

THE CHRONICLE

of

The Parish of All Saints, Petersham

Rector: Rev. T. E. CHAMPION, Th.L.

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham—LM 4735

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DECEMBER, 1956



Wishing you all a Holy and Happy
Christmas



RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear Friends,

Once more we are approaching the season of Christmas when we remember the Incarnation of God. It is always a very busy season, but we must be careful not to be too busy to remember Him whose birthday it is. Christmas reminds us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Christmas always put the CHRIST in Christmas. Christmas is a Feast of the Church, a time of rejoicing; a time when we remember not only material things but the spiritual gains which came through the coming of God's Son..

Let us briefly look at what the Scriptures have to say about Him:—The Angel Gabriel; "Thou shalt call His Name JESUS; for He shall save His people from their sins". (Mt. 1:21). "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest . . . and of His Kingdom there shall be no end." (Lk. 1, 32:33) "That holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Lk. 1. 35) Luke: "She brought forth her first born Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger." (Lk. 2:7).

The Angel to the Shepherds: "Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Lk. 2:11). Paul: "When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His

Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." (Gal. 4:4).

"I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named (Eph. 3, 14:15). "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Jesus Christ, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Phil. 2, 5:7). "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow . . . and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Phil. 2, 10:11).

The writer to the Hebrews: "God Who at sundry times and divers manners spake unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High." (Heb. 1, 1:3).

John: "The Lord was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we behold the glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

"In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (1 Jn. 4, 9:10).

Jesus: "My Kingdom is not of this world. Thou sayest that I am a King. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." (John 18, 36:37).

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending . . . which is, and was, and which is to come." (Rev. 1:8).

High cause had they, at Bethlehem that night,
To lift the curtain of Hope's hidden light,
To break decree of silence with love's cry,
Foreseeing how this Babe, so lowly born
Should Mercy to her vacant throne restore,
Teach Right to kings, and Patience to the poor;
Should by His sweet name all names overthrow,
And by His lovely words, the quick seeds sow,
Of golden equities, and brotherhood,
Of pity, Peace, and gentle praise of good;
Of knightly honour, holding life in trust
For God, and Lord, and all things pure and just.

—Edwin Arnold

Will you remember His birthday by being present in His House at one service that day?

Mrs. Champion and I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,

ERIC CHAMPION

"EXCEPT YE BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN"

"Christmas" what does it mean to everyone? It means a time of giving, and forgiving, ages slip off and we are young again, we become "as little children" and are unashamed. Peace comes into our hearts, people become friendly and talkative and are linked together by a common thread of love.

Dickens knew what he was doing when he created "Scrooge" and then converted him into a lovable old man. So once a year we put all that is hateful, selfish and unlovable out of our life, and for a time at least, show a temporary kindness. But why all this fuss and bother? What makes this transformation? Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see!

It is the festival of a child! It is no use telling us that, is just the carry over from a pagan winter celebration, we know that the ancient pagan world held a great feast in the depth of winter, but that wasn't Christmas. Wild Roman orgies never worked miracles, did not transfigure a single "Scrooge" into a happy soul, or bring peace and joy to tired people. You see, the child had no place in these festivals, it is all unreal if you leave out the child—it takes a child's mind at times to make you see the beauty in things.

The story is told of a little boy who stood watching a dustman tip the refuse from a garbage tin, the dust from the tin covered the man, but the little boy didn't see the dirt he only saw the man's face and said, "Hasn't that dustman got a lovely face". Have you noticed that amidst all the dust and grime of to-day that there is loveliness, it is there if only we can stop to see it.

What would Christmas be without the children? Without the Christ Child there would have been no Christmas. When Christ was born the world was offered a new joy, a joy which it had not known before. The stable where Christ was born, suddenly became a Palace, the Babe, the King of kings. Henceforth the disappointed and the unsatisfied were not doomed to despair. A Child had brought a new religious outlook into the world—"Peace on earth and goodwill among men."

"Though Christ in Bethlehem a thousand times be born,
If He's not born in thee, thy soul is still forlorn."

—o—

"THE PRINCE OF PEACE"

(A true story from Africa).

Along the Congo River, in two neighbouring villages, lived rival chiefs, each powerful, each a good hunter, and each a fine spearman. But each was secretly jealous of the other, and therefore afraid. When they met, they were polite, but each made sure that he had his broad-bladed spear with him.

Then came a white man, with a wonderful story to tell. Both chiefs were proud to entertain him. Day by day they sat with their people and their warriors to listen to his story, and each chief kept his spear close at hand. The white man told of a Child who was born long ago, who brought great joy to all people. Both the chiefs were proud fathers, loving and caring for their children, so they nodded with understanding when the white man told of the great joy when this Child was born. They remembered how they had rejoiced and feasted when their first child was born.

It was a story that made both the chiefs feel quite at home, suddenly one of the chiefs put down his spear, just as he did when he went in to admire his own son, for no man carries a spear into his home. The other chief, seeing his rival lay down his spear, put his down too, and after that many times they listened to the white man's teaching with their spears put aside, and in due time they gave to the white man a piece of land, between the two villages, for a school chapel that would belong to them both.

It was the chiefs who directed the building of the chapel, they saw that the poles were well interlaced with palm leaves and the roof

well plastered with mud from the river. It was the chiefs who gave the carved stool and reading table. On the opening day they came to the chapel, dressed in their best, their spears gay with festival tassels, and their people with them. Then, as they went in together, they saw over the table a picture of the Babe in the Manger, with Mary and Joseph. To each of them the chapel seemed no place for a spear, and so they left them outside, and their fighting men did likewise. Thus they entered the chapel to offer their worship to the One who was born in a manger. There was peace between them, they were at home in their Father's House.

Christmas in the Soul

The Prince of Peace was there too.

"Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred of sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread for the darkness, Christ's love for the light."

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, 1st—2 p.m.: Kindergarten Christmas Tree.

Monday, 3rd—8 p.m.: Physical Culture Concert.

Saturday, 8th—Sunday School Christmas Tree.

Friday, 14th—8 p.m.: Parish Christmas Party.

Saturday, 15th—Sunday School Picnic.

Tuesday, 18th—8 p.m.: Fellowship Christmas Party.

Tuesday, 25th—Christmas Day Church Services:

Holy Communion 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8.30 a.m.

Morning Prayer and Holy Communion 10 a.m.

No evening service on Christmas Day.

Private Communions for sick by arrangement.

Monday, 31st—11.30 p.m.: Watchnight Service and Holy Communion.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Parish Christmas Party has been altered from the 12th December to Friday, 14th. All parishioners are invited, each to bring a gift to the value of 2/6. Supper will be provided by members of the Guild, Y.M. Club and Fellowship. Come along and enjoy a happy night.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL CENTRE

... The meeting of the Petersham and District Centre of St. Luke's Hospital was held in the Parish Hall, All Saints on Tuesday, 14th November.

It being the last meeting of the year took the form of a Christmas Party, which all the members enjoyed. Two competitions, for which prizes were given and afternoon tea brought a happy afternoon to a close. We would like to say thank you to Mrs. Prince for the very nice Christmas cake which was much enjoyed by all.

The Centre is hoping for a larger membership in the New Year, to help in the good work that is being done for the hospital. Will you join?

I. J. CADE, Hon. Secretary

CHOIR

On the 16th December we will render selected choruses and solos from Handel's Messiah at 7.15 p.m. The special preacher at this service will be Bishop Chambers, we are hoping for a good attendance on this occasion.

On the Sunday night before Christmas Day we will have the festival of nine lessons and carols, this service will again be performed by candlelight.

K. GRANT, Hon. Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We were pleased to welcome some new teachers to the Sunday School and we wish them every success in their work.

Our Picnic date will be Saturday, 15th December, and the place—Watson's Day.

The annual promotions will be on the first Sunday in December, the prize giving date will be announced later.

K. GRANT, Hon. Secretary

Y.C.I.

The month of November is a historic importance as well as of sentimental interest to Y.C.I. members for it was on the evening of the 21st November, 1910 our organisation was founded in this Parish. Since that date the Y.C.I. has functioned without interruption, and included in its ranks are three foundation members. Ever since the Y.C.I. was founded the organisation has taken an active part in Parish administration through the Parish Council and other special committees.

To commemorate the founding of the Y.C.I. the Commemoration Service was held in the Parish Church on the evening of Sunday the 18th November, and a Men's Dinner was held in the Parish Hall on Friday, 30th November. The Y.C.I. was formed "for the promotion of the spiritual, intellectual and social welfare of men" and it has a splendid record of service to the Church and to its members. The Y.C.I. has a happy "knack" of providing for men of all ages so that no man is too young or too old to enrol for membership.

Meetings are held in the Institutes Club Room on alternate Friday nights, and on the "off" Friday night games are available to members in the Club Room. The Rector is President of the Y.C.I. He or any of the Church Officers will gladly supply further details to men of the Parish who wish to join the Institute.

L.C.C.

LADIES' GUILD

Our Rally on 13th November was very well attended and we were pleased to welcome a number of ladies from neighbouring parishes. Our speaker was Brigadier Gillam, who gave a most interesting talk on her work in the North of China, where she had spent twentyone years as a Missionary with the Salvation Army. A very happy hour spent over afternoon tea brought our meeting to a close.

Our final Social for this year will be Tuesday, 11th December, which will be our Christmas Party, please note the date and come. We then go into recess until Tuesday, 12th February, 1957, when we hope to commence the New Year's work with a Social afternoon.

Our Street Stall on 16th November was again well patronised, the result being £7/15/9, we say thank you to all our good friends for donations for the stall. Owing to Christmas, our next stall will be on Friday, 15th December.

Our President and members extend the Season's Greetings to all parishioners.

E. M. BOSWARD, Hon. Secretary

FLOWER ROSTER

- Dec 8th—Donated by Mrs. Colburt, arranged by Mrs. Colburt.
 „ 15th—Donated by Miss Speight, arranged by the Y.M. Club.
 „ 22nd—Donated by Miss Norman, arranged by Miss Norman.
 „ 25th—Donated by Mrs. Pullen in memory of her Mother and by Young Marrieds, arranged by Mrs. Bosward and Y.M. Club members.
 „ 29th—Donated by Mrs. Quelch, arranged by Mrs. Quelch.
 1957—
 Jan. 6th—Donated by Mrs. Adams, arranged by Mrs. Morris.
 „ 13th—Donated by Guild in memory of Miss Allen, arranged by Guild members.
 Jan. 20th—Donated by, arranged by Y.M. Club.
 „ 27—Donated by Mrs. Oldfield, arranged by Miss Speight.
 Feb. 3rd—Donated by, arranged by Mrs. Bosward.

YOUNG MARRIEDS CLUB

The next meeting of the above Club will be held on Wednesday, 5th December (please note that the date has been changed) this will be the Annual meeting, followed by a Christmas Party.

I. BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

PARISH ROLL

- Baptisms**—Lance Ernest Mumby, Nigel Cyril Georgieff, Anne Margaret Griffin, Barbara May Curry, Bruce Alexander Richards, Wayne Cotter, Peter Andrew Daws, Mark Royce Burton, Kim Patricia Clarke, Leigh Elizabeth Dicker, Pauline Elva Johnston, Suzanne Margaret Dunn, Graeme Richard Wathews, Garry William Johnson, Vivienne Elsie Wright, Isobelle Nancy May Harfield, Nelson Lenard Gary Harfield, Lynnette Harris, John Herbert Harris, Susan Harris.
Marriages—Noel George Percival to Beverly Joy Elliston; John Collison to Margaret Rose Townsend; Ronald John Harrold to Irene May Sharp; James Alton Wesley McCann to Margaret Rose Clarke; Ronald Douglass Floyd to Joyce Alberta Allen; Frederick George Seaton to Wilga Kathleen Wilson; Ernest George Pask to Margaret Ivy Simpson; Colin Arthur Smith to Ruth Danks; Leslie Gordon Christopher to Margaret Strachan; Malcolm Desmond Green to Valerie Margaret Gray. Kenneth James Mitchell to Marion Elizabeth Caroline Martin; Cyril Robert Grant to Mabel Jones; Gordon Walker to Betty Marie Deacon; John William Dwyer to Patricia Beverley Louis; Kenneth Leopole Finley to ?????
Funerals—Alice Dora Gillam, M.A.; Gwendoline McKinnon; Claude Alfred Gibbs; John William Alfred Sutherland; Edward Charles Sealey; Francis Roger Wicks; Marie Thompson; Mr. Lane; Alfred Hine; John Henry Lloyd Joseph James Cooper.

STOP PRESS

During the month of January the Rector, Mrs. Champion and family will be on holidays and the Rev. John Cross, B.D., Rector of Boyup Brook, Diocese of Bundury, Western Australia, will be in residence at the Rectory. Mr. Cross will be responsible for Sunday and occasional services. I am sure Parishioners will be as considerate as possible for Mr. Cross.

GROWTH OF AFRICAN LEADERSHIP

A landmark in the growth of responsibility and leadership among African clergy, was the recent conference on parish boundaries in Dodoma, headquarters of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika.

Archdeacon O. T. Cordell explained that parish boundaries had long been impracticable and inefficient. It sometimes meant that a pastor had to pass through three centres in another parish, make a thirty mile journey, crossing a range of mountains, to reach the other side of his parish. However feeling of the Africans against revision had been strong.

A meeting of the African clergy of three districts in the central sionary was present and after three days of deliberation, a plan was produced which completely altered the boundaries.

"I believe it is a triumph of the unifying power of the Spirit of God that all of these sweeping changes were agreed to unanimously" the Archdeacon reported. "Their decision will make a tremendous difference, saving many of the clergy hours of pedalling over rough tracks."

MISSION TO MAKASUKU

Makasuku, a village of eight hundred people, twelve miles from Kilimatinde, in Central Tanganyika, held a mission recently.

The Rev. Max Corbett, with three African clergy and four evangelists, arrived on the Friday afternoon and began to visit each hut in the village.

Next morning the team arrived to find the church filled to capacity with a large crowd outside and more arriving. The meeting was transferred to a large tree outside the local Chief's home, where about five hundred people, including Moslems and heathen, listened for an hour and a half to the African clergy.

In the afternoon over a thousand people attended the four meetings and thirty professed their desire to be baptised. Mr. Corbett mentioned that he sold over two hundred new testaments.

CHALLENGE IN SUDAN

The attainment of independence in Southern Sudan has brought change and challenge to the church. Archdeacon Riley, C.M.S. missionary from South Australia, comments that the enemies of the cross have been revealed more active and aggressive. There has been an inclination to return to old customs, such as polygamy, and some Christians in their desire for unity in their country have over emphasised the similarities of Christianity and Islam.

"The Spirit of God has brought new life into the Church," writes Archdeacon Riley.

"At Maridi, there are two hundred new converts from tribes where there had been few converts previously."