

The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

The Friendly Church

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

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham, 2049—56-4735

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

JULY, 1974



My new and dear Friends,

This is the first opportunity for me to send a greeting to you since taking up the responsibility of being Rector at Petersham. My wife and family wish to join me in publicly acknowledging gratitude to the many who have so kindly and generously offered their friendship in these last couple of weeks. The "shaking down" into a new parish is not the easiest time, but we have been helped by the warmth and goodwill of many.

Each day brings us the joy of meeting others with whom the Lord has called us to serve Him. We are very confident that He has some significant things to teach us in our fellowship and endeavours together—and eagerly look forward to the years immediately ahead.

It is only natural that each one of us has an individual approach and different personality—as a result, I imagine that our coming will mean some changes. We pray that those may be only of slight impact as far as disturbing the customs of those who have been here for so many years. It would be very wrong for any of us to try to be someone else. May I ask your indulgence while we "get to know one another".

The one other thing that I would ask of you is your patient and prayerful support so that together we may prove effective and obedient servants of our Saviour and Master, Jesus Christ. He has a wonderful future ahead for us—may we have much happiness as we seek to discover His Will for All Saints' together.

Your sincere friend and minister in the Name of Jesus Christ,

S. W. GISSING, Rector.

PERSONAL

We note, with regret the passing of Mr George Barron. During his association with this Parish he has always been willing to assist all parishioners whenever he could and we will miss him greatly. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Barron.

ARCHBISHOP'S WINTER APPEAL

The theme of the 1974 Winter Appeal is "Poverty is not yet over". This theme is adopted as some in our community may think, that because of increased pensions and the institution of a Commission of Enquiry into Poverty, poverty may have been overcome in Australian Society.

But this is not the case. Even in the interim report it has been stated that a very large number of Australians, both in the city and in the country, are suffering some degree of hardship and distress.

The generosity of individuals to the Archbishop's Winter Appeal each year is measured by the fact that grants are made to many people in need of clothing, food and financial assistance during the winter period. The gifts are mainly channelled through the Home Mission Society's Counselling Service and through eighty parish clergy. The Church is fortunate in having such a widespread network of contacts with virtually every group in society.

Further information may be obtained from the pamphlets available at the Church door.

FOR CHILDREN

In future issues of the "Chronicle" it is proposed to have a regular "Children's Section". If any children or adults wish to contribute to this would they please see me.

H. E. QUELCH.

"I am come that they might have Life and have it to the full."

John 10:10 (moffat)

We have one life to live. We can waste it by doing nothing, or by restless activity in the wrong direction. No life devoted to Jesus Christ is ever wasted. Rather does it become richer and fuller year after year.

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WHAT THE CHURCH OFFERS YOU

(Lowell M. Atkinson)

An ancient legend tells how three princes ventured out to find the most marvellous thing in the world. Each went his own way, searching through the fabulous bazaars of the Orient. The first prince found a Spying Tube through which he could see anything he wished. The second found a Magic Carpet on which he could fly anywhere he wanted to go. The third found a Healing Apple, one bite of which gave health and strength.

Now it happened that all three princes were in love with a wonderful princess. But alas! When the first prince looked through the Spying Tube, he cried, "All is lost! I see the princess, and she is dying." The second prince immediately said, "Let us go to her. The Magic Carpet will take us." In a moment, they were at the side of the dying princess. "We can save her," declared the third prince as he gave her a bite of the Healing Apple. The princess was instantly restored to life and health!

This is only an Arabian Night tale, you say. Yes, it is. But the Christian Church has made it come true!

A New View

The Christian Church gives us a new view of people through the Spying Tube of the Gospel. Look at men through John 3:16, for example, and you see a world of people whom God loves—a world of people for whom Christ died. You see the need of these people, many of whom do not know that a Saviour has given Himself for them, or do not care, or do not live worthy of such a wonderful God. Through God's Spying Tube of the Gospel, with its compassionate concern, the Christian Church provides us with a vision that identifies the true need of the world.

Irving Babbitt once said that H. L. Mencken had a worm's eye view of people. If you wish, you may limit yourself to such a view of life where all is shadowed. You may think of people as animals, as creatures of passion and appetite, with just enough mentality to know that they are animals. You may think of people as things to be used rather than as individuals to be respected. But these views of people make life a sorry affair. They give no glory to the mind, no hope to the heart.

The Christian Church brings a new vision of people, for it views them from the perspective of God. When we see that what really matters in life is what links us to the world above us rather than to the world of animals and material objects, we catch a new vision of human experience. Then we begin to rejoice in life's invincible splendour.

Only God can give us the true view of man. To make the reality of God a living force in the life of man is the Church's perpetual task.

A New Concern

The Christian Church also has a Magic Carpet of love. For Christian love brings the Church swiftly to every place of human need.

I have personally seen Zulu nurses serving in a Christian missionary

hospital in the wild bushveldt of South Africa. Christ has changed their lives completely. Leaving the life of primitive tribal customs, they now sacrificially take their lives to the places of direst need. They now serve in the spirit of Christian love. No wonder it has been said to Christians. "It is they who hold the world together."

Karl Barth has described the living Church as "those who have been called out and called together by Him that they may identify themselves with the need and the hope of the world." Having seen the need of the world in the light of God's truth, the Christian Church moves out to meet that need. With the dynamic of love, it moves into homes and prisons and offices, into wilderness and desert and forest, into places of evil practice or of moral and spiritual apathy, always identifying itself with human need and always bringing divine hope.

When servicemen in World War II were sent to strange and far away parts of the earth, they marvelled to find that the Christian Church was already there. Every frontier has likewise become a frontier of faith as the Church has moved with decision and determination to take the Gospel of God's good news to the whole world.

A New Hope

Finally, the Christian Church offers the Healing Apple of spiritual life to cure the world's ills. The Gospel of the God who cares brings us a spiritual health which is both wholeness and holiness. To a sick world, God offers life—life triumphant and abundant!

It is a tragic thing to go through the motions of life without being alive. The Christian Church brings us spiritual food by which to live. The Gospel of the Living God gives us the glory of the enlightened mind, the sensitiveness of the awakened conscience, the power of the energised will, the compassion of the kindled heart.

Dante once said, "Where God is, the universe is most alive." Where the Christian Church is, people are most alive. There they live in the spirit of confidence and victory. There they forego their fears and fortify their faith through the worship of God. There they know that their citizenship is not only in the kingdom of good in this world, but also in the Kingdom of God in His Eternal World.

What a responsibility the Church has today! To be entrusted with proclaiming so great a Gospel humbles us and sends us to our knees. But God lifts us up, and His encouraging strength makes us feel ten feet tall.

There is no life greater than the life which is found through God's Holy Church!

(Reprinted from All Saints' Parish News—Nelson March, 1961.)

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CONFIRMATION

Would any person over fourteen years of age who would like to be Confirmed please give their name and address to the Rector.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

I would like to thank all the parishioners who made a donation for the girls' and boys' lucky dips.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Sunday School Teachers will be held at the end of this month. The date will be decided this week.

NOEL CRAGG, Hon. Secretary.

CLUB NEWS

Ladies Guild:

Please remember Tuesday, 9th July. We will have a Speaker

from the Leprosy Mission who will also show some films. This commences at 10.30 a.m. A donation of 30 cents includes morning tea. Our guild meeting will follow the refreshments.

E. BOSWARD, Honorary Secretary.

Youth Group:

I would like to apologise for not having an article last month. Things, however, have been running smoothly and we have been enjoying some interesting activities. May I take this opportunity of welcoming the Rev. and Mrs. S. Gissing and family to the Parish. I pray that their stay with us may be a long and enjoyable one.

As the fete is drawing closer I would like to make an urgent appeal for books, paperbacks and toys (broken or not). Also, as our numbers are low, may I appeal to parishioners who know any young folk who may be interested to please contact me on 56-2208. We are looking forward to an increased membership and many hours of Christian fellowship together.

PETER GRAY, Honorary Secretary.

Y.M. and Friends' Club:

The next meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, 9th July, at 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

We urgently seek new members owing to members moving to other districts. Any lady who can spare a couple of hours on the second Tuesday night each month would be very welcome.

Our grateful thanks to all who sent along any donations to our jumble sale last month.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

Senior Parishioners' Club:

We very regretfully said farewell to our Leader, Mrs. Dot Shaw last month. Mrs. Shaw founded the Club 17 years ago, but now owing to ill health has found this step unavoidable. She will be very greatly missed by all and we wish her God's blessing and better health in the years ahead.

We are all very sorry to have lost a very good member by the passing of Mr. George Barron and we extend our very sincere sympathy to Mrs. Barron and her family in their sad loss.

The new Club Leader is Mrs. Rhyder and together with her committee of helpers hopes to carry on as before. We invite ladies and gentlemen of all denominations to join our club and spend a happy Thursday afternoon of "cards" and "house" with us in the parish hall from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. A donation of 20 cents covers afternoon tea.

IDA BARRETT, Honorary Secretary.

Indoor Bowls Club:

Our club is going along quite nicely. So far we have won only one competition but we are benefiting from playing with other teams and enjoying the social part of our evenings very much.

We would always be very happy to welcome new members.

B. SEE, Honorary Secretary.

SANCTUARY FLOWER ROSTER

July 7: Donated by Mrs. Dunne in memory of her Parents; by Mr. Bill Williams and Family in memory of Mrs. Aileen Williams and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt from their Daughters; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

July 14: Donated by Misses Nisbet in memory of their Parents; arranged by Miss Nisbet.

- July 21: **Donated by the Quin Family** in memory of their Father and in memory of Mrs. Joan Nance from Her Family; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- July 28: **Donated by Michelle** in memory of Don and by Mrs. E. Miller and Family in memory of Mr. F. Miller; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- August 4: **Donated by Mrs. E. Robertson** in memory of loved ones; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

We also acknowledge flowers on 23rd June from Mrs. Gordon in memory of her Brother Mr. J. Oliver.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND GOD'S POWER

Life is not self-propelling. It is dependent upon God. God gives life, and God sustains life, for in Him is Life. As the body cannot live without food, so the soul cannot live without God.

A large part of our spiritual support is found in the worship of God. Joy and gladness of heart are most surely derived from regular church attendance.

At church, everyday activities are laid aside to permit those who attend to call upon God and to receive power from on high in a special way.

The Church thus offer a unique experience. No other institution shares with men such resources of spiritual strength as the Church possesses.

In this sharing the Church brings us understanding and a sense of comradeship. It produces an experience of belonging to a fellowship that cuts across all bounds and barriers, that would separate us. When we pray in unison, when we sing hymns together, when we listen to lessons from the Bible and sermons inspired of God's Word, when we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we become strong in the fellowship of the Church. This fellowship makes all Christians one under God.

Truly, God has given His Church a special mission which makes it the only deathless institution on earth. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Through it belief becomes faith. Through it bad men become good and god men become better.

The Church is the vehicle through which the Holy Spirit works for our salvation. By it God draws to Himself those whom He commissions to share the message of the Eternal Gospel with the lost and searching sons of men.

GOOD TIMBER

The tree that never had to fight for sun and sky and air and light, That stood out in the open plain, and always got its share of rain, Never became a forest king; but lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil, by hand or mind in life's turmoil, Who never had to win his share of sun and light and sky and air, Never became a manly man, but lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow in ease! The stronger winds, the tougher trees.

The farther sky, the great length; the rougher storms, the greater strength.

By sun and cold, by rain and snows, in tree or man, good timber grow. Where thickest stands the forest growth, we find the patriarchs of both, And they hold converse with the stars, whose broken branches show the scars

Of many a wind and much of strife—This is the common law of life!

—Stanley Blake.

This is my Church,
My place of worship;
Here God speaks
in a special way.

My Fellowship of friends
whose love I share;
My constant solace
in the midst of
perplexities;

My guiding light through
the dark moments
of life;

My hope in the
midst of doubt
and uncertainty;

My assurance in
the presence of
discouragement;

My trust in Him who cares
and who provides.

Yes, this is my Church,

"For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my toils and cares be given,
Till toils and cares shall end."

The miser has his ideal of the attainment of wealth. The Christian has ideal in striving to urge forward the accomplishment of things of good report. Wherever the Masters philosophy has been tried with sincerity, it has not failed. The trouble is that the world as a whole has never made the experiment.

Perhaps man's present extremity may prove God's opportunity. If we are lonely, sceptical, frustrated, doubtful, we shall not miss the Spirit of Christ, if we count our blessings. We have all much to be thankful for in a multitude of ways. Memory alone is a treasure beyond price.

Some recollections may be unhappy, but I think you will admit that most of them are otherwise.

Painful memories are far less vivid than those of roseate hue.

God does not allow us to resurrect agony; it is sufficient unto the day. Joy abides, increasing rather than decreasing—multiplying rather than diminishing. Hark back to Bethlehem and then look forward. Listen to the song of the Angels and help towards its accomplishment by kneeling at The Manger Throne. The humblest of the Saviour's followers must surely believe, that the best is yet to be—that the future will bring us nearer our ideal—let us therefore, "rejoice greatly!"

COME AND WORSHIP!

AUGUST "CHRONICLE"

Articles for the August "Chronicle" are due no later than Sunday, 21st July, 1974.

PARISH INFORMATION

HOLY COMMUNION—Each Sunday at 8 a.m., 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11 a.m.
3rd Sundays after Evensong.

MATINS—1st and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m. **LITANY**—5th Sundays at 11 a.m.

EVENSONG—Each Sunday at 7 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE—3rd Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School and Kindergarten
on other Sundays at 9.45 a.m.

**BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
THE RECTOR.**

CHURCHWARDENS: Messrs. E. Quelch (Rector's), F. G. Hearn, W.
Williams.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Churchwardens and Messrs. J. H. Bretherton, N.
Cragg, F. Evans, Mrs. Gorman, Mr. P. Gray, Messrs. B. Livingston, H.
E. Quelch, B. Sayers, D. Sayers, C. Sillence, Mrs. W. Sopwith, Mr. H.
Swankie.

HON. TREASURER: Mr. E. Quelch. **HON. SECRETARY:** Mr. H. E. QUELCH.

SIDESMEN: Messrs. V. C. Barrett, G. Clarke, G. R. Minitier and H. J. Shaw.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:

KINDERGARTEN LEADER: Miss K. Williams.

EXTENSION GROUP LEADER:

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Mr. H. J. Shaw (797-6967).

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER: Mr. C. Sillence.



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

"Grafted into the Body of Christ."

May 26: Luke Alan Edwards.

June 2: Wayne Steven Collier.

MARRIAGES

"Heirs Together of the Grace of Life."

June 8: Trevor Ford and Jennifer Jean Irwin.

June 22: Barry Anthony Hammond and Ann Marie Gray.

FUNERALS

"In the Midst of Life we are in death."

June 6: Ronald Melville Callaghan.

June 7: Lillian Beatrice Foster.

June 10: Patrick Mark Wibrow.

June 13: Penelope Elizabeth Manton.

June 14: George Henry Barron.

June 21: Frederick Charles Joseph Grieve.

June 24: Alfred Slater Hall.

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.