

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

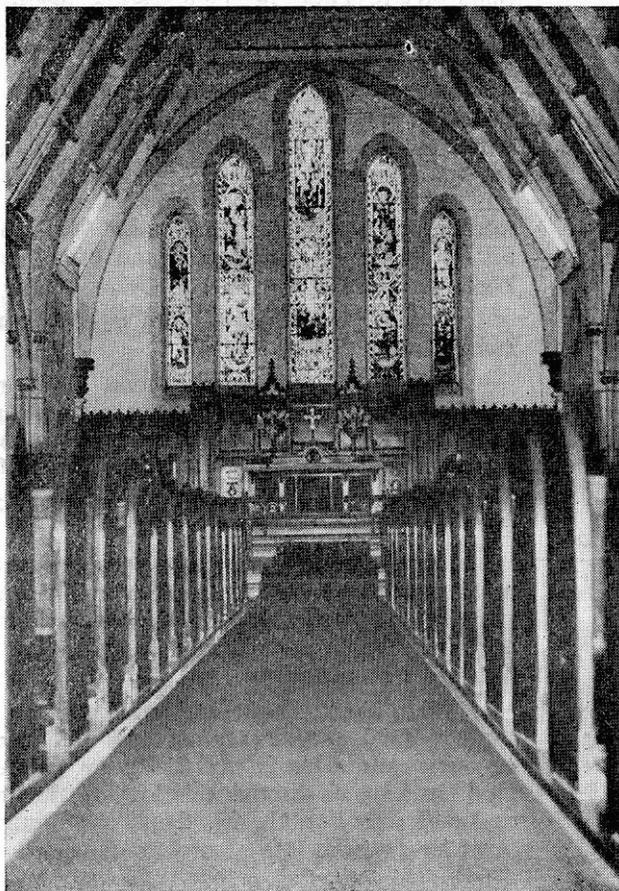
Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

SEPTEMBER, 1983



We love the place, O God,
Wherein Thine honour
dwells.



The Rectory,
Petersham, 2049
22nd August, 1983

Dear Friends,

Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to all who have expressed their sympathy and showed acts of kindness during the long illness that led to my wife's death last Monday morning.

I would especially thank those who have been praying for her and for us as a family. Firstly, keep on praying; we mortals are in continual need of God's grace, and prayer opens the heart of God. In many senses death is not the end, it is merely a new beginning for both those who have departed and those who are left.

Secondly, may I say that our prayers have been answered. To some that may sound strange. Many were praying for my wife's recovery, but unfortunately the cancer was too far spread; though miracles do happen from time to time. Ruth spent only ten days in hospital; right up to that time she played an active role in the family life, and under God's hand had prepared us all — the boys, our friends and even myself — for what she knew was inevitable.

Prayer was answered, and is continuing to be answered in many details of life.

This brings one to the great question that mankind asks: "Why suffering and pain?" It is a question which causes many to be angry with God. I do not believe that we shall ever know the answer in this world — it is hidden in God's greater wisdom.

The sad thing is when through pain and suffering we lose sight of the loving, merciful God.

Here is the way our prayers are answered. Christian believers never were promised that life would automatically be emptied of pain and grief. Our Lord Himself endured far more suffering and grief than we shall ever know — but through the resurrection He was victorious.

We all suffer pain and grief and we can all discover that through God comes comfort and guidance and even provision of our needs. This is my testimony to each and everyone that God has kept us through this loss. He has not kept us from grief and suffering but He has kept us through it — for this He must be praised.

Again thank you for your thoughts and especially your

prayers. Please continue to pray, and remember Christians are not promised "a bed of roses", but rather strength and comfort to bear sorrow with hope, for we are strangers and pilgrims on earth — Heaven is our home, and we wait the Lord's call.

Yours sincerely,

BRUCE WOOLCOTT,

—oOo—

RUTH MARGARET WOOLCOTT

In the early hours of Monday, 15th August, Ruth Margaret Woolcott was called into the presence of her Lord. A large congregation, drawn from many Parishes was present at the funeral service at All Saints' Church. The Most Rev. D. W. B. Robinson, Archbishop of Sydney, preached the sermon, and a summary of the address given by the Rev. R. H. Palmer is printed below.

Ruth Woolcott was the product of a Christian home. By word and example, the Christian Gospel was held forth, the morals and standards of the Christian faith were taught, and a love for the word of God instilled.

In her youthful years, Ruth was nurtured in the Parish of St. Andrew, Summer Hill. She and all the members of her family were actively engaged in the work and life of the parish.

In seeking God's will for her life, Ruth trained as a Nursing Sister at the Children's Hospital, Camperdown, and this was followed by two years in Deaconess House. She spent a term of service with the Church Missionary Society in the Northern Territory, but ill-health prevented a longer period of service.

Ruth and Bruce were married in St. Andrew's, Summer Hill. The fulfillment of her desire to set up a Christian home is well known to all who had the privilege of entering its doors. Her other great desire was to be a support to Bruce in the work to which he had been called. She was a tower of strength to him in his work in a number of parishes; and she cheerfully accepted the difficulties and loneliness of the vast parish of Port Headland. She shared with Bruce, not only the joys and satisfaction of life, but also its sorrows, problems, and the anxieties of illness.

In her illness of many months, her great concern was for her family. She was a devoted mother to Stephen and David. In all her suffering, her confidence in her Heavenly Father never faltered, and she never questioned His ways. She has left behind precious memories, a life of faithful service, and an example to be followed.

The address was concluded by the reading of Proverbs 31:10-30.

—oOo—

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School is commencing its preparation for the grocery stall at the November fete.

We are seeking donations of bottles for home-made jam and for the honey. The size bottles that are most useful are small and medium. Collection of bottles may be arranged by a telephone call (560-9972).

Saturday, 24th September, is the date of the Family Picnic at Centennial Park. Will Parishioners wishing to join the Sunday School at this outing, please fill in the form available at the church. This will help us with the transport arrangements.

NOEL CRAGG,
Superintendent.

—oOo—

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Mr. Woolcott and boys in their sad loss, and I'm sure every member remembers them in their prayers.

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship on Tuesday, 6th September, at 1 p.m., in the Guild Room of the Parish Hall, will be followed at 2 p.m. by a speaker from C.M.S. We do hope to have as many as possible to hear our speaker.

The following meeting on October 4th at 1.30 p.m. will be a business meeting. The main item to discuss being the fete in November.

On Friday, 30th September, our club will be holding another second-hand clothing and jumble stall. Please help us with a donation of anything saleable that you no longer want.

As the fete in November draws closer, please remember our cake and sweets stall. Donations of cakes, biscuits, sweets or the ingredients to make them will be gratefully received.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

Now that Spring is officially here, we should be enjoying more stable weather, and look forward to seeing more faces at our Thursday afternoon club. Do come and visit us and then, I'm sure, you will want to come again. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday in the Parish Hall; 60 cents covers game prizes and a lovely cup of tea.

We are sorry to learn that Joyce Perry has had a spell in hospital, but glad to know she is home again. We look forward to seeing you back at the club very soon, Joyce.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to our Rector, Stephen and David in the sad loss of their wife and mother, and we pray that God will comfort them.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary.



SEPTEMBER FLOWER DONATIONS

- Sept. 4: Mrs. Lawson and Noel in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. Cragg.
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- Sept. 11: By Michele in memory of Don.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.
- Sept. 18: By Mr. and Mrs. Swankie and grandsons in memory of our Mother and Nanna.
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- Sept. 25: By Mrs. M. Willis in memory of her Mother, Mrs. Sheriff.
By Mrs. Pullen, Judith and Arthur Payne and family in loving memory of Ben Pullen and David Payne.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.



CHANGES IN PRISONS: HOW THEY AFFECT CHAPLAINS

By the Rev. Philip Blake, senior Anglican Chaplain with the Department for Corrective Services.

Many changes have occurred in the state prison system since the events leading up to the Royal Commission into N.S.W. Prisons and its published Report in 1978. Some of the more hasty changes made in the Vinson administration have since been modified. Typical of those changes was the closing of the segregation unit "Katingal" before viable alternatives had been found.

In some areas, there seems to have been an escalation of activity for the sake of activity. This has sometimes happened without consideration of its effects on regular chaplaincy activity. With all its faults, the old system did give inmates time to think through their past and present and ponder their future. Today, the unintentional result of passive and active occupational scheduling has been to discourage this reflection.

Prison chaplains in N.S.W. have a freedom that comes from their lack of identification with the Establishment, but they lack the bargaining power of their English counterparts, because they are not part of the Public Service. As a result, the number of full-time prison chaplains in the whole of N.S.W. remains at four — the same figure it was in 1976.

One of the good things that came out of the Royal Commission was the decision to give prison inmates greater access to legitimate communication. In 1976, chaplains spent a lot of time contacting friends and relatives by phone, because inmates were not allowed to make such calls. We do less of that today, because inmates have a limited access to the telephone. While presenting security problems, this has to be a positive move. Lack of communication in prison presents many real hassles. Small worries are easily transformed into major phobias when there is a breakdown in communication.

With all the changes, it is still a privilege to minister to God's people in prison. Over the years, I have learned to be less judgemental and censorious and more caring and accepting. After all, with the amount of undetected and hidden crime around us, there have to be many more criminals in the community than there are in prison.

Prison chaplaincy is mostly a ministry to individuals and small groups. It has its frustrations and its encouragements. Because of the mobility of inmates, it is the kind of ministry which rarely sees any end-product. Like St. Paul, the chaplain has to say: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow" (1 Cor. 3:6 — NIV).

This ministry needs to be backed by the prayer and practical help of church members who are willing to express Christ's

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concern for those in prison. For instance, the opening of Parklea Prison later this year may well provide a wonderful opportunity for such ministry. A small group of mature and dedicated Christians is needed to share their faith with the inmates, and to assist in the worship of the prison community. Is God calling you to be involved in such a work?

With acknowledgement to PULSE.

—oOo—

FETE NEWS

A stallholders' meeting, held on 6th August, accepted with regret the withdrawal of Miss Hunt from the Jewellery Stall, and expressed its appreciation of all that Miss Hunt had done for All Saints' in the past, and requested that the Parish Council authorise a letter to this effect.

Miss Hunt's withdrawal leaves us with the problem of utilising a stall. We are considering three ideas.

1. Can we get a volunteer to run the stall if the jewellery is available?
2. Can we find another use for the stall?
3. Shall we move the hot dogs and cold drinks into the empty stall?

We will not be having the inflatable castle this year. We do not have enough children around to make it a viable proposition. We lost \$80 on it last year.

It has been suggested that we run a children's painting competition. We would appreciate advice and help from any one with experience in this type of competition. We have received a most generous offer of finance to run it, so money is not a problem. But we do need help.

F. HEARN,

Chairman, Fete Committee.

—oOo—

DO IT NOW

In the August Chronicle parishioners were asked to make a start with plants and cuttings so that only well rooted stock will be on our stall.

This month we ask all supporters to assist Noel Cragg by donating 6 oz. and 8 oz. jars for sale of honey.

Mrs. Essam will gladly collect any glass, chinaware or other items that will respond to washing and polishing to make it a pleasure to behold. Please dig out the pieces at the back of your cupboard that you have not looked at for years.

Mrs. Humphreys is indefatigable in her search for materail for her White Elephant Stall. If you have anything to offer, please contact her.

The phone numbers needed are:

Noel Cragg	560-9972
Mrs. Essam	569-1852
Mrs. Humphreys	560-8756

**ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH, PETERSHAM
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, JULY, 1983**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	\$ c.		\$ c.
Offeratories	1,136.85	Rector's Net Stipend ..	1,126.25
RECYCLING:		Rector's Trav. Allow. .	271.25
Cans	108.00	Organist	60.00
Bottles	11.47	Church Flowers	45.00
Papers	364.75	Chronicles	65.20
Church Flowers	41.00	Church Cleaning	120.00
District Visitors	75.80	Rector's Super. Contr.	180.00
B-B-Q Ticket Sales ..	33.00	Parish Super Contr.	180.00
Rector's Telephone		Hall Floodlight, Tubes	61.00
Contrib. 6/83	10.46	Repairs to Rectory	
		Stove	35.00
	1,783.33	Sub. Editor's Clip Sheet	19.50
Deficit for Month	588.67	M.W.S. & D.B.	208.80
	<u>\$2,372.00</u>		<u>\$2,372.00</u>

Balance 1/7/83	\$2,751.68
Less Deficit for Month	588.67
Balance 31/7/83	<u>\$2,163.01</u>

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT, JULY, 1983

	\$ c.
Fresh Flowers Pty. Ltd. — June Flowers	45.00
James & James — July Chronicles	65.20
Ralph Abraham — Supply and Installation of Floodlight and Replacement of Fluorescent Tubes in Hall	61.00
Braemar Appliances Pty. Ltd. — Repairs to Rectory Stove	35.00
M.W.S. & D.B. — 5 WC's and 1 UC at \$34.80 each	208.80
Medicom Association Inc. — 1 years subscription to Editor's Clip Sheet	19.50

**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.

James & James, 183 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, 2181