

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

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

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Rd., Petersham, 2049—569-4735

NOVEMBER, 1978

MONSTER FETE

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The Annual Fete of All Saints' Anglican Church, Petersham, will be held in the Church grounds, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham on Saturday, November 18th 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Features:

- ★ Train and Pony Rides for children
- ★ White Elephant Stall.
- ★ Morning and Afternoon Teas plus lunch.
- ★ Lucky Door Prize.

More information contact the Rectory, telephone 569-4735.

SERVICE TIMES:—

8 a.m. — HOLY COMMUNION.

10 a.m. — 1st & 5th Sundays — MORNING PRAYER.

2nd & 4th Sundays — HOLY COMMUNION.

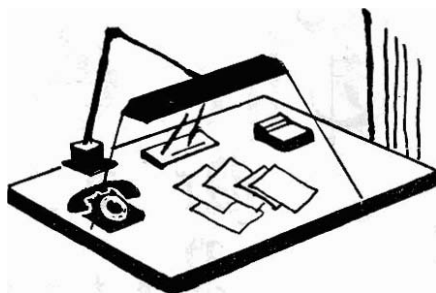
7 p.m. — EVENING PRAYER.

(3rd Sundays — Holy Communion).

10 a.m. — 3rd Sunday — FAMILY SERVICE.

(on other Sundays at 9.55 a.m. Sunday School).

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

We have a special hope in publishing this issue of the Chronicle. For some time we've been talking of making contact with folk living in our area. All manner of ideas have come forward. We realise that a personal demonstration of friendliness is the ideal—but it is so slow to cover our whole parish by personal contact. The number of residences is very considerable—and the number of 'not at home on calling' experiences are equally considerable. So we felt that we could at least extend a hand of friendship by 'dropping' a copy of our parish paper, and so letting you know of our interest.

We are encouraged recently by someone saying they received a copy in their letter box, and found it carried a feeling of friendly reality. They came to make a closer personal contact. Now we hope that same 'feeling' might communicate itself to all—and we'd be glad to have the opportunity of getting to know YOU personally too.

You'll find on Page 7 of this issue, a form which you are asked to return (completed with certain details) if you'd appreciate keeping in touch with us—and maybe like to continue to receive copies of our "news-sheet. Either post it—or drop it in at 325 Stanmore Road. Now don't forget—do it NOW! Or you may prefer to phone me direct if you'd like to have a chat.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Your sincere friend in Christ,

S. W. GISSING.

RECTOR'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

THE CHURCH? — or CHRIST!

Anyone who takes the trouble to understand Christ will not fail to be attracted to Him. He appeals to all that is best in us.

The great mistake made by many within and outside the church is to see Him only as a great example—and to strive to follow His steps. It's a mistake because we're attempting on a purely human level, a task which demands superhuman powers. No wonder we get frustrated in the unequal battle and eventually abandon the quest. Large numbers of people have this experience—and wonder why! The reason is that mere effort of will doesn't go deep enough to reach the roots of our problems. It's like trying to lift yourself off the ground by pulling at your own shoe strings!

Too many who've set out to follow Christ have never found the release from inner struggle that He offers. They've tried to live a life which they don't possess. Their spiritual experience has never reached their unconscious instincts and motives.

We aren't really possessed by Christ until His Spirit enters into the deepest and darkest places in our lives. When He's in control there, He cleanses our motives, purifies our instincts and becomes a creative centre of a new quality of living.

We don't slavishly try to copy Christ. We ask Him to take control of our inner thinking, and we find ourselves doing His will and thinking His thoughts. When following Christ is a heart-breaking struggle we know we're trying to do by ourselves what He is longing to do in us and for us. He came not to make impossible demands—but to give us abundant life.

—oOo—

GOD LEADS A PRETTY SHELTERED LIFE

At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly—not with cringing shame, but with belligerence.

"Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?" snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. "We endured terror . . . beating . . . torture . . . death!"

In another group a Black man lowered his collar. "What about this?" he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. "Lynched for no crime but being black!"

In another crowd, a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. "Why should I suffer?" she murmured. "It wasn't my fault."

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering he permitted in his world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, no hunger or hatred. Indeed, what did God know about what man had been forced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said.

So each of these groups sent out a leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a Black, an illegitimate, a person from Hiroshima, a thalidomide child. In the centre of the plain they consulted each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever: before God could be qualified to be their judge, he

must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on earth—as a man!

But because he was God, they set certain safeguards to be sure he could not use his divine powers to help himself.

Let him be born a Jew.

Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted.

Let him champion a cause so just, but so radical that it brings down upon him the hate, condemnation, and eliminating efforts of every major traditional and established religious authority.

Let him try to describe what no man has ever seen, tasted, heard or smelled . . . let him try to communicate God to men.

Let him be betrayed by his closest friends.

Let him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, and convicted before a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured.

At the last, let him see what it means to be terribly alone.

Then let him die. Let him die so that there can be no doubting it.

Let there be a great host of witnesses to verify it.

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throng of people. When the last had finished pronouncing sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For all suddenly knew . . .

God had already served his sentence.

★ ★ ★

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.

NEWS BRIEFS

SENIOR PARISHIONER'S CLUB

As the warmer weather is at hand, we look forward to even greater attendances. Don't forget we are still waiting for you to come along any Thursday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. There is always a lovely cup of tea to all for 30c.

I am sorry to report that Mrs. Swankie is back in hospital after a few days at home. We all wish you a speedy recovery Dulcie and praying for you.

Mrs. Elsie Casterson is home from hospital and doing well, but she still has to go back for a further operation. We all wish you well Elsie on your next trip. There has also been a lot of sickness amongst our other members which has put them to bed at home for various periods. Please let me know when anyone of our members you know are entering hospital.

IDA BARRETT, Hon Secretary

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON GROUP

Our last meeting ended with a very interesting talk on Moore College with Audio Visual assistance, about the workings of the College and the help given by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Also last month we spent a very happy night at the Rectory, when Mrs. Pat Yewdall entertained us with a very helpful Beauty Demonstration.

On Monday, 6th and Thursday, 7th November we will be holding two sweet making bees at the Rectory. Anyone willing to assist or donate ingredients of any kind would be most welcome. Donations of cakes or sweets on the Fete Day would also be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget our Jumble Sale on Friday, 1st December.

We are very sorry to learn of the passing of Mrs. Edith Fischer, a very old and loved member. Our sympathy is extended to her son and daughter, June and Donald and their families.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

GROCERY STALL

With the Fete only three weeks away, the Sunday School is in desperate need of donations of tinned and packet groceries.

If you can help us, donations may be left with the Church Officer on Duty at the Church entrance.

Sunday School Meeting Hall:

Because of our small numbers the Sunday School now meets in the Guild room.

In the re-organisation we will be installing a white Magnetic Board. Felt pens are used to write on this type of board. The board can also be used for flannel graphs. An overhead projector screen will also be instal-

led. This equipment will be available for the use of all parish organisations.

There is one draw back in being in the Guild room, that is the Sunday School is without the use of a piano in the same room.

If anyone has a piano in their home that is no longer used and would like to donate it for Sunday School use, we would appreciate hearing from you.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

"Tomorrow begins Today"—the theme of the Christian Women's Convention held recently—made us all think about our relationship with Jesus Christ— is He 'for real' in our day-to-day living ? ?

Our November meeting on Tuesday, 21st, at 1.15 p.m. in the Guild Room will be a time of fellowship and a planning meeting for our Pre-Christmas Celebration. This Pre-Christmas Afternoon will be on Tuesday, 12th December, at 1.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It is being planned to include any folk who read the "Chronicle" and feel they would like to join us. We would love to have you share this afternoon with us. We're hoping to have the members of the Dulwich Hill Home League Singers with us to provide the programme. It will be a happy time of sharing together and we really would be thrilled to have your company. As I've said before, if you're shy about coming please phone me on 569-4735 and come with me.

BETTY GISSING

CHURCH FLORAL MEMORIALS

The floral tributes for November and December as confirmed:—

- November 12 — Mrs. Calver and family, in memory of Mr. L. C. Calver and son Robert.
- November 19 — Mr. Bill Williams and family, in memory of Mrs. Aileen Williams.
- December 10 — Mrs. Willis, in memory of Mrs. Willis Snr. Mr. Minitier, John and Margaret, in memory of Mrs. Minitier.
- December 24/25—Mrs. Willis, in memory of Mrs. Shiels.

Contributions toward the floral decorations in church have proved to be a suitable and loving way of remembering that 'someone special'. Please confirm the date with the Rector as early as possible—and at least 6/7 weeks in advance to enable acknowledgement in the Chronicle.

CHRISTIAN FM STATION FOR SYDNEY

2CBA—FM—103

The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal has announced the granting of three FM Licences to Sydney-based stations.

One of the three is to be a Christian Station—2CBA, based in Lyons Road, Five Dock.

Commenting on what kind of station, Christian Broadcasting Association (CBA) chairman, the Rev. Vernon Turner emphasised that the station would not necessarily be making "a lot of religious noises".

"We have welcomed public broadcasting as a means of demonstrating Christian social concern." He added: "CBA takes very seriously the words of Jesus spoken long ago when he said, 'I have come to give you a full life'. We will do all in our power to help listeners to our radio station to understand and experience this 'full life'."

The station has adopted a 'quality of life' format.

Programmes will include:

EARLY MORNINGS—Bible study, Community service Information, World News, Job Exchange.

MORNINGS — Leisure time planning for women, Pre-Schoolers feature, Dietary tips, Music for hospitals.

AFTERNOONS—World News, Programmes for lonely people and shut-ins, Know your neighbour (promoting understanding between old and new Australians).

EVENINGS — People and events, Family leisure programmes, Devotional, Youth Shows.

MIDNIGHT TO DAWN—Drama, Counsellor, Bible Study for beginners.

All music will be in full stereo. '2CBA—FM expects to be on air by the end of December.

TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Yes! I would like to be kept in touch with All Sanits' Petersham.

Please record my name and address for future contacts.

NAME
(Given) and (Family)

ADDRESS
(Number) (Street)

.....
(Suburb) (Phone Number)

If you care to indicate any of the following wishes, please complete the section below:—

- ☐ I would like to receive the Chronicle regularly.
- ☐ I would appreciate a personal contact from one of the church members.

Teenage Twenties/Thirties Middle Age Senior

MALE/FEMALE (if it matters!)

APOLOGY

Dear Lord,

About the problem that loomed last week ---

Gargantuan,

Insurmountable;

It looked so vast and overwhelming

I really couldn't keep from worrying

and fussing

and teasing

and tossing

and agonizing.

And yet, somehow You managed, all on your own,

To work it out, and everything is now just fine,

As You knew it would be, and I didn't have faith to trust You.

If only I'd been quiet and listened and believed,

I'd have known You'd care for me,

And I'd have saved myself so much.

Forgive me.

If You send another problem

I'll try

Very hard

To remember

What You did

This time

And trust

You more

I am,

Very humbly,

Yours.

—oOo—

We are called to be thermostats, not thermometers. We must affect our environment, not reflect it.