

# The Chronicle

## Of All Saints

### Petersham

325 STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM 2049

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

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DECEMBER 1989

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Wishing you all a Happy and Holy  
Christmas

CHRISTMAS 1989.

SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

9-30AM CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER

7-00PM PARISH CAROLS SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY

8-00AM HOLY COMMUNION

YOU ARE WELCOME!

## The Chronicle

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The Rectory,  
325 Stanmore Road,  
PETERSHAM. 2049.  
22nd November, 1989.

Dear Friends,

Christmas is the event of the year.

We will be celebrating Christmas in the traditional way at All Saints'. Something for the kids, something for the oldies, something for the regulars and something for those who like to make church at Christmas and Easter.

On Sunday 17th December we will have a Parish Carol Service beginning at 7-00pm. This is a great opportunity to come with your friends and family and enjoy singing the carol and hearing again the Christmas story.

Because Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year we will be having a Christmas Eve Service at 7-00pm. That is the time of our regular Evening Service.

On Christmas Day our service will be at 8-00am. One big service at which the whole congregation is able to gather together as the family of God.

I should also remind you that the service on Sunday morning 24th December is a good service for the children to attend. So often on Christmas Day the excitement of Santa Claus and presents leaves little room or time for worship.

We should try to get Christmas in the right perspective. It is easy to be carried away with the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child but to forget that the real joy in the hearts of the shepherds and others was that the Saviour was born.

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There have been many royal births through the ages, many celebrities have produced sons or even daughters. The arrival of such notables have caused great rejoicing. Empires have fallen, businesses rocketed to success, all sorts of things have happened because of the birth of a child.

Jesus was a special child. Earthly kingdoms have risen or fallen through the birth of a prince or a ruler's son. They have all passed into history. The coming of Jesus, the Christ Child however began an eternal kingdom. This kingdom knows no end. Its servants enjoy eternal life.

We are at Christmas not only rejoicing that God came among men in the form of Jesus Christ but that He sent his only son to be our Saviour and Friend.

Christmas is the time when God began the work of saving men. That work was completed when Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose to life on Easter Day.

The true joy of Christmas is that God kept his promise and sent the Saviour into the world. The work of rescuing men and women from the power and domination of the Devil began with the birth of the Christ Child. As the angels said to the shepherds in the fields on the first Christmas night; THIS DAY IS BORN TO YOU A SAVIOUR CHRIST THE LORD.

What a gift to share with mankind. God gave us His Son to be our Saviour. A good reason to rejoice.

The family at the Rectory wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,  
Bruce Woolcott  
RECTOR.

## ALL SAINTS' PETERSHAM PARISH AT A CROSSROADS

The future of the Parish of All Saints', Petersham, may be coming under question.

The question is posed by Church Law relating to parish finances.

The answer lies in our hands.

The following report, prepared by resolution of Parish Council, sets out the problem.

Your serious consideration is vital.

Changing patterns of population and Church attendance are affecting the structure of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.

In recent years, several parishes have been declared "provisional" under the Church's Parishes Ordinance of 1979.

They are in areas as diverse as Balmain, Narellan, North Sydney, Rose Bay and Wilberforce.

A parish may be declared "provisional" if for three years in a row its revenues are less than its Rector's expenses (which includes the stipend, travelling expenses, superannuation and long service leave contributions).

The position of a provisional parish is complex, but in summary, it's a parish under a cloud.

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If it cannot lift that cloud, the provisional parish may disappear as a separate body, to be split up and merged with stronger parishes nearby.

All Saints' Petersham has been told, in effect, that this cloud is headed in its direction.

### LETTER FROM DIOCESE

Recently, the Archdeacon wrote to the Minister and Churchwardens saying that in the 1988 financial year, our local revenues were less than the Rector's expenses (and as far as they are concerned, it's fair to say that those who serve in that capacity don't do it for the money).

All Saints' position is complicated by the fact that the definition of "local revenue" under the ordinance excludes income from the endowments which provide a major part of total parish income.

This is a matter of some controversy, but its purpose is clear.

It is aimed at using the Church's limited resources most effectively.

The intention is that support goes to parishes which, whatever their history, remain viable as a result of their own efforts now - and don't depend on the generosity of past parishioners.

This may be seen as harsh, even unfair. At the same time, it's a reminder that no parish can rest on its laurels.

It is important to see the situation in perspective.

In his letter, the Archdeacon wrote: "... apart from making efforts to increase your local revenues for the

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year of 1989, there is no special action that can or need be taken at the present time."

Bearing that in mind, however, we have been given a warning. Your Parish Council believes we should not ignore it.

As a result, and in line with Diocesan requirements, Parish Council has approved some changes to our accounting arrangements which more accurately reflect our local revenues.

They should help, but they do not solve the problem.

### IN THE RED

At the end of October, parish revenues for the 1989 year were running about 15% under expenses.

Income from the Fete, thanks to the effort and dedication of all involved, has put us back in the black.

It is by no means certain, however, that we will still be there at the end of the financial year.

Even as we are, the trend, regrettably, is clear. Costs are growing faster than income.

If we carry on as we have been, we will not be paying our way.

We face a future similar to that of a business whose custom has fallen so far that it cannot pay its staff.

Special sales and promotions only work for a while - they drain the resources of the business, and besides, there are many others who can and will organise sales of their own.

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The only long-term answers are to make the business viable where it is, move, or just fold up.

We are not a business. We're not about to move or close. But that comparison should raise enough uncomfortable parallels to make us think.

Parish Council believes it is important that we all do think about the problem.

Until we recognise we have a problem, we cannot start to solve it.

Equally, we need to make sure we are not rushed into hasty action which is not in the best long-term interest of the Parish.

Other parishes have faced similar problems, and responded in ways that provide a sound foundation for development.

There is no reason we cannot do the same.

Parish Council believes the issue should be discussed in a forum open to all members of the Congregation, either annual Vestry Meeting, or a special meeting where it could perhaps be given more attention.

### DETAILS TO COME

We would like as many as possible of the congregation to come to this meeting, and details will be given later.

In the meantime, we seek your consideration of the issues set out in this report, and your thoughts on how the Parish can most respond most effectively.

What do you think? Do you have family or friends in another parish? What do they do? What can you do? What does He want us to do?

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH PETERSHAM.  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - OCTOBER, 1989

RECEIPTS	\$	PAYMENTS	\$
Offeratories	1,359.09	Rector's Net Stipend	1,905.85
Donations		Rector's Trav. Allow	506.95
OES Members	7.00	Visiting Preacher	20.00
Women-in-Friendship	300.00	Church Cleaning	80.00
Uniting Church Synod	30.00	Hall Cleaning	80.00
Anonymous	10.00	Flowers	50.00
Flowers	50.00	Telephone A/c	99.76
Rector's Telephone		Monthly Lease Copier	88.83
contrib to 9/89	155.29	A4 Paper	85.10
Investment Interest		Church Electricity	98.23
J.H.Douglass Endow	1,317.67	Hall Electricity	110.58
May Ruhie Endow	1,050.00	Hall Gas A/c	29.83
District Visitors'		Water Board	102.50
Miss Nisbet	25.00	Morning Tea Expenses	24.02
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	4,304.05	Surplus for month	3,281.75
Deficit for Month	0.00		1,022.30
	-----		-----
	4,304.05		4,304.05
BALANCE 1-10-89	400.46		
LESS DEFICIT FOR MONTH	0.00		
PLUS SURPLUS FOR MONTH	1,022.30		
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BALANCE 31-10-89	1,422.76		
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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.

## **WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP**

Our club is now in recess until February 1990. the first meeting being Tuesday 13th February at 1-30pm in the Guild Room of the Parish hall.

The last clothing sale is over for 1989 and we were able to donate another \$300 to the Parish Council making a total for the year of \$1950, a very pleasing result. Thanks to everyone who helped in anyway. The first Second hand Clothing and Jumble Sale for 1990 is Friday 9th February.

The proceeds of our Cakes, Sweets and Drinks Stall at the Annual Church Fete was \$504. Many thanks to all who donated or helped us in so many ways.

The members of the Women-in-Friendship take this opportunity to wish everybody a Holy , Peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ida Barrett - Hon. Secretary.

## **SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB**

The Senior Parishioners' Club finished the year very happily, but with very small numbers. We do hope and pray that we will be able to enlist some more members in 1990, so we can carry on this very worthwhile little club. Please think about it. The first meeting day in 1990 will be Thursday 1st February.

We wish all our friends the Blessing of a truly Happy Christmas and New Year.

Ida Barrett - Hon. Secretary.



**FLOWER DONATIONS**

- DECEMBER 3RD** - Mr. & Mrs. Swankie in memory of our mother and nanna.  
Arranged by Mrs.E Carr & Julie.
- DECEMBER 10TH** - From Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. Willis Snr.  
Arranged by Mrs.E. Hearn & Mrs.M. Essam
- DECEMBER 17TH** - In loving memory of Elsie Hillery from her sister Kath.  
Arranged by Mrs.J. Hadley.
- DECEMBER 24TH** - In loving memory of my mother & daughter Betty from Phyl Heap;  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Baxter & sisters Em & Stella from Barbara. From Mrs. Carr in memory of her parents.  
Arranged by Mrs.E. Hearn & Mrs.N. Essam
- DECEMBER 31ST** - In loving memory of Clarrie Richardson & Marge Cole from Phyl Heap.  
Arranged by Mrs.E. Hearn & Mrs.M. Essam

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**FRESH FLOWERS PTY. LTD.**

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OUR FETE RESULTS

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Groceries	\$ 316.90	\$ 316.16
Work Stall	\$1214.90	\$ 932.00
Pottery	\$ 362.76	\$ 424.00
Cakes	\$ 504.00	\$ 457.00
Plants	\$ 60.00	\$ 155.88
Books	\$ 299.14	\$ 162.33
Hot Dogs	\$ 47.45	\$ 24.60
Jewellery	\$ 299.00	\$ 314.10
Refreshments	\$ 394.84	\$ 318.45
Toys	\$ 226.00	\$ 156.00
White Elephant	\$ Nil	\$ 317.00
Crafts	\$ 356.20	\$ Nil
Donations	<u>\$ 175.00</u>	<u>\$ 92.05</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$4256.23</u>	<u>\$3669.57</u>

A WORD OF THANKS

Many thanks to all those people who made the fete such a success this year. It is impossible to mention all who helped and the many little or big things you have done. Some may say, "Oh, I didn't do much", but without the effort of everyone the result would not have been so good and the day such a happy one.

AN INVITATION.

ALL SAINTS' PETERSHAM FELLOWSHIP  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
IS ON 22ND DECEMBER FROM 7-30P.M. TO 10-30 P.M.  
IN THE PARISH HALL.  
SPECIAL GUEST BAND WILL BE  
NOAH AND THE ANIMALS  
(BRING SOME SUPPER AND A FRIEND)

FOR SALE

The Parish Council has rheems of duplicating paper for sale.  
It is of good quality and available in several colours.



ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH  
325 Stanmore Rd., Petersham



CHURCH  
RESTORATION  
FUND