

# **All Saint's Anglican Church, of Australia Petersham**

**325 STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM**

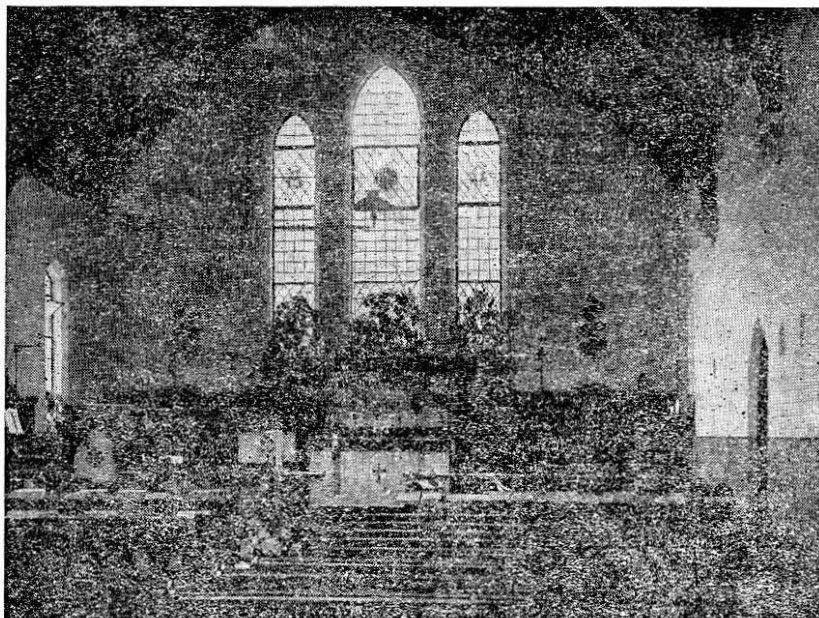
**Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT**

**Phone: 569-4735**

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**FEBRUARY, 1986**

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**The Mission Church, Crystal Street, as it used to be.**

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*For your diary.*

**LENT BEGINS ON THE 12th FEBRUARY  
GOOD FRIDAY IS THE - 28th MARCH  
EASTER DAY IS THE - 30th MARCH**

The Rectory,  
P.O. Box 241,  
PETERSHAM 2049  
18th November, 1985

Dear Friends,

By the time you receive this issue of the Chronicle it will be the beginning of Lent.

Lent is the period of forty days before Good Friday. It is a time of preparation for that day when God showed how much He loves us by allowing His only Son, Jesus, to die for us on the Cross.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Christ Jesus did not die as a punishment for anything that He had done wrong. To the very end of His worldly life He remained "the sinless Son of God." Jesus died for our misdeeds, our faults, our failures, our sins.

"There was no other good enough  
To pay the price of sin;  
He only could unlock the gate  
Of Heaven and let us in."

The most wonderful news is that Christ died not for a selected few, but for all mankind, for you and I.

The importance of Good Friday and Christ's death upon the cross cannot be over-emphasised. It is natural then that believers should spend time in preparation for the event which dramatically changed their whole life, gave them security and peace.

It is so easy to take God's blessings for granted — to think that we both deserve and are entitled to God's goodness. The ~~truth~~ is radically different. The truth is that when we have done all that God asks of us we are still His unprofitable servants.

The season of Lent is used by Christians to get their relationship with God into the correct perspective.

God, the Almighty; creator of heaven and earth, unapproachable in light

Man, on the other hand, depending upon God for such basics as food and shelter—constantly being selfish and wanting his own way—rebellious against God, his maker.

Jesus Christ, the one who descended from heaven and His father's presence to identify Himself with men. This Jesus, despite His humanity never sinned, thus He was able to present Himself to God sinless. As perfect man He represents us before a Holy God, and pleads for our forgiveness.

The cross and death of Jesus becomes the bridge by which sinful man can approach a sinless God. This is the provision of a loving God.

Lent gives us that opportunity to contemplate such love.

Man has spoilt the plan God made for him at Creation, a plan that intended that man should enjoy both the blessing of earth below and heaven above.

Are you one who feels that you are not sharing in all God's blessings, both material and spiritual? The answer is to get to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He is one "from whom all blessings flow."

May God's richest blessing be yours.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE WOOLCOTT

### CHURCH RENOVATIONS

Have a close look at the outside of the church.

The wood frames surrounding the windows have been filled and painted and the wire screens straightened and the clips on the screen renewed.

This is a job which has been causing us great concern, and it is pleasing to be able to take it out of the too hard basket and transfer it to the mission accomplished basket.

### COLUMBARIUM

The ashes of Mrs. E. Rhyder and Mrs. Jenny Wilson will be dedicated at Morning Service on the 23rd February.

### SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

The Club is again in full swing and looking forward to another year as happy as last year. Every Thursday, if you want to fill in a pleasant afternoon over a game of Housie (the prizes being small useful gifts such as a packet of jelly crystals, matches, or a piece of vegies or fruit), well, just come along and join us at 1 p.m.

The afternoon tea is worth coming for on its own. We always have home made cakes and fresh sandwiches with plenty of filling.

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## WALTERS & SON

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Offices and Chapels:

433-35 NEW CANTERBURY ROAD, DULWICH HILL—566-9991  
890 CANTERBURY ROAD, LAKEMBA—759-4044

You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.

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We hope to welcome you some Thursday soon. Your age or creed doesn't make any difference to us.

The next Second Hand Clothing and Jumble Stall will be held on Friday, 21st February, commencing at 9 a.m. Please remember us with your unwanted goods and clothing that are still saleable.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

### **WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP**

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 11th February (which this year is Pancake Day). The meeting is due to commence at 1.30 p.m. Please, all members try to attend.

The following meeting on Tuesday, 11th March at 1 p.m. will be our Annual Meeting, followed by a Happy Home Party. Mrs. Molly Sainsbury will again be our demonstrator.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

### **PERSONAL**

Many thanks to Mr. Woolcott and all our many friends of the Parish, neighbours, Chapter and Lodge, for all the Get-Well Messages and cards, phone calls and visits to the hospital for Vic following his accident.

He is now home and progressing very well. Thanks once again, everybody.

IDA & VIC BARRETT

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Sunday School and Kindergarten classes have recommenced for 1986. The classes will be held regularly each Sunday at 9.30 a.m. with the exception of the third Sunday of each month and school holidays.

On the third Sunday of each month a Family Service is held at 9.30 a.m. The Senior Sunday School pupils will not meet in the hall on that Sunday, but will go straight into the church. The Kindergarten pupils will meet in their hall at 9.30 a.m. prior to attending the Family Service.

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The Kindergarten section attends the Service just before the address. The subject of the address generally follows the stories in the Sunday School teaching material.

Parents are encouraged to attend the Family Service with their children.

On Sunday, 16th February, the first Family Service will be also Harvest Festival. We ask the pupils to bring along gifts of food for the service. Following the Harvest Festival the food is given to Braeside Hospital.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent



### FLOWER DONATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

February 2—Donation by Mrs. W. Willis in memory of her Mother, Mrs. Sheriff.

Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.

February 9—Donation by Mrs. P. Heap in loving memory of her Mother and Daughter.

Arrangement by Mrs. E. Hearn.

February 16—Donation by Mrs. A. Hall in memory of her Mother, Father and Family.

Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.

February 23—Donation for the Dedication of Ashes for Mrs. E. Rhyder and Mrs. J. Wilson. Flowers donated by Senior Parishioners.

Arrangement by Mrs. E. Hearn.



### ABIDE WITH ME

On a Sunday morning in 1827, a man by the name of Henry Francis Lyte, a Scottish Presbyterian preacher in a church called "The Wee Church of St. Andrews" in the northern part of Scotland, preached what was to be his last sermon and did the communion service for what was to be his last time. He had been in the parish for more than 50 years and now his health had broken. The doctor had assured him that if he would go to the French Riviera with its warm sunshine there might be a possibility he would regain his health.

The congregation, with a deep sense of prayer and a great sense of hope, came together in their little church for the final service. When it was finished the plan was that Dr. Lyte was to walk through the churchyard and down a hill to a waiting small boat that was to take him to a larger ship. As he went away he waved his handkerchief to the congregation and they in turn waved theirs to him. They stood in the churchyard and waved at the man that they hoped would soon return to them in good health.

The ship stopped the first night in northern France. The tourists on the ship decided they would like to see a bit of the country, so they all went to their rooms in a little inn.

When morning came, it was their plan to have breakfast together. When they sat down for breakfast everyone was present except Henry Lyte. They didn't know what to make of it, though they knew Dr. Lyte was not well. They sent someone to his room to call him, but there was no response, so the innkeeper was called and he came and hurriedly unlocked the door. Inside the room, stretched across the bed, was the body of Henry Francis Lyte. In his hand there was a piece of paper that the poetic mind of the Presbyterian pastor had been writing on. It was a poem that has since been set to music and is one of the most beloved hymns of the church:

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Story told by United Methodist Bishop Kenneth Goodson  
at Palmer Preaching Week, Flendale, CA.

### **MARRIAGE OF DIVORCED PERSONS**

(The December 16th issue of the Church Record referred to the rejection of three matters approved by Synod and included excerpts from a letter by Archbishop Robinson to Parish Clergy explaining his views and reasoning.

That part of his explanation relating to the re-marriage of divorced persons is presented herewith):

#### **ARCHBISHOP WITHHOLDS ASSENT**

Right or Wrong?

The Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Reverend Donald Robinson, has declined to assent to three ordinances passed at the recent session of the Synod of the Diocese. On the other hand, he has given his assent to a fourth ordinance to which his assent was not generally expected.

The Archbishop's actions have attracted some implied

criticism in the secular press and raised questions in the minds of some Christians as to whether the Archbishop is by-passing the wishes of the elected representatives of the Synod who passed the ordinances in the first place.

The ordinances not assented to relate to the re-marriage of divorced persons, the position of Defence Services Chaplains and the ordination of women to the office of deacon. The fourth one, to which the Archbishop has assented, although expected to, relates to the wearing of the surplice by clergy.

### **The position concerning assent**

Under the Constitution of the Anglican Church, the Archbishop may speak in debate, but he does not have a vote in the Synod. However, an ordinance passed by the Synod will lapse unless it receives the assent of the Archbishop within 30 days of being passed.

The right to assent implies a right not to assent. The withholding of assent is not without precedent by other archbishops in the past.

The Archbishop has written a Pastoral Letter to parish clergy, explaining his views and his reasoning.

"It has not been easy to make these decisions," he said, "and in doing so I have weighed many points of view and sought to do justice to the proper balance of responsibilities in the constitution of our Church.

"I do not wish to be at odds with my Synod, but at a time when far reaching innovations are being proposed, it is perhaps inevitable that the implications of the assenting responsibility of the bishop of the diocese should come to the surface.

"The authority for order and good government in our Church is not just the Synod with its two houses of clergy and laity, and not just the bishop, but the Synod and bishop in harmony," Archbishop Robinson said.

"Although we are all a bit restive at times, I believe we have an essential and very precious unity in faith and hope within the diocese, and my prayer is that together we may 'discern the things that are excellent' in the ministry to which God has been pleased to call us," he added.

### **The marriage of divorced persons**

The Archbishop has pointed out that this ordinance has two principles which represent a significant departure from the law of the church as it has existed for many centuries.

The first is that it transfers the dispensing power of the bishop to the parish clergy in all cases of marriage of divorced persons except where the celebrant or the divorced applicant for marriage seek the consent of the bishop.

The second principle is that it is left to the judgement of the parish clergyman (or the bishop, when applicable) as to whether a particular marriage of a divorced person is in line with the teaching of Scripture or the will of God as revealed in the Bible.

The first new principle is tempered by requiring the celebrant to certify to the bishop that he believes that, if he were deputising for the bishop, he would give consent to the marriage.

The second principle is tempered by a requirement that the minister take into account and apply to the case under consideration, certain conclusions of the diocesan Doctrine Commission.

There are also a number of precautionary measures in the ordinance designed to protect the interests of congregations.

"While I recognise the positive intention of the ordinance, and the compromise it proposes between certain conflicting views, I do not believe it is right for me to assent to it in its present form," the Archbishop said.

"It would be far more difficult to administer than the present law," he added.

"But my chief reason is that I cannot agree to resign the traditional role of the diocesan bishop as the proper person to grant permission for such marriages as the Church considers lawful."

Archbishop Robinson said that he had set out his position in his Presidential address to the Synod last year when he had said that if the Church at large were to adopt the principle of abandoning episcopal permission, then he would acquiesce to it.

However, the General Synod, and 22 out of 24 dioceses, endorsed the principle of permission from the bishop, and the General Synod declined to accept the arguments put forward by representatives from Sydney.

In view of the reasons given by the Archbishop, the Standing Committee and the Archbishop are trying to work out amendments to make it acceptable. It is highly likely that the matter will be considered by the Synod next year.