



The LINK



LINK is an example of a wave of new growth that seems to be coming into the life of St John's by the power of God's Spirit. We continue to see the effect of changed lives through the Alpha Course. Our Sundays at 10 have taken a life of their own that is meeting the spiritual needs of the majority of worshippers. Our Youth work and Children's Ministry has seen notable growth since the arrival of Nathan. The Study Groups are alive and flourishing with increased attendances. Music is more apparent in the calendar of life at St John's. Our regular groups such as the Guild and Mother's Union continue as important parts of our dedicated community. Our outreach into the Community through our Refugee and City Mission support complements our commitment to Anglcare and other Missions. For all these signs of life and growth we give thanks to God. But there remain challenges to be open to new directions of the God who as Isaiah says is always bringing about new things in our midst. Every morning at 8 (except Saturday) all the work of St John's and every one who belongs to St John's is prayed for and lifted into the presence of our loving God.

JULY CORPORATE WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays at 8 - traditional Holy Communion

Sundays at 10 - contemporary worship

Holy Communion (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer (2nd & 4th Sundays)

Sundays at 7 pm (Robed Choir)

Evening Prayer (1st, & 3rd)

Holy Communion (2nd & 4th)

Wednesdays at 10.30 Holy Communion

LATE NEWS

We met for a special congregational meeting on June 30th to review the changes that we have initiated in 2002 following the consultations of previous months. A report given to the meeting indicated the implementation of a considerable number of the Parish Consultation recommendations. The meeting indicated that the contemporary format of our 10 am Sunday Service should continue. People were encouraged to express their thoughts freely during the discussion. Although it is still in its formative stages, there has been an encouraging positive response to this new style service.

SPECIAL SERVICE IN JULY

JULY 21 - Songs of Praise at City Baptist Church (Princes Square)

2.15 for 2.30 (details see page 2)

OFFERING THE WORK OF OUR HANDS, OUR VOICES AND OUR MINDS

ART MUSIC and DRAMA

MUSIC and MORE and POETRY

Vicki Riette one of our regular worshippers and our librarian was awarded the first prize (and a cup) in the Launceston Poetry competition last year. Her poem

was
THE CHEFS

I'm just a humble cook
Exist on meat and three veg
But some of T.V.'s cooking stars
Keep me on the edge.

The pleasures of cuisine
On an expense account
Lavish dinner parties
Guests of any amount.

Magella cooks the sweets,
Jamie Oliver the man with spice
Everything looks so appetizing
And tastes so very nice.

It used to be the two fat ladies
Or cooking for pleasure
Or the fisherman up north
Cooking at Caledonian leisure.

Locally it is our flashy Greek
Who raids the supermarket cart
The home frig and larder seek
Blindfolds until the meal's start.

But how to do it for oneself
I really do not know
I'm just a cook left on the shelf
But I'd like to have a go.

(We congratulate Vicki on her award and hope to hear more of her thoughtful poetry later in Music and More.)

The next MUSIC and MORE will be on
AUGUST 18th with wonderful music on
flute, piano, organ and with anthems from
our St John's choir.

It will be linked with the City Mission and
art work will be by Elizabeth Smith.



SONGS of PRAISE

The next Songs of Praise will be at the City Baptist Church (Princes Square) on Bible Sunday, July 21st - 2.15 for 2.30 pm.

The Salvation Army Musicians will be with us again and our St John's choir will be singing two anthems including Bach's *Jesu Joy of man's desiring*. Our choir will be leading the congregational hymns and other singers will be joining them as a first step towards an inter-church choir for these occasions.

The hymns - which were chosen by our various congregations - on this occasion will include How Great Thou art; Guide me O thou great Jehovah; the Old Rugged Cross and Onward Christian Soldiers. There will be singing and instrumental groups from the Baptist church, and there will also be modern songs such as "Lord I come to you".

As this is also Bible Sunday we will have a retiring collection to support the Bible Society
Come and bring your friends!

Then September 15 (Church of the Apostles)

November 17 (Salvañon Army),

next February (UCA) and maybe back at St John's after Easter next year

The gift of God is Eternal Life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rector GREG CLIFTON's Viewpoint:

STATISTICS - The release last month of the 2001 Census figures gives us both encouragement and challenge. It is not surprising that with a declining population in Launceston that this is reflected in the number of people attending church services. However, because of the continuing addition of new members we have been able to maintain a stable attendance over the years. The challenge the figures present us with is that there are over 60,000 people in Launceston. Most of these still need to make a positive response to the Gospel. Our youth & children's work continues to give us much encouragement as new programmes begin.

Progress has been made in the appointment of a full-time clergy assistant, though this may take time.

It is true that in all areas of life, including parish activities, there are stresses and negative aspects. But let us give thanks to God for the many positive things happening in our parish at this present time.

CURATE's CORNER (Scott Sargent):

What a joy it has been to interview 2 parishioners in the last few weeks at the 10 am service about the way God has worked in their lives. Both Paul and Sherry boldly told us how God had brought them into a relationship with Himself through newfound faith in Jesus Christ as both Lord and Saviour. . A significant part of this transformation was their participation in recent "Alpha" courses run at St John's. At present we are running a course and have 20 guests attending. Please pray that God will speak to the hearts and minds of these guests and draw them into a vibrant and personal relationship with Himself. May I encourage you to talk to me about "Alpha" and what it could offer your friends and family who do not yet know Jesus. It is non-threatening and friendship based and features a brilliant weekly speaker Nicky Gumbel (on video).

NATHAN's NEWS

TEENAGE RAGE is what I call the Tim Tams group which meets every Thursday evening during school term. The group meets from 7.30 - 9.30. They discuss issues that the young people bring up, linked with relevant Bible teaching. Afterwards supper - normally Tim Tams!

The group caters for anyone who consider themselves teenagers and can handle Tim Tams!.

Next issue - news about Oasis

SERMON QUOTES FROM JUNE:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, Paul writes to the Romans (Romans 1 v.16-17) The weak and seemingly foolish message of the Cross is the supreme power of God directed to the saving of all human beings. Proclaiming the Gospel is proclaiming Jesus. God can confer his pattern of right living (righteousness) on those whose faith (trust) is in God and the saving work of Jesus. For a Christian to live is to know God and this is crucial for our understanding of the Christian faith. (Greg Clifton 2.6.02)

To Abraham was given the promise that all the people of the earth would be blessed through him. Abraham maintained a core belief that God keeps his promises.

We know that that promise was eventually fulfilled through Jesus Christ. At the time it was through the miracle of the gift of Isaac in Abraham's old age. God still works miracles like that today through the faith we exercise. Today we have a choice: Are we to trust in the salvation that was carried out for us on the cross by Jesus, or do we rely on our own efforts?

Unless we get our theory right what we build on it will crumble. As Paul says (Romans 4 13-25) lay hold on the gospel of God. (Scott Sargent. 9.6.02)

We are all interested in our inheritance. Paul in Romans says our inheritance is salvation, forgiveness, the peace of Christ and our justification.

Justification brings 1. peace with God (by Christ's wounds we are healed) and peace from God. Christ IS our peace;
2. joy (Romans 5 v.2&3). We rejoice in God's wisdom and love through Christ who is the radiance (reflection) of God;
3. hope which is a sure expectation of what God has in store. A hope that does not disappoint whatever our human circumstances.

Hallelujah! what a Saviour! (Lana Wall - 16.6.02)

FINANCE REPORT

At the 30th June there was a short-fall in weekly offerings of \$5000 for the budget year.

This stresses the importance of maintaining the personal pledges that many of you have made through the voluntary envelope scheme. If you do not already belong to this scheme you may request a set of envelopes from the Parish Office. The amount you give remains between you and God, and no record of your pledging and giving is kept by the Parish. But the envelope helps us all to remember our part in supporting financially this corner of God's Kingdom

GROUP NEWS - News from Mothers' Union

Wednesday June 26th saw nearly 40 Parishioners at lunch in the Parish Centre, hosted by the Mothers' Union and friends, who had also brought quite a few of these folk from their homes or the Retirement Homes where they live. It was a time of happy fellowship with old friends after Holy Communion in the Church. Olva Harris, the MU Secretary writes: "The purpose of this world-wide organisation is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves Christian family life.

Meetings are held in the St John's Parish Centre on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1.30 pm. A short time of devotions is followed by a business meeting.

Most meetings include invited speakers with varied and interesting occupations.

There would be a warm welcome for younger mothers of the Parish family at this time of fellowship together."

PARISH ADDRESSES AND PHONES

Rector: Revd. Greg Clifton - Phone 6331 5218

Assistant Curate: Revd. Scott Sargent 6331 4566

Children's and Youth Worker: Nathan Donnelly 6343 4703

Parish Office: Miss Valerie Murgatroyd 6331 4896

9 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday

Parish Office Fax: 6334 1719

Website: www.tassie.net.au/-stjohn

SPORTS COLUMN

BOOTS 'N' ALL

have a big July programme.
6th rainforest walk in the Meander Valley;

20 - Medium grade walk at Rats Castle near Great lake;
27 Slide evening - Bring and Share food. Phone 6343 5424
Nathan and Derek continue a weekly tennis contest and Scott has been challenged by Tony Williams!

COMING EVENTS

JULY

21 2.30 pm Songs of Praise at City Baptist
This will be linked with Bible Sunday.
The Salvation Army Band will start playing at 2.15

AUGUST

18 Music and More 2.30 at St John's
? Parish Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER

15 2.15 for 2.30 Songs of Praise:
Church of the Apostles

OCTOBER

29 Music and More - 2.30 at St John's

NOVEMBER

16 - Parish Fair

17 2.30 Songs of Praise. S.Army

? Rehearsals will begin for production of
JERUSALEM PASSION next March

DECEMBER

1 Advent Sunday - 10 am Traditional Advent
Carols and Lessons Service

7 Philharmonic Choir presents
Handel's "Messiah" in St John's.



Humour - in prayer!

Pastor Jack told me a story of a man who prayed, "Lord I haven't done anything wrong today. I have not made any mistakes, spoken any wrong words or thought any bad thoughts. I've done everything right so far. But I'm really going to be depending on you now Lord, because I'm about to get out of bed." from "Just enough Light for the Step I'm on" S. Omartian