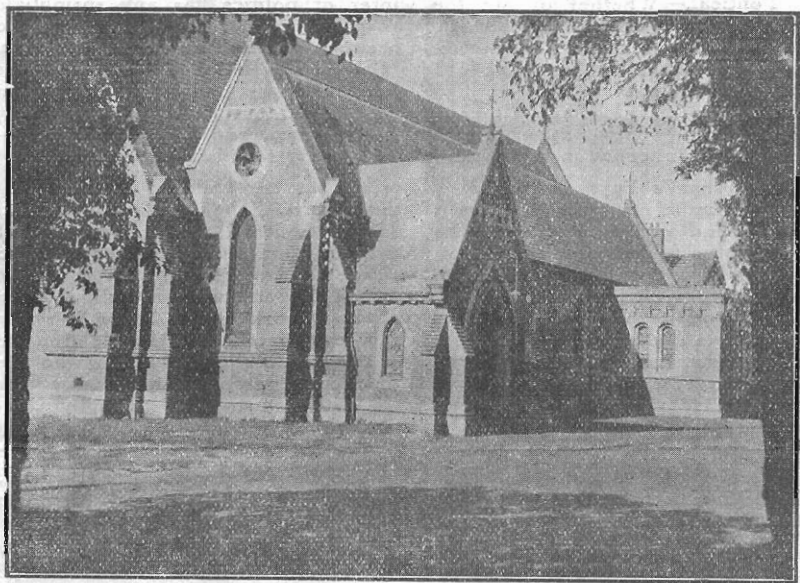


THE CHRONICLE

The Parish of All Saints', Petersham

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AUGUST, 1929



All Saints' Church, Petersham.

Rector—Rev. P. J. BAZELEY.

The Rectory, Stanmore Road, Petersham.

Tel.: Pet. 439.

CONSOLATION AND HOPE.

"I never stand above the bier and see
The seal of death set on some well-loved face
But that I think—one more to welcome me
When I shall cross the intervening space
Between this land and that one over there.
One more, to make the strange beyond seem fair
And so to me, there is no sting in death.

"And so the grave has lost its victory;
It is but crossing, with suspended breath
And white, set face, a little strip of sea,
To find the loved ones on the other shore
More beautiful, more precious, than before."

RECTOR'S LETTER.

My Dear Friends,—

Springtime.—With the first days of August drooping spirits seem to show signs of revival—the weather has been brighter and the world around us assumes a fairer prospect. June and July were depressing months; what the weather lacked, social and industrial conditions amply supplied in right influences to depress us. Spring is a recurring illustration in nature of the Life-giving Spirit upon "the winter of our discontent." The outlook is always improved when the Power of God is recognised in the human heart and mind.

Political.—Whether or not the winter of politics has any springtime oncoming, I am unable to state; the prospects are not good, however, and fill one with much doubt. On a certain occasion Huxley, the English agnostic, is alleged to have exclaimed about the God of Revelation and Nature: "He, is magnificent, but He does nothing." So might we remark of our parliaments and political leaders. Either through lack of courage or of opportunity, policies for the common weal remain unexpressed, and so we go on misplacing our confidence in the illusory, and thereby remaining dissatisfied.

Petersham's Boys and Girls.—Reference to the children of our community is not a new note in these monthly letters. They are a fine lot and are men and women in the making, alas! without all the ingredients that make for the fulness of manhood or womanhood. When will parents realise as part of their trust and duty, the necessity for soul culture in their children? This is a vital element in the building of all life and warrants much truer concern than it receives. Our Sunday School work at All Saints is really a lamentable feature of our Church life. I am grateful for the children we have, but distressed as I consider the number of Anglican children who are growing up pagan-hearted and pagan-minded. Parents should remember "the rock from whence they were hewn"—the start given them by God-fearing men and women of a past day, and the remembrance should correct their present callous attitude to the religious life of their little ones.

As a parent, and as one who loves the boys and girls of Petersham, I plead with the parents to give us their children for some definite instruction in the things of God week by week.

Congregation.—The congregations for the past month have been very thin and finance has suffered in consequence. The wider use of the envelope system would obviate our losses through the irregular attendance of folk. We are anxious to secure a greater co-operation to the system, and I will readily facilitate parishioners receiving the envelopes secured for that purpose.

Young Men's Night.—All were helped by the fine address on "Manliness" given by Mr. D. B. Hunter on July 21st. As he pleaded for true manliness as the ideal of every life, we, who listened, were made more conscious of that manliness which is the outcome of the spiritual life. The speaker, in himself, seemed to demonstrate the point, for he is voted "a man" by his fellows, and that not because of athletic ability, but because of the refinement of his nature by the Spirit of God.

Choir.—I am glad to note the revival of interest in the choir and am indeed grateful to the boys and girls who have come forward to assist us. There are nine boys on the waiting list. Choir-singing is a great joy and inspiration to the many who prefer their music direct from organ and choirs in churches, rather than indirectly through freakish canned music from abroad. The day of the choir is not passed.

Sunshine Fete.—May I ask all our parishioners to do something for our Annual Fair, this year to be held on September 27th and 28th. Such action would greatly encourage the organisers, who are working so hard to ensure its success.

Conversazione.—It has been thought good to arrange a conversazione for the women of our parish on Thursday, August 29th, at 3 p.m. A very high-class musical recital will be rendered and tea will be supplied—all for the cost of 1/-. Now, ladies, who want a pleasant hour in good company, please come.

Motor Drive.—A very nice day, a happy group and a pleasant trip, sums up our first motor outing, on July 15th. Our thanks to the car-owners who so readily helped the proposal.

Verger.—Owing mainly to his inability to attend to the gardens of the church, Mr. A. Robinson is leaving us this month. He has been a courteous colleague in Church and Hall. I would be glad to hear of someone to take up these duties at an early date.

Sympathy.—We tender our condolences to Mrs. Unwin, of Albert Street; Mrs. Jones and family, of Gordon Street; Mrs. Evans and family, of Terminus Street; Mrs. Ford, of Maria Street; Mr. A. Robinson, of All Saints; and the Misses Macauley, of The Boulevard. May those who sorrow find comfort and assurance in the Risen Lord.

With my warm regards, yours affectionately,

P. J. BAZELEY.

PRAYER FOR ABORIGINES.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who wast filled with compassion towards the down-cast and oppressed, bless the remnant of the Aborigines still wandering in our Australian bush. Save them from their sins and superstitions, and from any destroying influence of civilisation. Frustrate the callous treatment of any who oppress or ill-treat them. In the missions and other reserves, may efforts for their amelioration be crowned with success. Strengthen Thy Church, that in her witness of loving service for Thee the darkness of ignorance may be dispelled, and Thy true light shine, for Thy Name's sake.—Amen.

"PURDAH."

The custom which forbids a woman to go unveiled is still rampant, despite its condemnation by so eminent an authority as the Maharani Chandra Vatibai, the first wife of the ex-Maharajah of Indore. In face of repeated conferences and meetings protesting against the handicaps under which women labour in India (handicaps which include child-marriage, a minimum of schools for girls, purdah, the disability to inherit property to which they are in equity entitled), the wheels of progress move but slowly. This year a conference on women's rights was opened by Lady Irwin, the Vicereine of India, while the President was the aged Begum, the princess-mother of Bhopal, who was over seventy years old. This created considerable attention, for the wives of the Maharajahs and other conservative rulers are the least free among the women. In her speech the old Begum urged the widest reforms, and was particularly indignant against purdah, the covering of the face. She herself had come in purdah to the conference, together with a number of other sympathisers, who sat behind a thin rose-coloured curtain in the gallery.

THE CHOIR.

On Thursday, 1st August, the first annual dance of the choir was held, when a most enjoyable evening was spent. In response to the Rector's appeal, it is pleasing to know that a number of young ladies and boys are preparing for qualification for admission to our choir. Our need for men is still a pressing one, and we confidently look to the men of the congregation to help us render our services in a manner quite worthy of All Saints.

Choir practice is held on Thursday nights at 8 p.m., when any new members will be welcomed.

W. S. BROWNE, Hon. Sec.

Y.C.I.

Flinging dull care aside the Y.C.I. settled down to a night of gaiety and mirth on the occasion of the first meeting in July. The meeting was devoted to a "Buck's Night," or more properly to games and music. The Social Committee presented a very fine programme of indoor sports, into which the members, with jest and jollity, most enthusiastically entered. One of the most noteworthy features of the night was the work of the Special Committee, which was in charge of the supper arrangements. As the night was of the coldest, the coffee they provided was most welcome and assisted materially in making the night as merry as the proverbial marriage bells of Bryonic fame.

The second meeting was of a much sterner character. On this occasion a debate on "The Greater Sydney Scheme" was presented by Messrs. H. Jones, J. Currie and W. H. Hall (Government), and M. Buckley, R. Ward and J. Ellis (Opposition).

The subject was a new one in the Institute discussions, besides being one of topical interest, and consequently the several speeches were followed with much keenness and appreciation.

After a keen fight the victory was awarded to the Government by a very small margin.

D. B. HUNTER,

Press and Literature Superintendent.

BAPTISMS.

Helene Walker and Cyril Henry Maling.

MARRIAGES.

Stanley Lionel Childs and Phyllis May Moore; Reginald Knox and Freda Charlotte Gruber; Horace George Taylor and Josephine Kuschlager; Warwick Abernethy Martin and Eileen Mildred Adam.

OFFERTORIES.

Sunday, July 14, £9/13/11; July 21, £12/17/2; July 28, £7/16/4; August 3, £9/17/4. Total, £40/4/9.

DISTRICT VISITORS' FUND.

Per Mrs. A. Brown, 11/-; Miss Welch, £1/13/-; Mrs. Mundy, 5/-; Mrs. McCloy, 11/-; Miss Craig, 11/-; Miss Cheadle, 15/-; Mrs. Brady, 18/6. Total, £5/4/6.

Mrs. R. J. Sharp, 10/-; Women's Guild, £30.

Correction.—Last month's list, Mrs. R. W. Halt £1.

It's not what you'd do with a million,

If riches should e'er be your lot;

But what you are doing at present

With the shilling or two you've got.

Rudyard Kipling wrote:—

"East is East and West is West,

And never the twain shall meet,

Till earth and sky stand presently

At God's great judgment Seat."

A Missionary replied:—

"But Christ is Christ and rest is rest,

And love, true love must greet;

In East and West hearts crave for rest,

And so the twain shall meet.

The East still East, the West still West

At Christ's nail-pierced feet." —"Darkness and Light."

TO LET—Parish Hall

Friends of All Saints' will help our financial efforts if they will advertise the PARISH HALL to their friends requiring accommodation for Socials, Weddings, Parties, Concerts, etc. The terms are very moderate.