

St John's Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2003

THE LAST FOUR MONTHS – AN OVERVIEW

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
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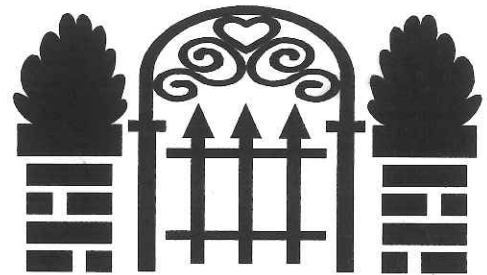
'What on earth does St John's do?' This question often asked. This newsletter might help. The last 4 months contained at least a month of 'holiday time' for most people.

Services

①

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-



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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 ... weddings... funerals andbaptisms in the last four months.

Inside this issue:

Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6

② 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 City Mission too.

Running our evangelism programme – *Alpha* has been shared by the parishes of St Aidan's and North Launceston. There



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are two groups. Meeting on a Tuesday night and a Tuesday morning, it involves 34 people including 19 guests the rest being team and a task force of five people supports them.

The course is particularly successful – at each course at least one person gives their life to Jesus and many others have their faith invigorated. We have people from all church denominations involved. A letterbox drop in-

volving all three parishes was organized for the last course. Preparations are underway for the next one.

③ Refugee Support Group

Still the families keep coming, now more often from Sudan but Audrey 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.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

④ Care Group

Behind the scenes – the care group help our disadvantaged people - the sick, those with new babies, they visit and provide the occasional casserole, drive people to appointments and other helpful services.

Lay Pastors each have people



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who they especially befriend to be a 'Christian friend' and to lend a helping hand where necessary, they are continually at work having phone calls – visiting at home and hospital.

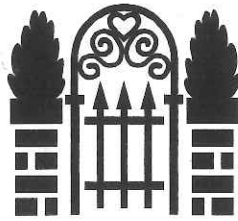
Inter church activities

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



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FM, and Scripture Union continues.

Songs of praise

A major initiative from Derek – this ecumenical service has taken place on April 28th at St John's and represents a significant unifying activity in Launceston.

Music and More

Another of Derek's initiative 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. 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 have all met this year.

Maintenance and development of the fabric of the Church and its property.

During the last four months we have,

- Painted the family room and the kitchen of the rectory with a working bee. (8th January)
- Re-carpeted the Family room at the rectory.
- Re-carpeted the Rector's vestry.
- Installed new fax machine at Church office.
- Installed network cabling linking computers in the Rectory, tower offices

and the Office.

- 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 (following a generous donation) and installed it in the Parish Centre Kitchen and constructed alternative cup-

boards. An island bench has been built, finished and installed.

- Consulted, designed, negotiated for the re-designs of the layout of the church including the fitting of a data-projector and mechanical screen.

This has involved many hours of work for the Consultation Implementation Committee.

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Into the future

St John's is an active church but there is always room for more helpers and still plenty to do. This month we start the changes in the body of the church building and there will be room for some able bodied men.

The next Alpha starts in June in

co-operation with St Aidan's, St David's, St Oswald's as well as the parishes of North Launceston and St Leonard's and we need to offer some team members for that. As well as asking people to attend.

.Your Parish Council is very busy now trying to organize the

Parish Budget and prepare for Synod. Yes there's plenty to do. If you want to know more 'phone the Office and Val will tell you who to talk to – or just talk to a Sidesman or Parish Councillor.

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

157 St John's Street
Launceston
Tasmania. 7250.

Phone: 6331 4896
Fax: 6334 1719
Email: stjohn@tassie.net.au



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This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Children and Youth Ministry 8

With Nathan firmly established we now have an active Youth ministry established who operates in term time. On Sundays at 10 we have 'Kidz Church' for the infants and Primary-Schoolers, then on Mondays there has been Oasis (to be replaced with Kids Club next term) and 'C.h.a.o.s.' a youth group for teenagers. Each activity involves a team of around 4 lay helpers.

On Friday 'Buddies' a playgroup for toddlers and crawlers operates in the Parish Centre and is well attended,



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as many visitors to the office will attest.