

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

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

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

SEPTEMBER, 1978

The essence of religion is the thirst for an end higher than natural ends; the finite self's desire for, and acquiescence in, and self-rejection in favour of, an object wholly good, and wholly good for it. That self rejection will turn out to be a self-finding, that bread cast on waters will be found after many days, that to die is to live — these are sacred paradoxes.

C. S. LEWIS

SERVICE TIMES:—

8 a.m. — HOLY COMMUNION.

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

2nd & 4th Sundays — HOLY COMMUNION.

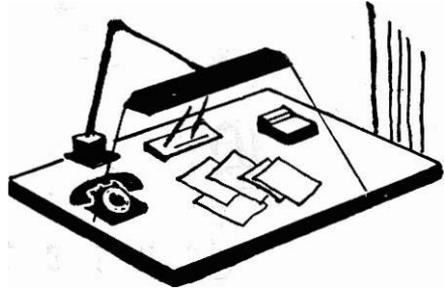
5 p.m. — EVENING PRAYER.

(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



RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

One of the comments often made to me on "my rounds" as chaplain in one of our hospitals is "I'm not the religious type". And when I have "pressed on" seeking to find what people mean by the comment I'm told something like "I've never found the vital experience of God of which some people speak — I don't suppose I ever will"!

Now I'm sure there are many who voice such sentiments not realising how mistaken they are. In saying that, it is assumed that religion is associated with a certain kind of temperament—as is art or music or athletics. But religion isn't the peculiar interest of a specific type of personality. All one has to do to realise this is look at the types of people whose relationships with God are recorded in the Bible — or maybe just look at the cross section of 'types' one meets in an ordinary church congregation! When you carry out some such experiment you become convinced that religion is generic — it is something that belongs to personality itself! All men and women are religious if they are normal.

Of course, religion may be smothered, or repressed, or driven into the background of life — but it can't be fully eliminated from human personality. Some groups or societies try to — but they end up providing substitute forms for 'religious' expression in place of the traditional and real acknowledgements of a God-relationship.

People who believe they can never find a vital experience of God are the ones who, up to that point, have failed in their religious quest. That doesn't mean they will always fail. So many who've believed themselves deficient in religious temperament have eventually found a real religious experience that it appears that all who seek may yet find. It is inconceivable that God, Who made us as we are, would at the same time make it impossible for this instinct to be fulfilled. It is unbelievable that He'd make His richest gift available only to certain types.

The word of Jesus is plain. The divine gift is free to "whomsoever will".

"Everyone that asks, receives; he that seeks, finds; and to him that knocks, it shall be opened."

To obtain that gift we have to do something — ask, seek, knock!

That's what we're trying to do at All Saints' — you'd be very welcome to share in our search together.

As I write, the news has been given that a new Pope has been elected. John Paul I faces a tremendous task and responsibility. Let's all pray for him that he may be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, and strengthened to fulfil God's will in leading those who acknowledge him as their leader.

Yours in Christ,

S. W. GISSING



Camperdown Family Centre

Since May 1977, The Camperdown Family Centre—a joint project of the Anglican Church and the Sydney Rescue Work Society—has provided emergency, short-term accommodation for more than 80 needy families.

Situated in Gilpin Street, Camperdown, the centre is based on the self-help principle. Each family is responsible for its own affairs—cooking, cleaning, washing and child care.

In a context of Christian caring by Staff and Volunteer helpers, the centre provides families with the opportunity to get back on their feet following the trauma of being out of work and unable to find somewhere to live.

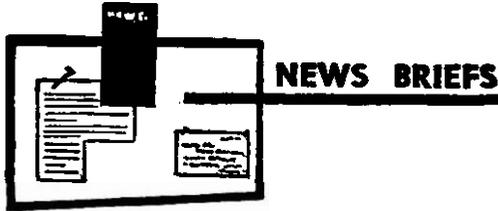
Before the centre was opened, families like those finding their way to Gilpin Street usually faced the prospect of being split up.

There are a substantial number of poor families in our community. This is born out by the Commission of Inquiry into Poverty in Australia led by Professor Henderson of Melbourne. There are over a quarter of a million children who are dependents of these families.

Whenever there is a dip in the economy these families are the first to suffer unemployment and to lose their accommodation.

Locating the centre at Camperdown was very appropriate. The N.S.W. Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research in its "Social Indicators Study" confirmed that the area, at the intersection of the municipalities of South Sydney, Sydney and Marrickville was at the crossroads of the highest health and social risk factors in the whole of the state.

The centre is an example of how Christ's love can be extended in a practical way to people in need.



Billy Graham will be heard in a dozen languages

Dr. Billy Graham's Sydney Crusade addresses are likely to be heard simultaneously in more than a dozen languages.

This information was given by the chairman of the Crusade's Ethnic Committee, Anglican Bishop John Reid, who outlined the comprehensive translation project.

Bishop Reid said that ethnic groups would be gathered in separate buildings at the Randwick Racecourse during the Crusade from April 29 to May 20 next year, and two translators in each foreign language would transmit the addresses as Dr. Graham was speaking.

Arrangements had already been made for translations in Italian, Vietnamese, Greek, Russian, Spanish and Turkish, and the Ethnic Committee was exploring the possibility of having translators in German, Arabic, Yugoslav, Dutch and French.

Counselling and follow-up literature in about eight major languages was also being prepared. The Bible Society and the Scripture Gift Mission were making Gospel and other New Testament readings available to the Crusade at no cost.

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WOMEN'S GUILD

I wonder if any of you read the notes of our women's groups and say to yourself — "I would like to join with them but I don't like to just "go along". If you feel like this (and I have felt like this myself on occasions) don't let shyness or hesitancy stop you. If its only a matter of having someone "to walk in with", I'd like to be that 'someone' — you can reach me at the Rectory — phone 569-4735.

At our September meeting on Tuesday, 19th, we shall have a "Bamboo Demonstration" — we'll be shown coloured slides on how the bamboo is harvested and treated and made into beautiful articles. Many bamboo products will be on view and will be for sale — or may be ordered. We hope you'll take this as a personal invitation to join us in the Guild Room for this interesting afternoon. There'll be a Business Meeting for Guild Members at 1.15 p.m. and the Bamboo Demonstration will be at 2 p.m.

We'd like you to mark Tuesday, 17th October as an important date to keep. Instead of having our own Meeting on that date we'll be joining with many women of our area at the Christian Women's Convention. More details in the next issue of the Chronicle.

BETTY GISSING, President.

WOMEN'S AFTERNOON GROUP

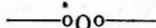
Mrs. Ostling made our last meeting a very interesting and happy afternoon, for which we sincerely thank her.

The next meeting on Tuesday, 5th September will be a Business Meeting only, but visitors or new members are still very welcome.

The date is set for our next Jumble Stall, or we are thinking of calling it a Mini Market, for Friday, 1st December. So please tell our good friends who always help us, anything saleable that you no longer want, please remember we need it to stock our stalls. Goods can be left at the Rectory, or 59 John Street, Petersham.

Thanking you in anticipation.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.



SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

I am glad to report our Club is continuing to be a very happy gathering every Thursday in the Parish Hall from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Rain, Hail or Shine, we are always there and looking forward to you joining us. Still only 30c and a very lovely cup-of-tea included.

Please come along,

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.



FLOWER ROSTER

Contributions toward the floral decoration of the church are invited. This has proved a most acceptable way of remembering 'someone special'. We ask that folk intimate the intention to do this as far in advance as possible — preferably about six weeks ahead — as this helps in our being able to acknowledge the memorial in the Chronicle.

The floral tributes for September and October are as follows:—

September 10th—Miss M. Glanville in memory of her parents.

September 17th—Mr. and Mrs. Swankie in memory of Mother and Grandmother.

September 24th—Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Garland in memory of Mrs. Sheriff.

October 1st — Mrs. Pullen in memory of her parents and her loving husband, Ben.



BUSHED!

Everything seemed beautiful when you set out — and it was easy going, you wouldn't need a map. No sir! Let the tenderfoot take a map; you knew enough to find your way without one.

But now? That broad track has petered out — so gradually that you hardly noticed; there is no familiar landmark in sight; night will be falling before you know it, and suddenly the very things that made the country seem so attractive at first begin to take on an unfriendly aspect. You have an uneasy feeling that you're not such a good bushman as you thought.

You don't need to go to the bush to get lost. You can be just as thoroughly lost in your own home or office. Business, pleasure, worry — is it any wonder you don't know which way to turn?

You need that map after all. Let your church show you the path.

There is a way out of your maze of cares; God's way. Let God have His way — at home — at church — at work.

KNOW YOUR GOD

If God is to be known by man, it will be on God's terms, and in God's chosen way. It is he who must take the initiative.

And God has chosen to communicate with man by His word. For God is not only the God who acts, but the God who speaks. Creation began with a word of God. (Gen.: 1:3), and from the first creation of man God declared His will to him by a word (Gen.: 1:28; 2:16). It would be an impossible labour to count the number of times the Bible records that 'God said . . .', 'God spoke . . .', 'God commanded . . .', nor is it necessary, for no reader of the Bible can fail to perceive that if God is characterized by dynamic activity, He is no less constantly represented as revealing His nature and His will by word of mouth.

But there is not so much difference between God's action and His speaking as we might think. To the modern western mind, "word" signifies a tool of verbal communication, the vehicle by which thoughts are conveyed from speaker to hearer. Thus it can be meaningfully opposed to 'act'. Not so for the Hebrew mind of the Old Testament. For them a word was something active, dynamic, almost concrete. In fact in Hebrew the same word means both 'word' and 'thing'.

. and differing judgements serve but to declare,
that truth lies somewhere if we knew but where.

William Cowper





From the Parish Bookstall

Choose Freedom by Michael Green (IVP)

Some members of the Parish will already be familiar with the name Michael Green through using his book "Man Alive" as a study resource.

Here is an extract from the final section of the first chapter of Choose Freedom which is entitled 'Is Christianity Finished?'

"Those early Christians did not breed a way of life, or a type of Church government, or a new code of morals; they did not talk about bishops, or stewardship, or their image of God. They told men about a real person, Jesus; Jesus, whom all the evidence showed to be no less than God himself come down to our rescue."

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.
