

# **All Saint's Anglican Church, Petersham**

**STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM**

**Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT**

**Phone: 569-4735**

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**MAY, 1985**

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The Rectory,  
P.O. Box 241  
Petersham 2049  
22nd April, 1985

Dear Friends,

This morning my wife and I had the privilege of seeing and listening to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is paying a visit to Australia.

The Archbishop pointed out that he is not an Anglican "pope". He is recognised as head of the world-wide Anglican Communion but he has no power to direct any diocesan, nor does he have authority to make pronouncements on faith or doctrine. The phrase often used to describe the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury is that he is the "leader of equals," such is the character of our Church.

It was again encouraging to hear from a world leader about the amazing growth of the Church in Africa. We often hear of population explosions in under-developed countries but in Africa a spiritual explosion is happening. People in hundreds are turning to the Christian Faith.

To a smaller extent, but nevertheless a significant one, the coloured people, especially full bloods of W.A., S.A. and N.T. are turning to Christ as Saviour and Lord. In out of the way places like Wiluna in W.A., thousands of these people gather together for weekend conventions.

The change in the life these new believers is so real that the publicans in such remote towns are finding beer sales have dropped dramatically. This is happening in outback Australia and Bush Church Aid Society clergy in these remote areas are reporting such happenings from many parts of our country.

We as Christians ought to be praising God for this movement of the Holy Spirit in people's lives. Pray that it will continue.

Secondly, we might see it as a challenge to our Western so-called Christian life style. Why is it that these people are coming to Jesus when our community "appears" to be drifting away. Churches, at least the established one, are certainly not enjoying the numbers they once had.

The answer could well lie in the effect that the revival movement is having in the outback towns in Australia. Not only are Aboriginal people coming to Christ as Saviour, their lives are showing it — in one area of life, for example; drunkenness is disappearing and the pubs are feeling the pinch. Too often white Anglo Saxon "christians" live lives no different from their unbelieving neighbours, except that they front up on Sundays. For them the idea of being "a new person in Christ" is an unknown and sometimes unwanted concept.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, peace, joy, long suffering gentleness, kindness, goodness, fidelity and self-control—and if we have not the Spirit we are none of His.

Yours sincerely, BRUCE WOOLCOTT

—oOo—

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

With the school holidays commencing on 3rd May, it was decided that the Sunday School holidays would be held during the same period.

We will be on holidays from the 5th to 12th May. The Sunday School will resume at the Family Service on 19th May. This service commences at 9.30 a.m. Parents are invited to attend with their children.

### PROJECT INDIA

"Project India" is the title of the Bible Society's project for Sunday Schools. This project will be carried out in the Sunday School on Sunday, 23rd June with activities associated with this work held on Friday, 28th June. The Friday activities will commence at 5.30 p.m.

Further details for Friday, 28th June, will be sent out in a newsletter at the beginning of June.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent

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### WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship on Tuesday, 14th May in the Guild Room of the Parish Hall at 1 p.m., will be followed at 2 p.m. by an address by Deaconess Andrews. Come and hear her message; I am sure it will be interesting.

Our Annual Luncheon on the 16th April was a very happy gathering and we were very pleased with the proceeds which amounted to \$155.

We had as guests a large number of patients from four local nursing homes as well as our friends from the Salvation Army who gave us such an enjoyable program of entertainment. Our thanks are extended to all who attended and donated so generously towards the success of the event.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.



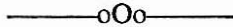
### SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

This month I have the pleasure of welcoming three new members: Harriet Dobel, Ida Meikings and Marge Barlow. I sincerely hope they spend many happy afternoons with us.

Our 27th Birthday in April was a very pleasant afternoon. We had quite a few extra presents and Ken Rowlands again added his lovely music to brighten up proceedings. Thanks, Ken.

Dorrie Chapman had a fall and sprained her ankle so badly she ended up in Lewisham Hospital. We are looking forward to seeing you back soon, Dorrie. A sad note, Mr. Ray Johnson passed away on 29th March. He was with us as usual the day before and I'm sure, very happy.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.



### FLOWER DONATIONS

April 28—Donation by Michele in memory of Don.

Donation by Miss Leslie in memory of her brothers.  
Arranged by Michele.

May 5 —Donation in loving memory of Joan by Esther Humphries.

Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.

May 12 —Donation by Mrs. Carr in memory of her mother.

Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.

May 19 —Donation by Miss Perry.

Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.

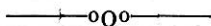
### **JUNIOR FELLOWSHIP AT ALL SAINTS'**

For school children of 13 years of age and under we are holding a fellowship on Friday afternoons from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The programme consists of story time, singing, craft, games.

Do encourage young people you know to come along. We are also looking for adults to assist.

Mrs. Woolcott is conducting this club.



### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Classes have begun with five teenagers attending. If any adults would be interested they ought to contact the Rector. A separate group would be commenced for older folk.



### **CARING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Eversleigh Hospital, cnr. Addison Road and Coronation Avenue, Petersham, caters for terminally ill, chronically ill and rehabilitation patients and will shortly be opening a Palliative Care Day Hospital. A Volunteers' service can greatly complement and enhance the care given by professional staff members. Anyone (men and women) interested in learning more about the service is invited to enquire of Sister Massie (560-3866).



### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

**CAR PARKING:** There has been no progress on this project.

**ORGAN REPAIRS:** Very necessary repairs and alterations have been carried out on the organ.

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**RECTORY REPAIRS:** Various repairs and alterations to the Rectory were approved.

**ELECTRICAL:** All the light tubes in the church have been renewed to provide better lighting.

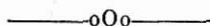
**CHURCH PEWS:** We have not yet found a satisfactory method of overcoming the stickiness of our pews in hot weather.

**Mrs. MAY RUHLE'S BEQUEST:** It was decided that the solicitor handling Mrs. Ruhle's estate be informed that the property should be transferred to All Saints'.

A later meeting decided that this property should be sold and the money invested in a Trust Fund in memory of Mrs. Ruhle.

Mrs. Ruhle's ashes will be placed in the Columbarium.

**BUS FUND:** This fund is to be closed and the money used in supporting a Youth or Social Worker.



## RECYCLING

We continue to recycle aluminium can, newspaper, books and magazines. Newspaper recycling requires a considerable amount of labour to straighten the pages to make solid and regular bundles.

Our big day is the second Saturday each month when we make about 220 calls in this area and have the services of about 15 people of very mature age to help dispose of it. We find that the business continues to grow, but so far our numbers are not keeping pace with the business. We are like a small business that runs out of capital. In our case our capital is the number of willing hands and we are all conscious that age is creeping up on us. We are different from business in one important aspect—we have no chiefs—we're all Indians. Anyone willing to help is invited to arrive at the Parish Hall at any time between 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the second Saturday and leave at any time. Remember — no chiefs. Come and go as you wish. In practice, it is a social occasion and the chatter is continuous. We would like to welcome you.

Brunch is provided at about 11 a.m.

## FETE 1985

Mr. Keely asks that people planning to provide plants for the plant stall should take cuttings, etc. now so that they will be sturdy and well rooted by November.



## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

### GOD'S GREEN FINGERS

"We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land."

This is a hearty hymn, usually reserved for lusty singing at a service of harvest thanksgiving. Now, ploughing is not an activity likely to be undertaken by many who sing these lines. We may recently have turned over a vegetable bed or two and used a trowel to plant petunias, but these are small things compared with ploughing fields!

How then should urban and suburban dwellers, on this occasion bereft of the experiences so common to our rural fellows, celebrate God's gift to us all in the harvest?

We could prepare for it by seeing ourselves as partners with farmers in the care and control of the natural world. Conserving a State forest, reaping a harvest of acres of barley or growing tomatoes in the back yard are all part of the task God gave us.

We are not relieved of the responsibility God gave all humankind simply because we may work in an office or class room. Christians are conservationists because they believe this is God's world! (Fortunately Christians also believe that God forgives them for the inadvertent deaths of so many aspidistras and maidenhair ferns!)

What harvest thanksgiving emphasises is not our green fingers but God's. It is his harvest, his gifts. The celebration also asks us to respond to His giving. Thus, while the packet of corn flakes may look like a puny apology for the 'real' harvest, it is in fact a gift to us and a sign that we respond to creation by organising and planning and distributing. However the colourful arrangement of vine leaves, pumpkins and packages also reminds that while God gives so much we do not share it well. We cannot soon forget the starving agony of Ethiopia.

Therefore, once we have sung our praises to the Lord of Creation, we continue that praise if we deliver the gathered

goods to missions or to families and groups in need. Sharing food is one of the most common ways we have of sharing our humanness.

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above!  
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all His love."

— By Janet Wood



### WHEN THE PRESSURE IS ON

King David knew all about it.

If the ancient editor's note is anything to go by, the third and fourth psalms could well be David's morning and evening prayers on a dark and difficult day of his life.

Centuries after King David's "prayers-on-the-run", a famous court musician faced a very different but also very demanding situation,

Modern American author, John Killinger, talks in one of his books about the pressure faced by Johann Sebastian Bach, who had to produce new music to his own exacting standards every Sunday. "It was like being a preacher in a world-renowned pulpit, unable to let down a single Sunday without setting the tongues to wagging."

Bach's secret? On almost all of his manuscripts he placed two sets of initials. At the beginning of each piece he wrote "J.J." and at the end, "S.D.G." J.J. stood for "Jesu juvet" — Jesus help me, S.D.G. stood for "Soli deo gloria" — to God alone be the glory.

Killinger concludes, "We could do worse than inscribe the same initials at the beginning and ending of each day. At dawn "J.J.," "Jesus help me," and at the close of day, "S.D.G.," "To God alone be the glory."

We all face pressures of one sort and another. Let's learn from the Hebrew King struggling with affairs of State . . . and also from the German organist, grinding out his weekly masterpieces. To begin and end the day, or for that matter any particular endeavour, with God is to find the secret of continuing fruitfulness and abiding peace.

— By Barrie Hibbert

