ADULT CHOIR
Thursday 7.30pm 31 1676
JYFS YOUTH GROUP
Friday 7.30pm 31 2048
PARISH PRAYER GROUP:
Saturday 8.00am 31 1520
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: 31 4896
Several groups meet weekly at different times
and places, so check your weekly Pew Bulletin.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MEALS ON WHEELS
2nd Sunday 11 am 31 4896
WELFARE AUXILIARY
2nd Monday 2.30pm 44 2827
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TEA:
2nd Tuesday 6.00pm 31 4566
MOTHERS' UNION
2nd Wednesday 1.00pm 44 7163
WOMEN'S GUILD
3rd Thursday 2.00pm 27 2484
GFS TOWNSEND
4th Tuesday 9.45am 31 5279

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL TO SHARE

"How are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Romans 10: 14-15

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp to put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father, who is in heaven."

Matthew 5: 15-16

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

EVANGELISM... SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

Evangelism! This century more than any other is the era of "isms", and with the discrediting of a number of political "isms" in our time, and others that are worthy principles but don't seem to get any further than talk, it is fitting that the church should look at the issue of evangelism, and see what it means in a contemporary world. So we have declared a decade of evangelism in the Anglican Church. You will find the Mothers' Union prayer for that goal in this issue. In Tasmania, the Anglican Church has opted for the "Partners in Mission" program, as part of its response to the decade.

What will it all mean? Nothing, if it remains at the level of words only! Introspective "navel gazing" can only ever keep us (if we are honest) at the level of realising what weak, sinful creatures we are, and how little strength we have to put into effect our good intentions. No matter how much God has done for us, no matter how much we are moved by the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have no strength of our own to share that goodness and love with others. And that is absolutely as it should be. If the world could save itself, it would have done so long ago. But we needed Jesus Christ to come into the world and into our lives precisely because we cannot help ourselves. Surely the most enduring message of the Old Testament is that of the vineyard of Isaiah. A people chosen by God, instructed by God, helped on all sides by God, yet deserving the fierce condemnation of the prophets for their rebellion and apostasy, for their abominations and inmorality.

That was all part of God's plan; to demonstrate that even a privileged "chosen people" were no better than the pagans around him. Not a cause for despair, however, because in the fullness of time God gave us the startling, secret Good news that the prophets and holy men and women of old had longed for. God and man reconciled in Jesus Christ. This is the good news indeed. The word "evangelium", translated also as "gospel", literally means "good news". It is that Jesus Christ has taken our sins and guilt, our failure to meet even the simplest standards of the ten commandments, or the "first and greatest commandment" or the "golden rule", and in that great act of sacrifice on the cross, defeated Satan, sin, death and corruption. Now we are free indeed!

How shall you share that news? Begin by prayer; by asking God for the working out of His perfect plan for you in your daily life. We are all able to share what God has done for us. We do it by our words,

our actions, our love for others, our sharing in the fellowship of God's people. It is not for us to compare ourselves with others in human terms of success. Otherwise, to be anything less than the apostle Paul or John Wesley would be to fail. Listen to God. The method you use must come from Him. Don't try to be anyone else!

At St. John's, there are numerous opportunities for sharing the Good News at a personal, group or congregational level. The seminar held in August looked at some of these. The Rector has given us challenges for widening the impact of the gospel through St. John's. What is your part in achieving those goals? Have you equipped yourself, firstly with the "whole armour of God" (Ephesians 6: 10-18), secondly by study of God's Word (individually, or in a Faith and Fellowship group, or perhaps through a "Christianity Explained" course, thirdly by knowing your own faith story (your testimony...writing it down in brief is a worthwhile exercise) and finally by earnest and sincere prayer. The need is enormous. The reward? Knowing that you are doing God's work. Because of you, others will know of God's love and mercy instead of facing darkness and despair!

BILL NEWMAN CRUSADE 23rd-28th APRIL 1991

Since April this year, a committee has been established to work towards an evangelistic crusade in Launceston in April next year. St. John's parishioner Basil Tkaczuk is secretary of the Crusade Executive, and is busy with the early preparation stages. At this stage, churches have just been invited to register as participants, and over the next few months, Christians from all denominations will receive regular newsletters outlining ways in which they can support and participate in the crusade. The Crusade Executive believe that the rallies at the Silverdome will only be of benefit if God's people pray and take full opportunity to share in the work of contacting ordinary people who do not yet appreciate God's love and mercy, and inviting them to what we hope will be exciting and encouraging rallies in the neutral venue that many of them are already familiar with.

As a participating church, St. John's will be asked to:

Give consistent prayer support for the crusade.

Give total support to the Crusade meetings by arranging for all groups who would normally meet during that week to attend the Crusade. (It becomes the church program for that week!)

MAX EASTHER RETIRES!

Make an appropriate financial contribution to the support of the crusade during the lead-up period. (Costs are estimated to be about \$40000, of which about \$1600 has already been pledged. The first individual donation towards crusade costs came from a St. John's member, who had merely heard that it was "on"!)

As many members as possible will be encouraged to complete the Christian Workers Course, and be available to assist in the nurture of inquirers.

Parishioners will be able to assist in a great variety of activities including counselling, choir, ushering, catering, child care, children's ministry, practical arrangements, loan of equipment, participation in pre-crusade events, youth ministry etc. Participating churches could expect to benefit from participation by, a growth in church membership, renewal and encouragement among existing members and staff and opportunities for fellowship and encouragement with Christians of other churches and backgrounds. There should also be many long term blessings from carrying out God's purposes.

Basil will be happy to discuss any aspect of the crusade, and especially to receive offers of help in the various areas mentioned!

Why I Believe In Prayer

Prayer is speaking to God, our loving Heavenly Father, asking him for help and guidance and strength in times of trouble or sorrow or loneliness or sickness or any other time of need, for ourselves, our friends or relatives, or asking for forgiveness for our own or others' sins or ill feelings, and for those who have been wronged to forgive, or if we have wronged anyone, for us to be forgiven and contrite. We must forgive, as Christ said to his Disciples when asked by one, "How many times do we forgive, Master?" And Jesus answered, "Not seven times (as he was asked), but seventy times seven." How can we be forgiven if we don't forgive others?

Our Lord knows what we need, and what is best for us, and "the prayer of the righteous man avails much." So, I am a firm believer in prayer. Our loving Heavenly Father listens and answers in His own way and in His own time. And he loves us all!

J.A. Hughes

A special function was held on Friday 17th August in the Parish Centre by present and former members of the vestry of St. John's to mark the retirement of Max Easther from the vestry after nearly 40 years continuous service as vestryman and churchwarden. It was a happy occasion marked by warm fellowship, some fascinating reminiscences and splendid food. A special minute passed by the vestry was read. This gave thanks for Max and Marg in their untiring service to the parish through the vestry and in many other ways. Among other interesting anecdotes shared, it was noted that Max's name did not appear against any motion during his first two meetings in 1951, when he first was appointed to vestry, but that by his third meeting, he was busy supporting motions, one of which was an attempt to have something done about "noisy motorcycles" disturbing Sunday Services! Max also recalled one of his first visits to St. John's, when he was told off by the "owner" for sitting in someone else's pew during Evensong, despite there being less than a score of people present! The practice of renting pews was, it seemed, hard to live without! The proceedings were capped off by Valerie Proverbs' recital of yet another witty poetic composition from Joan Brook, who due to illness was unable to be present in person.

"MAX AND MARG"

Max and Marg are hard to beat
They have such very willing feet
They trot along to every meeting
Put up tables - arrange the seating.
They really are a lovely pair
When one has a task, the other will share!
When Marg is doing the flowers in church
Max doesn't leave her in the lurch.
He makes a very willing porter,
emptying vases of smelly water!
Filling them up and grunting approval
Carrying them in for the great removal.
Every job there is - Max must have done
with a twinkle in his eye and a sense of fun;
Churchwarden, synodsmen, sidesman, reader
While Marg has been every kind of leader.
She's always ready to take the chair
At Guild - Mothers' Union or St. John's Welfare!
Yet they're found on the floor with two and three
year old buddies
babysitting for Friday's Bible Studies!
A versatile pair, our Marg and Max
and now we come to the great climax
A marathon membership of that august assembly
Max - forty long years on St. John's Church Vestry!

ANNOUNCING!!!!

SPRING FLORAL FESTIVAL

20th - 23rd September

The Guild are looking forward to support from parishioners during the period of our Spring Floral Festival. We would appreciate donations of plants and vases for sale on our stall. We anticipate approximately 40 floral arrangements from various Church Guilds and Women's Organisations.

Proceeds from the Festival will be donated to two of our projects - Roland Boys' Home and Clarendon Children's Home. The Mayoress will open the function at 10.15am prior to Morning Tea in the Parish Centre.

From Thursday to Saturday, Morning Tea will be served in the Parish Centre at a cost of \$1.50. We hope that families and friends, men and women, will come and enjoy this beautiful seasonal event, and attend the Sunday Service to culminate our 9th Spring Floral Festival.

There will be no Guild meeting for the month of September, but the Committee will meet at a date to be fixed at Mrs. Marj. Easter's home prior to the festival.

ST. JOHN'S WELFARE AUXILIARY

Monthly meeting: Parish Centre, 17th September at 2.30pm. Afternoon Tea Hostesses - Mesdames Millen & Gee

Officers for the forthcoming year for the Auxiliary elected at the Annual General Meeting on 16th June 1990 were: President - Mrs. D.G. Butler, Hon. Secretary - Mrs. Pat Murray, Hon. Treasurer - Miss Betty Parramore, Vice Presidents - Mrs. J. Tyson & Mrs. K. Godfrey.

ST. JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of Mothers' Union will be held at the Rectory on Wednesday 12th September at 1.00pm. Guest speaker will be the Rector, Revd. John Brook, whose subject will be "Missions Overseas".

EDITORIAL NOTE

Parishioners please note that the deadline for the October Issue of "Good News" is Sunday 23rd September 1990. Please leave items for publication at the Parish Office BEFORE that date.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "CHURCH NEWS".

"BOOTS 'N ALL"

This was established by SCRIPTURE UNION in 1981. It aims to provide people in Northern Tasmania of all ages and abilities, the opportunity to share together in a range of outdoor activities. These activities are led by experienced "bushies" who are Christians. Please contact the Group Leader well in advance as trips are subject to changes. You are invited to join two forthcoming trips:

1st - 2nd September: WALLS OF JERUSALEM. This is a medium grade bushwalker's trip and good winter equipment is essential at this time of the year.

CONTACT: Andrew Wellington Ph. 003-442259

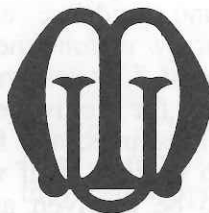
22nd September: MOUNT ARTHUR. This is easy walking with excellent views of the Tamar Valley.

CONTACT: Andrew Madden Ph. 003-272512

We ask that all participants accept the advice and decision of leaders on such matters as your suitability for any particular walk, safety or equipment. If you wish for any advice or training or equipment, please contact our Safety Officer, Gary Fitzallen, on 003-321863.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mr. Max Easter would like to acknowledge receipt of an anonymous donation of \$100.00 towards general church expenses passed on through him. Sincere thanks!



THE MOTHERS' UNION
A prayer for the
DECADE OF EVANGELISM

O God,
in whose sovereign power
rests everything in
heaven and earth,
take hold of your Church
today, that in every branch
and in every parish
we may be led humbly
in the paths of holiness
and boldly in the
ways of witness;
that many may be found
as new disciples
of Jesus Christ
and learn to live joyfully in
the power of your
Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by
Michael Turnbull, Bishop of Rochester