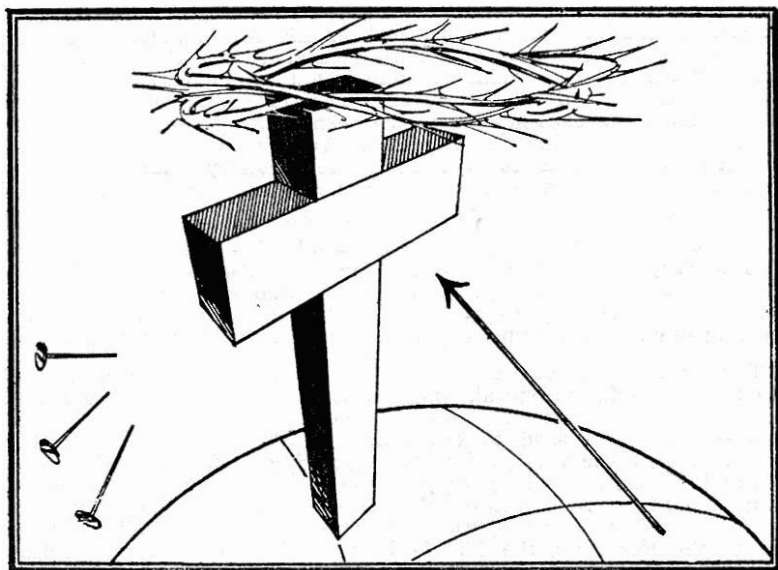


THE CHRONICLE OF All Saint's Church of England, Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station

MARCH, 1980



"A DIFFERENT WORLD CANNOT BE BUILT
BY INDIFFERENT PEOPLE."

— Peter Marshall.

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

"It is a sad fact that those who pride themselves most on knowing their Bibles are often the least tolerant of the poor. That is not to say they lack philanthropy; on the contrary, they are among the most generous of souls. But the conviction remains that poverty is always the fault of the individual concerned or his forefathers, rather than being the inevitable result of environmental or social factors beyond the individual's control. "This attitude is not confined to any particular group within the church, however. The predominantly middle-class nature of most churches has led to the enshrining of the Protestant work ethic as almost an article of faith. Ambition, prosperity, security are seen as virtues akin to godliness. The corollary, that poverty must be the product of laziness, lack of thrift and rootlessness, seems to be taken for granted."

I read the above words in an editorial of a magazine. It struck me as a very fitting 'springboard' for a meditation about how my Lenten self-denial was going. Those of us who value the challenge of Lent, and seriously try to adopt a special discipline with a view to deepening our spiritual experience, find them disturbing and challenging.

There's little doubt that these days we've nearly all been brain-washed. The inflation spiral, the demands for income increases, the announcements in financial pages of record profits by many large companies — all these tend to encourage us all to jump on the band-waggon. Even those who profess to be striving to follow Christian principles and values, are falling prey to the pressures. And all despite the not infrequent media 'revelations' of the appalling needs of the Kampucheas, the Bangladeshes, the Ethiopias and such. Individual travellers to the Far East, the Middle East, Africa and South America all report the same impressions. The disparity in living standards and food and energy consumption between the affluent one-third of the world and the remaining two-thirds condemned to poverty and mere subsistence levels. This together with an ecological and conservation crisis is made obvious from many quarters.

As Christians we need to re-examine the Bible's teaching on stewardship, and try to discover what should be our response in terms of personal life-style and political activism.

Ronald Sider wrote a book entitled "Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger". In it he advocates a radical change in lifestyle which will go much further than merely reducing our level of consumption a notch or two. He directs us to the example of John Wesley. Wesley's reality of involvement in social concern led him to set a basic adequate

standard of living, and then to give away any income he received in excess of that which met those needs! That's no mean challenge! — and one any 'fair dinkum' disciple cannot duck.

Sider also draws attention to the need to rediscover the New Testament concept of the Christian community. Most church congregations are made up of rather fiercely independent individuals or families who, though they may share similar social backgrounds, keep them selves very much to themselves. The contrast with the sharing, loving, compassionate community of men and women equal in the sight of God in the early chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, could not be greater.

There's a danger in any call for simpler individual lifestyle. It may appeal to the martyr in any of us — and so become no more than a 'gloriously irrelevant ego-trip' (to quote Sider). No such danger attaches to the adoption of radically transformed relations with our fellow Christians.

Maybe during this Lent you'll be willing to join me in facing up to the challenge of these thoughts to the reality of our Christian discipleship.

Your sincere friend in Christ,

S. W. GISSING.

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, PETERSHAM—phone 569-4735.

EASTER SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS' PETERSHAM

Good Friday, 4th April—

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

9.30 a.m. Family Worship.

Easter Day, 6th April—

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

9.30 a.m. Family Communion.

7.00 p.m. Evening Prayer.

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 & KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

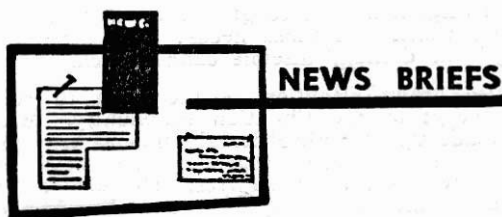
EVENINGS at 7 p.m.: —

(This changes to 5 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.



WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship will be Tuesday, 25th March in the Parish Hall meeting room at 12.30 p.m. This will be a business meeting mainly to discuss the arrangements for the Annual Luncheon to be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 29th April, at 12 noon. Mrs. J. Ritchie will be our entertainer with her Melodica. Please keep this note in mind and join us.

There will be a Second-hand Clothing and Jumble Sale on Friday, 14th March, in the Parish Hall. We would be grateful for any good second-hand clothing or anything saleable that you no longer need.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.



AFRICA GAINS — WEST LOSES

A global survey of Christianity has revealed that in the past 12 months 1.8 million adult professing Christians in Europe abandoned their faith to become agnostics, atheists or adherents of non-Christian religions or cults.

In North America the loss was put at nearly one million. The statistics, part of a large computerised study nearing completion, represent the net loss to the church (i.e. total losses minus new conversions).

According to survey, the continent of Africa saw a net gain of six million new Christians in the past year — 160,000 new Christians per day. The global picture shows that the gains and losses virtually balance each other out.

(from the English "CRUSADE")



WELCOME TO THE RICCI

Luciano Ricci began work on 4th February, 1980 with the Department of Evangelism to establish a ministry to Italian speaking people in the Diocese of Sydney. The centre for the work will be All Souls', Leichhardt. A Service to welcome Luciano and his wife will be held in All Souls' on Friday, 14th March, at 7.45 p.m. The Rev. Phillip Jensen, Chaplain to the University of New South Wales and Rector of St. Matthias', Centennial Park will preach.



Floral Memorials

We are most grateful to all who help beautify our church on Sundays by contributing towards flowers as a way of remembering loved ones. The following are noted in January/March. We remember those who are remembering one loved and missed:

March 16th — Stone of Remembrance —
Anonymous.

March 30th — Mrs. Beardow and Family in memory of the late Mr. Beardow.

April 13th — Miss A. Jones (Gordon St.) in memory of her parents Mr. & Mrs. W. Jones, sister Eva and brother Walter.

—oO—

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

Are you lonely? Do you want to fill in an afternoon each week in a Bright Happy Club? Well you don't have to be a Senior Parishioner, a Pensioner, or be over 21. You don't even need to be a Parishioner, all you need is to want company.

If this fits you, just come along any Thursday to "All Saints" Parish Hall, at 1.00 p.m. and spend the afternoon playing cards or housie, and enjoy a chat over a lovely cup of tea. All this for 50c.

Please come, we are waiting for you. *There will not be a Club*

Meeting on Thurs. 3rd April IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL VESTY AND PARISH MEETING

On Monday, 31st March All Saints' will hold their Annual Vestry and Parish meeting to elect 5 Parish Nominators.

7.30 p.m. — Service of Thanksgiving in Church.

7.45 p.m. — Annual Vestry Meeting in the Parish Hall.

- To receive Churchwardens Statement of Accounts and Reports;
- To elect two Peoples' Churchwardens and a Council for 1980;
- To receive Reports from Church Groups and the Rector;
- To receive recommendations or requests for the Churchwardens and Council.
- To elect 5 Parish Representatives to represent the Parish's interests should a new Rector be required in 1980.

We desire the attendance of every Church member at this important meeting.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S WEEK

Women of All Saints' have been invited to provide an afternoon for the residents of Braeside C. of E. Nursing Home, Cambridge Street, Stanmore to mark Senior Citizen's Week.

This will be on Tuesday, 11th March at 1.30 p.m. Any women willing to assist are asked to contact Mrs. Gissing (569-4735). Help with providing a "special" afternoon tea would be much appreciated.

—oOo—

EASTER VISIT TO LOCAL NURSING HOMES

Members of our congregation will visit the local Nursing Homes to bring an Easter Greeting. They always try to present a small gift to each resident. Help in providing these gifts would be much appreciated — Especially Talc, Tissues, Perfume or Cash!

Bring any contributions to the Rectory 'or call 569-4735.

—oOo—



GOOD FRIDAY

WORSHIP & WITNESS

Good Friday at Sydney Square —

Hear the good news of Jesus' Death and Resurrection at the

ANGLICAN GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

3.30 p.m. Friday, 4th April, 1980

beside St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Bring friends and neighbours —

- Keith Thompson — Children's Segment.
- David Cohen leads the service.
- Scripture Reading — James Dibble.
- Archbishop Loane will speak.
- Janet Hemans — soloist.

5 SUGGESTIONS . . .

that will help you to both ENJOY and to "get something out of" going to Church.

1. **GO TO MEET WITH GOD.** You will meet other people as well, but remember that most of all you go to meet with God. Go in a spirit of expectancy. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (see James 4:8). This is God's promise for you to claim. Make it your prayer as you kneel in the pew before the service begins:

"O God, I draw near to You. As You have promised, draw near to me. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

2. **PUT ALL YOUR HEART INTO THE SERVICE.** Enjoy the singing but mean the words. Echo the words of the prayers in your own heart and make them your prayers as well as the vicar's. The third commandment ("Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain") is broken as often in Church by those who say or sing words without meaning them, as it is by non-Christians outside Church.

You will not necessarily always find this easy. But whoever said that being a real Christian was easy? Jesus Christ never did. It is hard work concentrating, but the more you do the more real and the more worthwhile will be your worship. Ask God to help you over this, and persevere. The more you "put into" worship, the more you will "get out of it"; and even more important that that, the worship you offer will be pleasing and acceptable to God.

3. **WHEN THE LESSONS ARE READ,** find the place in your own Bible and follow them. It helps enormously to see the words as well as to hear them, even if the reader is using a different version from yours. Other people in the congregation may not do this, but do not be embarrassed. By your example you will encourage them to do the same.

4. **SIMILARLY WHEN THE SERMON IS PREACHED,** turn to the passage or text in your Bible and follow the preacher's theme. You will be surprised how much better a good sermon becomes when you do this; and even a poor sermon will yield something. The usefulness of a sermon does not depend wholly upon the preacher; it depends also upon the active co-operation of the listeners.

5. **ABOVE ALL** try to remember that the real centre of worship is not you, or the congregation, or the choir, or the vicar. It is God. It is He who should predominate in our worship. All the parts of the service — the singing, the prayers, the readings, the sermon, the silences — should be like the spokes of a wheel, all leading to the hub or centre: God Himself.

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.



Praying Hands

There are hands that help and comfort
 Hands that plan and teach
 Hands that rest and hands that strive
 For a goal just out of reach . . .
 Hands that grasp and hands that give
 Hands that work and play
 Friendly hands and loving hands
 That soothe life's care away
 But praying hands are dearest
 In the sight of God above
 For in their sweet and earnest clasp
 Is reverence and love .
 No hands can do an unkind act
 Nor cause another care
 Nor sin against Our Father's love
 When they are clasped in prayer.

—oOo—

WHY DON'T YOU DO SOMETHING?

Lord, there's so much wrong in the world.
 Wars all over the place,
 with people getting shot and bombed and burned up.
 So many hungry people.
 So many sick in body or mind.
 In lots of countries people have no rights and very little
 freedom.
 We see all this every day in newspapers and magazines and
 on TV.
 Why is there so much evil?
 Why don't you do something about it, God?
 You're supposed to be good and all-powerful.
 You could change things.
 Do you need our co-operation?
 Why don't you?
 Help those who suffer everywhere, Lord.
 Give them food and freedom,
 health and a good life.
 Show me what I can do
 to help make a better world for all people.

—(from LORD, I'VE BEEN THINKING
 Prayer Thoughts by RON KLUG.)