

The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

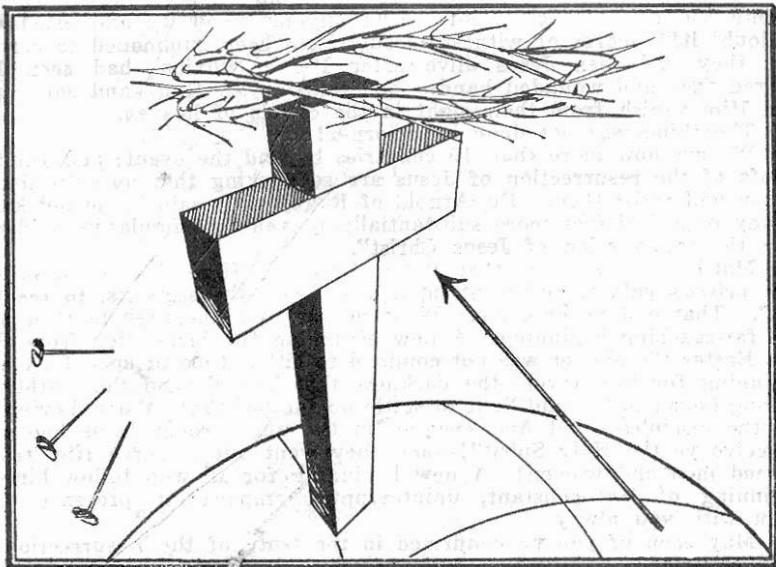
The Friendly Church

Rector: Rev. S. W. GISSING, Th. L.

The Rector, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham, 2049—569-4735

Hon. Assistant: Rev. A. E. C. GARDNER, B.A., Th.L.

APRIL 1976



And lo I am with you alway even unto
the end of the world.

THE RECTOR'S NOTES

My dear friends,

It is the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the grave that makes the Christian certain of the truth of his belief. Jesus was victorious over death and the grave, and the "end-strength" of the power of Evil.

A Moslem one day said to a Christian missionary—"We have proof in our religion that you do not have. When we go to Arabia we can find the tomb of our prophet so that we have proof that he lived. When you go to Jerusalem you cannot be sure that you have the burial place of Jesus. You have no tomb as we have."

"You are right" replied the missionary "we have no tomb in our religion because we have no corpse. Our gospel ends, not in a corpse, but in a Conqueror."

It is that victory over death that is the greatest of all victories. The New Testament (1 Cor. 15) makes it clear that the gift of a joyful resurrection will be for those who live and hope in Christ Jesus. "Death is swallowed up in victory. O grave, where is your victory? . . . but thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ."

This victory of Jesus is what gives significance to the whole of the rest of what we know about Him—His birth, His life, His teaching. Easter is therefore THE MOST IMPORTANT TIME as far as the Christian is concerned. Easter is what speaks to the Christian of his great certainty.

The early apostles entered on their work with this one great conviction above all others. The truth of Christianity depended mainly upon the FACT of the resurrection of Christ from the dead.

They did not undertake to prove the resurrection of Christ. It was beyond the necessity of proof. Had anyone stood up and cried out "I doubt it!", scores of witnesses could have been summoned to certify that they had seen Jesus alive after His crucifixion—had seen His scarred face and wounded hands—had talked with Him—and some had seen Him vanish from their sight in the clouds of heaven.

The thing was not done in a corner!

We are now more than 19 centuries beyond the event; and yet the proofs of the resurrection of Jesus are so striking that no fair-minded person will resist them. Dr. Arnold of Rugby truly said "I do not know of any historical fact more substantially proven by cumulative evidence than the resurrection of Jesus Christ".

Matthew 26:58 says that Peter "followed Him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end". That end never came. What he saw was the prelude to a new and far-reaching beginning. A new beginning for Jesus—for from that first Easter the Master was not confined to either time or space! A new beginning for the world—the darkness that had cloaked the world for so long began to lift and light to settle on the horizon! A new beginning for the disciples—that first evening in the upper room Jesus had said "Receive ye the Holy Spirit"—and they went out to serve Him transformed men and women! A new beginning for all who follow him—a beginning of His constant, uninterrupted empowering presence "Lo, I am with you alway."

May each of you be confirmed in the truth of the Resurrection in your experience as you worship and honour Jesus this Easter. And may He verily be with you alway and enable you to bring glory to His Name in all you do from this time on.

Your sincere friend in the great Joy of Resurrection,
S. W. GISSING, Rector.

THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Mr. E. Quelch, when presenting the annual accounts, praised the untiring efforts of parishioners. This year the financial reports were in a slightly varied form following changes to the Diocesan requirements.

The result of the appointment and election of church officers is as follows:

Churchwardens:

Mr. B. Livingston (Rector's)

Mr. F. Hearn

Mr. W. Williams

Parish Council: Mesdames Gorman and Sopwith and Messrs H. Swankie, F. Evans, H. Quelch, N. Cragg, D. Barclay and J. Williams. The Rector's Nominees are yet to be announced.

At the close of the meeting Mr. F. Evans expressed, on behalf of all parishioners, thanks and appreciation to Mr. E. Quelch for his work and assistance to the Parish over many years, especially during his term as Rector's Warden and Treasurer, Mr. Evans' remarks were supported by all those present.

Subsequently the Rector has nominated Mr. Still and Mrs. Ida Barret to the Parish Council, and Mr. Bruce Livingston has accepted as Parish Treasurer.

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

First my praise to the God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His wondrous mercy has kept us and provided for our needs in a gracious way.

Second my thanks are due to:

1. The outgoing Church Officers for their dutiful performance of their responsibilities. Especially I want to mention Mr. W. Williams who bore the burden of being our Fete Chairman.
2. The Officers of the Ladies Guild, Women's Evening Group and the Senior Parishioners for their labours of love over the past year.
3. Those who care for the cleaning—Mesdames Clark and O'Connor; though one must mention concern about the condition of the pews due to the perishing of the varnish.
4. The Flower Roster—Mrs. Clark and Miss Nisbet.
5. The Grounds Roster—16 parishioners who volunteered to help cut grass and rake the leaves. The weather early this year has beaten us considerably—BUT we have not yet given up!

Those who see to the Brass Polishing—Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Mangan.

The Staff of the Sunday School—Mr. N. Cragg and the Teachers—who have worked at this difficult task in a period when changing standards and teaching techniques are not pulling with us. We lost Miss Judy Evans as Leader of the Kindergarten who found it necessary to resign. We have welcomed Mrs. Freeman as Judy's replacement.

8. Our Organists—Messrs. J. Birkett and J. Nance, together with the Choir Members—without these people we would have an even further curtailed musical side to our services. Here also must be noted the need of further repair

9. The Organisers of the Friday Night Youth Group—Misses Glenyes Bassell and Helen Wessel—together with their friends who all come in from outside our parish to assist. Glenyse has been transferred this year in the Dept. of Education—we should forward a message of thanks.
10. To Mr. John Arrowsmith who looked after a Boys' Club on Monday evenings, but is no longer able to do so. We should send a greeting of gratitude for the effort he put in also.

We've sustained further losses of supporters both through removal and death. I'm sure that we all are still realising greatly the passing of George Clarke whose genial personality contributed much to the life of our parish.

At this point of time I find myself carrying two deep concerns—and it is these I intend sharing with you on this Annual Meeting.

The first is the sad neglect of the corporate Prayer and Bible Study in the Parish. This is where true Christian Spiritual Fellowship is nurtured—and where we see the test of the spiritual vitality of any parish and congregation.

The second is an obvious one—the concern at the continued drift in support of the church as a whole. I have not until this evening seen the Statements, but one does not have to be a prophet to forecast that this year will be a very difficult one financially. Costs are rising rapidly, and there's a great need for stronger financial support to try to keep the parish solvent. The members of the parish are getting older. It is a cause of much admiration to notice the strength of purpose put into the annual fete upon which, oddly, the parish has to depend so much. The ladies, particularly, are to be commended—the long hours and strenuous effort put in cannot but be admired. This cannot go on for ever—our workers need help more and more. And it is here that the unfortunate direction of emphasis which seems to have motivated the parish will become apparent I believe. There has been a considerable effort put in to securing the parish finances by raising funds. Don't think I'm suggesting there is no need to give thought to this aspect. I fear some people may have misinterpreted me in this matter. But it has been an inward looking endeavour—our concern for missionary causes and playing our full part in Diocesan matters leave much to be desired!

What I do feel strongly is that the real business of the church of God is to evangelise and build up the spiritual life of people. This seems to me to be neglected in favour of social and monetary matters. In this connection there are a couple of Scriptural exhortations that appear relevant. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon"—"Your heavenly Father knows ye have need of these things but seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added"—"What profit if you gain the whole world and lose your soul"—"What does your God require of you but to do justly and walk humbly before your God"—"Commit your way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto myself." It is undoubtedly a responsibility for parishioners to maintain a church property—but the question to ask is "for what purpose?" And the only possible sensible answer must be "as a base for operations of outreach and witness to the grace, truth and love of God in Jesus Christ."

If we are only concerned to maintain a property—we are glorying in our own works, and not witnessing to our Lord at all. Our fellowship and our endeavouring to make Him known to those about us are the ways to "lift Him up"—to exalt Him before men. And if we see to it that we make that our aim—we fulfil His commission—then I'm sure He'll not neglect to care for and keep us and our needs both material and spiritual. "He who would save his life shall lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake shall save it."

What I am pleading for is a deal of real heart-searching on the part of all of us to discover just where our priorities lie—and in what direction we are heading. For it seems to me that God is more concerned with people and their problems than with bricks, and mortar and traditions. Let us put ourselves in His able hands and look away from our own longings and needs toward Him and His purposes. If we become more involved in seeking to know for ourselves the true spiritual treasures He would impart and with serving our neighbours and seeking to win their friendship for Jesus—He through them, will bless us and answer our own needs—now, and for the years stretching into the long far distance.

With this as our Vision let's step bodily into this coming year of service for our gracious Lord and Saviour.

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CHANGE OF PROPOSED SPECIAL SERVICE

Owing to unforeseen circumstances it has been necessary to postpone the visit of the Petersham Girls' High School Choir. The visit now be planned for later in the year, and due notice will be published in advance of the occasion.

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ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Anzac Day this year falls on Sunday. The custom of the R.S.L. is to hold a public Commemoration on the Sunday before. In 1976 this would be Sunday, 18th April—which is Easter Day. In other words it would coincide with the long week-end, and so it is felt that would be an unsuitable day for the Public Service. The Commemoration therefore is planned for Sunday, 11th April—which is very early, but preferable. The march will start as usual in Petersham outside the Bosward Hall in New Canterbury Road and proceed past the local Club and Memorial to All Saints' Church. The march will begin at 2.30 p.m. and the Service in our Church will commence at 3 p.m. Cadets from Newington School will lead the march and provide a Colour Party and Catafalque Party this year in place of the cadets from Fort Street as previously, owing to the disbanding of the Fort Street Group.

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CLUB NEWS

Womens Evening Group:

We are endeavouring to make our meetings more interesting by holding a variety of entertainment at each meeting. The next meeting to be held on Tuesday, 13th April, at 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall, will be an address by Mrs. Trixie Drury with an Easter message. Then on Tuesday, 11th May, will be a Stanhome Party. Please remember these two dates and come and join us.

Our Jumble Stall was such a success, that we are already talking

about the next one in June. The final figure for the Stall was \$112. Thanks to all who contributed or helped in any way.

For our next stall we hope to concentrate on winter clothing, so please help us once again with anything saleable. Goods can be left at the Rectory or at 59 John Street, Petersham—Phone 569-2291.

IDA BARRETT, Secretary.

Senior Parishioners Club:

I am very sorry to have to report the sad loss of two of our oldest members, Mr. George Clarke and Mrs. Ida Ford. They have both been very good members for many years and the Club extends their sympathy to their respective families.

Georgie was always the first member to arrive on Thursdays to put the tables and shairs in place for the afternoon. Then the last to leave after seeing all was packed away. He is very greatly missed by all.

Our numbers still continue to grow and we express a very warm welcome to all our new members, I hope they will find much happiness and fellowship with us. There is still room for more, so if you like "cards" or "housie" do come and join us any Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-five cents covers a happy afternoon and a nice cup of tea.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

Boys Club:

No news.

Youth Group:

No news.

Bowls Club:

The Bowls Club has recently had an influx of new members and the atmosphere on Wednesday Nights is now most animated. We have to thank J. Moore for the gift of a "Kitty", which enabled us to play on three mats. Total membership has almost doubled since Christmas and our sincerest thanks go to the members who were instrumental in getting the new members for us.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Leader: The Rector has appointed Mrs. Freeman as Kindergarten Leader. I would like to welcome Mrs. Freeman to the Kindergarten.

Sunday School Teachers Meeting: The annual general teachers meeting was held after the 10.00 a.m. service on the 21st March. At the meeting a letter was presented from Mr. E. Quelch tendering his resignation as Sunday School and Kindergarten Honorary Treasurer. He felt that the time had come to stand down as Treasurer after holding the position since 1950. On behalf of the Sunday School and Kindergarten I would like to thank Mr. Quelch for his untiring work in looking after the Sunday School and Kindergarten accounts.

Mr. B. Livingston has been appointed Honorary Treasurer of the Sunday School and Kindergarten. Mrs. Freeman, the Leader of the Kindergarten, was elected Minute Secretary.

I would like to remind the Parents that the Sunday School will commence promptly at 9.45 p.m.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent.

PARISH INFORMATION

APOLOGY

We regret at the time of going to press we have not completed the Parish Information but will publish the completed list in our May paper.

Ladies Guild:

We will not be meeting on our usual day (20th April), as our annual luncheon is the following Tuesday, 27th April. Arrangements for same are well in hand, and members are asked to be at the hall as close as possible to 9.30 a.m. Donation for the luncheon will be \$1.20. The Speaker Mrs. Haladene and Soloist Mrs. Langley.

On May 18th, we have arranged (a Food for Thought) demonstration, further details in next "Chronicle".

We are happy to announce the new door in the Church will soon be completed. The guild extend a very sincere thank you and grateful appreciation to the Senior Parishioners Club, the Women's Evening Group and the Sunday School, for their donations and co-operation in this effort.

E. M. BOSWARD, Guild Secretary.

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DONATIONS TO CHRONICLE

Anonymous—\$1.00.

Miss Scott—\$0.40.

APPRECIATION FOR G. CLARKE

As a previous Secretary of All Saints' "Senior Parishioners' Club", I would like to express my sympathy in the passing of Mr. Geo. Clarke. George joined the Club in the early years. He will always be remembered for his jovial manner, and the special knack he had of getting along with everyone.

Especially, will I remember his willingness to help.

Many times during the years I have mentioned in the "Chronicle" how grateful we were to George for all the work he did for this Club. He was one of the most enthusiastic and hard working members the "Senior Parishioners' Club" ever had. We know George lived for those he loved, and those he loved Remember.

DOT SHAW.

FLOWER ROSTER.

- May 2nd: Donated by Mrs. Hansson and family, in memory of Mr. Hansson; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- May 9th: Donated by Miss Cole in memory of her Mother, and by Misses Nisbet in memory of their Mother; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- May 16th: No donation; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- May 23rd: Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Thomas in memory of Jack and Marg; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- May 30th: Donated by the Craigie family in memory of brother Don; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

We gratefully acknowledge flowers on 14th March, from Mr. and Mrs. Bert Shaw in memory of Mr. George Clark and on Sunday, 21st March, from Mrs. W. Reid in memory of her Uncle.

Apologies are due to the Senior Parishioners Club re flowers in memory of G. Clarke, mistakenly attributed to the Ladies Guild.

A VISIT TO LORD AND KING

This morning I decided to go shopping at LORD & KING'S department store. I was very short of several items, so I left home early. First I went to Customer Service and exchanged a few frowns and biting remarks for some smiles. It seemed to do me a lot for me.

Then I walked over to the perfume counter. My supply of Kindness had run out, and this week it was on sale. Right alongside I noticed a special Love offer, and soon I found myself stocking up there too. How I enjoy that fragrance; it really lingered. I also discovered a lotion called Gentleness, something that soothes the whole body.

Then I took the escalator to All-Round-The-Clock-Wear and tried on a dove-white wrap of Peace. It fitted me perfectly, and allowed so much comfort and freedom! I also picked out a new outfit called Joy. I thought, what a vibrant refreshed hue. And Joy is something I've always wanted. And so to the counter for needles and thread to mend the feelings I had ripped this morning with my cutting words.

Next to the shoe department. I needed a new pair to walk that Second Mile. Then down to the bargain basement for a special run on Humility—an old-fashioned mouth wash that sweetens the breath for a whole day. By this time a cup of coffee seemed an excellent idea: so I dropped in at the snack bar, and ordered a large piece of Humble Pie.

Before leaving, I noticed the best thing of all. Appropriately in valentine season, Lord and King was offering a complimentary Clean Heart to all who asked for it at the Free Gift counter. I wasted no time getting mine. What a thrill!

And do you know? Ever since that shopping trip, I really feel like a new person.

Author unknown—submitted by
Mr. H. Downton.

WALTERS & SON

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