

# PARISH MESSENGER

from St. John's Anglican Parish, Launceston

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

## DIRECTORY

RECTOR:  
Rev. John A Brook 31 5218  
ASSISTANT:  
Rev. Paul Wood 31 4566  
UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN:  
Rev. Philip Blake 30 1663  
ORGANIST:  
Mr William Pierce 31 1676  
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:  
Mr. Tony Clayton 39 1771  
OFFICE SECRETARY:  
Miss Valerie Murgatroyd  
Office (9am to 2 pm) 31 4896  
Address: 157 St. John Street Launceston.

## PARISH GROUPS

### WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL:  
10am, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday 39 1771

FAMILY SERVICE:  
10am, 2nd Sunday

SUNDAY GROUP:  
Sunday 6.00pm 272374

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

PARISH PRAYER GROUP:  
Saturday 8.00am 31 1520

FEAR & 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 10.30am 31 4896

WELFARE AUXILIARY  
2nd Monday 2.30pm 44 2827

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TEA:  
2nd Tuesday 6.00pm 31 4566

MOTHERS' UNION  
2nd Wednesday 1.30pm 44 7163

WOMEN'S GUILD  
3rd Thursday 2.00pm 44 2827

GFS TOWNSEND  
2nd Thursday 12 noon 26 1877

## DECEMBER 1991

### GOOD-BYE AND THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

As our time for leaving St John's is drawing near, we wish to thank you for the privilege of getting to know you and working with you for a while in the faith of Jesus. Your prayers, gifts and friendship have been an encouragement to us and we are grateful to you.

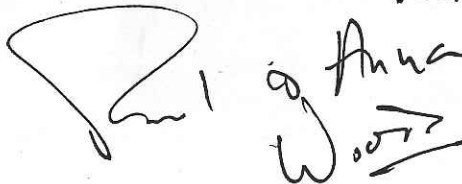
Many of you know we will be leaving for the U. K. after Christmas, to continue parish ministry over there and we intend to return to Tasmania after four or five years.

We leave and say good-bye and we pray that you will hold fast to the faith in which we are called and at the same time that you be challenged, changed and moulded into that which God would have you be as his body here in Launceston.

We leave St John's at an exciting time in its history, as some great fundamental issues will be met in the next few years following the Partners in Mission programme and we will follow with interest the growth and development of this particular community of faith.

We take with us memories of caring people who show Christ's love to those around them.

Peace be with you,



### EDITORIAL NOTE

Parishioners are reminded that the deadline for ALL ISSUES is the THIRD SUNDAY EVERY MONTH. Please leave items for publication at the Parish Office BEFORE that date. Thank you.

SUPPLEMENT TO "CHURCH NEWS"

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of illumination! It is a time when bright lights are more in evidence than at any other time of the year. This is even more noticeable in countries which endure wintry conditions and short hours of daylight. Even our friends of the Jewish faith celebrate the "Feast of Lights" about the same time as we celebrate Christmas.

St. John began his Gospel, not with the story of the birth of Jesus but with a declaration about his existence from the beginning of time. He also said that he was the source of life and light. "In him was life, and that life was the light of men." (St. John 1: 4.) Later, after referring to John the Baptist who appeared as a witness to Jesus, he said of Christ, "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world." (St. John 1: 9.) On another occasion, in his first letter, John said, "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light: in him is no darkness at all." (I John 1: 5.)

In spite of all the lights of Christmas, we still live in a dark world! It is dark because of the activity of Satan, "the prince of darkness." It is dark because of our neglect of God and our failure to trust him. It is dark because of rising unemployment, broken political promises, misuse of our environment, racial hatred, and sometimes because of our lack of concern for those who for one reason or another dread the Christmas season.

The real message of Christmas breaks through the tinsel, the toys and the temperature and illuminates every part of us. Jesus Christ the author both of light and life has pierced the gloom of the world and is willing to bestow these gifts on us as individuals and groups. Only enlightened folk can appropriate and appreciate the quality and quantity of life that God offers us through his Son. Unless the Light of the World is at home with us during this season and for all times, we are stumbling in darkness.

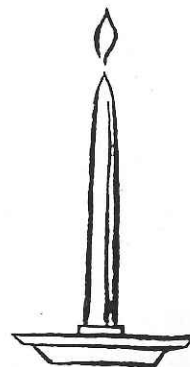
May we enjoy life at Christmas and the spectacular display of lights, but may we enjoy most of all the presence of Jesus Christ who is both light and life.

The world was dark when Moses came;  
A world of terror and fight:  
But the pillar of fire lit the whole terrain,  
And God was found in the night.

The world was dark when Jesus came;  
A world of sorrow and war:  
But the light of the star showed the way again,  
And God was found in the straw.

The world was dark when the shepherds came;  
A world of hunger and harm:  
But the light of the glory of God shone the same,  
And God was found in a barn.

The world is dark since Jesus came;  
A place torn with envy and fear:  
But the light of world makes the pathway plain,  
And Christ is found to be here.



Vera Joins with me  
in wishing you all a  
Happy Christmas and a  
Purposeful New Year.

Phil C. Blate

## INTRODUCING PETER AND NICKI STUART

Well, do we tell them that we know Chris Ivey or not?!"

"I'm not sure, he does wear rather dazzling shirts."

"Your shirts aren't dazzling but they certainly attract attention. Every one looks at you, especially when you wear black and we hold hands."

"We're allowed to hold hands, we've only been married since February."

"I hope we're still holding hands in fifty years. We'll see a lot of changes in that time won't we."

"We certainly will. I hope we get used to moving from place to another."

"You'll notice a difference to St. Mark's won't you?"

"It's going to be a little hard at first, especially being so close. We have to say goodbye and stop ministering to people we may well run into. As always there is the joy of new people, new life stories and new experiences to share."

"St. John's certainly has a different tradition."

"The Christian Church has such a wonderful diversity. I'm really pleased with education I received while at Trinity College. Classes with the Uniting Church, the Anglican Church and the Jesuits were great, as well as our weekly meetings with the Ridley Students. I'm looking forward to sharing some of the insights I gained during that time."

"You'll be glad you joined me at St. Mark's Carlton for a while. Both of us have experienced the broad diversity of the Anglican Church."

"We certainly have and in the next few weeks we've got more to learn. It'll be the first time that we'll have lived next door to the Church building."

"I hope people will take time to stop in and say hello. That will really help us get to know them."

"People do need to know that people care for them. I remember when I came to believe in the Christian faith during my last year of counting at Uni. It wasn't always easy and I appreciated the people who took time to care."

"You were really pleased to be able to work 'outside' of the Church before Ministry Training weren't you?"

"Well, I deeply believe that some of the best Christian ministry is offered by ordinary people sharing their life and faith in ordinary situations. That's why I'm so glad you'll be able to keep working as a full time physiotherapist when we move."

"What do you look forward to most about St. John's?"

"I do enjoy all sorts of Christian worship and St. John's has all that but I think the thing I am most excited about is the opportunities to preach and teach. What about you?"

"Many things - young people, music, ... whatever God wishes to give us."

"God has certainly blessed us in our lives. It's nice to have a full time 'job' sharing those blessings"

"So, do we tell that we know Chris Ivey, like movie going and enjoy spending time at our shack or not?"

"I don't think we'll have to. I really hope that we'll get to know each other really well and learn a lot of great things about each other."



Peter begins his ministry with us this week. They will move into the Curate's Cottage on December 12th. Nicki works full time so the best time to catch them at home is during the evening.

## MOTHERS' UNION

Thank you to all who supported our luncheon last month. Everyone had a most enjoyable time at this, our last meeting for 1991. The setting was beautiful and the meal delicious. A sum over \$400 was raised for Clarendon Home, with a donation of \$20 added.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30 am. we will have our "Special Communion Service". This will be followed by morning tea. Anyone requiring transport for this happy occasion should contact Mrs Marj Easter - 31 5750.

A Happy Christmas to you all.

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## WOMEN'S GUILD

The GARAGE SALE, MORNING TEA & CAKE STALL held at the Parish Centre last month was a great success. Guild members extend their thanks to all who gave their support. Funds raised will be our contribution this year to assist the Diocesan Guild Project, the 'New Areas Ministry'.

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## MELANIE MORRIS

Have you seen Melanie's new book entitled 'QUILLING'. This is a relatively unknown but most pleasant art and this book will tell you all about it. A lovely Christmas present.

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## "BOOTS 'N' ALL"

The Scripture Union Bushwalking Club.

There is one walk left for this year: Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December - Mt Maurice - This is an easy family walk. How about a group from St John's planning to join this bushwalk? It is a very popular walk and very beautiful now with the Spring flowers. Contact - Andrew Madden (003) 99 3315

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## NATIONAL YOUTH SYNOD

This is to remind you that the National Anglican Youth Synod will be held in Hobart from 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 1992. Tasmania will have five delegates of whom Kynan Edwards, Susan Pullar and Tanya Davidson are from Launceston.

Would you please pray for the delegates and for their preparations to represent the Diocese at this significant event.

*Tanya Davidson.*

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## MEALS ON WHEELS

SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
promptly at 10.30am.

J. Ball, W. Cowell, W. Donaldson,  
H. Griffiths, D. Hindrum, P. Phelps,  
J. Stevenson, M. Wing, D. Sheldrick,  
V. Murgatroyd.

SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1992

promptly at 10.30am.

M. Janssen, D. Plumridge, A. Neale,  
J. Green/H. Pitt, R. Mansfield,  
J. Roberts, J. Smith, L. Knowles,  
M. Willson.

! PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO ARRANGE YOUR OWN  
SUBSTITUTE IF YOU CAN NOT ATTEND TO THIS  
IMPORTANT MINISTRY, SOME-ONE MAY RECEIVE  
THEIR LUNCH AT TEA-TIME IF YOU FORGET !



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## NOVEMBER

## REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

Frederick Joseph Rainbird

### MARRIAGES

Shane Phillips & Heather Davey  
Anthony Speers & Leanne Barker  
Peter Jones & Linda Cassidy  
Dean Crooks & Michelle Le Fevre

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## - ' CHRISTMAS -

### THE SAVIOUR'S BIRTH'

\* Christmas is a wonderful time,  
When we remember the Birth  
Of our loving Saviour Divine;  
As he lay in the manger  
By his young mother's side  
She sang a lullaby,  
While the Heavenly Host  
In the bright starry sky  
Sang "Glory to God in the Highest  
And Peace on Earth!" \*

*J. A. HUGHES 1977*