

# The Chronicle

## Of All Saints' Petersham

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### From the Minister's Desk

Dear Friends,

"Merry Christmas!" we say. It's a time for celebration. A time to party, to eat, drink, and be with those who are special to us. It's a time to send greetings to people whom we care about.

What is the celebration about? It is about the birth of the King. The Saviour of the world! It is about the presence of the magnificent in the midst of the mundane.

In a grotty little animal shelter, in an insignificant town in Israel, in the midst of a bustling census-swollen population - the most important event in history happened. God becomes man. Jesus, God the Son, is born on earth. The Creator becomes a baby. Angels appear in glory and celebrate. Shepherds come to see. Mysterious Magi, noblemen from the east, arrive following the star.

My greatest desire in first class was to play the part of the little drummer boy in the Christmas play . . . .

"Come, they told me, Pa-rum-pa-pum-pum" Yes, this baby lying in a



box of hay is The King. He is Lord.

"Our finest gifts we bring, Pa-rum-pa-pum-pum." Jesus is Lord I lay before you all I am and all I have. I worship you.

I never got to play the drum as the little drummer boy. I think I played a triangle in the chorus. But it doesn't matter. That little Christmas baby is now the risen Saviour, my Saviour.

"The Chronicle" is now a quarterly publication. If you wish to include articles or letters or news items, please send them to:-  
The Chronicle,  
All Saints' Anglican Church, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham 2049.

He has given me eternal life. I worship him, I praise him, I love him. Christmas means the coming of real life to all who receive him:- Eastern noblemen, or shepherds; drummer boys, or triangle player; - the magnificent, or the mundane.

May your Christmas be filled with peace and joy in Christ our Saviour.

**"Happy Christmas"**  
From you Pastor  
Paul Watson

### The Parish Pulse

Sunday Services - 8-30am,  
10am. 6-30pm

Sunday School & Teenagers  
10am

Youth Fellowship Fridays 7-  
30pm to 9-30pm

"Playtime" for pre-schoolers  
Tuesdays 10am to 12noon

TLC Groups (small groups)  
Thursday, Friday, nights,  
Wednesday morning.

## "Investing in a Certain Future"

God wants us to recognise the significance of money and possessions as these things influence our lives. There are more references to these topics in the New Testament than there are references to faith, or hope.

As Christians we need to understand and live by a number of basic principles in regard to our attitude towards our wealth and possessions

### 1. God Comes first.

- The attitude of our hearts must be to honour God above any other person or thing. The story of Cain and Abel shows this.

- Exodus 25: 1-7 - God seeks a willing giver. To respond to God's love in a tangible way. v2 Offer freely to him what he deserves. Remember, everything we have really belongs to God. We are stewards of what he has entrusted to us.

- Haggai 1: 3-11 Get our priorities right v9.

- Malachi 1: 6-14 God is not impressed with the "loose change". It insults God to offer him anything less than our best.

Malachi 2: 8-12 God will bless those who honour him. v10 says "Bring in the whole tithe". Do we dare try it and see?

- Isaiah 29: 13 Put our money where our mouth is.

- Matthew 6: 31-33 Seek first the kingdom . . .

### 2. Seek to build God's Kingdom.

This is really the guiding principle in every sphere of the christian's life, including money and possessions.

Investing in the Kingdom of God (KOG) means you CAN take it with

you!! How? Luke 16, the parable of the shrewd manager, teaches of the call to use what has been entrusted to us in such a way as to build the KOG. What greater thing can we invest in than people's souls. They will thank you for eternity!

### 3. How much do I Give?

The amount is not so significant as the attitude behind the giving/

Old Testament - 10% (Tithe), first fruits.

New Testament - does not supersede the tithe, but goes to the heart of the Law. Speaks of the KOG as first, love, sacrifice, generosity.

As God has poured out his abundance upon us, so we are to respond with generous "self:- abandon".

See Acts 2: 42-45. Acts 4: 32-37, 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9 and 9: 6-15.

### Something to consider and to pray about.

#### a) Who do I leave everything to in my will?

- The guiding principle is that the KOG comes first in all things

- Family and their needs are important. We are called on to care for them if they are in need. But do they NEED everything we have? many an inheritance has been spent on overseas holidays, new cars, boats or swimming pools. Is this maximising the benefit to the KOG?

- When amounts are left in Wills to the local church or a christian mission society, the funds go on working for the KOG long after the donor has entered into his/her rest.

- There are many worthy charities to consider in one's will, such as the Smith Family, Guide Dogs etc. However, many non-christians give to these non-christian organisations, and it would be more beneficial to give to a christian cause which is reaching out with the gospel.

#### b) Contributing to my own church.

The Bible is addressed to believers in the context of community. That is, we are to see ourselves as a member of our local church. With membership comes responsibilities - to love one another, to serve, to encourage. Also we have the responsibility to support our church financially, by regular, faithful, committed giving. (Again, see Acts 2 and 4)

The weekly envelope system is helpful in allowing us to put aside each payday the amount we have determined to give in support for our church. This could be weekly, fortnightly, or monthly. You can use cheque, cash, or even arrange for a direct debit system.

We set out on page 3 the 1996 Budget for All Saints.

### On a solid foundation

The foundation stone of All Saints' Anglican Church, Petersham, was dedicated by Bishop Barker on December 17, 1870, but the proceedings didn't go very smoothly. This extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of December 19, 1870 shows: "some little delay was caused by the size of the foundation stone, which was so large (being nearly two tons in weight that the machinery employed by the workmen to re-hoist it, repeatedly gave way when the ropes were brought to bear upon the mass."

Eventually the stone was laid and has since remained buried as part of the foundations of the church building.

To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone, All Saints held a special service on November 5, to which past and present parishioners were invited, Archbishop Harry Goodhew was the guest preacher,

**TO RUN OUR CHURCH WE NEED:-**

MINISTRY TEAM	\$53,000 PA
OTHER COSTS	12,000
	<hr/>
	\$65,000

**WHERE DO WE GET THIS MONEY FROM?**

HEAD OFFICE? THE GOVERNMENT?

NO, IT COMES FROM A NUMBER OF SOURCES.....

INTEREST	\$ 3,000
DONATIONS	1,000
OTHER (HALL HIRE ETC)	1,000
HMS GRANTS RE CATECHISTS	5,000
	<hr/>
	10,000

OK, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST?

THE BULK OF OUR INCOME HAS TO COME FROM US.

THAT IS, <b>Offeratories</b>	\$ 55,000
	<hr/>
	\$ 65,000

To meet our budget, we need to give

\$55,000 as Offeratories in 1996.

This annual amount can best be expressed

as a weekly offertory figure. Our weekly

income needs to be \$1060

How can we get this much?

Well, all it takes is the following

number of people giving consistently the

amounts shown.....

6 @ \$50 per week	= \$300
6 @ \$40	= 240
5 @ \$30	= 150
10 @ \$20	= 200
5 @ \$15	= 75
5 @ \$10	= 50
9 @ \$5	= 45

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\$1060

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basing his message on 1 Corinthians 3: 10-17, the same passage used as the text when Bishop Barker dedicated the stone 125 years earlier.



the rector of the parish, Rev Paul Watson, said just as the buildings have been given a new lease of life, so too is new life blossoming in the church. "As we celebrate 125 years of a building standing on a large foundation stone, let us give thanks to God for the solid rock on which our lives are built - Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. May All Saints Petersham remain as a base for the gospel until Jesus comes again".

### A Word from Scott Dunlop.



The congregation of 220 were led in worship by the Trinity Grammar School Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra, as well as the eight member All Saints music group.

The event also provided an opportunity for the members of the church to showcase their newly renovated building. Commenting on the restoration work, which was funded mostly by the church's own resources, as well as a Heritage Grant,

The move in Sydney was a big step for Joanne and I. We had to trust in the Lord even though we didn't know exactly where we were going. Part of not knowing where we were going was, What church do you want us to go to, Lord?

Looking back over the past two years we are thankful of being able to serve and fellowship with you at All Saints. We are appreciative of the way our family has been welcomed and made feel at home.

My role as Catechist this year has involved, firstly involvement in the services, preaching monthly and parish visiting on Sunday afternoons. Secondly involvement in Evangelism and training people in Evangelism. Over the period it has been encouraging to see the church grow in numbers (even our family has grown by two), and also seeing people growing spiritually.

Our last Sunday at church will be the 17th December and we will greatly miss the many good friendships we have made. My final words to you would have to be to encourage you to remain in Christ, continuing to bear fruit for him, remaining faithful to him the whole of your life because what better goal could we have in life!

**Yours In Christ's service  
Scott Dunlop**

## Parish News

### Playtime News

The All Saints Playtime playgroup has had a wonderful year. Many new parents/carers and their children have joined. Each Tuesday morning there are usually 15-20 children present, accompanied by 10-12 adults. The group held a stall at the recent fete and raised enough money to purchase an indoor/outdoor activity centre. We meet each Tuesday (in school term) from 10am to 12noon. 1996 term commences on the 30th January.

This is a great outreach opportunity, and we are always keen for our All Saints members to join us.

### TLC Groups

During 1995 there have been six TLC Groups meeting at various times during the week. These are invaluable for our growth as Christians, as well as for the growth of our church as a whole. TLC Groups allow us to get to know each other at a deeper level, to share our life's experiences, to study the Bible together and help to apply it in our day to day lives. We pray together and we enjoy times of fun and ministry.

In 1996 we aim to grow some new groups. Why not join and see how good they are?

### The Power Connection.

This is the most important gathering of the month. Members of All Saints meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month to pray. We pray for all sorts of things. We do this because we are called on by God to pray without ceasing. We pray because we know that God hears us and answers us. We pray because we know that it is by prayer that souls are saved, disciples made, lives changed, sickness healed, and needs met.

### "OASIS"

What does this word bring to your mind? Refreshment, cool shade, fresh water in the midst of a hot dry desert. A place to rest to recover, to enjoy.

In the midst of our busy lives, with many pressures and struggles, and perceived failures to hack it in the Christian walk, we can feel like we are drying up and in need of refreshment. In need of a spiritual oasis.

Well, starting in February, we are going to establish "Oasis" on Tuesday nights. This will be an informal gathering for Christians to come to worship Jesus, to read from his word, to pray for one another, and be prayed for. To seek healing, forgiveness, restoration. To ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and move in your life in a new, revitalising way. To testify as to the work of God in your life.

Oasis will be on in the church building, from 7-30pm onwards. It will not be a structured or formal evening. Come when you want to, and leave when you wish. First night is Tuesday 6th February, 1996.

### Lending Library.

Have you borrowed a book from our lending library yet? Thanks to Debbie Harrop we have a great selection of contemporary books for loan ranging from books about spiritual warfare, to books about being a single person, to family issues, and growing as a Christian. One book we recommend is "Surprised by the Power of the Spirit" by Jack Deere, who is a former Dallas Seminary professor who discovered personally that God speaks and heals today. This is a very helpful book in challenging us to expect God to be at work miraculously, even today.

Also available are video tapes and audio tapes.

### Catechists for 1996.

In February we will welcome to our church family two new Catechists.



*Steven & Lorna layson*

Steve Layson and his wife Lorna and baby (due in January) are at Moore College, going into 4th year in 1996. Steve is training for ordained ministry in the Sydney Diocese. He will be involved in outreach/evangelism and training our members in the same. Steve will also be preaching and leading services.

Gary Lee-Lindsay, with Anne, and their children Sam and Imogen, are commencing first year at Moore next year. Gary, too, is a Sydney Diocese Anglican candidate. Gary has been in full time ministry for ten years, working with youth and children. He has just completed three years working at St Johns Darlinghurst - ministering to street kids at the cross. He will be our Youth Catechist. Gary will also be preaching and leading us in worship services.

The best way to get to know these guys and their families is to invite them to our homes for lunch some time. It would be great to start a list even now. Please let Paul Watson know if you can offer hospitality on some occasion in '96.

### The Fete.

Three cheers went up in November when it was a fine, sunny day for our fete. With lots of goodies for sale on the stalls, many helpers on the day, a bouncy castle, live music, drama performances, and brilliant BBQ salesmen, the day was a success. Financially speaking, we raised around \$3,600 which will be used in the extension of God's kingdom here at All Saints.