



St John's Anglican Church, Launceston

Lent and Easter Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 3

March 2004

**From the Team Rector
Greg Clifton
Remember at all times
CHRIST IS RISEN**

When looking forward to experiencing the spiritual encouragement of Good Friday and Easter, the church has given to us a time of spiritual preparation called Lent in which we can review our spiritual state under God. So in the knowledge of Christ's victory over sin and death on the cross and through the Resurrection we can recommit ourselves anew to expressing our love to God through our worship and love to our human companions on the journey of life by our acts of service, compassion and prayer.

By the time you receive this the first day of Lent—Ash Wednesday—will have past. But there are various study groups operating at different times of day every week that you can consider joining.

Details of these study groups can be found inside the front cover of the pew-sheet.

You will also see that there is a daily time of prayer at 8 am (Monday to Friday) in the Chapel at St John's. You might like to come once a week (or more often) to share in this time when we read from the Bible, and pray for various activities of the church locally, and across the world. Does not our world, our nation and our church need strong prayer commitment at this time?

Two other opportunities of prayer are now available in the Church in addition to normal worship times.

1. *On Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in the Chapel a small group of our people meet to pray—anyone is welcome to this informal prayer time. Prayer offered for specific needs is part of this ministry (ask Roger Hesketh). Prayer for special needs is also available at the 10 am service.*
2. *For prayer for God's blessing on our acts of Sunday worship there is a prayer room set aside near the "letter-boxes" in the Narthex. This can be just a quiet time or a shared time of lifting to God those who are leading in or coming to worship.*

Flower and Harvest Festival.

The weekend of March 13 and 14, will see St John's take on a wonderful atmosphere through the glory of the flowers and other aspects of nature that are part of our lives. Special plans are for a "garden" and a "wall of flowers". Harvest provides an opportunity of displaying fruits, vegetables and other items that are part of the "fruit" of our lives. The church will be open for you and all visitors on Saturday 13th from 10 am until 4 pm. On Sunday afternoon the church will open at 1 pm for you to enjoy the flowers and works of art created by some of our church folk and friends. A new exhibitor will be Alice Imlach who will have some wonderful paintings of flowers that she prepared for her Year 12 studies at Newstead college.

A "Music and More" concert (2.0 for 2.15) will provide opportunities for you to hear a range of instrumental music and singing. Belinda Ward—who at the age of 11 has won the hearts of many of us—will again be singing, just before the family returns to Canada.

EASTER SERVICES

- Maundy Thursday** (the Thursday of Holy Week) - A service of Holy Communion at 7 p.m.
Good Friday. 8 am Ante-Communion and Litany. 10 am Morning Prayer and Litany.
At 7 pm Special readings and music for the season with the St John's Choir.
- EASTER DAY.** Holy Communion at 8 am, 10 am (Contemporary) and 7 p.m.

Do invite or bring along family and friends to these special events.

Roger's Reflection

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen! Death - the last enemy - has been defeated, and now has no power over us. So we proclaim in our worship at Easter. But are we living as those who continue to believe that we are citizens of God's eternal dominion?

No matter how dark our lives may be, or how chilling the news from here and there around the world, the Light of new life in Jesus Christ has shone in our darkness, just as for the first witnesses.

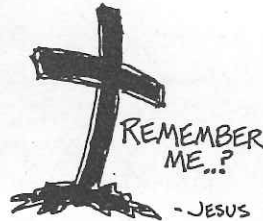
There is nothing very special about the first people to see Jesus risen from the dead. Among them was a woman we know very little about, and a fisherman who'd been a coward a few days before. Why them? Because it was for them - as well as for Barabbas, for the crucified thief, for you and me - that Jesus died on the

cross and won a great, never-to-be-repeated VICTORY!

Only the resurrection can make sense of the cross. And however joyful we may feel because of Easter Day we have to do more than simply be happy. The various reactions of Jesus' followers make that very clear for us.

None of them had believed the word of the Lord, that He would rise from the dead. So there was absolute amazement at finding the tomb empty. Then the disciples disbelieved the testimony of the women. How often we fail to believe the Word of the Lord and let common sense dictate our lives rather than God's

promises. We can get too used to the Easter Story. If these first witnesses to the resurrection had done nothing but rejoice together there would be no Church today. Let us tell this Good News to the world. He is Risen! Alleluia!



Your Brother in Christ,



Next *Alpha* Course
 June 29th to 31st August
 at St John's Parish Centre
 June 15th Banquet

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH WORKER

On the 26th of January St John's held its first of what we hope will be many Kids Fun Days. 30 kids from all over Launceston attended with all going home happier and knowing a little more about Jesus.

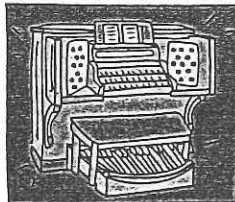
The long weekend in March (6, 7, & 8th) is the Diocesan Youth Council's GO Conference. This will be held at the Woodfield Lodge just north of Hobart. Many young people aged 16 to 25+ with some younger people will converge to be inspired and encouraged. Many will renew old friendships and some will make new ones.

The aim of the GO Conference is to equip young people and also give them the opportunity to air their concerns about the church. The committee can then bring them before the bishop.



Our organist

**GAYLENE
 COHEN**

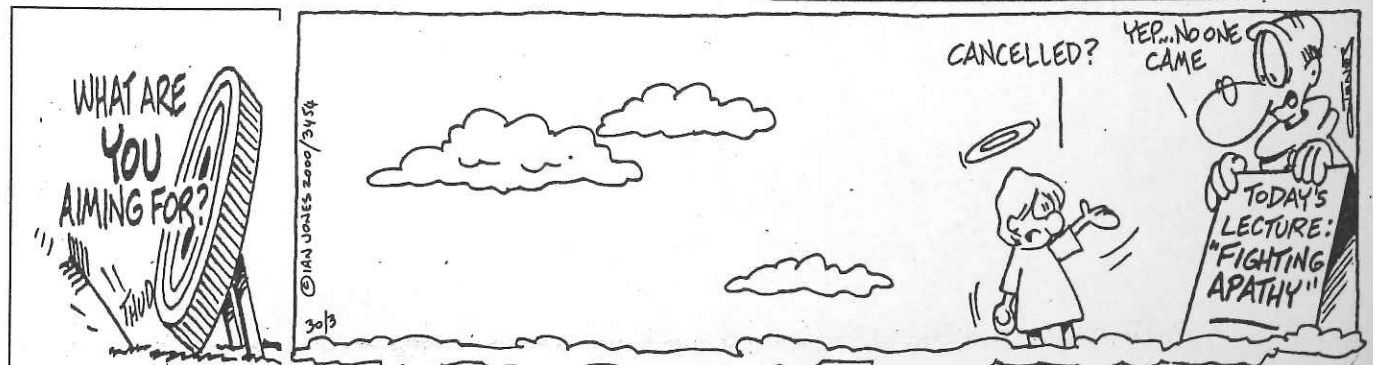
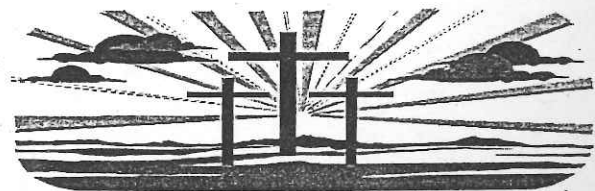


Will give an **ORGAN RECITAL**

on Sunday 4th April

at 2.30 pm

Come and bring your friends.



INTER CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Anglican's Together "ahealthychurch transforminglife"

is the title of "The Bishop's Vision for The Missionary Diocese of Tasmania" presented by the Bishop to a gathering of about 150 people for a 7 am breakfast at St Aidan's on February 6th. The 24 page brochure presented has as its front page the Bishop stating "*My heart's desire is 1. for every Anglican to be a prayerful activist, enlivened by biblical faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. 2. For us all to take initiatives in mission that God may transform the life of our Christian communities and all Tasmanians.*"

Chapter headings include; Bible Reflection; An Anglican perspective; Prayer for transforminglife; Strategic Directions; The Way forward; A Call to Prayer.

Copies may be obtained on request to the Parish office.

Songs of Praise

This 2-monthly event which has brought together Christians of many different persuasions is continuing on in 2004.

On February 22nd it was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Newstead.

On April 18th 2.0 for 2.15 we shall meet at Scotch Oakburn College new music auditorium to celebrate Easter. There is plenty of parking in the school grounds. If you have transport problems, please talk about it. There is likely to be someone at hand to help.

Pentecost 2004 (May 30th) will mark the second anniversary of the commencement of this series, and Songs of Praise will be back at St John's following the Parish meeting and lunch.

On Sunday 25th July at City Baptist, Princes Square.

September at Punchbowl and November at "Door of Hope".

Summer Conference

CMS folk met at Bicheno from 13th-17th Jan.—16 from St John's were there amongst the 180 who heard inspirational talks on current approaches to mission in places such as Tanzania, Slovenia and Pakistan/Thailand. This activity of our Christian community is growing both in numbers and interest. Music, prayer and discussions are all part of the conference and there is plenty of free time to enjoy the sea and scenery.

Bookings for next year, 17th—21st January 2005 can already be made to Jean Blyth 6243 7139.

Prayer is asked for the work of the Church Missionary Society—our State Secretary, Judith Moxon and the bookshop in St John's Street. Copies of the Prayer Diary are available from Judith or the CMS bookshop.

St John's Past and Present

31st January—our Open Day—nearly 200 people explored their church's history, watched a 1983 ABC video, enjoyed an exciting Organ Recital given by Lynda Nicholls, and most signed the visitors' book. If you are interested in a CD of the Organ Recital, talk to Derek Nichols.

THE HISTORY CORNER remains on view and changes shape from time to time with many new discoveries of interesting events of the past—like the discovery of the 1890 Chrysanthemum Society Presentation award to ERNEST WHITFELD who in 19 23 at his death was referred to as "our church historian", and in his memory the front gates of St John's Church were dedicated; or the kind gift of a bowl made from the Cedar (of Lebanon) that was cut down in 1984, or the cleaning of the brass in our history room by Precision Jewellers—at no cost. We also found out that the beautiful mosaic in the dome (which shows up very clearly on the history video) was a gift of the architect Alexander North. Our other main mosaic—the Soldiers' Memorial of the First World War—is greatly admired by our visitors. And folk bring in newspapers and church magazines from 'days long gone'. All very welcome and helpful. Thank you.

Copies of the Video on our church history are available by donation of \$20 on request.

Special presentations are in the planning stage for 2004 on the life and work of Alexander North and Gordon Cumming, as well as a lantern slide-show of pictures from 100 years ago.

Our new practice of "**welcoming visitors**" with an "Open Door" and a friendly greeting has seen over 200 people visit our church in the first 5 weeks. Thank you to our "welcomers". More are needed!!

We are very fortunate in having had over the years some very gifted workers in craft, and some of our present gifted folk will be represented at our Floral/Harvest Festival on March 13th and 14th.

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 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,
 Jim Van Ommen, & Jan Whiddon,
Synod Representatives
 David Plumridge, Val Murgatroyd
 and John Smith.

Parish Magazine.
 Information for the next issue in June,
 2004 needs to be received by 7th
 May addressed to 'The Editor' at the
 Parish Office.
 Thank you.

PIPE ORGAN COMPLETION FUND

A recital by Lynda Nicholls on 31st January 2004 saw the launching of our fund for completing the Pipe Organ. Costing in the region of \$23,000 the plan is to complete the organ as originally planned by G.F. Hopkins in the 1920s. The inspiration for this has come from the wish of family and friends of two former organists—Lindsay O'Neill, and William Pearce—to add something to the organ in their memory. Two stops of "Mixtures" will be added to the Swell and Great Organ. In addition a memorial to Archdeacon Leonard Sutton (Rector from 1949—1961) will enlarge an existing 'mixture' stop. To make this scheme viable Friends of the Organ in the church and community are invited to purchase one or more pipes at a cost of \$50 each. At the time of going to print we have over \$9,000 subscribed.

The names of subscribers will be recorded in a special book. If you wish to share in this project (which is of no cost to the normal church budget) there are leaflets with a form by the special organ display in the aisle on the North side of the church.

Inspiration from Steve Power

"Recently my wife and I took a trip to Fiji after 25 years of raising a family. Our first son had travelled to Fiji in 2002 and came home raving over the friendliness of the people and the beauty of the islands "You have to go" he said to us. So we took off for what I later describe as Paradise. When staying on an island I snorkelled to see the remains of a downed World War 2 American fighter. It was encrusted with coral and the most beautiful fish of indescribable glorious colours were swimming around it. My mind drifted back the 60 years when the world was engaged in that horrible conflict, and I could not get out of my mind the thought of the young pilot who gave his life. I said a silent prayer. My own father was seconded to the US air-force in the Pacific and he showed me letters he had written at the time. With these thoughts in mind we went to a Fijian service the next day. When the minister had finished talking the people sang with voices that came straight from heaven. All these thoughts and the music left me in tears of deep emotion. To be part of that congregation was so memorable, and I thank and praise our Lord and Saviour for the privilege.

YOUTH WORK at St JOHN'S

Kids Church at 10 on Sundays, Kids Club on Mondays at 4 and CHAOS (Youth Club) on Mondays at 7 have all started their new programmes with enthusiasm under the guidance of Nathan and his teams of helpers

And a Launceston Mission to Youth.

On February 29 at 5.30 a new style of youth work designed to attract young people from across Launceston will be held at Launceston Church Grammar School Auditorium—under the leadership of Scott Sargent and Steve Wakeford.

St John's Social Committee

1 For the HARVEST FESTIVAL we shall be grateful for your gifts of flowers, fresh produce, preserves, tinned or packaged goods to be brought to the Church on Friday 12th March or at the latest-Saturday morning 13 March before 9.30. Thank you. The proceeds will go to the World View Centre for International Study (WEC).

2. The quarterly SPECIAL LUNCHEON will be on Wednesday 7th April following a service of Holy Communion at 10.30 am.

3. Sunday, May 30th (following the Confirmation Service at 10 am) there will be Parish meeting (11.30) and a PARISH LUNCHEON (\$5) attended by Bishop John Harrower