

# All Saint's Church of England, Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station

Rector Rev. S. W. Gissing, Th.L. — Phone: 569-4735

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MARCH, 1981

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## WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SAINTS



### MORNINGS at 9.30 a.m.:—

Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Morning Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Family Service is the 3rd Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is at 9.30 a.m.

KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

### EVENINGS at 7.00 p.m.:—

(This changes to 5.00 p.m. during winter months.)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Evening Prayer on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.

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## LENTEN SERVICE

Beginning on ASH WEDNESDAY

— which is MARCH 4th —

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There will be a Weekly Service of Holy Communion  
at 7.15 a.m. on WEDNESDAYS

UNTIL EASTER.

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# From your Minister's Desk



## Rector's Comments at Annual Vestry:

A review of the past year indicates that in an area where church life has been losing ground now for a number of years, we at All Saints' have been able to "hold ground". That fact should give us cause to express gratitude to our Lord — to Him be glory and praise.

However, as a very human being I must admit there is a degree of regret that we have not seen a **growth in the life of** our church. The areas of disappointment lie mainly in the fact that we are not functioning on the children and youth levels except that our Sunday School valiantly carries on despite a serious shortage of help in the teaching area. Much credit goes to those who have loyally served in this work.

The parish has continued to serve our community to a limited degree through providing at very nominal rents a centre for the meeting of mothers and very young children (three mornings a week) and for the socialising of a small group of elderly folk one afternoon a week. However, there must be other areas in which we could serve. We need to look around us and organise our energies to attempt to apply our faith in helping our fellow human beings in our corner of the Lord's Vineyard in the day to day concerns that weigh heavily.

One of the encouraging features of the last year or two is the appearance of a number of younger members in the congregation. This is a source of hope to those who have been maintaining the work of the parish over many years, and we trust that they will fully throw their energies and thought into the task of making our worship and work more effective for the advancing of our Lord's purposes here at Petersham.

Once again we have good cause to thank God for His provision and leading — and so cause us to look to the future and all it holds with courage and enthusiasm.

At this point we often express appreciation to many individuals who have given much in personal time and energy for the maintaining of the activities of the parish. However, I believe that our parish family has progressed to the stage where

we are not looking for public personal acknowledgements. I know the many who have worked hard have done so with a sense of personal dedication and thankfulness to God for the privilege of sharing in His Cause. I therefore do not plan to mention any names — but merely to express on my own behalf and that of all our parishioners sincere thanks and congratulations to all the fellow-labourers and office-bearers of this past year. I know that there will continue to be many opportunities for others to put their “shoulders to the wheel” and help maintain and further the work and witness of All Saints’.

May I express the appreciation of my wife and myself to all who have shown in so many ways their loving fellowship in our efforts to serve our Lord and His people here. The assurance of that loving support has been a source of great encouragement to us both. We are at the same time aware of our failures and inadequacies that have meant there are others whom we’ve failed to reach in the cause of the Gospel. We pray that our Lord will forgive us in this, and that his people here will be gracious in their understanding.

In concluding my report this year, which has been fairly brief and far from detailed, I wish to inform the Parish of my resignation from All Saints’ as from the middle of next May, when we’ll be moving after seven years to a new appointment in the Parish of Oatley West. May God bless and prosper you all with His Grace and continue to deepen and enrich your knowledge and experience of His Son and His Renewing Spirit in the years that lie ahead.

—O— S. W. GISSING.

## AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY — CHRISTIAN OR HUMANIST?

By Lesley Hicks

“From all the evidence available it is a reasonable statement to make, that Australian society is based on Christian values and principles. It is a Christian society, not a humanist society.”

Dr. Rupert Goodman, a Reader in Education at the University of Queensland, asserted this strongly with numerous

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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.

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# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH OF ENGLAND, PETERSHAM

## 1980 ANNUAL STATEMENTS

1979	ASSETS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980	1980
70,000.00	Land — 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham, at V.G. UCV 9/3/79 .....	70,000.00
390,000.00	Building (Insurance Valuation) .....	390,000.00
59,000.00	Furnishings and Equipment (Insurance Valuation) .....	59,000.00
10,966.28	General Account .....	6,691.78
178.42	Organ .... Fund .....	6.65
1,595.83	Capital Reserve Account .....	1,038.77
1,826.04	Columbarium Trust Account .....	1,834.85
6,399.07	Endowment Account No. 1 .....	6,400.50
12,498.05	Endowment Account No. 2 .....	14,262.63
—	Bus Fund .....	2,348.63
1,186.31	Special Purpose Account .....	408.55
0.58	General Missions Account .....	1.89
940.05	Sunday School Account .....	954.51
991.80	Kindergarten Account .....	838.90
<u>555,582.43</u>		<u>553,657.66</u>

## LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1980

5,340.50	SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ARREARS .....	5,190.50
<u>550,241.93</u>	NETT ASSETS .....	<u>548,467.16</u>

B. A. LIVINGSTONE, Treasurer and Rector's Warden

N. CRAGG and S. YEWDALL, People's Wardens

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1980

1979	GENERAL ACCOUNT	1980
7,916.00	Offeratories .....	7,419.01
262.00	District Visitors .....	276.45
1,025.00	Donations .....	562.00
555.00	Deposit Interest .....	448.30
5,814.00	Nett Fete Proceeds .....	6,392.84
1,820.00	Hall Rent .....	1,256.00
36.00	Advertising in Chronicle .....	50.00
33.00	Net Proceeds of Consecration Barbeque .....	31.10
47.00	Nett Flowers in Church .....	
	Re-Cycling:	
1,172.00	Aluminium Cans .....	1,287.95
865.00	Newspapers .....	1,650.08
486.00	Bottles .....	1,333.90
36.00	Profit from Bookstall .....	
—	Insurance Claim — Broken Windows .....	240.00
—	Sale of Pews .....	250.00
	Wedding Reservations .....	27.00
26.00	Sale of Old Wares .....	17.23
	Organ Practice .....	35.00
<u>20,097.00</u>		<u>21,276.86</u>

## LESS PAYMENTS:—

9,144.00	Stipend .....	9,930.00
1,705.00	Rector's Travelling Expenses .....	2,014.23

270.00	Parish Superannuation Contribution	292.80
280.00	Organist	215.00
1,505.00	Synod General Assessment	1,181.00
448.00	Synod Special Assessment	377.00
150.00	Synod Special Assessment Arrears	150.00
318.00	repairs and Maintenance	717.96
—	Major Painting to Rectory (Outside)	1,700.00
609.00	Chronicles	627.20
87.00	Printing and Stationery	155.73
261.00	Telephone	319.01
361.00	Water and Sewerage Rates	417.46
140.00	Church Electricity	104.79
287.00	Insurance	909.06
233.00	Church Cleaning	519.25
202.00	Furnishings and Equipment	—
283.00	Organ Tuning and Maintenance	389.00
77.00	W. A. Flick Annual Maintenance, plus Special Treatment	307.00
66.00	70 sets Freewill Offering Envelopes	73.75
1.00	Barbeque	—
133.00	Coffee Hot Drink Cups	85.59
77.00	Relieving Ministers	61.00
239.00	Offertories to Home Mission Society	346.96
—	Nett Cost of Flowers	128.50
—	Loss on Bookstall	3.06
10.00	Levy to Rural Deanery	—
41.00	Miscellaneous	29.11
—	Adjustment to I.B.D. Int. to Columbarium Account	53.10
—	Interdenominational Service Offertory to AUSTCARE	242.30
—	<b>HALL EXPENSES:—</b>	—
161.00	Cleaning	516.50
193.00	Electricity	197.21
64.00	Gas	64.00
—	Repairs	362.89
—	Piano Tuning	30.00
21.00	Miscellaneous	35.90
42.00	Insurance (now combined policy with whole property, 1980)	—
—	Painting Renovations (outside)	3,000.00
—		4,206.50
17,418.00		25,551.36
2,679.00	EXCESS of Receipts over Payments	—
—	EXCESS of Payments over Receipts	4,274.50
—	<b>BALANCE of General Account as at 1/1/80</b>	10,966.28
—	<b>LESS Excess of Payments over Receipts</b>	4,274.50
—	<b>BALANCE of General Account as at 31/12/80</b>	\$6,691.78
—	<b>REPRESENTED BY:—</b>	—
—	Bank Balance as at 31/12/80	1,691.78
—	PLUS Savings Investment A/c.	5,000.00
—		\$6,691.78

supporting examples, in his address "Secular Humanism and Australian Education" given at the Conference on Humanism in Education held at Macquarie University on 26-27th July, 1980. Over 160 people including parents, clergy and teachers attended.

Dr. Goodman cited statistics from the last national census return of 1976, in which 79% stated that they belonged to a Christian denomination. Only 8% stated that they had no religious belief; in this group falls the small minority who would call themselves humanists. Yet this group has a powerful influence on the philosophy and practices affecting the education of Australian children. "We are witnessing in our schools a battle for the minds — and souls — of our children," he said.

The Rev. Keith Nagel, President of the Lutheran Church of N.S.W., gave the Opening Address in which he described a right kind of humanism — one which places man in his right relationship with God, with Jesus as God humanised, dying for man's salvation. Secular humanism, by denying the existence of God, dehumanises man.

The Rev. Dr. Peter Jensen, of Moore Anglican Theological College, contrasted the Christian and the secular humanist views of man. The vastness of the Universe threatens man with meaninglessness, but the Christian view gives him unique and special value as a creature made in God's image, yet fallen and alienated by sin and rebellion against his Maker. Humanists maintain that man is on his own in the Universe, that he must guide his own behaviour and make his own morality.

Many Christians have capitulated to the humanists, Dr. Jensen pointed out, by their abandonment of revealed religion and of absolute standards of morality. Dr. Jensen said that Jesus Christ is the ultimate test — if He is truly God-Man, humanism is shown to be false. Humanists on the whole fail to face the truth about Christ, as they fail to face the sinfulness of man.

Dr. Anna Hogg, formerly head of the Department of Education in the Sydney Teachers' College, speaking in the second session on the Sunday afternoon, gave a thoroughly practical address on how Christians can counteract the humanist onslaught in the schools.

We must, she said, become informed in depth about the issues. Without seeming to be on a witch hunt, we must take a deep interest in our children's school courses and read their set texts. Because there is no set curriculum, humanist resource materials like MACOS and SEMP have come to fill the vacuum. Dr. Hogg suggested that the door could be as open for input of Christian as for anti-Christian materials.

Parents cannot delegate to anyone else the teaching of Christian values to their children, she stressed. The model is the instructions given to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6. We must

take full advantage of the wide-open door into the public schools for teaching Scripture. At its best it can underpin the whole curriculum. Christians must be active in P. & C. groups, and should recognise and encourage Christian teachers and positive teachers in the State system. Dr. Hogg's final challenge was for us to produce resource materials for social studies, personal development courses, etc.

In the final session, suggestions made for further action included the following:

- That consideration be given to producing religious education materials to tie in with secular courses in State schools.
- That a follow-up conference be arranged by the FOL/CSO in which teachers could inform us about curriculum matters, and areas such as personal development courses, texts set for reading in English, etc., be more closely examined.
- That a committee be set up with representatives from all the churches to consider producing resource materials based on Christian principles and positive values such as the Ten Commandments.
- That a study group should examine the Humanist Manifesto II of 1973.
- That specific prayer be made for teachers by name.

[Copies of Dr. Goodman's paper and various tapes are available from FOL/CSO Sydney Office, P.O. Box A87, Sydney South.]



### THE LOCAL NURSING HOMES

The Annual Pre-Easter Visit to the local Nursing Homes is approaching. The ladies are seeking help in obtaining the small gifts that they distribute to the residents of the Homes. It is best if these gifts are similar for each resident. To this end the request is that cash contributions be handed to Mrs. M. Willis or the Rector. With each gift there is a greeting for this most important Christian Festival.



### WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The next meeting of Women-in-Friendship will be held in the Meeting Room of the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 24th March, at 12.30 p.m. Members please try to attend as this will be a business meeting and there is a lot to discuss re our coming events. The first of which is the Annual Luncheon on 28th April at 12 noon. The Petersham Salvation Army Ladies are going to give the programme. Please, ladies, keep this date in mind.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

## CHURCH REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

In 1980 \$4,700 was paid out on painting the exterior of the Rectory and Garage, Parish and Kindergarten Halls, together with sections of the interior of the Parish Hall.

Now urgent repairs and maintenance are required on the Church building. The cost of the repairs is \$7,500.

This consists of:

(1) Replacing two Box Gutters .....	\$2,500
(2) Repairs to Stained Glass Window Sills .....	\$ 400
(3) Painting of Exterior of Church .....	\$3,000
(4) Electrical Repairs .....	\$ 700
(5) Removing and Replacing Stone Guards to allow Window Sills to be repaired and painted, also repairs to stones guards .....	\$ 900

Total      **\$7,500**

The first job to be carried out will be the replacement of the box gutter on the northern side of the Church — cost \$1,250.

At present there is only \$1,038 in the Capital Reserve Account for repairs and maintenance.

A Repairs and Maintenance Appeal is being launched, which will culminate with a Temple Day on Sunday, 3rd May. At this special Temple Day parishioners are asked to make an extra special contribution towards the repairs and maintenance of our Church Building Appeal.

Church Wardens.

## —oOo— FLORAL TRIBUTES

We are most grateful to all who help beautify our church on Sundays by contributing towards flowers as a way of remembering loved ones.

March 15th: Stone of Remembrance (Anonymous).

22nd: Mrs. J. Merlett, in memory of Stella Williams.

April 5th: Mrs. Beardow and family, in memory of the late Mr. Beardow.

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## VISIT FROM THE HOME MISSION SOCIETY

On Sunday, 15th March, Mr. Eric Patterson, a representative of our Sydney Home Mission Society, will be at our morning service. He will tell us something of the new outreaches of the Society. A new film will be shown to illustrate the work being done in an amazing way to serve the various areas of need within our metropolitan community.

James & James, 188 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, 2181

96 - 811  
20 - 2  
11 - 11  
5 - 20  
5-20

1 - 92  
32  
1 - 60