

# 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

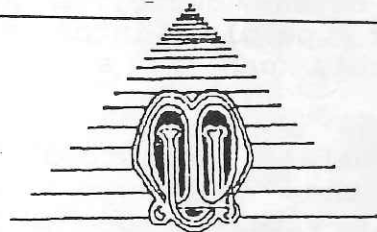
### WEEKLY MEETINGS

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

## OCTOBER 1992



1892 - 1992

AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October

at 11am.

THANKSGIVING EUCHARIST

at CHRIST CHURCH

CULLENSWOOD ESTATE

ST MARYS

Bus leaves for Cullenswood  
outside St John's at 8.40 am. to join the  
Australian Centenary celebrations.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

at 1.30pm.

AN OPEN MEETING

"DRUGS AND THEIR DANGER  
TO OUR FAMILIES"

Guest Speaker will be Detective  
1<sup>st</sup> Class Constable Michael Johnston  
from the Police Department.  
All parish members welcome.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

at 12 noon

ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker will be the Mayor of Launceston,  
Alderman Graeme Beames.

Cost \$7-00

Proceeds will go to the  
CLARENDON CHILDREN'S HOME

Everyone welcome,

Please notify Mrs Olva Harris 31 2796  
or Mrs Joan Brook 31 5218

## HOSPITALITY

One of the most difficult ministries of any congregation is the ministry of hospitality. A ministry in which we try to make other people feel welcome and at home within our congregation and congregational life. It requires us to reach beyond ourselves and invite other people into our lives, and this can be a risky venture.

In a congregation committed to evangelism the ministry of hospitality is vital. A community dedicated to sharing the Christian faith with others will want to be warm and inviting. The members of the congregation have a continuing desire to form friendships with newcomers and with people who have been around for quite a while.

In this parish we can be more hospitable by:-

\* talking to people after the service who we don't know. We can walk with them and stay with them during coffee time.

\* inviting people home for a meal.

\* visiting people at home during the week.

\* learning names.

\* wearing our name tags so that new people can learn our names.

Hospitality is a vital ministry. There will be times when it is uncomfortable and difficult but it can be rich and rewarding as we make new friends in the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord.



## THE SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

### WITH THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

This is the name which has been given by the Liturgical Commission to the service proposed as a replacement for the Confirmation Service when a new prayer book is published in a few years time. In 1991 we used the trial service for Confirmations. This year we will do the same.

The trial service affirms the principle that baptism initiates us into membership of the church. People who were baptised as infants need to affirm the baptismal vows made on their behalf, when they are old enough to do so and when they have committed themselves to the Christian faith. The service also recognises that some people, who have already been 'confirmed', may want to renew their baptismal promises, perhaps after a significant growth in faith.

On Sunday 25 October, at 7pm, three adults will be baptised. By their baptism they become members of the church. Following their baptism they will join with 6 others who wish to confirm their faith. All of them will receive the laying on of hands from Bishop Stone. In this way they will be commissioned for ministry within Christ's church. Several people who have indicated a desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows and be received into the Anglican Church will also receive the laying on of hands.

This is an important night in the life of our congregation. It would be good if parishioners could make a special effort to be there.

Please pray for each of the candidates as they finish their preparation in the coming weeks.



PLUS... MORE VIEWS



Rocker Bruce Springsteen and Christmas choristers: Will the caperings of the Synod impose rock on the Church of England?



# Vicars raving in the nave

WHENEVER the General Synod of the Church of England meets, the hearts of sensible Christians sink. What will it be this time? What shameful catchpenny genuflection to youth, what flesh-creeping abasement to the Moloch of modernity will long-suffering Anglican congregations be forced to make now, to satisfy the change-hungry prelates and bureaucrats who run the ailing Church?

We were given our answer last month: rock music in the cathedrals. This is the recommendation of a report whose very title, *In Tune with Heaven*, has the second-rate adman's hallmark of the contemporary Church. Not only did the Synod approve the report; it also agreed to set up a special body to "oversee its implementation". So rock is now not only permissible, it looks as if it is to be rammed down the heaving gorge of the faithful.

The aim, as always, is to attract the young. Adopting rock, and the "happy-clappy" sing-song hymns beloved of some evangelicals, is merely the latest of a long series of concessions which the middle-aged, middle-class delegates who run the Church imagine are necessary to pull working-class teenagers into the pews. That such tactics have brought no results in the past is evident, since congregations continue to fall. There is no proof at all that rock will succeed where guitar-strumming and other grotesque anomalies have failed.

It does not seem to have occurred to the worthy synodists that perhaps young people do not want yet more rock; that they already have enough of it. Youngsters who go to rock concerts, who listen to it endlessly in their bedrooms, and who sit in buses with the stuff plugged into their ears, probably have no intention of going to church anyway. But if they do, might it not be precisely because they want something different?

**PAUL JOHNSON**

Here we touch on the central fallacy — the arch-heresy — of modernist Christianity: its craven worldliness. By seeking to ape the world and its transient trends and fashions, the Church throws away the most powerful card it holds — its singularity. Christianity is unique. Its Kingdom is emphatically not of this world. It rejects the values the world prizes, disclaims the aims the world holds dear, and rewards the virtues the world tramples underfoot.

It is because the atmosphere in church is so different that we cross its threshold in the first place. The urge to get away from the world and its standards, if only for an hour or even a few minutes, is felt by both sexes, all ages, by rich and poor, wise and foolish. The working young value the totally different viewpoint a place of worship offers just as strongly as their elders — and those who think themselves their betters. Nothing underlines this difference more powerfully than the music they hear once the threshold is crossed.

The Anglican Church has particular reasons for appreciating this point. Its music, and the settings in which its services are performed, form one of the richest parts of its incomparable heritage. But there are certain sounds which a medieval cathedral, which after all has a long, ghostly life of its own, must not be expected to accommodate, and one of them is rock — or what the Bishop of Chester called rave in the nave.

The second reason why the proposal is unacceptable is the power, range and sheer quality of the Church of England's musical birthright. Not only is it heir to the vast output of Continental sacred music, but it has a unique repository of its own. The English Church of the 15th century was famous for its polyphony.

After the Reformation discarded much that was good and bad in medieval religious practice, Queen Elizabeth, the first "Supreme Governor" of the Church of England, fought a lonely but ultimately successful battle to retain the music of the Chapel Royal, its choristers and musicians and, not least, its composers.

Her taste and strong-mindedness ensured that, despite interruptions and vandalism, the Anglican Church clung to, replenished and expanded its musical traditions. Its instrumentation, its skills, scholarship and repertoire were enormously expanded in the 19th century, and during the 20th it has continued to erect buildings — Liverpool Cathedral, the finest of Europe's works of architecture this century, is the supreme example — which provide glorious settings for the services it performs, perhaps, better than any other Church.

The quality of the Church of England's music has not been sustained without a continuing struggle. The excellence of Anglican music today is made possible by a comparatively small number of dedicated performers and organisers, often ill-paid, more often still not paid at all, for whom love of music and the love of God are synonymous and who are determined to protect the Church's legacy from the past — and to add to it. Of course the synodists claim that the sacred music will remain and the onset of rock will be a mere addition.

But the truth is that the existing musicians, professional and amateur, will be expected to accommodate themselves to the new regime whether they like it or not. Some will not like it, and will leave. Others will lose heart. Many in the congregation will be sickened.

And what is it all for? So that those who rule an ancient and honourable Church can contort themselves into postures which they believe fashionable but which are, in fact, ridiculous

## ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC

The Annual Choral Festival held on the afternoon of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at St John's was an enormous success surrounded by the beautiful setting of the annual Floral Festival. The Chairman of the R.S.C.M., Mr William Pierce worked in close co-operation with Mrs Olva Harris and the Ladies of the Guild to make this occasion an event to remember in the life of our parish. A Service of Worship concluded the singing for the day and everyone who attended enjoyed the fellowship of flowers and music. A sumptuous dinner was then served in the Parish Centre by 'St John's Quiet Workers'. (Thanks to those ladies and gentleman)

St Mathias' Church, Windermere, has been made available to the R.S.C.M. on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October for a Picnic & Sing. While enjoying the Spring weather (if it has arrived) Mr Craig Johnston will use the afternoon to explore new publications and new music of the School with those present. Bring your picnic lunch to St Mathias' soon after 1pm.

The National R.S.C.M. Summer School for January 1995 will be held in Launceston and will be directed by Dr Christopher Dearnley, Director of Music, Trinity College, University of Melbourne.

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### ST JOHN'S WELFARE AUXILIARY

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October in the Parish Centre at 2.15pm. Afternoon Tea hostesses are Mrs M. Easter and Mrs N. Dicker.

A special Morning Tea will take place in the Parish Centre on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 10am. to 12 noon. Please keep this day free and bring your friends. Cost \$3-00. A well-stocked stall will be in operation.

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#### FOR SALE -

##### ATLANTIC CEDAR SACHET BAGS.

Following the removal of the Cedar Tree from the grounds in front of the Rectory, shavings and sawdust were collected and used to fill the sachet bags. Proceeds from the sale of the bags (\$510 has been raised to date), will help to offset the cost of the Audio Loop to be installed in the church to help the hearing impaired. Donation - \$3.00 per bag. Enquiries to the Parish Office.

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#### MEN'S TEA - TUESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER, 1992

Mrs. Barbara Mitchell, the Anglican AIDS Information and Education Officer, will be speaking on the topic - "Tasmania and AIDS". This is an important topic. Please indicate as soon as possible if you wish to attend. Cost - \$6.00.

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#### A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE IN APPOINTMENT OF A NEW RECTOR FOR ST. JOHN'S.

Lord God, you are our eternal shepherd and guide. In your mercy grant your Church in this parish a shepherd after your own heart who will walk in your ways and with loving care watch over your people, that your name may be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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#### 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 day. Thank you.

*SUPPLEMENT TO 'CHURCH NEWS'*