

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

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

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

DECEMBER 1978 — JANUARY 1979



THE CHURCHWARDENS AND MEMBERS
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL EXTEND THE
WARMEST OF SEASON'S GREETINGS TO
ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS.



SPECIAL TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS . . .

Sunday, 17th December — 10 a.m. Family Service
7 p.m. Organ Recital

7.30 p.m. CANDLELIGHT CAROLS SERVICE

Sunday, 24th December — 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion

MONDAY, 25th DECEMBER — THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

7.30 a.m. Holy Communion

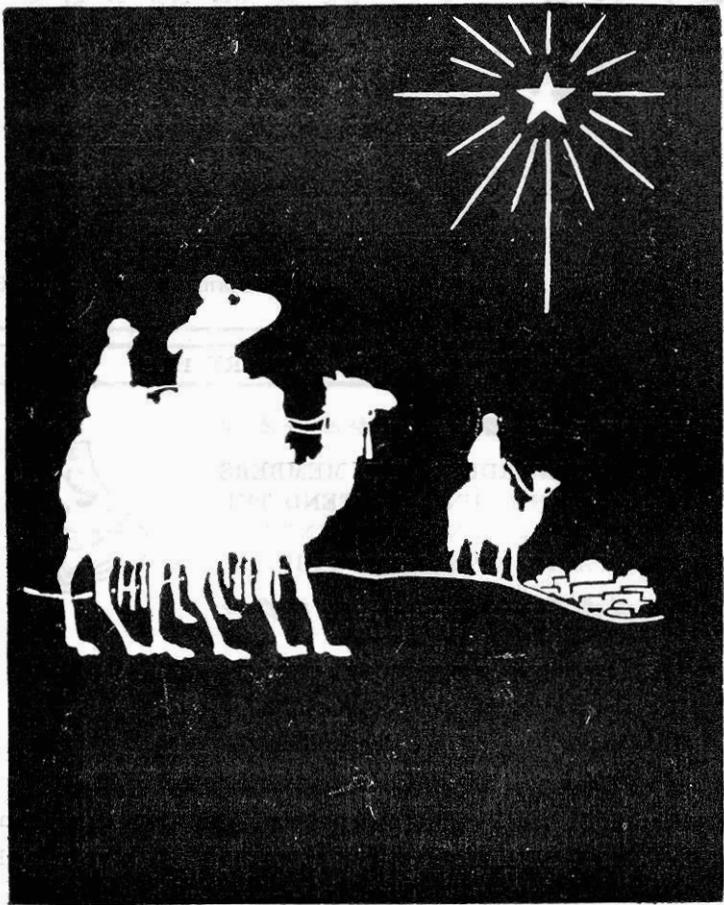
9.30 a.m. FAMILY COMMUNION

AND THE NEW YEAR . . .

Sunday, 31st December — 10 a.m. Morning Prayer and Litany
7 p.m. CANCELLED

11.30 p.m. WATCHNIGHT COMMUNION

LOOK OVER YOUR CHRISTMAS GIVING LIST—BE HONEST NOW,
WILL THE BEST GIFT BE TO HIM WHOSE BIRTHDAY IT IS?

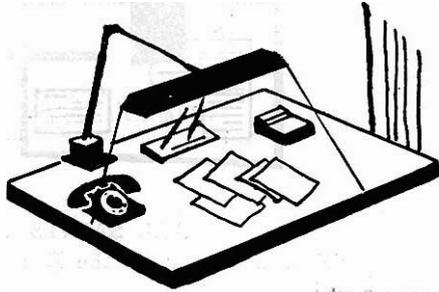


THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

When in former times God spoke to our forefathers, he spoke in **fragmentary and varied fashion through the prophets.** But in this final age he has spoken to us in the Son whom he has made heir to the whole universe.

Hebrews Ch. 1:1-2 (New English Bible)

From your Minister's Desk



FROM YOUR MINISTER'S DESK

My dear friends,

This month I must start by repeating here my appreciation to all those who worked together so well and successfully to make this year's Fete such a happy and rewarding occasion. As you will note elsewhere in the Chronicle this effort resulted in another 'best yet'. The Lord truly gave us a wonderful day in all ways. All praise is His.

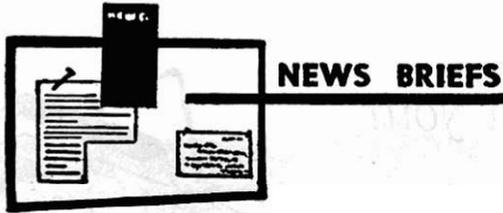
You'll also note that there are several changes in the times of the seasonal functions this year. I have asked that the new arrangements be printed on the front cover and hope that everyone will 'register' them so that confusion will be kept to a minimum.

Well, it's upon us. Christmas has come again—and I've no doubt that the ducks are satisfactorily fat—at least for the majority of our people. Regrettably there will be those whose celebration will be lean, either materially or socially. But this is a time when we will all respond to the needs of our fellowmen more readily than usually. Wish that we could beat the departmentalising of our Christmas 'response'. I read somewhere that too many of us 'observe Christmas' rather than 'keep Christmas'. The point being made that observing is 'done by going through it, but keeping it would mean that it stays with us through life. Well put—and oh, so true for too many. May it become different for more of us this year!

My wife and family join with me in extending our sincere greetings for a rewarding and spiritually enriching celebration to you all. May God, Who prepared the minds and hearts of men for the coming of His Son of old—and Whose Spirit always works to illumine our darkened lives with the light of His Gospel—prepare now our minds and hearts, that Christ may dwell within us and ever reign in our thoughts and affections as the King of Love, and very Prince of Peace.

Your sincere friend in Him,

S. W. GISSING



ALL SAINTS' FETE 1978

The following list gives the Receipts from the various stalls at the recent Fete:

White Elephant \$671.97; Plants \$106.46; Jewellery \$1008.00; Fruit and Vegetables \$70.00; Groceries \$313.81; Pottery \$175.00; Gifts for Special Occasions \$736.38; Cakes and Sweets \$591.00; Work Stall \$1235.50; Children and Pick-A-Box \$656.71; Book Stall \$103.81; Train \$135.31; Hot Dogs \$57.45; Refreshments \$183.79; Mr. Gaspo \$130.00; Ponies \$15.72; Guild \$42.30; Steak Sandwiches \$121.75; Donations \$97.00.—TOTAL 6478.68.

It is a most satisfying result and the Wardens and Parish Council wish to congratulate all those wonderful workers who throughout the year and on the day supported the effort. A most cordial and BIG 'Thank You' to all.

WOMEN'S GUILD NOTES

You'll remember that the women of the Guild and the Afternoon Group are busy preparing for a Pre-Christmas "Get together" to be held on Tuesday afternoon, 12th December at 1.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

We're hoping that friends and neighbours will join us for this happy occasion. There will be Christmas Carols, programme of music and message by the Dulwich Hill Home League Singers, lots of laughter and happy talk, a "party" afternoon tea.

Won't you come and join us for this time together? We would make you very welcome. Just come along, or, if you wish, come with me. (Phone me on 569-4735).

If you can't "make it" on the 12th we would make you very welcome at our services on Christmas Day.

Joy to you and your loved ones this Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, your Saviour and mine.

BETTY GISSING

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School and Kindergarten will be closing this year on December 17th, as this is a Family Service Sunday we would like to invite the parents to come and sit with their children.

The Sunday School and Kindergarten will be closed all of January and will commence on Sunday, 4th February, at 9.55 a.m. The new teaching and activity material will then be available.

If the children attend the 10.00 a.m. service during January there will be a Hymn and story especially for them.

The Sunday School Prize-giving will be held on Sunday, 18th February, at the Family Service. Parents do not forget the Kindergarten Christmas party on 9th December, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The Sunday School Party will be held on the same day and commence at 6.30 p.m. This will be a Bar-B-Q and we ask you to bring your own meat, Knives, Forks, Plates and Cups. The Sunday School will provide Salad, Coleslaw, Coffee, and Cordial Drink.

Superintendent.
Noel Cragg,

**SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB**

By the time these notes reach you our Club year will be almost over. We finish up on Thursday, 7th December, with our usual break-up Party at 1 p.m. to which I hope all members will be able to come.

The Club then goes into recess until Thursday, 25th January, 1979. On Thursday, 1st February we will hold our Annual meeting. All members are asked to attend this meeting at 1 p.m. sharp. The usual Club afternoon will then follow.

I am pleased to report Elsie Casterson is out of Hospital, and tells me she is looking forward to coming back to the club. I am sorry to report that Mrs. Robertson, (Robbie) is not well and is at present with her family at Loftus, but we all pray she will be back before our Break-up Party. Also Mrs. Stevenson has had a fall and is in Lewisham Hospital. We all wish her a speedy recovery.

We take this opportunity of wishing everybody the Blessings of a truly Happy Christmas and Good Health in the New Year.

Ida Barrett,
Hon. Secretary.

**WOMEN'S AFTERNON GROUP**

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Party combined with the Ladies Guild on Tuesday, 12th December, at 1.30 p.m. We hope all our members will be able to attend and as many as possible to come in the morning about 11 a.m. to help in the preparation. The Club then goes into recess until Tuesday, 6th February, at 1.30 p.m. which will be our Annual meeting followed by an Americano Party at 2 p.m.

The Cake and Sweets Stall at the Fete was again the highlight of our year. We handed in \$590.00 by the end of the day. Thank you to everybody who donated and helped in any way. You can see by the result just how many good helpers we had to reach a figure like that. Thanks again and again.

We wish all a Holy, Happy, Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Ida Barrett,
Hon. Secretary.

CHURCH FLORAL MEMORIALS

The floral tributes confirmed for December and January:—
December 3 —

December 10—Mrs. Willis, in memory of Mrs. Willis Snr.

Mr. Miniter, John and Margaret, in memory of Mrs. Miniter.

December 25—Barbara and Stella, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, sister Ena, and friends Dorrie and Sally.

Mrs. Willis, in memory of Mrs. Shiels.

Please confirm the date with the Rector when wishing to contribute a memorial in this lovely way. It is necessary to confirm the date at least six weeks ahead if it is to be noted in the Chronicle.

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JEWELLERY—A THANK YOU

My thanks and appreciation to many friends (especially sister, brother-in-law and niece) who willingly assisted with Jewellery Sales all through the year. Mrs. Terry Millarey must have special mention too.

Donors of Used Stamps this year brought into the Jewellery Stall a cheque for \$60.00 which is a tremendous effort.

On the Fete Day I was happy to hand in \$1008.00—thanks to all.

A big thank you to Mr. B. Williams who kindly made and donated four handy tiered stands for display.

I wish every one a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Gladys Hunt.

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GIVING AROUND THE WORLD

Charitable giving in the United States in 1977 rose to 35.2 billion, \$16.54 billion (47 per cent of it)—the biggest chunk—went to religion according to *Giving USA*, a publication of the American Fund-Raising Council. Next came Health and Hospitals (\$4.7 billion) and Education (\$4.66 billion).

In Britain, Church authorities have begun a drive to increase voluntary giving by parishioners. According to a recent report in the *Church Times* the average Church Member's weekly contribution was only about two shillings (the price of a loaf of bread).

Members of the Church of England are being asked to consider giving a pound for every thousand pounds of annual income, each week.

One novel approach to giving was noted recently by the Rev. T. T. Halls, rector of St. Phillips Church, McCallums Hill, one of Sydney's oldest Churches. In the early days of the Parish on the occasion of the Church anniversary, each Parishioner was invited to give one shilling for every year of their life.

The response by parishioners was overwhelming. It was calculated that some members were either two hundred years old—or very generous.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

As a result of a motion passed at the recent meeting of the Diocesan Synod, a special conference will be held in February, 1979 on unemployment. More details will be included in the next Chronicle.

The Conference, which is being organised by the Diocesan Social Issues Committee will relate to four main areas:

- The facts about unemployment in Australia.
- A Christian understanding of work.
- The needs of unemployed people.
- Strategies for helping unemployed people at the local level.

Each Parish in the Diocese is being asked to send representatives and it is hoped that as a result Church people will be better informed about what has become a major social question, and that Parishes will be encouraged to take initiatives to meet the needs of people in their districts who are out of work.



GREAT GIFT IDEAS

from your Parish Bookstall.

Before you finalise your Christmas Shopping this year, check the great gift ideas from your Parish Bookstall:

- Give a Gift of Prayer—personal copies of the new Australian prayer Book in black, white, brown and denim.
- Crafts and Hobbies—look for the range of great ideas for you to try
- Childrens Books—beautifully illustrated Bible stories that will become real favourites.
- Good Christian Books—from all the best publishers to help you understand your faith better and put it into practice.

If you have a title in mind—we'll try our best to get it for you.

And don't forget to look over the range of Christmas cards available now at your Parish Bookstall.



CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO LUKE

The Birth of Jesus

At that time Emperor Augustus sent out an order for all the citizens of the Empire to register themselves for the census. When this first census took place, Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own town.

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the town named Bethlehem, where King David was born. Joseph went there because he himself was a descendant of David. He went to register himself with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in clothes and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, but the angel said to them: "Don't be afraid! For I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very night in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! This is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

Glory to God in the highest heaven!
And peace on earth to men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them. Mary remembered all these things, and thought deeply about them. The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.