

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

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station



DECEMBER, 1979



"... Christ Jesus our hope ..."
—I Tim, 1:1.

From your Minister's Desk



My dear Friends,

Well, it's true! It has come round again. They say it's a sure sign of age creeping on, when the years seem to go very quickly. But whether that's the cause or not, I have to admit they do appear to fly past. It's Christmas once again. That wonderful time of the year when by far the greatest majority are overtaken by a spirit of goodwill and warmth toward their neighbour. A great time for family — and relaxing — and, well, for seeing the good in everything! And because it is such a time, I don't mind really if it does seem to come round very quickly. My wife joins me in extending the very best of prayerful wishes for a happy and blessed celebration for all of you.

By the way, I don't think it's so much advanced age that speeds the passage of time, as the being fully and satisfyingly occupied. Don't you agree? And as well, being in good company. The Lord's company always makes time vanish. The same is true when we share fellowship with those who are His. In this world that brings a sense of disappointment with the quick passing of the hours. But it's one of the things that make me look forward to that life when time will not be involved any more. I imagine that is what St. Paul had in mind (at least in part) when he said "to depart and be with Christ, which is far better"; Praise the Lord, that promise is part of what Christmas brought to light so many years ago — and offers still to all who will receive.

We look forward to sharing with you at the coming December "special occasions". The details appear in this issue of the "Chronicle". Please note them and make a point of planning to be with us.

One thing I must particularly draw your attention to is the decision to join with the Combined Carols Service arranged by the Minister's Fraternal this year. It is to be held at Holy Trinity, Dulwich Hill this year — on Sunday, 16th, at 7.15 p.m. That means that we will not have a service at All Saints' that evening. PLEASE NOTE! Of course there'll be other times when we'll be able to celebrate together our Saviour's Birth in both worship and singing.

In the words of Tiny Tim — "God bless us, every one!" —

Sincerely,

S. W. GISSING.

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

THIS IS OUR HOPE

We're weary with dissensions, strife, suspicion and unrest:
the grim and deadly rivalries between the East and West.
We're sickened by the scientific jargon of the day:
missiles, rockets, atom bombs. . . . Come, let us turn away —
and rest our minds on something that is sweet and beautiful:
the coming of the Prince of Peace, the Christmas miracle.

Let us cast aside the thoughts that fill our hearts with dread —
forgetting what divides us and remembering instead —
that Jesus Christ was born to be the Saviour and the Lord.
Pray then, that throughout the world His name may be adored.
. . . . This is our hope! His kingdom come! For in Christ we see —
the love of God made manifest for all humanity.

—PATIENCE STRONG.

"It wouldn't be Christmas without Uncle Henry. He makes it a perfect riot! He sends silly presents to himself, and he always wears a paper cap, and pretends he can't find things; and if you want a shilling, he always apologises and says that he's frightfully sorry, and all that, but he hasn't got one, and will half a crown do?"

—Quoted by H. L. GEE in "Share My Harvest."



NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER DIARY

Sunday, 9th—9.30 a.m.: Holy Communion. Preacher: Rev Albert Mewett, of the Bible Society.

Friday, 14th—6.30 p.m.: PARISH CHRISTMAS BARBEQUE—Carols and Films. Tickets available: Adults \$3 and Children \$1.

Sunday, 16th—9.30 a.m.: Family Service with Christmas Music.
7.15: COMBINED CAROLS SERVICE arranged by the
Ministers' Fraternal at Holy Trinity, Dulwich Hill.
(N.B.: NO SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS'.)



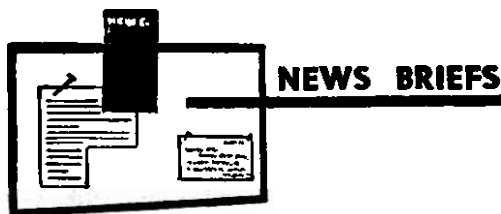
TUESDAY, 25th: CHRISTMAS DAY.

7.30 a.m.: Holy Communion.

9.30 a.m.: Family Communion.

Monday, 31st—11.30 p.m.: Watchnight Communion to welcome the New New Year.





SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

The year is almost over and our break-up Christmas Party is very near — Thursday, 13th December, at 1 p.m. I hope all members are keeping that date in mind.

We recommence our Club next year on Thursday, 31st January, the last Thursday in the month, when we hope to see all our old members back and perhaps welcome a few new ones.

Our members take this opportunity to say to all "God Bless you all for Christmas and the New Year."

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Kindergarten Christmas Party is to be held on Saturday, 8th December, commencing at 2.00 p.m., and finishing at 4.00 p.m.

The Sunday School and Kindergarten will close on Sunday, 16th December, at the Family Service, and recommence on Sunday, 3rd February, 1980.

On behalf of the Sunday School I would like to thank all who made donations of cash, groceries and bottles, and the ladies who made jam.

—NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent.

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

Well our big Fete day is over again for another year, and what a Wonderful Day, in every way. We thank all who helped. A really wonderful team of "Friends"; I won't mention any names, there are far too many, but just Thanks. Thanks all.

We hope to see as many of the ladies of the Parish as possible on Tuesday, 4th December, at 1.30 p.m. at the Rectory. The Rector and Mrs. Gissing are inviting us all to a Christmas Party in their home.

There will not be a meeting in January — the first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday, 5th February, 1980, at 1.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This will be a "Planning Meeting" for our year.

We wish to all the Blessing of a Holy Happy Christmas, and let us all look forward to the New Year with the words of that lovely song in our hearts: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

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.

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ANGLICAN HOME MISSION SOCIETY**CARE FORCE CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

Toys and Christmas foods are urgently needed for distribution to several hundred needing families involved in the Care Force Family Support Programme (Carramar girls, teenagers living in Charlton Family Homes, refugee children, single parent families, young people at risk, homeless families, etc.).

Toys should be despatched in November, although we realise this is often not possible.

Your gift could be a practical way of bringing joy to a lonely family this Christmas.

PLEASE RING 799-5222 IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP.

—oOo—

1979 ANNUAL FETE

The wonderful workers were enabled, by a gracious Lord, to again exceed their previous best (last year). The Lord was very good to us, giving us a lovely day, and crowning our efforts with good success. The following is the result in figures:

White Elephant, \$1,079; Plants, \$215; Jewellery, \$222; Fruit and Vegetables (run by friends from Oatley West Parish), \$75; Groceries, \$361; Cakes and Sweets, \$402; Mrs. Ruhle's Work Stall, \$897; Bookstall, \$194; Painted Faces, \$27; Special Gifts, \$267; Amusements (train, trampolines), \$174; Hot Dogs, \$52; Refreshments, \$185; Mr. Gaspo Balloons, \$39; Barbecue Sandwiches and Soft Drinks, \$136; Mrs. Jones' Work Stall \$1,306; Mrs. Champion's Work Stall, \$615; Donations, \$257. Those are the round figures on the day; since then some other amounts have come in—and expenses met. The approximate net figure was about \$6,700. The exact figure will, of course, appear in the annual statements.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WORKED AND TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED US!!!

FLORAL MEMORIALS

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

December 2nd: Mrs. Mary Rowan in memory of her husband, Les, and her mother, Mrs. A. Bentley.
Mr. and Mrs. Swankie and family in memory of mother and grandmother.

December 9th: Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. Willis, Snr.
Mr. Minitier, John and Margaret in memory of Mrs. Minitier.

DECEMBER 25th: Barbara and Stella in member of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, sister Era, and friends Dorrie and Sally
Mrs Cragg and Noel in memory of Mr. H. Cragg.
Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. Shiels.

January 20th: John and Lindsay in memory of their grandmother, Mrs. Emily McKinnon.



THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

We have come very near to the Eve of Christmas, and in that spirit I give you the old Christian salutation. Peace be to your house and home. Peace be to yourself and to them that love you. Peace be to the children of your house, little ones sleeping upstairs or bigger ones with more open-eyed dreams of life. May Christmas bring you peace, peace deep down in the heart of you, peace in the midst of you as you gather round your table, peace in your going out and in your coming in, not only on this one day of the year but on all the days of all the years that are yet to be.

Now I wonder if that seems to you an empty wish, like the casual thought that people stir into their Christmas pudding. For all I know your life may be a weary one. You may be anxious and troubled about many things. You may be tired out — you probably are — or ill or lonely. How then can there be peace for you? Or you may be thinking of this strange world that we are living in, so full of unrest just now, so tense with crises and alarms, so disturbed with clamorous voices that it would seem hard enough for any of us this year to hear the angels sing!

Yet the peace of which I am speaking never depends on circumstances, upon whether things are going well or ill with us or upon the state of the world around us. It is, as the apostle reminds us, one of the fruits of the Spirit. It may be ours, whatever the conditions of our lives may be, if in our innermost selves we are attuned to that unseen world of spirit where beyond these voices there is always peace. If you ask

how a man can have peace within him when his life is clouded and stormy, when he is aching painfully in body or mind, when the future holds, so far as we can see, nothing but disappointment and despair and defeat, I would bid you think once again of Him who was born on the first Christmas Day. He knew, as you and I can never know, the stress and strain of our human life, the tragedy of its selfishness and sinfulness, the pathos of its ignorance and weakness, and He felt, as we can never feel, the throb of all our human agony. But through it all and in it all He had this peace, this deep inward calm that nothing could touch or disturb. Life never threw Him into a panic, never frightened Him, never agitated Him. He moved quietly on from what looked like success to what looked like failure, from friendliness to loneliness, from the dear familiar hills of Nazareth to the desolate hill of Golgotha, always content to do the will of God and to rest His Spirit in the love of God, so that in His darkest hours before He suffered He could turn to those about Him and bequeath to them His richest legacy. "Peace I leave with you, My peace give I unto you; not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

And you and I in our time and in our circumstances, whatever they may be, can share that peace if we are sure of God, as Christ was sure, sure of God's love to care for us, sure of God's power to protect us, sure of God's hand to guide us, sure of God's Presence to go with us in all that we have to bear or do. If that sort of faith, very simple but of course very searching, is too hard for us, Christmas Day should help. For Christmas Day reminds us that we are not to think only of God above us or God around us but of God with us. "They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted, is God with us."

The life of Christ, begun at Bethlehem and ended, though never ended, on Golgotha, is the full assurance of God's abiding Presence with those who seek to do His will, of God's continual care for us and ours, of God's eternal wisdom and understanding, of God's power, despite the very worst that this world can do, to bring out to a final triumph those things in human life (and only those things) that are good and true and faithful, inspired by the love of God Himself and devoted to the service of man. That is why the angels sang at Bethlehem. That is why also there will be singing in your heart on Christmas morning, if only you can believe in God and trust Him in much the same way as your children, looking forward so eagerly to Christmas, believe in you and trust in you. So pray for peace. The world needs it. Open your heart to peace. You need it, and I.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

—W. H. ELLIOTT.

"If seeds in the black earth can turn into such beautiful roses, what might not the heart of man become in its long journey toward the stars?"

—G. K. CHESTERTON.

I WANT . . . —

By Elspeth Slater

Lord I want so much a fellowship with You
 A right relationship
 A conforming to Your will and Your ways . . . *
 But somewhere there is a stubbornness,
 A root of resistance
 That seems to cancel out the thing I most desire.

Lord I want so much a hunger for Your word
 A genuine delight in its content,
 A deep searching, a balanced understanding . .
 But somewhere there is a dryness
 A lack of appetite
 That brings me to the point of not even trying. .

Lord I want so much a genuine prayer life
 A daily habit of prayer
 A give and take of communion, a faith which sees answers .
 But somewhere there is an emptiness,
 A spirit of laziness
 That turns prayer into a drowsy, vague daydream.

Lord, that's how Satan wants me, stubborn, dry, empty,
 Doubting the reality of Your presence,
 Questioning the sincerity of my faith . . .
 But underneath all my feelings I know
 That You will complete Your purpose for me
 That even in the desert place Your love is surrounding me.

—ooo—

It was many a Sunday since he had been to church, but his wife, who attends regularly, had volunteered his services, and he found himself one Sunday morning at the door greeting people. Everything went smoothly, and he was silently congratulating himself when a latecomer entered. The greeter welcomed him with the usual "Good morning. Glad to see you here today".

"Oh, I try to get here as often as I can," said the man politely, then strode to the pulpit and started the service.

—From the Reader's Digest, "The Spirit of Christmas".

WALTERS & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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433-35 NEW CANTERBURY ROAD, DULWICH HILL—560-9999

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You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.
