

# The Chronicle

of

## The Parish of All Saints, Petersham

All Saints' Rectory, Petersham.

Tel.: LM 4735.

**Rector:** Rev. R. A. JOHNSON, Th.L., Rural Dean of Randwick.

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

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**JANUARY, 1955**

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### MOTTO FOR THE YEAR 1955

*This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind.  
... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of  
God in Christ Jesus.—Phil. 3 : 13, 14.*

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### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

*Look in mercy, O Lord, on all around us. Bless this parish  
and neighbourhood in which we live. Bless our Queen, and Com-  
monwealth. Guide our rulers, that everything may be ordered by  
thy will for the glory and welfare of all men. Give us peace and  
prosperity as may be good for us. Look in mercy upon all the sins  
and miseries of men, and help us in some way to minister to their  
needs, and make known unto us the saving power of the Gospel.  
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

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**TOMORROW** is the superstructure you erect upon the foundation of  
today. It is only an extension of today. Tomorrow can never be better until  
we are better today.—William A. Clough.

## THE RECTOR'S LETTER

My dear Friends,

The Chronicle this month will not contain many of the things you are used to seeing month by month, the reason being, owing to the holidays we have to print the paper much earlier. However, the February issue will be back to normal.

This issue brings us to the close of the old year, and before you will read this letter we will have rung in the new. The old, while it is past, does have a bearing on the new, for the things that happened can never be entirely forgotten, while we may try and put these things behind us, we cannot put them out of existence. The problems, perplexities are still with us, we cannot pretend that they have passed and we shall not have to deal with them again. But the New Year has come, and we can get as we stand on its threshold, a New Vision. The Vision of God's eternal purpose for mankind. The world, its people, are suffering from a sense of frustration, apprehension, life is difficult, there seems to be a continuous struggle—we do our best not to be overwhelmed. Frequently we fall to the temptation that man is able to find the solution for himself. We are told frequently that if we make the effort we can right the wrongs of this unhappy world. In a measure this may be true, but the Christian must go further. The Christian is concerned with world Peace, anxious to promote his country's welfare. He says in the beautiful words of the hymn, "I will not cease from mental fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my hand," but he goes further still: he knows that the peace of the world, the destiny of the human race is in the hand of God. The Christian believes that "God is working His purpose out, as year succeeds to year." Christmas means that God broke through into history to reveal His Love, His Purpose, His Will. The Christian rejoices in that Love, and in the working out of His Purpose by obedience to His Will. God's Plan is sure, His Purpose is sure. Our confidence must be in Him, not in ourselves. In this year of 1955 let us as we cross its open threshold seek to serve Him, let our Vision pass on to the World God will surely establish, when the whole earth is filled with the knowledge of His Love. This will surely bring us to A New Faith.

God's Purpose concerns men, "Thy will be done" is not only a prayer but a positive truth, which operates in the life of the individual Christian. Are we committed to God? If so then we may be assured of the triumph of His Will.

Usually we take stock, weigh our assets at the beginning of the year, a credit or debit balance. We count the things that have been pleasant, and promoted our welfare and happiness. These we place on the credit side. The unpleasant things, pain, sorrow, adversity, the shadows of life, we count as on the debit side, they were intrusions, they ought not to have been. This is a false valuation of life, a false view of true progress. St. Paul says, "All things work together for good, to them that love God." J. B. Phillips has an interesting paraphrase in his translation of the Epistles, "Everything that happens fits into a pattern." That, my friends, is the Faith in which God would have us face 1955. Our lives are in His hands, everything fits into His Plan, all things will serve His purpose. He has sent Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, to illuminate our way, all He asks is that we follow Him, obey Him, and trust Him. Make our wills His will.

I trust that during the coming year we may extend His Kingdom at Petersham. Make this Church and Parish a place alive unto God, alert to do His bidding.

Mrs. Johnson and the children join me in wishing you all a very happy New Year, may you prosper under the Blessing of God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

With best wishes to you all.

Your sincere friend and Rector,

RONALD A. JOHNSON.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

All who heard the Cantata Christmas sung by the soloists and the Choir enjoyed it very much. The composer has portrayed the Christmas message to advantage. It is a tuneful work rendering a great message with simplicity and musical beauty. The soloists and Choir are to be congratulated upon the performance, and once again we owe much to our good friend, Mr. Eagar, for his training of the Choir. The festival of the nine lessons is a service of great beauty and again our congregation was helped by the rendering once again of this Christmas message. We thank very sincerely all who took part and helped us in this devotional exercise.

**PARISH PARS.**

Our deepest sympathy is expressed with the relatives of the late Mrs. Fanny Dewar, of 18 Brighton Street, Petersham. The late Mrs. Dewar had been ill for some time. May God Bless and Comfort those who mourn.

We have been fortunate enough to purchase a sound projector from R.A.A.F. disposals. The machine will be overhauled and, I hope, will be in use early in the New Year. Meanwhile a kind friend has advanced the purchase price on loan. If anyone would care to help us repay this amount quickly and also help us with the cost of the overhaul we would be grateful.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School will continue throughout January, so, boys and girls, don't forget to come. 9.45 each Sunday morning.

**DUPLEX ENVELOPES**

The new issue is out, and an attractive envelope with the number and name of the Church is printed together with the date for your convenience. We aim at getting 100 subscribers to the weekly offering scheme. If you have not yet joined, will you make it one of your New Year resolutions to do so. The Rector or Mr. Quelch will be glad to give you information and your packet of envelopes for the year.

"Prayer be the Staff you lean upon;  
With faith your feet be shod;  
Today you do not walk alone—  
Today you walk with God."

**RECTOR'S RENOVATION FUND APPEAL**

The Rector is most grateful for the response so far to his appeal for 200 parishioners and friends to give £5. So far there is in hand an amount of £65. Thirteen people have responded. We need another 187 to do so. Our target, £1000. A further list of donors will appear in our next issue.

**SERVICES IN JANUARY**

The services in January will be as usual. Sundays, 8 a.m., Holy Communion; 9.45 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., Morning Prayer. Second and fourth Sundays with Holy Communion. Evensong every Sunday at 7.15 p.m.

**ORGANISATIONS**

Most of the organisations will be in recess. They will resume in February. The Fellowship will be having some meetings during January.

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

1955

January 2—Donated Mrs. Adams, arranged by Mrs. Morris.  
January 9—Donated by Kindergarten, arranged by Mrs. Spencer.  
January 16—Arranged by Mrs. Grant.  
January 23—Donated and arranged by Mrs. Quelch.  
January 30—Donated by Mrs. Oldfield, arranged by Mrs. Johnson.  
February 6—Donated by Miss Speight, arranged by Mrs. Morris.  
February 13—Donated and arranged by Miss Norman.  
February 20—Arranged by Mrs. Grant.  
February 27—Arranged by Mrs. Johnson.  
Flower Fund—Miss D. P. Brown, 10/-.

### GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR BIBLE

By Charles A. Anderson

One of the amazing things about modern life is the fact that for years the Bible has outdistanced all other books in volume of sales. For generations the Bible has exercised a profound influence on art, on language, and on literature. It has lifted the moral level in many parts of the world. And it has inspired millions to religious devotion.

Since the Bible has the answers to life's deepest and most urgent problems, why not inform ourselves about its truths? Some persons do make a point of reading a single verse each day as a sort of daily motto. Such a habit often proves beneficial. It can be very inspiring, as numerous persons have discovered, for there are countless separate verses of Scripture which are most helpful in setting the tone for the day. But as a method of spiritual nourishment, it is inadequate. It is like going into a cafeteria once a day and eating only one item of food, such as beans or potatoes or pie. The food may be quite satisfying at the moment, but it would hardly provide nourishment and growth.

Many people go a step further, and read a different chapter of the Bible each day. This they find of considerable value. It may be quite stimulating. But on a long-range basis its help is limited. It's like making a daily meal on layer cake. Such a restricted spiritual diet is not balanced and does not build bone and muscle to cope with the problems of personal morality and community evils. Neither does it develop well-rounded spiritual personality.

How then can you use the Bible for spiritual growth and moral vitality? To get a real grasp of the meaning of the Bible, try reading one of the Gospels all the way through at a sitting. Use one of the modern translations for clearer understanding. A week later read the same Gospel through again at a sitting. Repeat the same procedure once each week for a month.

By the end of four weeks, you will have acquired ideas which will counteract the pessimism of our machine age, and provide you with insight into spiritual values. The great mountain peaks of truth will repeatedly rise before your eyes. Looming large in the teaching of Jesus is His demand for sincerity and honesty in His followers. He has no place in His fellowship for hypocrites. You will find Him urging you to seek justice above everything else—not for yourself but for your fellow man. He places a high value on each individual, no matter how lowly. "You are of more value than many sparrows." Each week you will be climbing a mountain into clear spiritual atmosphere above the fog and smoke and rush and noise.

After the first month, turn to another Gospel and read it weekly at a sitting for a period of four weeks. This will provide you with a different angle of approach to the Lord Jesus Christ and His great message for the salvation of men. Similarly, read each of the two other Gospels weekly for a month.

This process will give you a new grasp of the meaning of Christianity. You will find that Jesus placed God in the centre of the universe. Jesus never argued about God or His existence. He always took God for granted. He could not think of a world without God. In Jesus's thinking nothing ever happened without God. The Father was so dependable that Jesus could trust Him utterly. Even when facing death, Jesus could speak to His disciples about leaving His joy with them. No physical circumstance could unbalance Jesus, because God would take care of Him and God is eternal. Therefore, from God, life will take on a new meaning for you. It will assume the dimensions of eternity.

Through this method of reading the Bible, you will acquire a new sense of direction from this spiritual road map. Life's varied experiences will begin to fit into an understandable pattern. Salvation will gain a richer content. It will bring not only forgiveness from sin. It will lead you into a state of fellowship with God through Christ by which you will increasingly come to know God by better understanding Jesus. "And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent."