

The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

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

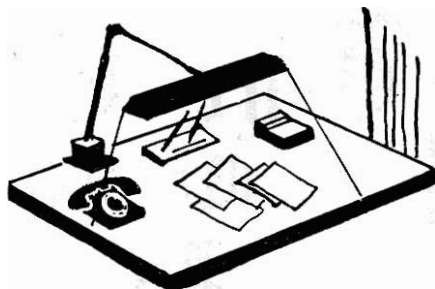
The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Rd., Petersham, 2049—569-4735

MAY, 1978

The safest road to Hell is the gradual one — the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.

C. S. Lewis.

From your Minister's Desk



My dear Friends,

The month of May by time honoured custom now always brings an emphasis on the theme of 'home'. This is because of Mother's Day. We can't think of 'mother' without thinking of 'home' also. There is no doubt that very high among the list of blessings that 'mother' represents comes that lovely and sustaining concept of 'home'.

Oh yes, we know that tragically that concept is being lost by a growing section of the community. Quite recently it was my sad experience to know a young man who in deciding to move away — hundreds of miles away — didn't bother to contact mother to say farewell. He did bid father goodbye. On enquiry I discovered that his mother had left the family years back — pursuing her 'women's independence'. As a result that young man has grown through the tumultuous teen years without a 'home' — though he has always lived in houses. There is an instability in that young man's life, which is a reflection of the instability and brittleness of such a large section of our society today. We have had our attention directed again to the implications of 'family and home' by a new discussion of the impact of the TV programme "Roots". Obviously 'family and home' are first priorities among the needs of new and developing lives. We allow attacks upon them to our own posterity's grave misfortune. The erosion of their significance brings an inheritance of ill that destroys civilisations.

The home is the vital unit of society. God so ordained and planned and patterned it. On 'home and family' depend business, church, schools, government and the nation itself.

It is because of this that the establishing of a good or great family is the most important, far-reaching accomplishment of life.

If any woman or any man is searching for some great contribution to make to the welfare of mankind, none could be greater than the establishing and maintaining of a good family and home. Especially one that can be described as a Christian home — that is, one dedicated to the realisation of God's plan and purpose. Or course it's a mistaken idea that this is solely and wholly the job of mother. The all important 'emotional climate' of the home is set by both parents. And this is the factor that determines whether children will grow up to be well-adjusted individuals, or maladjusted problem-laden teenagers and adults. It is what, more than any other influence, shapes their entire lives.

Those of us who realise this truth also are aware that we don't have that much time. The formative years pass so quickly. We are also very much aware in these days of the strength of the "other" unsettling and unhappy negative influences bearing upon our young people.

While, this month, we are expressing gratitude for the good things we have gained from our mothers, maybe we'll also desire to dedicate our energies and hopes to the enriching of the homes and families through which we are passing on hopes and values to those following us. To help make this real for you and yours, you might like to use in

your home the simple outline of Dedication included in this issue of the Chronicle. May I suggest that you use it as a family act — and make it a time of establishing, or re-vitalising, the practice of family devotions. For don't forget that this is God's will for His people, check Deuteronomy 6: 6 - 7. He had placed the Bible in our hands, not only as a road map to point us to heaven, but as a manual of behaviour while we are on our way there! If you'd like help with the use of the Bible contact me or the Scripture Union, York Street, City.

Your sincere friend and minister in Jesus' Name,

S. W. GISSING, Rector.

Only with culpable slowness are some of us learning that it is not enough to know the Lord's song in a strange land; we must also learn how best to sing it!

J. D. Douglas.

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NEW PRIMATE ELECTED

The Archbishop of Sydney, The Most Rev. Sir Marcus Loane was elected Primate of the Church of England in Australia on April 3rd.

He is the first ever Australian-born Primate of the Anglican Church in this country.

Born in Waratah, Tasmania, Sir Marcus was educated at the Kings School, Parramatta, and the University of Sydney. He entered Moore College and upon graduating, served in turn as tutor, Vice-Principal and finally Principal between the years 1935-58, except for a period of Army chaplaining in New Guinea in 1942-44.

He is a prolific author — his main area of interest being biographies of personalities connected with the Reformation in England. His latest book — *The God Who Acts* — studies in the Acts of the Apostles, will be released shortly.

Sir Marcus was made an Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Sydney in 1958, and succeeded as Archbishop ten years later.

At a Press Conference, held shortly after his election, the new Primate made some comments which are relevant to the witness of the Church in suburbs like Petersham.

Asked if it was true that the Church was on the whole "losing ground" in the modern world, Sir Marcus pointed to the progress and development of the Church's witness in Sydney's inner-city over the past ten years. He said that due to a missionary effort by the Church as a whole, several congregations which seemed to have all but died out had been re-established, and were beginning to be a vibrant witness within their community.

He went on to say that perhaps the time had come for the Church to turn its attention and creativity to the next ring of suburbs in urban Sydney, where the influx of many non-English speaking people had greatly reduced the number of Anglicans.

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NEWS FROM BEYOND THE PARISH

WINTER APPEAL

May 14th is the launching date for the Archbishop of Sydney's Winter Appeal. The main projects for the Appeal in 1978 are continued funding of the Camperdown Family Centre which has helped over 60 families in need since its inception last May, a detached youth work programme, aimed at helping troubled and unemployed young people in the Mascot-Eastlakes area, and the Appeal will also provide funds for welfare grants through Rectors and the Anglican Counselling Service.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

Come and join our Thursday Social afternoon every week from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Ladies or Gentlemen, we are sure we can make you happy and want to come again. Just let us try to prove this to you, 30c also covers a lovely cup of tea and the usual chat that goes with a cuppa.

We still have sickness to report amongst our members. Mrs. Alice Hall is very sick at home, we do hope to see you back with us soon Alice. Marg Bailey and Dennise Gregory are both spending a holiday in Lewisham Hospital. We all wish you both a speedy return to health.

Hoping to see you next Thursday.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON GROUP

The Stanhome Party which seems to be our Annual affair, was again a great success both socially and financially. The proceeds from our percentage of the sales was \$22. Thanks to all those who attended or sent in orders.

The Jumble Sale was the best yet, \$118.00. Proceeds of the Clothing and Jumble, \$70.00; for Jewellery, \$30; for Knitted wear etc. making the total effort \$218, for which we are very thankful. Thanks to all who helped to make this possible.

We hope to have another similar sale later in the year. So we will be very grateful if you remember us when you are cleaning out your cupboards or going through your wardrobes.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 2nd May, at 1.30 p.m. in the Hall Meeting Room. We'd love to welcome new folk along.

IDA BARRETT, Hon Secretary.

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PARISH

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents & Friends of the Sunday School,

The Kindergarten has been giving each pupil a text card for each attendance and a large text card for each ten small texts. When the Pupil has received ten large text cards they then are presented with a Bible. The first two pupils to be awarded a Bible are Debbie Granger and Genivieve Freeman. Congratulations to them both.

I would like to remind you of the Fancy Dress Party on Friday, 16th June for the the Sunday School and Kindergarten pupils and their friends. Judging categories will be printed in next weeks Weekly Sheet.

NOEL CRAG, Suprintendent.

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A HOME DEDICATION SERVICE

Opening Sentence:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in (Rev. 3:20)

Invocation:

Eternal God, Father of all, we recognise You as the source and giver of the love which draws families together. We pray that You will be present in this home, that Your love may enrich its fellowship, Your wisdom be its guide, Your truth its light, and Your peace its benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Beatitude for the Family:

Happy is the family that has a true home built by loyal hearts,
For home is not a dwelling but a living fellowship,
In love and understanding.
And happy is the family whose members find a deeper unity
In sharing truth and beauty and devotion to the good.
Their love shall be an altar fire
Burning in the temple of the Highest.

Scripture Reading:

John 13 verses 34 & 35 and 1 Corinthians 13 verses 4 to 7.

Dedication and Candle-lighting Ceremony —

(parts may be adapted and assigned to various members of the family).

We dedicate this home to love and understanding. May its joys and sorrows be shared and the individuality of each member appreciated. We light a candle to FAMILY LOVE.

We dedicate this home to work and liesure. May it have gaiety and high fellowship, with kindness in its voices and laughter ringing within its walls. We light a candle to HAPPINESS.

We dedicate this home to a friendly life. May its doors open in hospitality and its windows look out with kindness toward other homes. We light a candle to FRIENDSHIP.

We dedicate this home to co-operation. May its duties be performed in love, its furnishings bear witness that the work of others ministers to our comfort, and its table remind us that

God works with us for the supply of our daily needs. We light a candle to CO-OPERATION.

We dedicate this home to the appreciation of all things good and true. May the books bring wisdom, the pictures symbolise things beautiful, and the music bring joy and inspiration. We light a candle to APPRECIATION.

We dedicate the time and talents of those who will live here to serve our generation, and to help build a world in which every family may have a home of comfort and fellowship.

We light a candle to CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

We dedicate this home as a unit in the Church universal, an instrument of the Kingdom of God, a place for worship and Christian training, and a threshold to the life eternal. We light a candle to SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT.

As the flames point upward, so our thoughts rise in gratitude to God for this home, and in prayer for His blessing on it. Let the doors be wide enough to welcome all friendly spirits, the table have bread enough for all hungry mouths, the beds hospitable to the weary, the books enriching for the harvest of the spirit, a home friendly and kind to every neighbour. Here let all gossip cease, all unworthy blame be left unspoken; here may gaiety and seriousness alternate to meet the total needs of life. Here let steadiness replace nervous haste, a sense of mission relieve nagging lust for power. Here let the old, quaint, true, everlasting gospel embrace a family in undying bonds of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make His Face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us, the Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give up peace, both now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

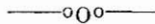
Lord, bless this dwelling, not for any richness of material nor beauty of design, not for grace of furnishing nor for loveliness of site. For all these we thank You. But especially bless this house because here is home — home for son in years of grave decision; home for daughter in springtime of her life; home for her who weaves the fabric of the family, the repeated tasks of days and nights; home for him who must please and fight and labour to protect, enrich, to train and fit the young; refuge for hard-pressed spirit and pain-filled body; castle behind whose walls all may rest to go out refreshed to fresh achievement.

SUNDAY RETAIL TRADING

The Social Issues Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney has issued a statement on the proposed extension of shopping hours to include Sundays. Here is an extract from the statement:

"The Church re-affirms that it believes the fourth commandment enshrines a basic rule for the happiness and prosperity of all; the fact the Commandment dates back some 3,500 years does not invalidate it. It is wise social legislation which we neglect at our peril . . .

Quite apart from the economic dubiousness of the proposal, more is at stake than the convenience of a minority of shoppers and the profits of some companies. Every change of this nature has social consequences, and the community pays with increased stress on individuals and families, necessitating often medical and social welfare expenditure."



FLOWER ROSTER

- May 7th — No donation.
May 14th — Miss Cole in memory of her mother,
Misses Nisbet in memory of their mother and father.
May 21st — Mrs. S. M. Corcoran in memory of Sgt. John Corcoran and
of daughters Rebecca and Charlotte.
May 28th — The Craigie Family in memory of their brother Don.
June 4th — No donation.
June 11th — No donation.
June 18th — Anonymous donation for the War Memorial.
June 25th — Barbara and Stella in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Baxter,
sister Ena and friends Dorrie and Sally.

WALTERS & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Offices and Chapels:

433-35 NEW CANTERBURY ROAD, DULWICH HILL—560-9999

890 CANTERBURY ROAD, LAKEMBA—759-4044

You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.
People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.

KNOW YOUR GOD

The living God.

The God of the Bible is pre-eminently a God to be reckoned with. He is active, dyanamic and irresistible. And his dynamic activity is not confined to the cosmic dimensions of a vast universe — that would be a relatively comfortable thought. But God is not comfortable. He is active no less in day-to-day human affairs, the petty concerns of microscopic man. He is relentlessly uncomfortably present in the sordid business of commerce and war, of loving, living and dying. He is 'the Transcendental interfeerer'.

Life, in the Bible, means something vibrant and dynamic. It involves action. To speak of God as the living God is to make the daring claim that God is actively present here and now, a force to be reckoned with. If He is not that, then whether or not He exists is an academic question with which the Bible is not concerned; at least He would not be **living**, and that is what matters. If He were not living, He could not be God, in any sense that would mean anything to the men of the Bible.

R. T. FRANCE.

SERVICE TIMES:—

8 a.m. — HOLY COMMUNION.

10 a.m. — 1st & 5th Sundays — MORNING PRAYER.
2nd & 4th Sundays — HOLY COMMUNION.

5 p.m. — EVENING PRAYER.
(3rd Sundays — Holy Communion).

10 a.m. — 3rd Sunday — FAMILY SERVICE.
(on other Sundays at 9.55 a.m. Sunday School).