

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

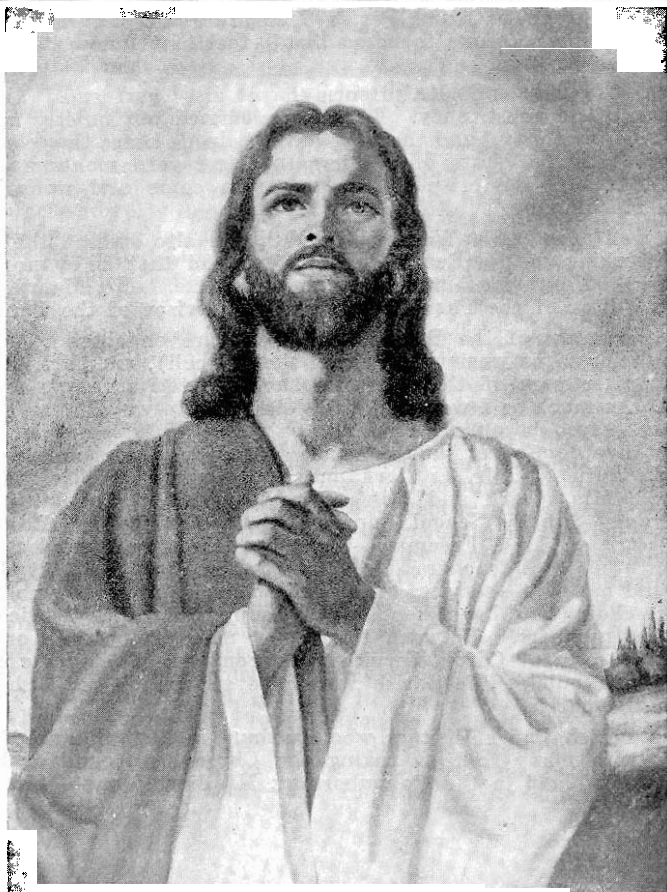
Petersham

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 1977



I am the way, The Truth and the Life."

RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

ON 21st MARCH, 1977.

Once again we must acknowledge at this time of annual stocktaking for the parish the goodness of our Lord in watching over us and sustaining us in the way we have come. Without His blessing we would not have nearly as much to be rejoicing in.

It is my sincere wish to express to the retiring church officers the warm appreciation of all our parishioners. Both the Wardens and members of the Parish Council as well as leaders of parish organisations have laboured in the carrying out of their responsibilities with consistency and zeal. We are grateful to them and owe them much.

It is always dangerous to select for mention individuals by name—for fear of the human frailty of memory letting one down in one or more directions. However I do want to mention some folk particularly on behalf of us all.

Mr. Livingston has been a good friend and encourager to me as my Warden and I put on record my appreciation. He has also very helpfully carried the burden of being Parish Treasurer, and has interpreted the mysteries of the accounts to us so that I feel that I now have a better grasp of our position.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Hearn have also performed their task with energy and consistency. They have carried out quietly many jobs around the property, and hereby have helped keep the church and surrounds in a fair state of repair. In this regard mention must also be made of Mr. Barrett who has so often come and worked in the grounds cleaning up.

As well as being a Warden Mr. Williams also steered the planning and outworking of the Fete this last year and that is by no means a light task. We thank him for a job well done. Mr. Hearn has also acted as Editor of the Parish Paper and Supervisor of the Church Hall.

In the ranks of the Parish Council we are indebted to Mr. Hugh Quelch (prior to his resignation from the Council), and Mrs. J. Gorman for the latter part of the year for having acted as Secretary of the Council. As much as I would like to detail all the ways in which certain folk have served because that is the only way in which we will realise all they have done—yet time demands that I only briefly refer to them and their duties:—Mr. I. Clark and Mrs. Griffin—the cleaning of the building. Mrs. Clark and Misses Nesbit—for the flowers in church. Noel Cragg—Sunday School Superintendent, Duplicating, Roster Clerk and Electrician. Mrs. Freeman—leader of the Kindergarten, together with the other S.S. teachers. Mr. Birkett, Mrs. Zeitsch, Raht, Mr. John Nance and my wife—services on the organ, and also the members of the morning choir who have kept loyally supporting that service despite decreasing numbers. Between them they made it possible once again to have a successful Carols Service in December. The young men and women from outside the parish who have striven to establish a youth work in the parish.

The Parish Paper Visitors who continue in a vital task of keeping contacts with many folk by taking the Chronicle around each month. Mr. A. Cook—help in the Columbarium; Mr. Bert Shaw—help with the

Notices before his illness (we are glad to hear of his continued progress in recovery); Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Mangan—and their care of the brass in the Church we welcome to help them in this work Mrs. D. Read.

We sustained this year the loss of a lady of advanced years 98 and long association with All Saints, Mrs. McKinnon. And we greeted another lady and congratulated her on the attaining of great age of 100 years, Mrs. Kent of Sadlier Crescent.

During the year a certain amount of apprehension we changed the time of the mid-morning service to 10 a.m. to co-incide with the meeting of Sunday School. The intention was to encourage parents of scholars to attend. The fear was that it might inconvenience many of the present attenders. It appears that the change has not been a disadvantage, but has not realised all that we had hoped for. We also finished the experimental use of the trial Services. They were met with a mixed reception. On the whole, and understandably, the older 1662 Prayer Book services were preferred by most. Some however liked the clarity and simplicity of the new services.

Another 'big' matter was attempted as a result of a most generous offer, and that is the Pedal Department of the Organ has been rebuilt—or rather is in process of being rebuilt. One parishioner, appreciating the Organ we have, under-wrote to a very considerable amount the work necessary, and he has been backed up wonderfully by many parishioners so that the entire cost has been covered. We are looking forward to hearing the full organ again when it is complete. This has been a major project for us.

There have been some problems presenting themselves and in the near future we need to address ourselves to them. The Youth Work in the Parish presents a particular challenge, and much as I long to see an effective work done in this area, I fear that until we have some suitable young person or persons in our ranks it will not be achieved. We have a very serious lack in this direction and will have to give some concerted and serious thought to what may be attempted.

In the recent heavy rains our attention was forcibly drawn to the condition of both the church and Rectory roofs. The Church Roof particularly will demand considerable attention before long. This humid season also reminds us of the problem connected with the pews in the church. Again and again folk report 'sticking' to them.

The evening Service is poorly attended but I would not like to abandon it. It also would be an unfortunate witness in the community. However the number are not inspiring to any new-comers—I note that they do not persist very long before leaving us for other opportunities. The 'format' of the evening worship programme may need reviewing and considerable revising if it is to be maintained.

It has been an encouragement to me to note that this year we have not fallen behind financially, but kept our head up. Indeed the increase in missionary interest and contribution is perhaps a straw in the wind of deepening spiritual concern and vitality. I would hope that will be confirmed by a growing interest and involvement in the corporate Bible Study and Prayer Meeting so that we may together seek the Lord's Will and 'wait' upon Him for strength and direction as to what we should strive for in the coming months. Outreach is the great necessity for our parish—and for that to be effective we each

need a growing conviction that the Lord Who means so much to us individually, can also be a blessing to those among whom we live and work.

In closing my remarks I want to ask for reaction to two simple suggestions—the possibility of roping off the side and back pews of the church to help to physically unite the congregation and thus help us to encourage one another better. The idea of introducing a new hymn selection with an emphasis on perhaps a more modern style and a brighter type of music. I don't ask for any resolutions on either suggestion but I would value re-actions from individuals. And I will be taking silence as agreement with the proposals.

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THE FOLLOWING IS A PRECIS OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

Readers will have previously read the Rector report which is given in full on page 2.

The Church Officers for the next twelve months will be:—

Rectors Warden—B. Livingston, Peoples Wardens—N. Cragg, F. Hearn

The Parish Council has been reduced to 6 elected members and 2 members to be nominated by the Rector.

The Parish elected:—

R. Swankie, H. Spill, F. Evans, I. Barrett, Gorman, E. Sopwith

The rectors nominations have not yet been received.

The meeting elected the three Church Wardens and Messrs Swankie and Spill as Parish nominators.

The Auditors for the year will be W. Sopwith and T. Spill.

W. Williams did not stand for office as the Rector took the opportunity of thanking him for all his past efforts on behalf of All Saints. The meeting accepted the return of thanks with acclamation W. Williams said that the time had come for him to retire from office but that he would be available to lend a hand in and around the church.

Appreciation was also paid to the retiring auditors Miss Quelch and same A. Quelch has been a parish councillor for many years and latterly held office as Hon. Secretary.

Pressing problems involving poor evening service attendance, organ playing and choir reservation were discussed and referred back to the incoming Parish Council for consideration.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL TEACHERS MEETING

The teachers meeting was held on Sunday 20th March after the Family Service. At the meeting we decided to hold a family barbeque in the Church grounds on the 28th May commencing at 3 p.m. The Sunday School and Kindergarten Christmas Party will be held on 10th December.

The following donations were approved:—

Home Mission Society	\$20
Mission to Seamen	\$10
Christian Broadcast Association	\$10
Archbishops Winter Appeal	\$20
Church of England Homes	\$20
Organ Fund	\$20

Noel Cragg
Superintendent.

LADIE'S GUILD

Our meeting on April, 19th will commence at 12.30 At 1.30 p.m. Mr. T. Willis, Secretary of the Leprosy Mission, will speak and show a film on this wonderful work. Visitors will be very welcome to join us, at 1.30 p.m. for the address and film, followed by afternoon tea.

E. M. Bosward, Secretary.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

Are you lonely? Do you want to fill in an afternoon a week in a bright happy club? Well you don't have to be a Senior Parishioner. You don't have to even be a Parishioner or a pensioner, all you need is to want company, so if this fits you, just come along any Thursday to All Saints Parish Hall, at 1.00 p.m. Cards, Housie and a nice cup of tea, all for 25c please come, we are waiting to welcome you.

Ida Barnett

Hon Secretary.

WOMENS EVENING GROUP

This Club meets in the Parish Hall the second Tuesday night each month at 8 p.m. The next meeting will be 12th April, as always we are anxious to welcome new members any age, all very welcome.

Our last meeting was an address by Mrs. Lygo from the Festival of Light and proved a very interesting night, which was well attended. Our next meeting will be a business meeting and the May meeting will be a Stanhome Party, so if you can't come and need any Stanhome products, please give your order to Mrs. Gessing or any Club member.

Ida Barrett

Hon Secretary.

BOWLS CLUB

The bowls club will be very happy to welcome back Mrs. Ivy Clark who is now out and about, slowly, after a short stay in Lewisham Hospital. For various reasons we lost six members at Christmas and have so far been able to replace two of them.

F. F. Hearn

RETURN OF THANKS

Mrs. Ivy Clark wishes to sincerely thank all friends and parishioners who phoned, sent flowers, gifts and cards and visited her in hospital recently. Such kindness was greatly appreciated.

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Below are printed letters of appreciation from two local Institutions:—
Dear Rev. Gissing,

On behalf of The Board of Directors I wish to express thanks to yourself and to the members of your Parish for the very thoughtful donations of goods and money which were recently made to the hospital.

All donations are of assistance and benefit to the patients, and provide that little extra which may not have otherwise been possible.

Again, thank you,

Yours faithfully,

K. C. Allerdice,

Chief Executive Officer.

Braeside

21st February, 1977

Dear Mr. Gissing,

We would like to thank you for your kind thoughts and for the fruit, vegetables and groceries received from the congregation at All Saints' Church of England, Petersham, during the Harvest Festival.

Your generosity and support are appreciated and we trust you will maintain your interest in our work.
With best wishes.

Eversleigh Hospital.

Yours sincerely,

D. N. Mawhinney,

Administrative Officer.

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FAMILY SERVICE

EASTER DAY, Sunday 10th April, will be the occasion of this months Family Service.

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FLOWER ROSTER

April, 3rd—Donated by Mrs. Beardow and Family in memory of Mr. Beardow, by Mrs. D. Pullen in memory of her Husband by Miss M. Pullen in memory of her Parents and Brother and by Mrs. Judith Payne in memory of her Father and baby David, arranged by Mrs Clark.

April 10th—Donated by Iris and Colin in memory of Parents Mr. & Mrs. Walter arranged by Miss Nisbet.

April 17th—Donated by Mrs. Hayes and family in memory of Mr. Hayes arranged by Mrs. Clark.

April, 24th—Donated by Mrs. Hansson and family in memory of Mr. Hansson arranged by Miss Nisbet.

May, 1st—No donation arranged by Mrs. C. Clark.

May, 8th—Donated by Miss Cole in memory of her Mother, and by the Misses Nisbet in memory of Mother and Father arranged by Miss Nisbet.

May, 15th—No donation arranged by Mrs. Clark.

May, 22nd—No donation arranged by Miss Nisbet.

May, 28th—Donated by the Craigie Family in memory of Brother Don, arranged by Mrs. Clark.

Extra flowers or money to purchase flowers for Easter Day, April, 10th would be much appreciated. In addition there are no donations for 1st, 15th and 22nd May.

Flowers on 13th March were donated by Mrs. Mervyn in memory of her Husband March 20th from Mrs. E. Sharpe in memory of her son John Rennie and on March, 27th from Miss Jones in memory of her sister.

A BURDEN TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

JULIO BUSTOS was the first child born to a poor working class family in Valparaiso, Chile.

As long as he can remember his father suffered from a serious drink problem which resulted in uncertain income for his family. His mother therefore, accepted permanent employment to bolster the erratic earnings of her husband.

Seven other children were born to this poor home and in Julio's late teens when he had already begun work, he attended a mission in a nearby Pentecostal Church where he heard an Anglican preach the Gospel in clarity and simplicity and power. That night he yielded his life to the claims of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Because of the link with the Anglican Church through the evangelist of that night, he became interested in the wider work of that denomination and began attending the central church of the region, St. Paul's Valparaiso. Here he grew in spiritual understanding and maturity and sensed a need to undertake serious study, both of the Word of God and theological text books. He became an avid reader of Christian literature and his enthusiasm to become well grounded in the Word of God led him to undertake preliminary studies in Greek. As the Bible Institute in Vina del Mar came into formation, he became one of those most regular students taking every opportunity to sit at the feet of missionary and national clergy who shared in the lectures.

He proved himself in pastoral and evangelistic opportunities on many occasions. Leading the youth work in Valparaiso for two years, he earned the respect and love not only of the youth but of many older members of the congregation. His evangelistic gifts were blessed not only within our own denomination but in others where he was invited to preach and numbers came to a personal faith in Christ through his ministry. He shared in various evangelistic thrusts within the region and during this time he sensed a strong call of God to the ordained ministry. This was confirmed in the witness of other church leaders including his bishop and on the 10th October, 1976 he was ordained with Luis Palomino as a deacon in the Anglican Church.

The following Sunday he was placed in charge of St. John's, Achupallas, a growing congregation in one of the poorer areas of Vina del Mar in succession to the Rev. Jorge Rodriguez who had pioneered this work.

Please pray for Julio and his wonderful little team of keen Christians who seek to continue to make Christ known in a needy area.



KIDS AT THE FRONT DRUNKS AT THE BACK BISHOPS IN THE MIDDLE

Dr. Leon Morris writes on his visit to S.A.M.S. work in Northern Argentina. (An excerpt from "See of the Dioceses of Melbourne and Bendigo.")

And that leads me on to Salta, a little town in the foothills of the Andes, where Bishop Pat Harris took us out one Sunday evening to see a little of what his missionaries are doing.

We went to a remote barrio, a shanty town, I was told that there was nothing else there in the way of communal activity and nothing in the way of amenities.

The missionaries had put up a simple structure—just four walls and a roof a dirt floor. They might have begun with a church in a house, but the people there do not like to go to houses of other than personal friends. All agreed that it was better to have a neutral meeting point. So there we were in this simplest of buildings. A few forms provided seating. Generally the kids sat at the front and the drunks at the back. The Bishop sat with us in the middle.

Dogs wandered in and out which everyone took as a matter of course. There was constant activity and constant noise. Every time the missionary conducting the gathering asked a rhetorical question, someone in the audience answered it. And if he didn't ask anything they chimed in anyway.

Presently he switched to an audio-visual entitled "Peppy the Pup" I could not follow all the dialogue in Spanish, but the pictures were graphic enough. It was about two dogs in a pleasant home. One pup evidently pined for the larger world and ran away. He was traced through a variety of adventures and misfortunes before he came to himself and returned home to be received with the warmest of welcomes. This canine version of the Prodigal Son was evidently made the vehicle of an appeal to the group to arise and go to their Father.

For some reason the missionary called on me to add a few words. The bishop interpreted as I tried my hand at telling how full and rich an empty life can be made when a man goes back home to the heavenly Father.

Some were inclined to apologise to me for the dirt and the dogs and the din. I explained that we do not normally do things this way at Ridley College, but then a barrio outside Salta is not Ridley. In my opinion, far from apology there should be exaltation. The thing that came over loud and clear at that meeting was that the missionaries cared.

The love of God flowed through them to every dirty, noisy obstructor of the meeting. It could not be missed.

And it did not surprize me in the least to find that, though they have been working there but a short time, already there is a little church, a group of God's people, who meet quietly each Tuesday morning for worship and for the study of the Bible.

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 accented without medical examination.
