

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

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station

Rector Rev. S. W. Gissing, Th.L. — Phone: 569-4735

APRIL, 1980



THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF EASTER WE
HAVE AN ENDLESS HOPE INSTEAD
OF A HOPELESS END.

From your Minister's Desk



FROM THE RECTOR'S REPORT AT THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The Rector said he saw the year just past as a year of consolidation for which we had much cause to thank God. There had been much blessing and especially in new ways of provision for our material needs.

A review of the combining of the morning service revealed that it had proved to be successful in bringing parishioners together, and also in a numerical gain. The regular cup of coffee after the services had also been a step in the right direction providing a valuable opportunity for members of the congregation growing together, as well as providing an opportunity of being able to welcome new people and introducing them to others in the church family.

The other major consolidation was in the women's activities where the two former groups — Guild and Women's Afternoon Group had ceased to function, and a single new group Women-in-Friendship had been formed, and was functioning very happily.

Attention to property repairs and maintenance had seen an improvement to the kitchen in the hall, much appreciated; guttering on Hall and Rectory and Church had been fixed; new Church notice boards obtained; cushions on pews in church; and a new vacuum cleaner for the church had been obtained.

On the subject of the finances Rector drew attention to the improvement in some avenues of income — fete, Hall rents, donations, but especially through the Re-cycling drives which have come to make a major contribution due to the efforts of a number of the church officers. However he noted that Freewill Offerings in the services had remained static despite the effects of inflation and the inroads that makes into parish resources. The satisfactory financial result for the year had also been helped by the fact that a number of outgoings had been reduced over the year, and some of the previous year's expenses had been non-recurring.

It was pleasing to note that our missionary contribution had increased to some extent, and it is hoped that this indicates a growing spiritual commitment on the part of the congregation. There had been an interesting aspect in this area in the commitment to the support of Annette and Richard Small in their ministry among university students in Melbourne. This young couple had worshipped with us last year, and had won the sympathetic and affectionate involvement of many in the parish.

Looking to the future, there were some needs beginning to press themselves upon us in the care of the property. Electrical repairs and replacements in our buildings and repairs to the church roof were among major items that would have to be dealt with in the near future.

The Rector then expressed his own personal gratitude, as well as that of the congregation, to many who in different ways have made a very considerable contribution to the welfare of our church here at Petersham. Though he wanted to mention a few by name he said there were many others too numerous to comment on individually. He singled out Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Livingston (Minister's Warden and Treasurer, and Secretary of the Parish); Mr. N. Cragg (Sunday School, Duplicating, Carillon etc.); Leaders of the Parish organisations; Flower Roster members; Brass Roster members; District Visitors; the Auditors; Miss Dupre and Mr. John Nance (organists); our new cleaner (Jenny Brennan); and Mr. Vic Barrett who does nearly all the work on our church grounds, and delivers notices and about 300 parish papers each month. Rector asked that others might volunteer to assist in some of these and other new spheres of parish life and activity.

He concluded his remarks by saying that we must follow this year of consolidation by approaching the present year as one of growth and expansion — not just in numerical sense, but also in seeking to deepen and strengthen our spiritual insights and commitments. He said we must depend more and more on the Lord's guidance and enabling so that our church may become more effective as an instrument in serving God's purposes here at Petersham.

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.

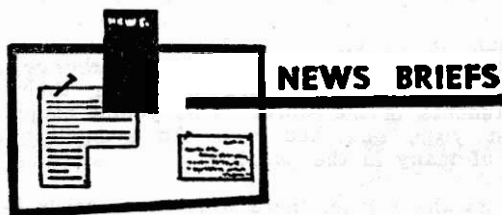
EVENINGS at 7 p.m.: —

(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 on Tuesday, 22nd April in the Parish Hall at 12.30 p.m. After the business meeting Mrs. Sue Ritchie will show slides and tell us of the South African Game Parks.

Our Annual Luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 29th April, at 12 noon. Donation \$1.50. We hope many of the ladies of our parish and their friends will join us and make this Luncheon as good as last year's. Mrs. Eileen Ritchie of Concord West will be our Special Guest with her famous Melodica.

Two invitations we have received for this month and hope some of our ladies will be able to accept are St. Bede's Drummoyne 50th Anniversary of their Guild (Thanks-giving service and afternoon tea — Mrs. Hulme-Moir as speaker — Thursday 10th April at 1.30 p.m.); and Lewisham Uniting Church Luncheon 14th April at 11a.m.

Our second hand clothing Sale last month was very successful. We made \$71.00 and had quite a lot of goods left over to send to the Home Mission Society. The next stall will be Friday 20th June. Please help us again in this next effort with good saleable items.

We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Ida Barrett

Hon. Secretary



SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

We are delighted at the increasing attendance at our Thursday afternoon meetings but we are still waiting for you! ! !

There will not be a meeting on Thursday 3rd April in Holy Week. But we will be there in full swing again on Thursday 10th April at 1 p.m.

Ida Barrett

Hon. Secretary

A MESSAGE FOR EASTER

Looking backward — that's all right, and has its value — but the real duty is that of going forward.

People talk about experience keeping a dear school, but it is not so dear after all when we come to consider the value of the lessons we learn, and their wonderful help for the future. In the matter of Christian living, all past experiences may be valuable as helps and guides in the "things that are before". "Tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, and hope maketh not ashamed". The occasional backward glance is well and wise for us all, if we will but carefully learn the lessons the past teaches and use them as guides on the course of the future.

Someone asked Thorwaldsen, the noted Danish sculptor, "Which is your greatest statue?" He promptly replied "The next one". A very good and wise answer. It showed his present purpose and hope translated into future achievement.

This surely is the attitude to adopt as we remember all that Christ has done for us by His death and Resurrection, and that with God there is the possibility and assurance that the best is yet to be.

Look backward to remember "all the way that the Lord thy God hath led thee" — but look forward "pressing toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".

I asked the Lord "Give me some motto sweet,
Some rule of life with which to guide my feet."
I asked and paused; He answered, soft and low,
"God's will to know."

"Will knowledge, then, suffice, dear Lord?" I cried.
And ere the question into silence died
The answer came, "Nay; but remember, too,
"God's will to do."

Once more I asked, "Is there no more to tell?"
And once again the answer softly fell;
"Yes; this one thing, all other things above,
"God's will is love."



ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Such warmth within my heart there glowed
As hand in hand we trod the road.
With holden eyes I would not see
Just Who it was that walked with me.

All day I did not realise—
I could not see, so blind my eyes—
I did not know He guided me,
The friendly man of Galilee.

"Oh Friend," I said, "Come in and stay.
Abide with me, far spent the day."
The bread of life He gave to me
And then I knew that it was He.

—by GLORIA RAWLINSON.

THE LATCH IS ON YOUR SIDE OF THE DOOR

A minister was stopped by a stranger on the street who said, "God bless you a thousand times. I heard you say in preaching, 'The latch is on your side of the door'. I cannot tell you the effect those words had on me. You said many are waiting for God while all the time He is waiting for them. Do not wait for Him. The latch is on your side of the door. Christ is now knocking at the door of your heart for He says, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come to him and will sup with him, and he with Me'. This came to me like a flash from heaven. I went home, knelt down and said, 'Lord, if Thou art waiting for me, I will lift the latch—come in and welcome.'"

"My two daughter, who had been seeking salvation for a long time and were expecting it would come to them somehow, were in the meeting with me and heard you say, 'The latch is on your side of the door'. Without speaking a word to me they each went to their room that evening and opened their hearts to Christ. Lifting the latch and letting Christ come into our hearts has changed our home. I longed to tell you this, God bless you."



Overcome my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for You.



PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING NOTICE AND REQUEST

To Rev. Gissing,
All Saints' Church of England.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for permitting us to use your church paper for this notice, as we discussed by 'phone.

It's this: After two successful reunions of ex-employees of the "Home of Peace" at Marrickville, a reunion will be held with Matron Claydon on the 6th May, 1980. All interested persons wishing to attend contact Mrs. Joyce Wright — 'phone 624-3606.

Thanking you.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) JOYCE WRIGHT.



A FRIEND

strengthens the heart	
repairs the hurt	
	encourages the discovery
	enlightens the mind
dissolves the pain	
banishes the loneliness	
	understands the anxiety
	increases the joy
deepens the spirit	
frees the soul.	

—WALTER RINDER.

WHY THE CROSS

"I don't go to church much," said the man, apologising to my clerical collar, "but do what I can to live the Christian life. I pay my debts, I try to hurt no man, and where I can lend a hand to those in need. And that, after all, is the main thing about Christianity, isn't it?"

"A lot of people think so," I replied. "But I have a doubt. If that is so, then why the Cross?"

My friend stared at me. He paused a minute and then returned



an answer which showed he had never given the matter a moment's thought, in which he is in agreement with many others. There is a hazy idea abroad today that Christianity is simply a matter of living a good life (as though that could be called a simple matter!), but in general the implications of this view are not thought through. As Good Friday draws near with its message of a crucified Lord, it is well that we consider how this modern view squares with the Cross and what the New Testament has to say about the matter.

Now it is clear that the view of Christianity under discussion fits in with a universal tendency in man to think that his salvation depends on what he does. We see it in the primitive savage, who when his god must be placated, does something — he offers a sacrifice. On a very different level we see it when the Jew of old thought he could earn favour with God by rigorously keeping the commandments in the law. Cultured religions like that of the Brahmin with his aim the passionless Nirvana, again stresses man, who this time is urged

WALTERS & SON

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You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

People of all ages are accepted without medical examination.

to control his passions. Among nominal Christians no idea is commoner than that if we lead good lives we will go to heaven when we die. Wherever we look we find that man tends to think that his salvation depends upon his own activities.

If this is so the Cross is simply meaningless. Why should the Son of God die if I can attain eternal life by my own efforts? If this is the way of salvation, the Incarnation is, perhaps, comprehensible because thus God could teach us authoritatively how we ought to live, but the atonement becomes unthinkable and impossible. The Cross has to be explained away.

But as we read the New Testament, again and again we come up against the thought that the Cross is absolutely central to Christianity — it is "crucial". Some modern men regard Jesus as primarily a great religious teacher, but the New Testament does not. It recognises that He was unexcelled as a Teacher, but regards Him rather as a Saviour, a Redemer. From the time of the angel message, "He shall save His people from their sins", that was the keynote. Many might be helped by the teaching or the miracles, but the atoning death was the all important reason for His coming.

So the New Testament writers dwelt on the Cross. They tell us it was "by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" that it took away man's sins; that it shows us the love of God and the righteousness of God; that it may be described by a host of vivid and picturesque terms like Redemption, Reconciliation, Propitiation, and the like. Over and over again they insist that the death does remove sin, and that sin can be taken away in no other way.

That is why the Cross is central. Christianity is a realistic religion and faces the fact of sin. It recognises that there can be no peace with God unless sin is really dealt with, and further, that man cannot himself deal adequately with sin. Here is the place where the Christian faith separates from all other religions. All the rest fall in with man's persistent idea that salvation comes from what he does. Christianity alone says that it comes from outside man, namely from what Christ has done. "The gift of God is eternal life" and this gift is costly, costing even the blood of the Cross. Emil Brunner brings out this contrast between Christianity and other faiths when he says—

In them (i.e., non-Christian religions) man is spared the final humiliation of knowing that the Mediator must bear the punishment instead of him."

That is why the Cross is so important. The Atonement is not just one among many Christian doctrines. It sharply separates Christianity from every other faith, and is a perpetual reminder of the love of God and the sin of man.

—LEON MORRIS.