



St John's Anglican Church Launceston

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

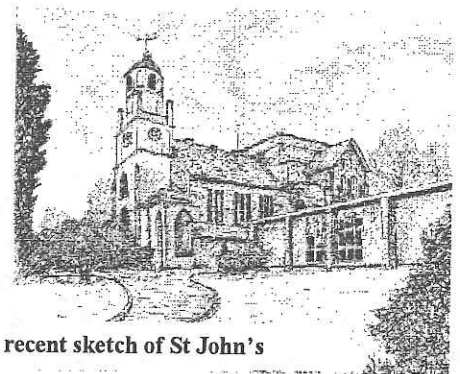
June 2003

THE LAST FIVE MONTHS – AN OVERVIEW

**Special points of
interest:**

- We want you to know just how the Body of Christ—His people are really working very hard at St John's.
- We want you to know that people's work is so very much appreciated.
- We want you to know what's happening now and into the future.
- We are part of an exciting Church.

'What on earth does St John's do?' This is a question often asked. This newsletter might help. The last 5 months contained at least a month of 'holiday time' for most people.



A recent sketch of St John's

Services

Our clergy continued to take services three times each Sunday, one each Wednesday plus daily prayer. There was Easter with services on Maundy Thursday (1 service), Good Friday (3) and Easter day (3). A Special Easter service for the residents of nursing homes and the elderly in our parish was held on the Wednesday of Easter week. It was followed by a cooked lunch prepared and served by several talented ladies of the parish and catered for 70 people.

At each service there is considerable involvement of lay people. On a monthly roster; we have Lay Readers leading services in other parishes as well as our own, we have a team of sides persons (- around 20) taking it in turns to help, and a similar team of bible readers. At ten on a Sunday we have a team who conducts our intercessory prayers and others who help with administering Communion. There is a team of about eight ladies who perform the duties of the Sacris-

tan - setup the church for services taking about an hour on a Saturday and between services! There is a small team (4) of dedicated sound-desk operators for special services as well as 'Sunday at 10'. Afterwards there is a roster of people who serve morning tea. It's not hard to get a job at St John's.

Music and singing is an integral part of all services - our hardworking organist plays three times each Sunday as well as for special services. There are others who play piano, the harmonium or the guitar at 10 and for other occasions. Our choir and singers deserve special mention. They practice each Thursday and sing both at ten and seven on a Sunday as well as special services such as on Good Friday.

There have been 5 weddings 13 funerals and 3 baptisms this year so far.

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Outreach

During the period, the people of St John's continued to donate food and second hand clothing to City Mission – just a small steady flow – but it all helps. Some of our people are actively involved in the running of City Mission too.



The Alpha Man carries the Questions of Life

Running our evangelism programme – *Alpha* has been shared by the parishes of St Aidan's and North Launceston. There were two groups, meeting on a Tuesday night and a Tuesday morning. 34 people were involved including 19 guests, the rest being team and a task force of

five people to support them and a number of people cooking dishes at home.

The course is particularly successful – at most courses at least one person gives their life to Jesus and many others have their faith invigorated. We have people from several church denominations involved. A letterbox drop involving all three parishes was organized for the last course.

Our next Course starts with a Banquet at St Aidan's on 16th June. The Course Proper starts 30th June and goes for 11 weeks. It is to be held in people's houses around Launceston.

Register at St John's Office

Maintenance and Development of the Property and the Fabric

During the last five months under the directorship of Jim van Ommen., Basil Tkaczuk, John Smith. and many others we have:

- Had a working bee to re paint the Rectory family room and the kitchen. (8th January).
- Re-carpeted the Rectory family room.
- Re-carpeted the Rector's Vestry in the church.
- Installed a new fax machine in the Parish Office.
- Installed network cabling, linking computers in the Rectory, Tower Offices and the Parish Office and church.
- Painted the sitting room, hall and kitchen of the 'Curates Cottage', which has now been let.
- Installed 'Yale' locks on the cupboards in the Parish Centre.
- Bought a new stove for the kitchen in the Parish Centre and installed it (following a generous donation covering the full cost).
- Constructed new kitchen cupboards and an island bench in the Parish Centre.
- Consulted, designed and negotiated the redesigns of the layout of the church interior including the fitting of a data-projector and a mechanical screen, the laying of computer cable and negotiating for the laying of new carpets. - This has involved many hours of

Ongoing development for discipleship.

There have been two post-Alpha Groups supported: 'A Challenging Lifestyle' and a 'Life Worth Living' - both by Nicky Gumbel. The latter ran on a Monday night and the other continues on a Wednesday evening.

The usual 5 or so Bible Study and fellowship groups have been meeting since the start of February. At each of these between 5 and 12 people meet at someone's home to study scriptural teaching, enjoy fellowship and pray together.

There has been a small group of parishioners being coached by Roger Hesketh for an individual prayer ministry. This continued until Easter

- work for the Consultation Implementation Committee.
- Moved the old front pews to the narthex gallery and the very old pews from that gallery to the Westminster gallery and along the North ambulatory. A Cross Aisle has been developed.
- Commenced the building of the platform at the front of the chancel by Jim, Clem, John Stevenson, Harry, and the other helpers who continue to give generously of their time, tools and skills.
- There is still work to be done see page 4 for details

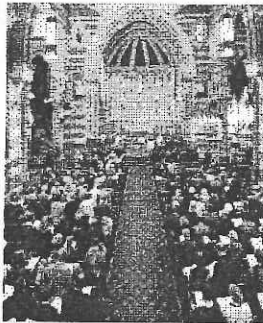
Inter Church Activities

Launceston Conversation

Your Wardens and Parish Council have had a significant role in the Launceston Conversations involving discussions leading toward greater co-operation between Anglican Parishes. This came to a head during February and involved considerable time from the Rector's Warden.

Volunteers

A significant involvement of parishioners in CMS Summer School, Way FM, and Scripture



Union continues.

Songs of Praise

A major initiative from Derek Nichols – this ecumenical service took place on April 28th at St John's and again at The Punchbowl Christian Centre on June 1st and represents a significant unifying activity in Launceston.

Music and More

Another of Derek's initiatives but centred in St John's

where music from St John's and outside our church is featured as a concert with exhibitions of the art, craft and skills of parishioners and others. It has been most successful. The last 'Music and More' at St John's was on the 18th May, with approximately 130 people attending.

Other activities:

Other activities still keep going – Craft Group, Mothers Union, Women's Guild, amongst others and all continue to meet this year.

Caring for Each Other

Refugee Support Group

Still the families keep coming, now more often from Sudan. Audrey Sifleet and her team of helpers are kept busy. There have been two new families so far this year and despite our statutory 6 months of involvement with each family many of the existing families still need nurturing.

Many in St John's congregation have been very supportive - giving of their time, skills, cars and trailers for shifting "things", items of clothing and household goods, and much more. This is a very special ministry that is on-going. Tasmania will receive many more families in the future who will need settling into a secure country—for many the first time in their lives.

Our people and from overseas



People in parts of Sudan have a tough life

Care Group—Behind the scenes – Anne McKercher and the care group help many disadvantaged people - the sick, those with new babies, they visit folk, provide the occasional casserole, drive people to appointments and other helpful services.

This important ministry is a physical way that we can show our love for one another.

Lay Pastors—Lay pastors each have people who they especially befriend to be a 'Christian friend' and to lend a helping hand where necessary. They are continually in touch—having chats on the phone, visiting at home and those in hospital.

A Christian friend that can be there just for the individual.



NEWSLETTER

Children's and Youth Ministry

Parish Office
157 St John's Street
Launceston Tasmania. 7250

Miss Valerie Murgatroyd
 9.00am to 4.30pm
 Phone: 6331 4896
 Fax: 6334 1719
 Email: stjoh@bigpond.net.au

Team Rector
 The Reverend Greg Clifton
 Phone: 6331 5218

Team Vicar
 The Reverend Roger Hesketh
 Phone: 6331 7702

Children's & Youth Worker
 Nathan Donnelly
 Phone: 6343 4703

Wardens
 Robert Wallace, Audrey Sifleet, John Smith.

Parish Councillors
 Craig Owens, Marlene Johnston, (Treasurer)
 Nola Barnett, Ed Love, Jim Van Ommen,
 Wendy Cowell, Jan Whiddon, and Robin
 Smith.

With Nathan firmly established we now have an active Children's & Youth ministry established operating during term time.

On Sundays at 10 we have 'Kidz Church' for the infants and Primary-Schoolers, then on Mondays there has been Oasis (now replaced with 'Kids Club') and 'C.h.a.o.s.' a youth group for teenagers. Each activity involves a team of around 4 lay helpers.

These groups have a lot of fun in a safe environment with accredited leaders.

This Ministry is the future lifeblood of St John's and parish-

ioners have gone out of their way, through special giving to make it happen. Now we must support it in every way we can but above all we must encourage our young people to attend regularly.

On Friday 'Buddies', a playgroup for toddlers and crawlers operates in the Parish Centre and is well attended, as many visitors to the office will attest. Lisa and Pam do a wonderful job setting up and organising fun things. It is great to see the mums and dads sharing an hour or two of quality time with their children and friends.



Into the Future

- St John's is an active church but there is always room for more helpers and still plenty to do.
- We have started the changes in the body of the church building - a lot of the work has been done but there will be a need for some able bodied folk to help.
- There will be a big clean-up working bee after the carpet has been laid. The carpet is not expected until early July because it has to be specially woven. We have had a big donation to help pay for this.
- In the meantime we need to re-align the pews to match the frontals, make the steps around the font safe and relocate the cross-aisles one row further back.
- We also need to stop the rain

coming in through the roof of both the rectory and the church.

- When Basil returns from his long service leave we need to look closely at the location of the sound desk and review the positioning of the speakers etc. The acoustics will change when the carpet is fitted.
- Parish Council is now very busy trying to organize the next years Parish Budget and will be trying to solve the problems involved in heating the church, economically, sensitively and effectively.
- Work will continue in the Parish Centre with replacing the green Huega carpet tiles with a different floor covering.

- The tables in the Parish Centre all need either repair or attention.
- We need to cleanup the garage and the crypt.
- Yes, there's plenty to do.

If you want to know more please telephone the Parish Office and Val will guide you who to talk to or ask a sidesperson to direct you to a Parish Councillor or even ask the Rector or the Vicar.

Some addresses and names are given above.

Don't forget to ask your friends to the next Alpha Banquet (See page 2)