

# *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.

FEBRUARY, 1975



## RECTOR'S NOTES

My dear Friends,

First up! — a very warm expression of thanks to all those who made our first Christmas at All Saints' such a happy one. There have been many expressions of greetings. My family have been made feel very much part of the parish family — and we are all most grateful. Then there was also that magnificent "hamper" given to my wife and myself at the pre-Christmas Barbeque. That was so unexpected that it caught us "on the hop", and we both failed completely to put our feelings into words — though our pleasure must have been very obvious! May I say very simply but very meaningfully a BIG "thank you" to all involved — Parish Council, Parish Organisations and individuals. We've still a full larder!

We are also excited about development prospects in a couple of parish departments. At the end of January we moved to establish a "Parents and Friends Association" for our Sunday School. I invite any who are interested in providing a wider sphere of activity for our younger parishioners to lend their advice and energy by joining.

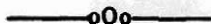
A second development comes on 7th February. On that Friday evening we see the beginning of a "new look" Youth Group. It's designed for a two age-group basis. The younger group will be for "Primary-aged" children and will run from 7 p.m. to about 8.30 p.m. The older group will be for "Secondary-aged" young people and will run from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. also. With the older group the young people will have the opportunity of staying later if their parents indicate permission in writing to the Leaders. To help in broadening the activities of the Club we are fortunate in having the assistance of several experienced Uni students.

These later two developments are answers to prayer. We have been waiting on the Lord for leading in both these areas — and now He has opened the way for us. I do hope all our people will get behind these moves and encourage those who are accepting the responsibility of leadership in every way possible. The Lord will not be slack in blessing those who walk with Him along the way He points.

Your friend in the fellowship of Christ, Jesus,

S. W. GISSING,

Rector.



## THE HOLY GRAIL

"The Holy Grail.—A beautiful old-world legend tells how the knights of King Arthur, those champions of the Cross, desired to seek closer communion with Him Who was crucified. Only the pure, it is written, can see God. And to the pure it is granted to see deepest into the mystery of that Sacrament in which Christ is spiritually present. It was said in those days that a vision of the holy cup, which our Saviour used the night before He died, had been shown to one or two who were especially saints. But, as none of Arthur's knights had seen it clearly, they greatly longed to do so. Many of them bound themselves by a vow never to rest till they had seen 'the Grail,' as the holy cup was called, and they set off to seek it through the world. The only one to whom the vision was fully granted was Sir Galahad, the most saintly knight of all the band. After long wandering and patient seeking after Christ in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, he came, one day, to a little wayside

chapel, and knelt, as he was wont, before the altar, where a priest was celebrating Holy Communion. And, when the consecration prayer was said, as he told a comrade afterwards—

'I, Galahad, saw the Grail,  
The Holy Grail, descend upon the shrine;  
I saw the fiery face, as of a child  
That smote itself into the bread, and went.  
... and never yet  
Hath what thy sister taught me first to see,  
This holy thing, failed from my side, nor come  
Cover'd, but moving with me night and day,  
marsh  
Blood-red, and in the sleeping mere below  
Blood-red and on the naked mountain-top  
Fainter by day, but always in the night  
Blood-red, and sliding down the blacken'd  
Blood-red. And in the strength of this I rode,  
Shattering all evil customs everywhere.  
... and in the strength of this  
Come victor.'

"Would that the faith of us communicants were so strong, and our union with Christ so close, that we might all do likewise."—(Austin Clare.)

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### SANCTUARY FLOWER ROSTER

February 5: Donated by Mrs. I. Scott in memory of Mr. Norman Scott and by Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. Sheriff; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**Prize-Giving:** The Sunday School prize-giving will be held on the 16th February. It is to be held in conjunction with Harvest Festival.

**Attendance:** Now school has resumed we are expecting that regular attendance will increase, as we do not want the children to miss out on the course of lessons. The lessons in the Sunday School are designed to co-incide with the state school terms.

**Invitation:** We invite the parents to join their children at Family Service. This is a Family occasion and is held on the third Sunday of every month.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent.

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### HASSAN OF IRAN

You may think it strange that a boy of fourteen should spend his time indoors weaving carpets, instead of playing with his friends in the sunlight. But in villages in Iran (where I come from) you are taught to weave carpets almost as soon as you can walk! These carpets are known as Persian carpets, Persia being the old name for Iran, and the patterns woven into them are symbols which tell the legends and folklore that surround each village. But this carpet is a bit different. Quite honestly, I would like to go out and play with my friends, but my father, who has been making carpets all his life, thinks

that his son must learn his trade. So, to make it more interesting, I have decided to weave the story of my family and our life into this carpet.

I, Hassan, am proud of my country of Iran, which is a high plateau in the Middle East surrounded by places with strange and wonderful names, like Turkey and Iraq. Iran since 6 B.C. has seen a series of invasions by different countries. The people who came to Iran built beautiful cities like Isfahan and Tehran, where my sister Shimla is learning to be a nurse. From her window in the nurses' home she can see the palace of Muhammad Reza, Shah, or King of Iran since 1941. She is glad that Muhammad Reza does not, like many Iranis, believe that women should remain at home and not be allowed to work, or study, or do the things that they can in Western countries; and that he encourages them to learn and to work.

Tehran is a mixture of old and new. There are narrow, winding lanes and baked brick houses with courtyards where fountains play and huge cars slowly squeeze down the narrow lanes. Shimla says the most beautiful buildings in Tehran are the mosques, topped by turquoise domes called minarets. All over the city the voices of Mullahs, or priests, can be heard calling people of the Muslim faith to prayer five times each day.

But I can only hear the bleating of sheep who graze outside our village—a clump of white buildings on the side of a hill. The surrounding land, which is watered artificially, once belonged to a rich landowner, but the Shah decreed that landowners' property be divided to be bought by farmers like my Uncle Ahmad. When my uncle is not tending his long-haired sheep, he is threshing or sowing the wheat harvest, singing one of our ancient Irani folk songs as he works.

The village dress, a long over-dress covering many full skirts and an all-enveloping veil, must be very different for Shimla after the western dress of Tehran, and it must be hard for her to speak Persian with its Arabic script after speaking and writing English at the hospital. The village people cannot see why she should give up the Muslim faith of her family and friends to follow Christ, and when she first told me, nor could I. When I used to sit on my father's knee as he read to me from the Qur'an, or Holy Book, he told me how our faith was a way of life because everything we did was in accordance with the law of Allah, our God; and he would scold Shimla for going to Bible classes given by the Christian missionary teacher in our village.

But, strangely, Shimla's new faith seemed to make her love and care more for us. One day father asked Shimla's missionary friends to honour our house and, sitting down to a lunch of my mother's best soup and knuckle-bones and dried peas in it, he was surprised to see that she knew as much about Muslim law and his Holy Books as he did! She said that Christians believe in a God who loved his people enough to forgive them the wrong that they do. She told them of Christ, who spent His life in service for others and how Christians try to follow his example.

It is quite pleasing that fourteen years of life only take up a small piece of my carpet, and that now I can go and play in the sunlight. But I often wonder what the rest will tell. Now village children are learning to read and write, they are not expected to stay at home and tend the sheep and thresh the wheat. If they work hard at school there is a chance that they may be able to go to University in one of the larger cities and learn to be a doctor or a teacher. But these are dreams, and the sunlight calls . . .

## EXCELLENCY OF CHRIST

Giles Fletcher

He is a path, if any be misled;  
 He is a robe, if any naked be;  
 If any chance to hunger, he is bread;  
 If any be a bondman, he is free;  
 If any be but weak, how strong is he!  
 To dead men life is he, to sick men, health;  
 To blind men, sight, and to the needy, wealth;  
 A pleasure without loss, a treasure without stealth.

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## CLUB NEWS

**Ladies Guild:**

Our first meeting will be on Tuesday, 4th February, at 1 p.m. It will also be our Annual Meeting.

E. BOSWARD, Hon. Secretary.

**Y.M. and Friends Club:**

The next meeting of the Y.M. and Friends Club, the first of the year, will be held in the Parish Hall, on Tuesday, 11th February, at 8 p.m. All members are asked to make a special effort to attend to assist in planning our activities for 1975.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

**Senior Parishioners' Club:**

Now we are back in action for 1975 we hope to see our members, also new members, turning up to enjoy the happy fellowship each Thursday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

There are many members I would like to thank for their donations and help in many ways during 1974. If I were to name them all I would be sure to leave someone out, so thanks everybody. However I must specially mention Mrs. Gill's annual stall for which she works so hard and also her jam that everyone looks forward to buying.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

**Indoor Bowls Club:**

Play resumed on the 15th January after the Christmas recess, with only one absentee.

Anybody wishing to join the club will be very welcome, as will visitors who just desire to watch. Come and have a cup of tea with us any Wednesday night. Play commences about 7.30 p.m.

B. SEE, Hon. Secretary.

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## THE BIBLE

from The Republic of God

Elisha Mulford

The Bible is a book written in literal forms, subject to the ordinary rules of construction, as defined in the science of grammar.

The Bible is a book written in languages, as the Hebraic, the Chaldaic and Greek, or Graeco-Hebraic; subject to the ordinary rules of derivation and distinction, as defined in the science of comparative philology.

The Bible is a book written in manuscripts; which require in their transcription and authentication the critical study which belongs to the science which on comparing, for instance, the uncial with other styles—is the science which deals with scriptory forms.

The Bible is a book which has been subject to the mutations of literature. It is written in manuscripts of unequal value, no one of

which is entirely perfect in itself, so as to displace all others, and none are free from obscure or various readings. It has suffered simply the mutations of literature, and has had no exemptions from them.

It embraces the most varied forms of literature; as genealogies, laws, histories, words of legislative and judicial procedure, methods of sanitary, civil, and military administration. There is legend and myth. There are various forms of poetry, the ode, as in the antiphone of Moses and Miriam; the drama, as in the Book of Job; the idyl, as in the Song of Solomon; the lyric, as in the Book of the Psalms, and the opening pages of the Gospel of St. Luke; and in the writings of St. Paul, citations from the Greek comedy, as from Menander.

There are traces in these writings of the races, countries, and ages in which they appeared, and of climatic conditions with respect to languages, customs, and laws. There is a popular element, as in the stories of Samson and Ruth; and there is also a priestly and a kindly element, as in the Books of the Chronicles and Kings. In some books there are the traces of reflective phases of thought, as in the Book of Ecclesiastes; and in some there are traces of Asiatic forms and Asiatic institutions.

The Bible has a unity which is deeper than any structural form, however various and complete. This prevails with a continuous and continually increasing manifestation through the whole. It is not merely the unity which appears in the literature of a people, as the Latin or the English literature: it is that, but it is more and other than that. It is not merely the unity which attaches to the continuous history, the institutions, laws, customs, wars of a people: it is that, but it is more and other than that.

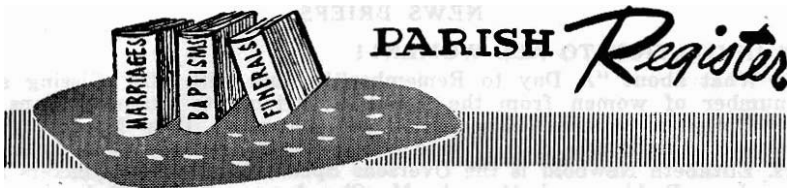
The Bible is the record of the revelation of God. It is the record of a revelation of God in man and to the world. It is testamentary to the revelation of God to and through the world. This revelation, and not a literature nor a body of traditions, is the ground of the unity which it discovers. It is the record of the revelation of God, in his revelation with humanity; in the fulfillment of his eternal purpose, which was before the foundation of the world; in the righteousness in which he manifests his own being, and in the life which he has given for the world. It is of the coming of his kingdom, in which the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of Christ. It is of a revelation in an order in the world, of the family and the nation. It is of a revelation of and in the Christ.



## PRAYER

Hartley Coleridge

Be not afraid to pray—to pray is right.  
 Pray, if thou canst, with hope; but ever pray,  
 Though hope be weak, or sick with long delay;  
 Pray in the darkness, if there be no light.  
 Far is the time, remote from human sight,  
 When war and discord on the earth shall cease;  
 Yet every prayer for universal peace  
 Avails the blessed time to expedite.  
 Whate'er is good to wish, ask that of Heaven,  
 Though it be what thou canst not hope to see;  
 Pray to be perfect, though material leaven  
 Forbid the spirit so on earth to be:  
 But if for any wish thou darest not pray,  
 Then pray to God to cast that wish away.



### HOLY BAPTISM

"In token that he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified".

November 17th—Bronwyn Joan Jones of 223 Nelson Street, Annandale.

Paul Alexander Mangan of 109 Station Street, Petersham.

December 29th—Scott Thomas of 3 Grove Street, Dulwich Hill.

Mark Andrew Thatcher of 2/42 Marion Street, Petersham.

January 5th—Kellie Marie Polack of 18 Guildecourt Avenue, Earlwood.

Matthew David Dunscombe of 72 Wangaran Road, Lethbridge Park.

Sarah Ann Dunscombe of 72 Wangaran Road, Lethbridge Park.

### CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all be made alive".

December 12th—Florence Mary Elizabeth Carpenter of 273 Great North Road, Five Dock.

### 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, Messrs. B. Livingston, H.

E. Quelch, B. Sayers, D. Sayers, Mrs. W. Sopwith, Mr. H. Swankie.

**SIDESMEN:** Messrs. V. Barrett, G. Clarke and H. J. Shaw.

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** Mr. N. Cragg.

**KINDERGARTEN LEADER:** Miss J. Evans.

**EXTENSION GROUP LEADER:** Miss K. Cheetham.

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

**ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER:**

**CHRONICLE EDITOR:** Mr. H. E. Quelch.

NEWS BRIEFS

**AN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN!!**

What about "A Day to Remember"! Join with Mrs. Gissing and a number of women from the Parish in driving to Stanwell Tops to The Christian Women's Convention on Saturday, 15th March. The Theme is "WOMAN ALIVE" and the speakers are well-worth hearing. Mrs. Elizabeth Newbold is the Overseas Speaker and other speakers are Miss Jean Raddon and Mrs. A. M. Chambers. We shall be leaving Petersham about 7.45 a.m. and return at approximately 6.30 p.m. If anyone is able to provide transport this will be most acceptable. Would you please contact Mrs. Gissing at the Rectory if you would like to share in the day. (Phone 56-4735)

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

**Sunday, 16th February**

We invite our parishioners to contribute gifts in kind (food—either fresh or processed) as thank-offerings for God's provision in our many needs. These will be used to decorate our church for the services on 16th and then devoted to The Home of Peace to assist the Lord's work in that sphere of serving our fellow-man's needs.

**CAN YOU TYPE AT HOME?**

John Dring, manager of the Opportunity Shops is anxious to save \$6,000 per year. How? By contacting women who could type Op Shop envelopes from home. John will supply the envelopes and addresses and even the typewriter. If you can help as a volunteer, please 'phone John on 798-7888.

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE WANTED**

The Opportunity Shops are now looking for household furniture, as well as good used clothing, antiques, silver-ware, brass, china, glass and knick-knacks. If you can help, please phone 798-7888 for a van to collect from your home.

● The Annual Festival of the Anglican Home Mission Society will be held at Sydney Town Hall, on Friday, May 2nd, following the annual service in St. Andrew's Cathedral.

● The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on the 10th March, at 8.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

● Articles for the March "Chronicle" are due no later than 16th February, 1975.

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**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.