

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 315218
ASSISTANT:
Rev. Peter Stuart 314566
UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN:
Rev. Dr. Phillip Blake 301663
ORGANIST:
Mr. William Pierce 311676
SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:
Mr. Tony Clayton 391771
OFFICE SECRETARY:
Miss Valerie Murgatroyd
Office (9am to 4pm) 314896
Address: 157 St. John Street Launceston.
7250.

PARISH GROUPS

WEEKLY MEETINGS

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

10am, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday 391771

FAMILY SERVICE:

10am, 2nd Sunday

SUNDAY GROUP:

Sunday 6.00pm 272374

CHILDREN'S CHOIR:

Thursday 4.30 - 5.30pm 311676

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY:

Wednesday 6.00pm 273883

PLAY CENTRE:

Thursday 10.30am - 12 noon 316173

CEBS BOYS' SOCIETY:

Thursday 6.00pm 318996

ADULT CHOIR:

Thursday 7.30pm 311676

PARISH PRAYER GROUP:

Saturday 8.00am 311520

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS: 314896

Several groups meet weekly at different times and places, so check your weekly Pew Bulletin.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MEALS ON WHEELS

2nd Sunday 10.30am 314896

WELFARE AUXILIARY

2nd Monday 2.30pm 442827

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TEA:

2nd Tuesday 6.00pm 314566

MOTHERS' UNION

2nd Wednesday 1.30pm 447163

WOMEN'S GUILD

3rd Thursday 2.00pm 442827

GFS TOWNSEND

2nd Thursday 12 noon 261877

JULY 1992

A N N O U N C I N G

The Northern

Archdeaconry

OFFICIAL WELCOME

to the

ASSISTANT BISHOP,

the Right Reverend

RONALD STONE,

will be held at

St John's Church on

Sunday 12th July 1992

at 7pm.

Everyone is urged to

attend this

important occasion.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Parishoners 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"

Faith in music is a relevant tradi

THERE has recently been in England one of those counsels of despair which seem, more and more, to depress the churches. The new defeatism is about music, with an attack on what the authors of the mischief declared was the irrelevance of much that was performed in church.

But let us take up the question of "relevance". Guitars and bongo drums are clearly more "relevant" than pipe organs for example. And hymns which are so basic in language that poetry goes out the Gothic window. Bring worship down to the level of the banal, make it all sound like the cacophonous world beyond, and palsy-walsy folk religion will triumph. The pews will be filled with noisy enthusiasts, and the kingdom of God will come to pass by holy relevance.

Unfortunately, the guitars may be out of tune, and the bongo drums limp, but as both will be played by those for whom any more dexterous or demanding instrument would be impossible, the music they produce will at least be relevant to them.

These iconoclasts of church music are increasing in power. They blow their own trumpets with skill, discarding Gregorian chant as monastic hobbledohoy. If they cannot join in, the music must be irrelevant. If they have to listen to a choir which has practised endless hours to sing Palestrina or Vittoria, Haydn or Bach, they reject these and other masters of the sublime as out of touch.

That their attitude goes along with much that masquerades as liturgy is to be expected. The transcendence of God entirely escapes them and that the church building has a possible foretaste of heaven is beyond their vision.

I sat in the little Orthodox church on the quay on Patmos, the holy island close to modern Turkey where St John of the Apocalypse was chained to a rock at night and worked in the stone quarry by day. Suddenly a car swerved up to the door and a monk from the 900-year old monastery which crowns the highest point on Patmos appeared. "I am the singing monk," he an-



JAMES S MURRAY

nounced. Not proudly so much as enthusiastically. I looked up at the iconostasis, that wall of painted icons which adorns all Orthodox churches.

A shaft of sunlight lit the triangle from which a solitary but large eye looked down. It is the eye of God. In trooped the members of the choir, and the music under the direction of the singing monk began. It was ancient, memorable and difficult and many times they had to repeat passages to achieve the effect the singing monk demanded.

After an hour or so I wandered out of the church but from the distance could still hear them, Patmians

with no special claim to fame, except that on a Saturday afternoon they got ready to glorify God on the Sunday. They were themselves glorified, as if by sunlight and they were observed by the seeing eye of the transcendent God. For worship is meant to lift us beyond the church walls, or the walls of the mosque or the synagogue or the temple. To make us aware that we are not only observers but are, ourselves, observed.

Go to the synagogue and hear the excited songs which sometimes rock its walls with a joyous reverence. Rhythmical and bouncing along at a wonderful pace, they are relevant because they speak to the heart. I was once in the Great Synagogue in Sydney when a young boy, just passed his bar mitzvah, came up to the dais, the bima, to chant the

scriptures. He was urged along with vigorous joy by the chief minister, Rabbi Raymond Apple. The congregation was united by the music.

Of course, there are solemn melodies sung in the synagogue which have a timeless quality, many of them demanding great attention and skill. No one could imagine that they would ever be abandoned for some hurdy-gurdy alternative, bereft from tradition and the lilt of the ages. If you have heard the works of Max Bruch, especially *Kol Nidre*, you will know how haunting such melodies can be. They speak of the transcendence of God.

So holy places are to offer the best in music, and to preserve the treasures of word and sound with which faith has been glorified by composers and musicians.

You can still go into great cathedrals, sometimes almost alone, and hear choirs praising God without expecting applause. This concept of worship is in danger of being lost in the West by the absurd addiction to "relevance". Indeed, even if some of the music of faith is an acquired taste, and takes time to absorb, it

How do you just be as sensible angelo's Pieta. Rome, is it re stained glass in in France, how figures effused relevant today?

The habit of everything down nominator which fort in appreciat ity in comprehen contemporary attractive habits

But even if th to make the ch things past, it ha conserve its trea has inspired is abandon it for church culture indeed. Fortuna has many cent of a high standa to its cathedrals impose inclusive music might be lo contemporary int

But the a changes which demoralise the c their ability to their greatest a ries, monaster were once repos chant. Most are numbers that ar caterwauling ra So it is one of th that quite secu some of the b without any re which inspired i

Individuals, amazing things around to the a treasures availa of the ABC b ordinary serviv Sacred Music these wonders t Supportive of give their lives t program remind there would be it tical lunacy were and ban every n worship which w

This concept of worship is in danger of being lost

may develop in those who hear it a greater sensitivity to the things of the spirit than any other art can achieve.

O. Henry, that master teller of the short story, wrote *The Cop and the Anthem* with that understanding in mind. A scallywag who had committed many petty crimes was passing a church where the music caught his ear. He stood, transfixed, so moved that the tears came, and within himself determined not to offend again. But with that slightly cynical if realistic twist typical of O. Henry's stories, a policeman on pounding the beat sees him standing there, accuses him of loitering and takes him into custody.

But how poverty-stricken we will all be if the only test for what is good music in church is its "relevance"?

from 'ISLAND NOTES' Newsletter of the Royal ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FESTIVAL

The next Annual General Meeting of the R.S.C.M. in Tasmania will be held at St. John's Anglican Church Hall, Devonport at 2.00pm on Saturday, 1st August, 1992. Please make a special effort to be at this meeting. Some have a long way to travel, but as the meeting moves each year it is likely you will not have to make the same effort next year.

An R.S.C.M. Choral Festival will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 19th September at St. John's Anglican Church, Launceston. Starting at 2.00pm the Chairman, Mr. William Pierce will lead participants through Festival Service Book Two. Afternoon tea and a buffet style dinner will be included in the registration fee (which has yet to be set). A Service of Worship will conclude the singing for the day. The Festival is being held in conjunction with the St. John's Floral Tribute. More details will be published nearer the time.

tion

idge that? It would
o ask of Michel-
in St Peter's in
evant? Or of the
Chartres Cathedral
can the medieval
n such colour be

wishing to bring
to a common de-
will demand no ef-
on, or any sensitiv-
sion, is one of our
world's least

re is a temptation
urch a museum of
s a cultural duty to
ures. The music it
among these. To
some passing pop
ould be foolhardy
vely Australia still
s of church music
d and not confined.
But in the rush to
anguage, even some
st as the words defy
ference.

celerating social
have tended to
urches even affect
conserve some of
music. The semin-
es and convents
ories of Gregorian
now so bereft of
y attempt would be
her than worship.
e ironies of the age
r groups preserve
st church music,
ard for the faith

however, can do
to alert the world
most inexhaustible
le. Kay McLennan
s done an extra-
- in her weekly
rogram to open
the listening ear.
e musicians who
church music, her
us of what a loss
the latest ecclesias-
allowed to take hold
isical expression in
s not "relevant".

from The Weekend Australian, 23rd May 1992

MOTHERS' UNION

Another special Communion Service will be held on Wednesday, 8th July at 10.30 a.m. Anyone needing transport can contact Mrs. J.Davis, 446807. A short meeting will follow. Members travelling to Evandale on Tuesday, 7th July for the luncheon will leave the Rectory at 11.30 a.m.

G.F.S. TOWNSEND

In June, we met at the home of Mrs. Joy Donohue at Hadspen. We commenced with lunch, followed by our meeting and Afternoon Tea. Our group donated \$50 to CMS in memory of Miss Sybil Brownrigg and \$100 towards the cost of rails now in place at the front gate of the church. Next meeting, 9th July.

CELIA HILL.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Plans are well in hand for our Floral Festival with the official opening on Thursday, 17th September at 10.15am, going through to Sunday 20th. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th July at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. Afternoon Tea hostesses will be Mesdames S.Lawrence and D.Newman.

CELIA HILL

LADIES ALONE

Ladies Alone Support Group Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, 15th July at 12 noon, following the 10.30 a.m. Communion. B.Y.O. lunch to share, also bring along Hobbies or Crafts for display and discussion. Trade Table toward Christmas Gifts.

MEN'S TEA

Tuesday 14th July, at 6.00 p.m. in the Parish Centre. Guest Speaker will be Mr. Michael Furmage who will talk about Snakes. Michael works on the Snake Farm near Cressy. Cost \$6.00. Please put your name on the list in the Narthex, if attending.

22ND AUGUST, 1992 - PLEASE KEEP THIS DAY FREE!

All parishioners are invited to the Silverdome on this day to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Tasmania. A great gathering of the Diocese is planned which will culminate in a Communion service at which the Primate of Australia, Archbishop Keith Raynor, will preach. Mark this in your diaries now. Details available from David and Melanie Morris.

THE CROSS-CULTURAL PEOPLE MOVER - WE PRAISE GOD that the cost of the "People Mover" has now been fully suscribed - any additional donations will be used to offset operating costs - we thank all those who have shared in covering the cost of this important piece of equipment.

School of Church Music - Tasmanian Branch.

PICNIC & SING

St. Matthias' Anglican Church, Windermere has been made available to the R.S.C.M. on Sunday, 25th October. Probably the most picturesque church yard in the north of Tasmania, overlooking the Tamar estuary, members are invited to pack a picnic and enjoy the Spring weather (if it has arrived). The afternoon will also be utilised as Mr. Craig Johnston exposes new R.S.C.M. publications to those present. Arrive with your hamper any time soon after 1.00pm.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The National R.S.C.M. Summer School to be held in Launceston in January, 1995 will be directed by Dr. Christopher Dearnley. Dr. Dearnley, formerly Organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is now Director of Music at Trinity College, University of Melbourne. Many members may have come across Christopher and his wife Brigit when they were temporarily at St. David's Cathedral in Hobart in 1991.



COMMUNITY CARE

The original list of parishioners who offered their talents for the Community Care Project needs to be revised. This is because the circumstances, talents and availability of many of the volunteers have changed since the list was originally compiled.

A reminder to those who know, and an explanation to those who don't - Community Care Volunteers help folk who require a hand from time to time in cases of illness/accident, "advancing years", or simply because someone (me!) is unable to change a tap-washer.

We believe that Christ came to us as a servant, and so as followers of Christ we are committed to serve others. It is the responsibility of all parishioners to watch out for situations where assistance is required, and to either attend to it, or tell Community Care so that help can be organised. It has been heartening to discover just how much is being quietly done in this regard, outside the Community Care Project.

From experience over the last few years, a pattern of more increasingly observed needs has emerged, and these are the ones listed. However, there are others, and if your particular line of expertise is not mentioned please add it in the space provided. The list will be published in the Pew Sheet in the near future and I would appreciate it if you would complete it and return it to the Parish Office. Remember, this is a revision of the original list, and you need to make a new commitment even if you were numbered among the originals.

Miss Margaret Willson (Convenor).

MEALS ON WHEELS

SUNDAY 12th July 1992

W. Cowell, W. Donaldson, D. Hindrum,
J. Green/H. Pitt, D. & E. Holmes,
M. McNair, A. Neale, J. Smith
J. Stevenson, L. Knowles.

SUNDAY 9th August 1992

Promptly at 10.30am. please

J. Ball, H. Griffiths, M. Janssen,
D. Sheldrick, D. Plumridge, J. Preece,
R. Mansfield, V. Murgatroyd,
J. Roberts, M. Willson.

BELL BAY SEAFARERS' MISSION

Following a visit to Men's Tea by the Reverend Robert Archer of Georgetown, St John's has agreed to participate in the Bell Bay Seafarers' Mission for a trial period of one week from 24th to 30th August 1992. Beginning with a fellowship meal on Monday 24th. This organisation seeks to minister to crews of foreign ships berthing at the Port of Launceston, and has use of a building at Bell Bay. Foreign language skills are not essential, and the ministry consists of friendship and support, as well as practical matters like currency exchange, for use of the telephone so that crew members may 'phone home. Please contact Basil Tkaczuk on 31 1155 by 1st August if you are interested in participating. If time is a problem why not put your name down for one or two occasions only.

Basil Tkaczuk

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL READERS

Due to the latest increase in postage rates and projected re-organisation of postal services offered to the community, it has become necessary for St John's to cease posting the CHURCH NEWS and PARISH MESSENGER to parishioners as in recent years.

From August your church papers will be available in the Narthex on the first Sunday each month, and you are asked to offer your help with deliveries to those who cannot attend church that day.

A system of organised, voluntary delivery was maintained for many years back in the "old days" before postage. Please let the Rector or the Parish office know in which areas you can help.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FRIDAY, 31ST JULY, 1992 - 7.30PM