



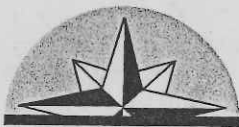
COMPASS

Showing the way

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St. John's
Anglican
Church
157 St. John Street
Launceston



What does
Easter mean to
you?

Two parishioners
give their thoughts
on what Easter
means to them.

THE FIRST EASTER DAY

The first Easter Day was not surrounded by chocolate bunnies, bilby's or chickens. Nor were there coloured eggs. Neither was the Monday a public holiday. What was so special!

The first Easter Day began with an empty tomb, some puzzled people and ended with the growing awareness that Jesus of Nazareth had risen from the dead.

That fact was to have a profound effect on not only those immediately involved but also millions of others down through the centu-



Easter celebration

ries who would follow this risen Lord. In this great event where Jesus moved from death to life hope was given to a hopeless world. The resurrection affirmed that God in the person of Jesus is in control of the world and all that happens in it and to it. To follow Jesus is to be committed to the one who not only controls the world, but also determines the destiny of each human being.

Are you committed to him?

Greg Clifton

WHAT EASTER MEANS TO ME

Easter is a time of great sorrow and great joy. To think that I have sinned so badly that the only way to restore my relationship with God, is for Jesus to die for me, fills me with sorrow and remorse. Of course, when Jesus rose from the dead, and showed his triumph over death, and in doing so allowed me to restore my relationship with God, then I am filled with tremendous joy.

On an 'earthly' level, Easter also fills me with both joy and sorrow, as my mother died at Easter and so there is sorrow and joy in remembering. Also Robert and I were married at Easter time so it is also a time for celebration for us.

Alison Wallace

Having come from a non-Christian family, initially Easter meant Easter eggs, Easter bunnies, time with my family and somewhere in the background I also knew that a man called Jesus rose from the dead. When I gave myself to Jesus at age 18, he immediately showed himself to me, and I saw his love burning out of his own eyes through someone else's. Since then my grasp of Easter and his place in it has grown.

Now Easter has come to mean more than time with my family, and more than physical proof of Jesus authenticity about himself, his reliability and the Fathers love. I also now include the gaining of a new life, as well as a close and loyal friend and God.

Doug Day

PROFILE OF STEPHEN SAVAGE

In the previous issue of the parish magazine, you may have read the bit about the new curate and his family. It was only brief due to the final exams I was preparing for. I have been here for about sixteen months now and I'm happy to say that I can rattle off more names now than when we first arrived and it has been good getting to know you. It has been good to piece the story of St. John's together and to see where everybody 'fits' in. I thought that this small contribution to the magazine might help in filling in some of the background information that you may not know about me.

I was born in Hobart in 1965, the eldest child and only son of my English parents. I have two sisters. I guess you could call our family nominal Anglicans - that is we were baptised as such but rarely went to church. I grew up hearing the Bible stories such as David and Goliath amongst other favourites.

We moved from Claremont to Kingston when Kingston was still just a small country town with two milk bars and a small supermarket. It was here that I went to school at Kingston Primary.

Life changed for us in Kingston. Dad and then Mum both had conversion experiences and it meant a physical change as well as life in general. It was through this physical change in my mother that I too found Jesus. Through not recognising her as she returned home after a women's retreat one weekend, God drew me to himself. As a seven year old, I remember praying my prayer of repentance kneeling beside her chair one night. It was then that Jesus in the stories became real. We started worshipping at St. David's cathedral, staying there for a number of years until finding our spiritual 'home' at St. Clements', Kingston.

I went to Calvin Christian School (the sister school to Launceston Christian School) for the latter part of my primary education and stayed there till I finished Grade 10.

After school I was apprenticed to the Royal Hobart Hospital as an electrical mechanic and finished there in January 1987. From there I went to work as an 'A' grade Electrical Mechanic with a small electrical contracting firm



where I stayed until leaving to go to Ridley College in 1996. As far as Church goes, I was confirmed by Bishop Henry Jerrim on All Saints Day 1981 and from there my involvement grew. I was a member of the youth group to which I was attracted partly because of the great fellowship, fun and teaching but mostly because there was a very nice blonde girl named Margaret who attended. We became

good friends.

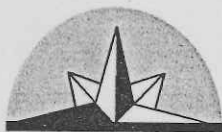
Church life was something which became part of everyday living. In part this was due to involvement with the Rectory family but mostly because I enjoyed being part of it. I served as a lay reader for 10 years, youth group leader for 12 years, was a member of vestry and Parish council since 1988 and a people's church warden from 1994-1996.

My Christian 'walk' really began with my confirmation and it is since that time that I have felt God calling me into ordained ministry. I applied to the diocese for ordination in 1984 but was advised to 'live' life a bit first. This I did and Margaret and I got married in 1986, built a house, travelled a bit and have been blessed with three beautiful children.

Although I tried to push ordination to the back of my mind, God had other ideas. I applied again for ordination in 1993 largely because of a gnawing, uncomfortable feeling that God wanted me in full time ministry. I went to the advisory conference in 1995 convinced I would show God that they didn't want me. Having settled the matter there and then I would be at peace to start my own electrical business. I presented God with an ultimatum, 'They (the diocese) take me as I am with no ifs or buts, otherwise I know ordination is not for me!'

When I got the all important letter (a few weeks later) it came with no conditions and the Dean simply asked me when I'd like to start college. As many can testify, God's timing is perfect isn't it?

Continued on page 3



Profile of
the Assistant
Curate

JUST CONNECT

Bruce Fairfax

I like to make connections. One very fruitful way of meditating on God's purposes is to make connections. Look for connections - between Bible passages- between what you read in the Bible and your other reading and/or viewing-between what you read and your life experience. As you ponder the connections, all sorts of things become clearer - including the questions to which you still don't have answers.

This is actually the way I prepare most of my sermons. I read the Bible passages set for the day in question and look for the connections between them. Then I think about other Bible passages, which relate to these. At this point I often use a Concordance to track down particular passages which I think are relevant. Some Bibles have helpful cross-references to other closely related passages.

With the Bible squarely at the centre of my thinking, I then do a mental scan across other things I have read, watched or listened to which relate to the area in question. In my case this will often come from one of the great writers, but may just as easily be from modern pop songs, films or current affairs. I meditate on the connections between God's revelation of himself in the Bible and human beings portrayal of the world as I experience it in my wider reading and viewing. Sometimes they harmonise. Often they reveal limitations in our worldview. But it is important to make the connections.



Finally I make the connection between what I am reading and my life experience. How

does all this impact on my life now, or on yours? Those of you who are in the habit of using Scripture Union daily notes (which I strongly recommend) will recognise that at least the first and third connections above are part of the SU method. You may be less aware that the first step above has been done for you in advance by the compilers of the Series of

Readings, which we follow in our Sunday services.

Those who do not use an organised daily approach to Bible reading, might like to consider this suggestion: Use your Weekly Bulletin as a record of the passages set for the service you attend. Look up the passages at home on the day(s) after the service and reflect on the connections between them. Track down related passages and think about other things you have read and seen which also relate to them. Ponder the significance for your life. Do this in conjunction with following the Prayer and Praise suggestions in the Bulletin and you are off to a good start in keeping your focus on God throughout the week, not just in church. God is always there for you.

Just connect



"The Bread of Life"

PROFILE OF STEPHEN SAVAGE

Continued from page 2

As I look back over my life so far, I am amazed at the way in which God works to bring about His purposes. I hope He has lots in store for me still and I wait to see what happens next. Thanks for welcoming me and my family to St. John's, I look forward with anticipation to what God may achieve through us all.

DIANNE'S PATCH

I've often imagined what it would be like to have lived in a different century - and particularly what difference it would make to be a Christian at some other time in history. It is amazing to contemplate just what it would mean to our faith.

If we had been born in Israel in the century before Jesus was born, would we have been expecting God's Messiah to come in our time? So many of the prophets would have told us what to look for, but faith in God depended so much on trusting what was not seen or experienced or understood. Most of us would not have been able to read the Old Testament to check it out. It might have been easy to ignore God, I think.

Then in the century that Jesus was born, would we have been like Simeon and Anna waiting expectantly? To do that, we would have had to have listened to some teaching that showed us what to look for and then inspired us to be committed to the plans of God. It would mean holding a belief system that wasn't even held by many of the church leaders, including the Pharisees.

Then in the time of the Reformation in the seventeenth century, would we have been happy to have church in a language that we could not understand, or to be content not to have access to the Bible? Maybe we would have been indifferent to the reformation or even opposed to it.

We will never know how we would have acted in those centuries, but I am glad that I



Dianne Milligan

am now in the twenty-first. There is so much possibility to learn of God and to understand what he is like. We do not have to just hope that we will go to heaven - we can know for sure because it has all been laid out before us in history and the bible, so clearly. We can check things out for ourselves by using so many books that have been written for us to seek answers.

Also we live in an age where we can meet together in small groups. They are certainly an opportunity in the twenty-first century, which enable us to share our faith and our learning experience with each other. When we want to know what God is like, we have the whole of history to contemplate, and we live in a society that encourages us to investigate things together.

So what choices are you making in the beginning of 2000s? Are you taking advantage of the freedom to learn about God by finding people, books, tapes, videos and groups to help you out? Or are you getting by on your own and missing out on the richness of what is available to you?

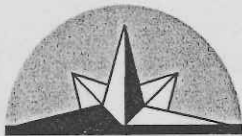
I plan to make the most of this and to really get to know God better by being with his people and examining the Bible in some fresh ways in my own time with him. That means that on my own and with others I will be open to letting God encourage me with all of his blessings that he just loves to send our way. Why don't you make your own plan for spiritual growth - God may just surprise us all with the abundance of his love!

For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow or where we are...high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean...nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.

Romans 8.38-39

Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.

Isaiah 40:31



Freedom to learn
about our faith.

MISSION WORK IN NEPAL

There are a number of mission organizations working in Nepal one being the United mission to Nepal (UMN) which was invited into the country by the government about forty years ago and works on development projects often in conjunction with the government. They are involved in assisting a number of hospitals and the setting up and running of village community health posts.



Conor Smith

They are also involved in helping communities have easier access to clean water and the development of better agricultural techniques many villages do not have ready access to water either to drink or to water their crops and so cannot always grow enough food for themselves.

Another area UMN is involved in is in Non Formal Education, mainly for women and girls. This has proved extremely popular and gives them a confidence they never had in the past.

UMN's agreement with the government is that these projects would be run more and more by Nepalese until UMN has completely

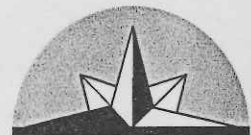
handed over responsibility to the local community.

Through working with the people in these projects UMN is reaching out with the gospel but it has to be careful how it does this especially at the moment as it cannot be seen to be proselytizing which is still illegal even

though people are now allowed to practice whatever religion they like. With a growing Hindu fundamentalism the government is becoming more and more touchy about Christian activities in the country. Before the 1990 revolution it was illegal to be a Christian in Nepal.

Despite this the church has grown strongly and is continuing to do so and is now facing problems brought on by its very growth. It is a church with growing pains. It is estimated there are about 400 000 Christians now in Nepal and 90 churches just in Kathmandu.

Let us hope and pray that the growing Hindu fundamentalism does not hurt the church as it has recently killed a missionary and his two sons in India.



"Prayers needed"

ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

A wise old owl
Lived in an oak
The more he saw
The less he spoke;

The less he spoke,
The more he heard
Why can't we be
Like that wise bird?

Author unknown



AROUND THE PARISH

This section will feature information about groups that are active in the life of the parish. If you would like to have more information about your group featured in the next issue please contact the editor.

Craft Group

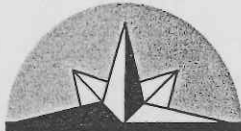
Prior to the St. John's Fair a Craft Group operated each Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Centre. This proved so successful and enjoyable that it was decided to meet again this year on a fortnightly basis, the first and third Tuesday of each month - from 2 pm to 4 pm. An invitation is extended to anyone who enjoys craft and fellowship, come along and share ideas and techniques. The first sessions are on Rug making with a nee-



dle punch. Later in the year we will be doing Ribbon embroidery. If you have a friend who is not a Christian but likes craft, this is a good way to share your faith with them.

For further information please contact me on 6395 4166 or through the Parish Office.

Marjorie Williamson



Extend your
Christian Life. Meet
with other
Christians over a
cuppa. Join a group
or Bible study.

Mothers Union

St. Johns Mothers Union members meet at 1.30 pm in the Parish Centre on the second Wednesday of each month and we have an average attendance of sixteen members.

We have contact links with three English groups, at Fareham, Shepperton and Launceston in Cornwall. This involves exchange of news of their branch activities and friendships have been developed through these links.

Late last year a couple from Sherborne in Dorset, England attended at the 10.00 am service at our Church, and the wife, a Mothers Union member, asked to meet someone from our group. Because of the welcome shown to them at St Johns, Christmas cards arrived, and further correspondence recently too, so perhaps we have another unofficial link branch!

Because of the appreciation expressed for the Songs of Praise held the two previous years,



it is proposed to arrange another in the Spring time

Probably the main activity of our group are the four special Communion services through the year after which we serve a delightful morning tea. Over the years we have aimed to bring to these services, people from

Homes and shut-ins, who would otherwise be unable to attend Church. Our members find these most rewarding. We would like to encourage the younger mothers of the Parish to come to our meetings where you can be assured of a very warm welcome.

The purpose of mothers Union is to be "specially concerned with all that strengthens marriage and Christian family life."

Two of the objects of the organisation are:

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and protection

Autumn Prayer

Dear Lord, help me to see that we reap what we sow and that we will reap in due season if we do not stop trusting You. Teach me to sow seeds of faith based on Your promises rather than the temporary things of this world. Grant me patience to wait on You to bring the answer in perfection so that I may have Your best blessings. Thank you for making all things beautiful in Your time.

Laura Lewis Lanier.

WHAT IS ALPHA???

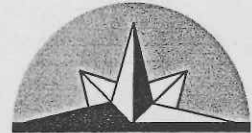
Alpha (a word often used for beginning or first) is a ten week course designed to introduce people to the teachings of Jesus and the basis of the Christian faith. The course consists of 15 talks including some over a weekend, and a celebration party at the end. The weekly sessions include a shared meal and are held in a relaxed atmosphere.

The course recognises that people need time to think, watch, listen and talk through their questions and difficulties. During the course, everybody is allowed to express their own opinions and given opportunity to do so in a small group discussion.

Some comments by recent participants..

- "I've found a firmer faith and renewed my ties with grass roots Christianity." - Vicki
- "I feel... Alive Switched on! Full of faith." - Mark
- I have extended my walk with the Christian faith. I am more at peace with myself and aware more of God's presence in my life." - Anne

For more information please call Parish office
Ph. 6331 4896.



Alpha Course?

Cursillo?

Lay Pastors?

Heard these names

before. Often

wondered what they

meant? Well read

on .

WHAT IS CURSILLO???

Cursillo is an opportunity to strengthen our personal relationship with Christ and to learn how to follow him in our daily lives. Cursillo does not exist for itself. It is not an organisation but a movement of the church that equips and inspires people to be active apostles of Christ. Because of the nature of the Cursillo weekend, candidates need to be sponsored.

They must be at least 18 years and Anglican/Christian.

If you would like to find out more about Cursillo please contact Mrs Dot Newman 6334 4701

WHO ARE ST. JOHN'S LAY PASTORS???

- They are men and women who are committed to the Lord Jesus.
- They know they are loved by God and want to share his love.
- They care about people and believe Christian Fellowship is important.
- They are prepared to be 'real' about their faith.
- They believe God gives gifts to all his people to be used in building up his body.

Could this be a description of you?? Read on to find out more about lay pastoring!

Lay Pastors have participated in a training course, sought to be commissioned by the Rector, and then have been linked with one or more members of St. John's. They are part of a system in which they are supported and

held accountable.

The Lay Pastors offer Christian friendship to the people with whom they are linked. They contact them regularly, pray for them and make themselves available whenever and wherever possible. They try to be good listeners and they keep confidences. In all this they rely on the Holy Spirit to help them. They are, however, not some sort of 'super Christians' - they do slip up at times and make mistakes!

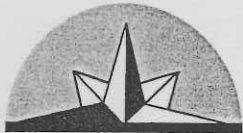
Lay pastoring has been happening in a systematic way for about four years at St. John's, although, of course, lots of spontaneous caring has always occurred and we wouldn't want to change that in any way. Our vision is that one day every member of St. John's will be linked with a Lay Pastor, and that there will be Lay Pastors waiting to be linked with newcomers. We don't want anyone to miss out on being helped to directly and personally experience the love of God

LAY PASTORS *(continued from page 7)*

through the consistent care of a Christian friend. Training courses, based on Mel Steinbron's book 'Can the Pastor Do It Alone?' are run periodically, so how about becoming involved yourself? There are currently fourteen Lay Pastors linked with thirty-nine people here, so perhaps one of your friends has a Lay Pastor or is involved in pastoring, and can tell

you more about it. I would really like to hear from you if you have questions, comments or 'expressions of interest' to make. Please contact me at church or on 6334 6494

Helen Smith.



Laughter is the best
medicine

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A computer was something on TV from a science fiction show of note. A window was something you hated to clean, and ram was the cousin of a goat. Meg was the name of my girlfriend and gig was a job for the nights.

Now they all mean different things and that really mega bytes. An application was for employment, a program was a TV show, a cursor used profanity and a keyboard was a piano. Memory was something that you lost with age, a cd was a bank account. Compress was something you did to the garbage not something you did to a file,



Computer Language
Author unknown

and if you unzipped anything in public you'd be in jail for a while. Log on was adding wood to the fire, hard drive was a long trip on the road, a mouse pad was where a mouse lived and a backup happened to your commode.

Cut you did with a pocket knife, paste you did with glue. A web was a spider's home and a virus was the flu, I guess I'll

stick to my pen and paper and the memory in my head. I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash but when it happens they wish they were dead

Author Unknown

IS THAT SO!!!!

One day, a girl looked at her mother's hair and sadly said, "Why is some of your hair white, Mummy?" The mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The girl thought about this revelation awhile, and then said, "Mummy, how come 'all' of grandma's hairs are white?"

If you went to church every Sunday and prayed five minutes every morning and night, you would be giving God five months of your life. Five months out of 70 years!

Submitted by: Joyce Ferland
(Methodist Church Harvester Hollister LA)

A DREAM ACHIEVED - THE FOOTBALL MATCH -

A group of young severely disabled teenagers living together in a residential complex were very keen AFL football fans: each had their own favourite team and went to great lengths to display their preferences.

They viewed the game on television sitting in their wheelchairs dressed appropriately in their team colours: at important times wheelchairs were also dressed; how they roared at each other as games progressed, wheelchair bound though they were their expertise in "marking" the game could not be faulted.

These young people were aware that their life span may be limited and the ultimate dream for each of them was to watch an AFL match live in Melbourne.

Unassisted they laid their plans - great deliberation over which two teams they would watch play; somehow this was agreed upon. They moved onto stage two - nothing as simple as booking a plane ticket and accommodation and away we go. To realise their plan it was essential to enlist a minimum of your able bodied people to accompany them; not everyone's idea of fun to fly to Melbourne to watch a football match. However determination knows no bars; they managed to select four people who wouldn't refuse them and also persons who were prepared to spend money on fares and accommodation.

The Great Day eventually arrived and off the little band of people went - onto the aircraft via hydraulic lift - they conveyed their



excitement to all Aircraft Personnel and passengers. They were determined to support their own team. - Geelong, Carlton, Hawthorn and Collingwood colours were well displayed.

The first realisation of the enormity of their venture came to the two most disabled young people (they could not support themselves in any way) as the Air Steward began to don a life-jacket and issue instructions;

the older boy looked up and said "What would we do?" - My reply was "we will pray". He sighed and said OK and they were both quite satisfied, confident and enjoyed the flight.

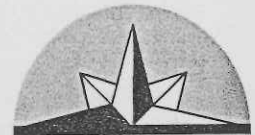
The football club had been alerted of these very special people and of their great effort to get to the match. How surprised the 5 boys and 1 girl were to receive such special care and consideration and of course new football regalia including a 'used' football.

The game was the most important part of all and every kick and special mark were noted and talked of for many months; and many people had to listen to their 'great experience'.

Three of the young people are no longer with us; death held no fears for them, they spoke freely about it and supported each other as "time drew near".

They had the privilege of "achieving their dream".

Audrey Sifleet



**A heart warming
story of great
courage**

LENT

Lent is a time for giving things up. Fasting is also related to this idea of self-sacrifice.

It sounds as if it could be very negative, but just read these lines by an American bishop, Arthur Lichtenberger:

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise;
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy;
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace;
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment;
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love;
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility;
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service;
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Editor: Jan Wood
Phone: 6391 8890
Email: restwood@primus.com.au

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first edition of COMPASS, St John's Parish magazine. I wish to thank all those who contributed in any way, by suggesting articles, supplying stories, promoting or reporting on events in the church.

I especially wish to acknowledge and say a big thank you to Kay Johnson for all her hard work in preparing articles for this edition of the magazine



It is hoped that the magazine is and Do you know a story that has delighted or amazed you? Maybe you would like to share it with others, in the magazine. If you need someone to help write your story please contact me on the above contact numbers arrangements can be made to assist you. We are always looking for new and interesting articles or ideas, please let us know if you have something.

It is hoped to run a column 'Letters to the Editor' for discussion of current or theological topics. If you have issues you are concerned about and would like some input, or if there is a topic in the magazine you would like more information on, please write in and we will endeavour to answer your questions.

The points of view in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editor or the staff at St John's. Please pass the magazine on to a friend and encourage them in their faith as I hope those who have shared in this issue have encouraged you.

BOOK REVIEW

Donald Wall

'Peace with God' by Billy Graham, World's Work Ltd., Kingswood, U.K. (paperback, pp. 207)



Written for the man (woman) in the street to give him a clear understanding of the new way of life presented by Jesus two thousand years ago, this book is one of my favorites. It is, in fact, a popular account, with supporting argument, of essential Christian theology in layman's language. In particular, it deals with the benefits and rewards of being a Christian.

The book will bring the reader peace with God and the world in times of crisis, confusion, perplexity and bewilderment. It will encourage, strengthen and build up the average person in the Christian faith. Not a devotional book but an evangelistic

one: it argues and proves the truths of Christianity as only Billy Graham can. The author discusses intelligently and with relentless logic the problems confronting the world and the individual person; God's solution to these problems, and, most importantly, the results and benefits of the Christian life. The great feature of the book is its optimism, cheerfulness and hope. It is joyful to read, but it is also meaty and hard-hitting.

It is a book on the popular theology of Christianity, fully biblical with lots of references. The reader will learn a lot and come away uplifted, confident, and born-again. Highly recommended.