



## St John's Anglican Church, Launceston

### Mid-year Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 4

June 2004

When you receive this Newsletter we will have just celebrated Pentecost in a variety of ways. There will have been our Confirmation Service for Sherrie Semmens and Reception of Susan Routley into our Anglican Community. We will have shared in our Parish Meeting and Parish lunch, and been given clearer insight into the priorities of our Bishop, John Harrower.

In the afternoon "Songs of Praise" will have celebrated its second anniversary. In its Launceston format it was launched at St John's at Pentecost 2002. During those two years it has visited 2 Catholic Churches, the Pilgrim Uniting Church and Scotch-Oakburn College, City and Gateway Baptist Churches, Punchbowl Christian Centre and the Salvation Army Citadel, and this will have been the third time at St John's. Our congregation has loyally shared in all the celebrations.

We have enjoyed the singing of various soloists and choral groups, as well as the Jerusalem Passion Choir, Singcognito and the regular involvement of the Salvation Army Band, Songsters, and timbrels. Over \$6,000 has been given to support Christian activity in a variety of ways locally such as for Fusion, City Mission, the Scripture Union Chaplaincies, and for various overseas causes including "Tear", "Chinese Orphans", ministry in former Russia and for the work of the Bible Society. The next Songs of Praise will be at City Baptist on July 24<sup>th</sup>, then at Punchbowl on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Our final Songs of Praise for the year will be at Door of Hope (Church of Christ) on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

*You will find inside reports on the state of the Pipe Organ Fund, the plans for Alpha and advance notice of a Spring History, Flower and Art Festival early in September.*

### WARDENS' NOTES

It's June and the time to consider budgets, plans for the future and what has happened in the immediate past.

From a financial point of view we believe St John's is doing OK. Thanks to some generous donations the refurbishment of the church building has been successfully brought up to a suitable standard for 'modern' worship styles and our capital assets have not suffered as a result. Although at present weekly giving has not achieved budget overall giving has been very good.

Our Capital assets won't change in value in the books but we know that the real estate boom has improved their actual value considerably. So this is potentially useful for the future.

Following changes to the 10 am service, attendance varies from week to week. Nevertheless we regularly welcome around 100 people to this service each week. Our 8 am service maintains an attendance of around 50, the evening around 20 and Wednesday congregations vary between 20 and 30.

The innovative 'Visitor' Ministry makes progress. We are thankful for a donation and a grant from the Launceston City Council that will make it possible to display some of the historical material we have in the 'vaults'. We are working with the Museum to make sure we do it right. Thanks to Derek, Alison and Rosemary and a team of "Welcomers" for their work in this area.

Of course our notes must tell you about the problems of having a very old building to look after. We think we've sorted out some of the leaks in the roof but there is still some challenging us. We think we've done the same in the Rectory but that too has some unknowns. We have drainage problems – expensive ones – we have to set about re-organising the drainage of the car park and the sewer from the Rectory. We have a plan but it needs implementing when we can afford it.

Our beautiful trees are another problem. The Elms at the gate have shed branches and we need to have an arborist fix them. It may result in them being replaced. We are seeking financial assistance from the Launceston City Council and from the Tasmanian Heritage Council because they are regarded as part of the 'heritage' value of the church.

We commend the future activities of our church to you (see other places in this letter) – please become involved so that together we can show the face of Christ to Launceston

*From Guy Clifton, Rector*

We have greatly enjoyed the enthusiasm with which Nathan as our Youth Worker has involved a group of leaders and supporters in the Children's and Youth Ministries of the last two and a half years. The Kids' Church on Sundays, and Kids' Club on Mondays have proved very successful and the congregation and parents alike are grateful for all that Nathan has done in his organising and teaching ministries. The work with young people in the CHAOS Youth club has been very significant in the life of those involved. Although we are sad that his time of employment with us comes to an end in June, we shall hope to see him often as he continues to live in Launceston and pursue his University Studies with the aim of being a full-time school teacher. We wish him well for his future and we will continue to pray for him.

*Nathan writes:* I would like to thank the people of St John's Anglican Church for their support and encouragement over the past 2½ years. Included in my thanks are all those who have shared with me in leadership of Kids Church and Club and the Chaos Youth Group. It has been a great joy serving among you and I pray that God will continue to bless us as we move down a new path.



*Definition of Intercessory Prayer*  
Loving your neighbour on your knees.

Love to God and obedience to God are so completely involved in each other that any one of them implies the other too. F.F. Bruce



*From Roger Hesketh, Team Vicar*

I was thoroughly challenged recently by the thought of being asked to make a list of the ways in which I have been obedient to the two great commandments. I wondered how short that list might be?

It was while I was reflecting on the Gospel reading for Pentecost Sunday. A verse in that reading (John 14.15) bluntly states, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." How easily the words, "I love you," roll off the lips and how much slower are the actions that prove it. I speak for myself here. I'm reminded that someone once said, "Christ's sheep are marked in the ear and the foot; they hear his voice and they follow him."

All this talk of commands and obedience seems surely to fly in the face of phrases like "the peace of God, which passes all understanding" and "entering into God's rest." However, Jesus gives us the key when He says, "learn from me...and you will find rest for your souls."

There are so many things to occupy our minds: so many books, so many examples, so many good teachings that deserve our attention, that say, "here is a truth." But Jesus, immediately after demanding obedience to his commands, speaks to us of one who is able to teach us and will help us obey. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth."

He is the one! The Spirit of Truth, who will empower us to live in loving obedience to Christ. How can we know this as a living reality in our lives?

The insight of one contemporary Christian writer, Francis Frangipane, encourages us by his experience, "He has led me to seek for two things, and two things only: to know the heart of God in Christ, and to know my own heart in Christ's light." This is the place of abiding, abundant life that makes loving obedience a joy.

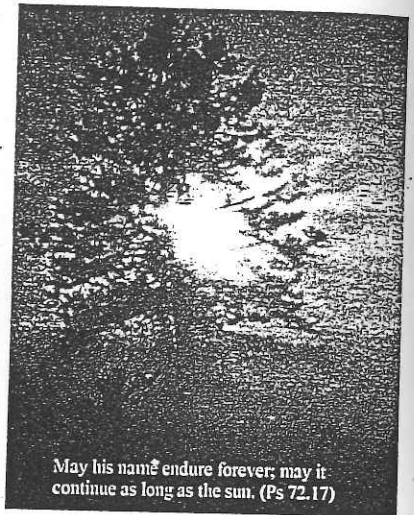
Before I start my list I think I will spend some time abiding in His love and sharing it with someone.

Your Brother in Christ,  
Roger

### POINTS TO PONDER

☺ "Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights." [Proverbs 18:5, The Message]

☺ "Spiritual formation takes place when you let your insecurity lead you closer to the Lord." [Henri Nouwen]



May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. (Ps 72.17)

### Prayer of Cleansing

Clean out, O God, the inner stream of my life:

all the hypocrisy  
all the greed  
all the untruths.

Search out, O Lord, the hidden motives of my life:

all the conceit  
all the anger  
all the fear.

Wipe out, divine Master, the destructive actions of my life:

all the manipulation  
all the scheming  
all the dishonesty.

May my life be directed by the essentials of faith, hope and love. May these actions increase in everything I am and in everything I do.

In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

Author Unknown

## Alpha

This introductory course to Christianity is nothing new to St John's. In fact we've conducted 14 courses and over 190 people have been touched in some way through our efforts. Many have committed their lives to Christ as a result.



Many of our newcomers to faith have chosen to move to other regions and other churches. This is not important – our role is to 'Know Christ and to make him known'. It doesn't matter where or how people worship only that they have a lively faith.

Our next course is being held in the Parish Centre and starts with an introduction to the course called the 'Celebration Dinner' on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. The course proper starts two weeks later on a Tuesday night. There are three basic stages of the course – the first section is about Jesus, his death and the significance of his resurrection. The next about living as Christians – looking at the effects of the Bible, prayer,

faith, evil in the world and then roles in the church. Finally, during a very special fellowship weekend away the work of the Holy Spirit is considered.

This course is being jointly run with other Anglican churches from around Launceston so we anticipate having guests invited by St Aidan's, St David's, St Oswald's, North Launceston and St Leonards as well as St John's.

We urge you to invite people NOW to come to the Celebration dinner – they need not register for the course but we hope they will, for catering reasons. Please pray about whom you will invite. There are some special "invitations" available on the Narthex table or from the sidespersons or from the Parish Office.

Want to know more? Ask John Smith or the Parish Office.

# Spring Festival

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11 AND SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12

Book the dates and bring your friends

**HISTORY**—We are grateful for a grant of \$3,200 from the Launceston City Council and a private gift of \$3,000. We are able to relight the North aisle with halogen lamps on rails to show up the newly arranged display boards and tables. We have ordered two glass display cabinets which will enable us to display more adequately some of the treasures we have at St Johns covering—yes, nearly 300 years!

The **OFFICIAL OPENING** at 11 am on Saturday 11th (doors open at 10) will have distinguished guests and representatives of the City Council present.

**ART DISPLAY**—we are privileged to share in an official QV Gallery Art display (October to February) of the works of **DENISE CAMPBELL**.

In St John's, Denise will have on display a special series of "Sails" (linked with the story of Abel Tasman). These have previously been displayed in Holland; this will be their first in Australia. Denise has a series of 'banners' in Kirkwall Cathedral, Scotland. She will give a "floor talk" on her work at 3 pm on Saturday September 11th after refreshments at 2.30.

**SPRING FLOWERS** A colourful display of decorations prepared through the skills of our St John's team of floral artists will be seen over the whole weekend. (Gifts of flowers will be gratefully received on Friday, 10th September.)

**MUSIC**. There will be delightful recorded music playing through the weekend and maybe some 'live' music as well.





## Parish Office

157 St John's Street

Launceston Tasmania. 7250

### Parish Secretary

Miss Valerie Murgatroyd

9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Phone: 6331 4896

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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

### Organist and Choir Director

Miss Gaylene Cohen

### Wardens

Robert Wallace, Audrey Sifleet,

John Smith.

### Parish Councillors

Nola Barnett, Wendy Cowell,

Marlene Johnston (Treasurer)

Valerie Murgatroyd (Secretary),

Craig Owens, David Plumridge,

Peter Renshaw, Robin Smith & Jan

Whiddon,

### Synod Representatives

David Plumridge, Val Murgatroyd

and John Smith.

### Parish Magazine.

Information for the next issue in

September, 2004 needs to be

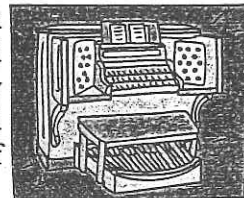
received by 7th August addressed

to 'The Editor' at the Parish Office.

## PIPE ORGAN COMPLETION FUND

The Friends of St John's Organ support group are delighted with the Parish Council to report that there was immediate and generous support from friends far and near for the scheme to install stops in memory of former organists Lindsay O'Neill and Simon Pierce, and also Archdeacon and Rector Leonard Sutton. Donors will have received individual acknowledgement of their gifts, and a special Book of Gifts is in preparation recording the names of donors.

At the time of going to print we have received \$29,384 which is a staggering result considering the appeal was launched only on January 31st. When Simon Pierce was here in early April it was decided that the rectifier needed replacing, and the giving at this point of time should meet this extra cost of nearly \$5,000 without drawing on our organ capital.



Organ recitals by Lynda Nicholls on 31st January and Gaylene Cohen on 4th April were well attended and gave much enjoyment. CDs of both have been prepared and are available on private circulation through the Parish Office.

The next **RECITAL AND CONCERT** will be on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 8th**

at **2.30 pm** and will be given by Gaylene with Karlin Love (guitar and clarinet) and Jennifer MacDonald (flute). There will be an art exhibition by Denise Campbell and Carol Reynolds on the same occasion.

The Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra management have agreed to take part in an opening concert for the enlarged organ probably in the Spring of 2005.

### MUSIC and MORE on TOUR

Sunday, 22nd August, 2.15 for 2.30 at City Baptist Church  
(Princes Square).

The music of Amanda Gale, Pam Andrews, Jennifer MacDonald, Beth Kennedy, Rose Walton, Karen Andrews and Nathan Donnelly—  
as well as art work of John Smith and Alison Wallace.

## St John's Coming Events—for your Diary

1. CMS Prayer breakfasts are held monthly in the Parish Centre at 8 am - Saturday 12 June, Saturday 10 July, Saturday 14 August.
2. Alpha 'Celebration Dinner'. Tuesday 15th June
3. An ABM Coffee and Dessert evening on Friday 18th June at 7 pm with an illustrated talk by Canon Geoffrey Smith, National Director of ABM. This evening is a joint project of St John's with Holy Trinity.
4. The quarterly SPECIAL LUNCHEON will be on Wednesday 30th June
5. following a service of Holy Communion at 10.30
6. ORGAN CONCERT and Art display—Sunday August 8th at 2.30 p.m..

