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Welcome to our third 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 apologise for not being able to produce a Christmas edition of Compass but I was delayed in Brisbane and only returned to Launceston two weeks before Christmas. Our trip around Australia was awesome and something to remember for the rest of our lives. The churches I visited reinforced the knowledge that as Christians we are part of a very large family that breaks down barriers wherever we go.

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 by Laurice Whiddon

PRIEST AND PARTISAN - A SOUTH-AFRICAN JOURNEY by Michael Worsnip, a South African Theologian. Ocean Press Publishers ISBN 187 528 4966

A biography of Michael Lapsley (articles have been in our Tasmanian Church News).

There are no adequate adjectives to describe this biographical sketch of the life and work of Michael. Born in New Zealand, a confirmed pacifist - he leaves for ministry in South Africa where he had to grapple with the injustice he saw of apartheid. Saweto totally trans-

formed his allegiance - he became a member of A.N.C., which put him in conflict with the Church of South Africa. He became the target of a letter bomb that blew off both his hands and one eye - but he still has his voice. As now one of the victims of apartheid terror, he became a healer to the traumatized and a voice for reconciliation. Michael now works with retired Bishop Desmond Tutu at the Trauma Centre.

I recommend this book to everyone who cares about human dignity, either believers or non-believers.



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

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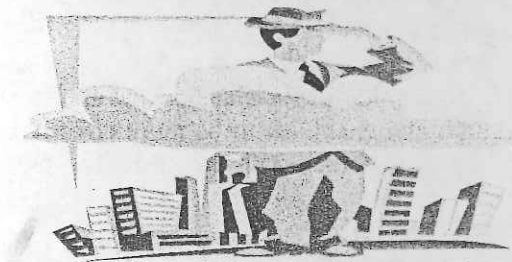
COMPASS

SHOWING THE WAY

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"CHANGES ALL AROUND I SEE" From the Rector



As he looked out into his world of the 19th Century Henry Francis Lyle wrote. "Change and decay in all around I see: O thou who changest not, abide with me." And it has ever been so since human beings rebelled against their Creator God. However, I pray that as we as a congregation enter fully into this new year we will be able to say "Change and renewal in all around I see." For change there certainly will be and already there are signs of renewal.

Although I do not know at this stage what they are, I would imagine that the recommendations of the Parish Consultants will bring change. There are changes in the staffing of the Parish. There are changes in the

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membership of the congregation and there are Changes in the Diocesan leadership.

Whilst God does not change, his work in the world changes as the world changes. The gospel does not change but the way it is presented and the people to whom it is presented continue to change.

Change should not occur for the sake of change. However, change which will bring a more effective presentation of the gospel message must occur. Change which will enable us to become more mature Christians must also be encouraged.

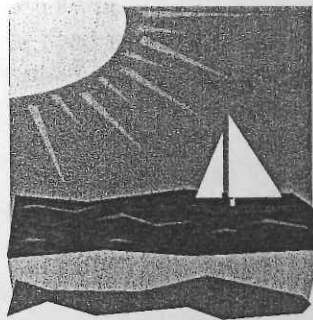
As new people enter our congregation they will bring new enthusiasm and vitality to our church, particularly as new Christians join us who have had no church background.

Please pray with me that the changes that are occurring will bring renewal to our church and enable us to be more effective in our growth as Christians and in our outreach with the gospel to the community in which we live.

Craig Clifton

SUMMER PRAYER

Give me the confident assurance that what I'm trusting You to do in my life, is going to happen. Give me the certainty that what I hope for is waiting for me, even though I cannot see it. Thank You for the blessings You send every day to



encourage me. Help me to look to You for all my needs ...for guidance and protection...because You care about everything that goes on in my life.

Laura Lewis Lanier

LAMENTATION FOR DILI

They lie in serried ranks
in Dili in the jungle

Mangled bodies that no
one knows any more.

Persecuted by their
Guerrilla countrymen -

Or was it the Indonesians -
who knows.

The troops parachuted
in or come by helicopter

From surrounding nations

Australians, New Zealanders, Gurkas

It was a peaceful mission that could turn
to war

The people had been shuffled off from
East to West Dili

By Indonesians or Guerrillas - who
knows?

The United Nations dropped food or came
in person

Seeking to restore the fallen Status Quo.

Who knows what the fate of this small
Pacific island will be?

Scorched earth policy decimates the build-
ings

Before racial hatred who can take a stand

Where are the survivors supposed to live

Out in the open country by the wayside

We grieve for them all - these our brothers



We lament their sudden
passing

As we seek their various
graves in the land

Down wells, dug into the
fields, anywhere

We came to haunted vil-
lages

Burnt out shells of homes,
rased communities

Some people were left who
needed our help

Desperately.

In the midst of all this confusion

Some leaders and others talk of war
crimes.

Will the fateful cycle of destruction never
cease -

All we get is war when what we seek is
peace

It has to do with the nature of the human
beast

Who looks for the most but settles for the
least.

Dili is another pawn in the political arena

With its people and its land a silent wit-
ness to wholesale carnage.

Vicki Riette

FAREWELL

Rev'd Dianne Milligan at the Parish Farewell

The Rev'd Dianne Milligan has now left St John's Parish to take up a new and challenging role in the Co-operating Parish of Swansea. In her farewell speech Dianne told us that when she arrived in Tasmania from Sydney she knew no one. In the two years she has spent in Launceston, Dianne has made many friends and she hopes that the friendships she has formed will continue, even though she is now situated in Swansea. So we say goodbye and thank you Dianne, for all you have shared with us here at St John's.



Above: Candidates from the Alpha Course with Dianne, Nancyanne Plumb, Anne Progloulis, George Prall and Nat. Thomas

WELCOME



Scott Sargent and his family at his welcome to St Johns Parish

It is with great pleasure we welcome Scott, Jan and Isaac into our family at St Johns. Scott has served 14 years in the Tasmania Police Service and has studied for the ministry for 5 years. Jan is a serving Police Officer in the Tasmania Police Service and Isaac is that gorgeous little boy we see running around bringing sunshine into all our lives. We do pray that the time that the family spend working with us in the Parish will be both fruitful and happy for us all.

SPELLING IT OUT—ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN—*Marie Fulton*

An ordinary churchgoer offers to explain.



“What religion are you?” This blunt and very badly-worded question, thrown at us, perhaps, by someone taking our ‘particulars’, gives most of us the jitters! Some people play safe and mutter, “Anglican”, forgetting that ‘Anglican’ isn’t a religion but a ‘denomination’, a tiny segment of the Christian church. Seventy five per cent of Christians are actually Roman Catholic or Orthodox! Then there are Quakers, Methodist, Uniting Church and so on!

Why don’t we simply come out with a straight answer, ‘I’m a Christian’? Is it pride—that we dread being written off as old-fashioned or ‘wet’, or confused with tiresome do gooders and embarrassing American-style evangelists? Or is it the opposite, modesty—that we don’t want to set ourselves up as plaster saints, ‘holier-than-thou’

hypocrites?

Either way we’re wrong. As with most religious matters, being a Christian is much

more down-to earth and commonsensical than we assume. Let’s look at one or two facts.

To ways to arrive.

The term “Christian”, was coined as a nickname for the early followers of Christ in Antioch. Some Christians, as you probably know, make this choice suddenly, with a dramatic crash, a life-changing ‘conversion’, and never seem to look back! St Augustine, John Wesley and many more could name the exact place, day and hour when the ‘conversion’ occurred. But for most people; it is a long, gradual process with many setbacks. I’ve been a Christian for forty plus years and keep finding myself right back at square one! - but in every miserable failure I also find Jesus there with unflinching

SPELLING IT OUT—ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN

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Unwillingly to Church:

Does a Christian have to belong to a church or chapel? Possibly, like me, you feel closer to God when you’re alone on the hills than you do in a church; our dearest friends are not necessarily those we meet in church; our best, most fulfilling work may be done in the weekday world, not in the Parish Hall! But, yes; people of all religions seem to find that worship has to be partly a communal thing that we need to gather with others to pray, to support and learn from one another, to form a visible body of believers. Which is the ‘right church’? One hopes it’s the one on your doorstep—but it isn’t necessarily the one with the biggest congregation or longest list of organisations! It’s the one where you are enabled to encounter God, to offer him the best of yourself, to share with him and others your concern for the troubles and failures of human society. The right

church can be like home—a place for unwinding, reassurance and nourishment. If sadly, the only church you can find is miserably inadequate, if it’s dreary, unfriendly or irritating, comfort yourself by remembering how Jesus must have felt when he joined in worship at the local Synagogue, where he was ridiculed, or in the Temple, whose High Priests were partly instrumental in having him killed. Yet even Jesus needed and wanted to share regularly in communal, organised religious observance.

Doing your Homework:

Does a Christian have to be always praying? But of course! Christianity is primarily a matter of loving, if you’re in love, you want to talk to your beloved, or even better, to listen! That’s prayer for you! There’s a way that’s natural and right for you and —surprise, surprise!— God will meet you half way and help you to do it better. We have, of course, a

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SPELLING IT OUT—ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN

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good textbook. 'Oh, not the Bible' I hear you groan, "that dull and difficult book! O.K. just wait a minute! Just think. If illiterate 14th century peasants were enthralled and liberated by first hearing the Gospel read aloud to them in English, if Victorian housemaids were comforted and absorbed reading the 'Good Book' in their garret bedrooms, if its words inspired Handel's Messiah and the emancipation of the slaves - it can't be that difficult or dull! It is a holy book, the word of God', but that means you can read it in two ways. You can, and should study it fairly deeply and critically, like any other book, with the help of Bible Reading Notes, commentaries, a knowledgeable friend or a group or you can simply read a passage, praying that the Holy Spirit will use it to say something to you. Both methods are risky the one may

be too intellectual to do your soul good, the other leaves you free to misunderstand, to get hold of the wrong end of the stick. The rewards outweigh the risks. This book has rebuilt and rescued lives; it shows us Jesus; it teaches wisdom, which is worth far more than learning. Words from the Book of Psalms were on Jesus' lips as he hung on the Cross; with words from a Book of Moses he defeated the Evil One in the desert.

Various Vocations:

As a child I was frightened of becoming a Christian because I thought I'd have to give up liking chocolate and picking blue-bells and go to China or Africa as a missionary! Most Christians, in fact, find their calling in normal life - work and home, marriage, hobbies, friendships and the enjoyment of the created world. It's the priorities that change: greed,

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SPELLING IT OUT—ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN

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selfishness, hatred, all that is false, dark, corrupt or shameful must give way to generosity, service, tolerance, honesty, openness and self-control-which makes a much happier recipe for life! A Christian lives and makes decisions with one eye on God, looking for his guidance, his restraining hand, his help. For a few, perhaps, this entails startling changes of direction a call to Holy Orders, to monastic life, to difficult and dangerous forms of service, to poverty, imprisonment...death, even in the 21st century! But such Christians testify to God's sustaining help throughout their ordeals. It isn't in God's nature to want to 'break' anyone. That's more the Devil's work.

Nor should a Christian deliberately seek hardship, thinking that this will make him God's Blue-eyed darling! God's love and grace are always freely given, never, never, earned or purchased.

The Good Manners of Tolerance:

Finally, the Christian's relationship to members of other major faiths. We rightly cringe with shame, remembering the bloodshed, oppressions and scorn wherewith Christians have persecuted Jewish, Moslem, Hindu and Buddhist people. These people lose their respect for us if, in our efforts to be acceptable or modern, we water down the teaching of Jesus or question the value of our own scriptures. Many of us were baptised in infancy, and prayer was then offered that we might not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified". You would think he would be ashamed to admit knowing US !- but this title, Christian, makes us out as his family, children of God, heirs to his kingdom! It's an answer we can give, unabashed, to that clumsy enquiry with which we began: "What religion are you.....?"

NEGATIVES AND POSITIVES OR MAKING A DIFFERENCE *by Lana Wall*

At some point in our lives we have choices: Do I buy this house? Do I take this job? Do I marry this person? Do I leave home? Do I take this course?

Often to assist us in making our decisions we list on a piece of paper the negatives and positives or the pros and cons that we can think of on the question at hand.

For example, when choosing a house to buy. There is never a perfect house, but it must provide enough of the desirable qualities we are seeking, i.e. location, price, maintenance-free, etc.

No amount of sugar-coating or the using of rose-coloured glasses will turn ugly boards into a pearl. However one can be realistic and turn negatives into positives. It may have a lovely garden to enjoy or have a newly refurbished kitchen or workshop. Any one of these features may provide hours of pleasure and enjoyment.

Whatever our choice we can constantly, with help or advice, fine-

tune our decisions to make them more suitable. Our relationships can grow and extend and we can become more productive in ways that we had not thought of originally.

On the other hand we have had no say in God's choice with us – God has chosen us, warts and all. Just as Paul told the Thessalonians that they were chosen by God (1 Thess. 1: 4,5) so we are chosen by God and we belong to him. The choice is ours regarding how we want to develop and form our relationship with God. If we allow him to work in and through us, He can do some marvellous "fine tuning."

Recently I came across a very odd story in the winter 2000/1 issue of the magazine *Evergreen*, one that applauds yesteryear and things of the past in England. In this story the established "church" did not live up to its teaching, but the writer found God and friendship in a British department store.

I was intrigued because a gentleman felt compelled to write to

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NEGATIVES AND POSITIVES OR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Evergreen telling about his story. I also suspect that the editors were thinking of the fact that just about every local British town probably has a High Street. There are 17 towns listed in the *Tasmanian Towns Street Atlas* as having a High Street, with 19 towns having a King Street but only 10 towns having a Queen Street. Anyway the gentleman's story:

He had attended a mid-week lunchtime Advent Service in one of the local churches. At the end of the service everyone got up to walk past for the handshake with the minister, who chatted with those he knew. The author passed through without a seasonal word from anyone and left to do some shopping. In his mind the theme "Glory to God in the Highest" fell flat. After doing some shopping he went to the department store where carols were being played as customers enjoyed a cup of tea and some food. He looked around for a handy place to sit having a tray in hand and shopping on each arm. However an elderly lady called him over to join herself and two others. They encouraged him

to join in their friendly celebrations and chit chat.

This man remembered a story of a young man, who threw a rock through a stained glass window, changing the text to read: Glory to God in the High st. The author claimed his "High St" had been the department store, for there it was that he had received the friendship and blessing of Christmas.

Being a friend is not a seasonal job. There can be a bit of Christmas every day of the year. We have many opportunities to serve.

This story shows how a small gesture had a great influence and impact on one person.

However, it was very sad that the church had failed the "litmus" test and was found wanting.

Should I go to church? Should I make a difference?

FROM THE POST SYNOD BRIEFING BY THE BISHOP HELD AT DELORAINE ON DECEMBER 7TH 2000

Members of parishes are being helped to discover, develop and use their God-given gifts in the life and mission of the church. There is a significant widening of the range of ministries being exercised. We are seeing the recovery of the biblical practice of shared ministry and leadership in our churches.

In the Diocese of Tasmania, responsibility for the licensing of lay people for local lay ministry now resides with the Rector. This involves the granting of a licence by the Rector for a range of recognised ministries. The general rule is that those ministries which are of a public or representative nature within the church or on behalf of the church require such authority and provides for a process to test the suitability and qualifications of a person for a ministry and to provide on-going support, training and appraisal.

Having been authorised by the Rector lay ministers will be accountable to the Rector through a process of feedback. This accountability and how it will be implemented is spelt out and may include items such as study, training, gifting, evaluation and appraisal.

Sometimes people may well perform some of the tasks and yet not be licensed but just operate under the approval of the Rector

A list of some of the ministries that are eligible for authorisation include: Worship leader, Preacher, Communion Assistant as were accustomed to be previously licensed by the Bishop but now include Funeral Minister, Parish Administrator and a range of Co-ordinators such as Co-ordinator of Pastoral Care, Outreach, Children's ministry, Youth Ministry, Global Mission, Prayer and Small Groups. It is possible for a person to exercise a number of ministries, all of which would be listed in the Licence.

*John Smith
Churchwarden*

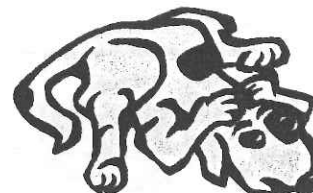
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

In the back woods of Arkansas, Mr. Stewart's wife went into labour in the middle of the night, and the doctor was called out to assist in the delivery. To keep the nervous father-to-be busy, the doctor handed him a lantern and said, "Here, you hold this high so I can see what I'm doing." Soon, a wee baby boy was brought into the world. "Whoa there, Scotty!" said the doctor. "Don't be in a rush to put the



lantern down...I think there's yet another wee one to come." Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered another little baby. "No, no, don't be in a great hurry to be putting down that lantern, young man...It seems there's yet another one besides!" cried the doctor. The new father scratched his head in bewilderment, and asked the doctor. "Do ye think it's the light that's attractin' them?"

Upon entering the little country store, the stranger noticed a sign saying DANGER! BEWARE OF DOG! posted on the glass door. Inside he noticed a harmless old hound dog asleep on the floor beside the cash register. He asked the store manager, "Is THAT the dog folks are supposed to beware of?" "Yep, that's



him," he replied. The stranger couldn't help but be amused. "That certainly doesn't look like a dangerous dog to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?" "Because," the owner replied, "before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him



Grandma is it true that sugar and spice and all things nice is what little girls are made of? Well, Yes darling but don't worry, you grow out of it!!!!



You really know you're getting old when you bend over to tie your shoe laces and wonder what else you can do while you're down there!!

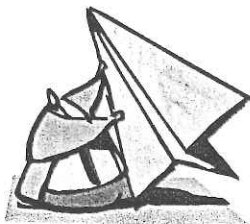
AROUND THE PARISH

A.S.K.

Ask

Seek

Know how to do
it



The aim is for young mums and dads to have some quality time doing what they want in the way of craft, cooking, outings or just socializing.

Cost is no more than \$5

This is a new group of people meeting at St John's every Thursday morning during term time from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon in the Parish Centre

Playgroup for the young children is available

Contact: Anne 6339 4328 or

Janine 6334 3723

FISHING CLUB

By another name St John's Anglican Church Evangelism and Outreach Task force



God Together' and other courses as well as promoting a welcoming church - people must want to come to our church and the people must be proud of our

church.

Based on the concept of evangelism being -'fishing for men' the philosophy parallels fishing. We must recognise that multiculturalism means that there is a considerable range of experience, backgrounds and tastes in the community. The art is thus to fish with skill.

The Fishing Club meets monthly at the Parish Centre to plan and organise outreach events and involvement.

Contact: Mr John E.N.Smith

Phone 6331 4896 at the parish office or 6334 6494 at home

We organise, *Alpha* but co-ordinate 'Christianity Explained' 'Sharing

CELEBRATION AND WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY

On Sunday 4 February Bishop John Harrower administered the rite of Confirmation to the following parishioners:

Terry Chapman

Robyn Fraser

Wayne Preston

Eloise Rainbird

Lisa and Michael Spotswood

Nathan Thomas

Linette Blyton

and received into the Anglican church.

Peter Renshaw

We welcome them with Christian love into Gods family and pray that they will continue to grow in their Christian life here with us at St John's.

ALPHA COURSE

This Course represents the flagship of our evangelism effort and has seen several newcomers brought and many others restored to Christ.

Alpha is the name given to an eleven-week course designed by the Anglican Church at Holy Trinity Brompton in the United Kingdom to



introduce people to the teachings of Jesus and the basis of the Christian Faith.

St John's Launceston runs evening and daytime courses.

Contact: John E N Smith
at 63314896 or 63346494 ah

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Mommy, I'm afraid! I'm afraid!" cried the little girl who was awakened in the middle of the night by the storm. The rain beating against the window frightened her; the lightning and thunder terrified her. "Mommy, where are you! Where are you!"



Her mother hurried into her room. She sat on the side of the bed and held her daughter tightly to comfort her. Wanting to take advantage of this teach-

able moment, she said, 'Darling, when you are frightened like this you can know that God is with you and loves you.'

Yes Mommy I know that," she sobbed. "But I need love with skin on."

Melvin J. Steinbron

SOMETHING TO PONDER ON! HOW CAN I PASS ON GOD'S LOVE WITH SKIN ON?

A VISIT

One day I rang a doorbell
In a casual sort of way
Twas not a formal visit
And there wasn't much to say

He said I came from heaven
And I've often wondered why
He said I came to see him
When no other help was nigh

I don't remember what I said-
It matters not, I guess-
But I found a heart in hunger
A soul in deep distress

It meant so little to me
To knock at a stranger's door
But it meant heaven to him
And God's peace forevermore

FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

GOD'S KINGDOM



Can you find your way through the maze to God's Kingdom?

Many plants and trees bushes and flowers are mentioned in the Bible. Look up these verses to fill in the blanks:

-1. John 15:1-8 Any slender plant that trails on the ground or climbs some supporting device by means of tendrils. Several are mentioned.
-2. Matthew 13:24-30. A poisonous weed closely resembling wheat in appearance until it is ripe. Then it can be easily recognised and weeded out.
-3. Luke 15:16 Sweet pods of the locust tree, used for feeding cattle and pigs.
-4. 1 Kings 5:6 Tree used for furniture and buildings, grown on snow-capped mountain ranges, north of Palestine.

DOT POINTS

- ♦ Remember when you point a finger, 3 are pointing back at you.
- ♦ People are like stained glass windows, they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but in the darkness their beauty is only seen if there is a light within.
- ♦ A sense of humour is as important to life as shock absorbers are to a car—it helps us over the bumps.
- ♦ There is nothing so annoying as to have people going on talking while you are busy interrupting!

ONE DAY AT A TIME

Don't be anxious about tomorrow. God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time.

Matthew 6:34

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about the things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you..

Philippians 4:6-8

WANTED URGENTLY

I hope you have enjoyed this edition of Compass. If this magazine is to continue I need more contributions in the form of interesting articles, poems, items of interest, reports on what is happening in your group, I am sure there are a lot of stories out there to be told. Quite a few of our parishioners are elderly and cannot attend services regularly. This magazine is a great way for them to keep in touch with what is happening in the Parish. If you can help please either leave the article in an envelope for collection from the Church office or if you have email my email address is restwood@bigpond.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR