

# *The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham*

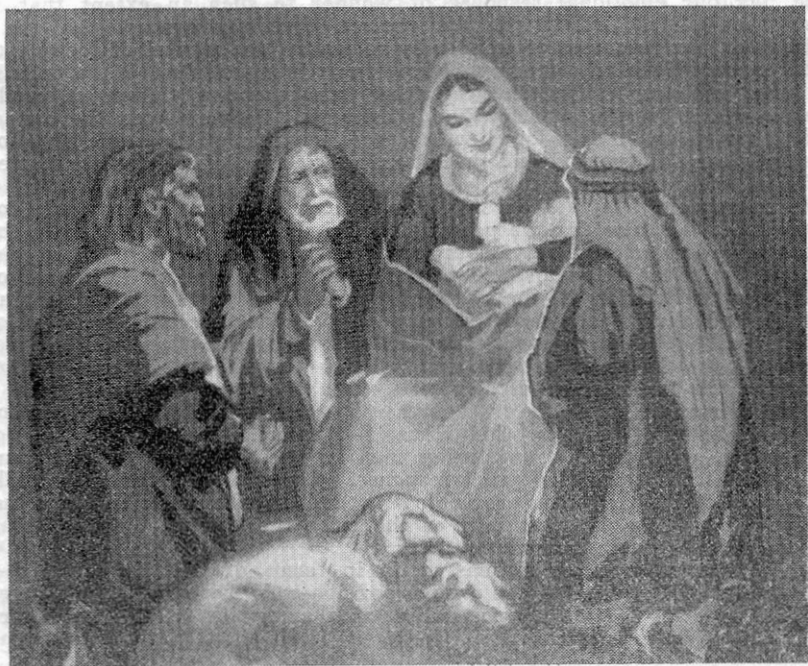
*The Friendly Church*

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

**The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham, 2049—56-4735**

**Hon. Assistant: Rev. A. E. C. GARDNER, B.A., Th.L.**

**DECEMBER 1975**



## THE RECTOR'S NOTES

My dear Friends,

CHRISTMAS IS COMING —

THE DUCKS ARE GETTING FAT !

PLEASE PUT A PENNY IN THE OLD MAN'S HAT!

It means very little else to most of us these days than what the old rhyme says. We've lost the best part — but that isn't to say that the fat duck and the empty hat don't have their right place in the overall celebration.

But the centre piece of the real Christmas is a baby - a little new life. Now to me, and I believe to all who stop and think, a baby (whether human or mere animal) is an object of wonder. No one who is reading this, has escaped the feeling of awe that steals over one as we gaze down at that little new thing - so attractive, so amazing, so full of promise and possibility! Marvellous! The Christ Child whose festival dominates this time of year, I believe came as He did to speak to us of wonder.

Of course wonder is severely overstrained in our day. So much so that it has been reduced to a kind of numbness. Earth-circling satellites, space ships to the moon and back, nuclear power - and other discoveries and achievements such as brain washing techniques and truth drugs etc, tax our emotional response of wonder to such an extent that it has been almost exhausted. We protect ourselves against this mass attack on our resources of wonder by relegating the marvel of today into the commonplace of tomorrow. However this mechanism of defence is clumsy in its operation. In preventing our becoming victims of crude sensations it impairs our spiritual sensitivity. So that even the appeal of "beauty, truth and love" will meet (has met?) the same fate of being taken for granted and pushed into that area of passionless matter of fact.

In modern life reverence is at a discount—reverence, not only for the divine, but also for the person of the individual human. Surely the contemplation of sex as an ordinary part of relationships, and the possibility of abortion on demand and euthanasia, are all evidences of this trend. This loss of the spirit of reverence plays its part in robbing people of the capacity of being deeply moved by the message of Christianity. At best people today are drawn by Christianity's practical aspects—the fat ducks and the empty hats!—that is the ethical teaching and the impulse to a life of service.

The wonder of God's grace in Christ—the coming into involvement in the affairs of men by God Himself—forgiving, reconciling, healing, accepting, sharing with and using men in the fulfilment of His purposes—all this wakens no great response. The amazed wonder that fills the New Testament from beginning to end has been stolen from us. Maybe this is the heaviest part of the price that we've paid for living in an age of great material progress.

If we could see Christmas again in terms of the Christ Child—the Baby of Bethlehem—the wonder of it—we'd be able to rediscover our lost heaven—and the possibility of sharing its reality even here and now. The great truth that Christmas is all about is that God came

among us and took upon Himself our humanity with its weakness, so that He might impart to you and me His own divine life and all its "all conquering vitality".

May your Christmas 1975 be a time of rediscovering this Wonder—and Joy—and Liberating Presence.

Sincerely,

Your friend and minister in the Name of Jesus Christ of Bethlehem,

S. W. GISSING.

—oOo—

This issue of the Chronicle is my last edition as editor, Mr. F. Hearn assuming responsibility. I have enjoyed the last two years and have appreciated the support received from parishioners.

In the world today we see many problems, both at home and overseas, and are often amazed at the number of possible solutions. However even though the various solutions may seem logical and relatively satisfactory to all concerned it is strange that amicable agreement cannot be reached. In view of a conflict of ideas how may the future be developed to encompass the aspirations of all groups in society? The answer I believe is not in the implementation of IDEAS but in the development and acceptance of IDEALS. For no matter how varied the philosophy there is often an ideal common to all sections of our community. In this my last issue of the Chronicle I have included an extract from an unknown article by David Swing which I hope will illustrate my thoughts.

H. E. QUELCH.

—oOo—

OUR world is pervaded and deeply moved by the power of ideals. There is no perfect statesman, or poet, or artist, but the virtues of many persons in each one of these great pursuits become detached, and like stardust, they form a new and perfect star in the expanse of thought. The orator that stands before us in our moments of reflection and dream is not Cicero, or Burke, or Webster, but always some nameless one with a wisdom, a language and a presence better than were found in those actual incarnations.

Our statesman is not Alfred, nor Napoleon, nor even Washington, but he is some yet mightier being with an infinite power and unknown name, his features not yet fully visible, as though he had not yet emerged from the shadows of old forums and the lonely columns of ruined states. All around our hearts stand these final shapes of the powerful, the perfect and the sublime—the aggregations of long ages of thought and admiration.

Our earth is great not only because of what it has, but also because of what lies within its reach.

The quest after ideals is the central reason of life. This pursuit

abandoned, life need not run along any longer. The pitcher is broken at the fountain. The idealists are creating a human world after the pattern shown them in the Mount. Each art stands as a monument to a host of idealists who in their own day perhaps toiled hopelessly and amid the sneers of those who were only the children of dust. Music, now so infinite in extent and sweetness, is such a monument. The first rude harps are broken and lost; dead the hands that smote them; but the art is here with no enchantment lost. We do not know the names of those singers. Like us they were pilgrims.

They had to pass into the beyond, but they left an art which the world loves. It was so of liberty, temperance, justice and all the higher forms of human life . . .

Some speak of ideals as being only girls' dreams. On the opposite, high ideals are lifelike portraits seen in advance. Only the greatest minds living in an age of tyranny could see in prophecy the portrait of a free people. Instead of being a romantic dream an ideal is often a long mathematical calculation by an intellect as logical as that of Euclid. Idealism is not the ravings of a maniac, but it is the calm geometry of life. Ideals try our faith, as though to show us that nothing is too good to be true. In noble ideals there is something aggressive. They are not aggressive like an army with gun and spear, but aggressive like the sun which coaxes a June out of a winter. All great truths are persistent. Each form of right is a growing form. All high ideals will be realized. This one perceives who takes a long view—the triumph of ideality over apathy, indolence and dust. There is nothing in history, dark as much of it is, to check the belief that man will at last be overcome by his highest ideals.

—DAVID SWING.

—oOo—

### SANCTUARY FLOWER ROSTER

- December 7: Donated by Mr. R. Minter, John and Margaret in memory of Mrs. Minter, by Mrs. Willis in memory of Mr. Willis Senior, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hunt from their Daughters; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- December 14: No donation; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- December 21: No donation; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- December 25: Christmas Day. Donated by Mrs. Willis in memory of Mrs. F. Sheils.  
Extra flowers or money for flowers would be greatly appreciated; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- December 28: No donation; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- January 4: Donated by Mrs. Adams in memory of Rev. C. E. Adams, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hunt from their Daughters; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

We gratefully acknowledge flowers on 16th November, 1975, from Misses A. and E. Jones, in memory of their Parents and Brother, Mr. Walter Jones.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

At this years fete the Grocery and Home Made Jam Stall raised \$306.73.

I wish to thank Mrs. Jones and all the ladies who made jam for us, all parishioners and parents of Sunday School pupils for their donations. Also I would like to thank the Sunday School pupils for their help in selling the stock during the day.

The Sunday School is grateful to the following companies for their help:—

Samuel Taylor Ltd., Colgate Palmolive Pty. Ltd., Lifesavers (A/Asia) Ltd., Bushells Pty. Ltd., Sanitarium Health Food Co., Traders Pty. Ltd., The Westons Biscuit Co.

At the Sunday School Teachers meeting last month, we decided that the Sunday School promotions will be held at the beginning of the 1st school term of 1976. This decision was made because a number of pupils go away during the holidays and the Board of Education does not set any lessons during the school holidays.

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY.** During this time we intend to have films for the pupils from the Sunday after Christmas till the end of January.

Judy Evans has resigned from the Kindergarten Staff and I would like to thank her for all she has done in the Kindergarten as Leader.

Mrs. Sopwith has joined the Sunday School Teaching Staff. Sharene McMinn, Janelle Cheetham and Kim Mangan are helping out in the Kindergarten.

The Sunday School and Kindergarten Christmas Parties will be held on the 13th December. The Kindergarten Party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the Sunday School Party from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are seeking the parents help to organise the parties, especially the Kindergarten Party. If you can help, would you please contact the Rector or myself.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent.

## CLUB NEWS

### Ladies' Guild:

Tuesday, 16th December is our Christmas Party and we shall commence at 1 p.m. and are arranging a speaker with a Christmas Message. There will also be musical items and afternoon tea.

Guild will resume on Tuesday, 17th February, 1976, at 1 p.m.

Our best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Gissing and Family for Christmas and 1976.

E. M. BOSWARD, Honorary Secretary.

### Women's Evening Group:

Our fete is over and we were proud after a very busy and happy day to be able to hand in \$300. Many thanks to all who donated to our wonderful effort in any way. To our wonderful band of workers, who worked so hard, not only on the day of the fete but also on the days before, we say a big thank you.

Our next effort will be a second hand clothing sale and jumble

stall on Friday, 13th February, 1976. Please keep anything you no longer need, but which is saleable for us.

The next meeting of the club will be our Christmas Party and will be held on Tuesday, 9th December in the Parish Hall. Please bring something to make the evening a success. The club then goes into recess until Tuesday, 10th February, 1976, when we will hold our annual Meeting.

On behalf of the club I take this opportunity to wish everyone Peace and Joy of a Christian Christmas.

IDA BARRETT, Honorary Secretary.

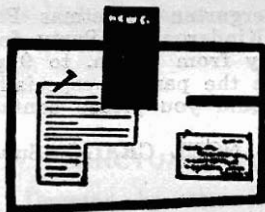
#### Senior Parishioners' Club:

It is very pleasant to see such wonderful attendance at our Thursday afternoon cards and "housie"—members do keep coming.

Christmas is not far away, and we wish all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Peace in the New Year.

IDA BARRETT, Honorary Secretary.

—oOo—



#### NEWS BRIEFS

● Because of the Christmas Holidays articles for the January "Chronicle" are due no later than Sunday, 14th December, 1975. All contributions should be handed to Mr. F. Hearn.

#### ● Fete Raffle Results:

Lucky Door Hamper	....	E. Hill, Frederick Street, Ashfield.
Lucky Door Hamper	....	R. Reed, Boden Avenue, Strathfield.
		Mrs. Barrett
Knives	....	Lang.
Sweet Dishes	....	M. Sturrock
Cricket Bat	....	Jane Critchley.
Panda	....	S. Danger.
Bride Doll	....	M. Brunning.
Bridesmaid	....	Bonadies.
		Warn.
Picture	....	R. Bloomfield.
Christmas Tree	....	S. McCurley.

## PARISH INFORMATION

**HOLY COMMUNION**—Each Sunday at 8 a.m., 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11 a.m.  
3rd Sundays at 7 p.m.

**MORNING PRAYER**—1st and 5th Sundays at 11 a.m.

**EVENING PRAYER**—Each Sunday at 7 p.m.

**FAMILY SERVICE**—3rd Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School and Kindergarten  
on other Sundays at 9.45 a.m.

**BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH  
THE RECTOR.**

**CHURCHWARDENS:** Messrs. E. Quelch (Rector's), F. G. Hearn, W.  
Williams.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** The Churchwardens and Messrs. J. Arrowsmith, J. H.  
Bretherton, N. Cragg, B. Dryden, Mrs. Gorman, Messrs. B. Livingston,  
H. E. Quelch, Mrs. W. Sopwith, Mr. H. Swankie, J. Williams.

**SIDESMEN:** Messrs. V. Barrett, G. Clarke and H. J. Shaw.

**HON. TREASURER:** Mr. E. Quelch. **HON. SECRETARY:** Mr. H. E. QUELCH.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:** Mr. N. Cragg.

**KINDERGARTEN LEADER:** Miss J. Evans.

**PUBLICITY OFFICER:** Mr. H. J. Shaw (797-6967).

**ORGANIST:** Mr. J. Birkett.

**CHRONICLE EDITOR:** Mr. H. E. Quelch.

## FETE APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Rector and Parish Council I wish to thank all those who participated in the organisation and successful operation of the fete. It was evident that the ladies had worked hard and consistently throughout the year so as to stock the stall with items to meet the needs of the visitors.

Miss Hunt wishes to thank Supreme Industries, Bridge Road, Glebe, for the donation of the Christmas Tree.

Thanks are also extended to Beatrice Connelly for her donation of plants and to Shareen McMinn and Mrs. Betteridge for assisting Mrs. Sopwith throughout the day.

Mrs. Clark expresses thanks to all who gave stocks for her stall as well as to those who helped on fete day.

H. E. QUELCH.

## CHURCH FINANCES

## General Fund — October, 1975

Cash Receipts .....	\$690
Cash Payments .....	\$1122
Deficiency for October .....	\$432
Deficiency for period 1st January to 31st October, 1975 .....	\$4026

## CHRONICLE DONATION

Miss G. Norman—\$2.00.

M. Frost—\$2.00.

Mr. P. Gray—\$4.00.

## OUR BAPTISM

As a Sacrament, Baptism has two parts, an outward and an inward, a material and a spiritual. If it were only an outward act of washing with water the ceremony would have little meaning, but the outward act has an important spiritual significance. In Baptism THE OUTWARD WASHING WITH WATER SHOWS US VIVIDLY GOD'S PROMISES OF CLEANSING FROM SIN AND THE POURING OUT OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT. These promises of forgiveness and the gift of God's Spirit are clearly written in the Bible for all to read and receive, but in the act of Baptism they are displayed before us in a graphic way. Thus Baptism is, as St. Augustine once called it, a "visible word".

The importance of Baptism should now become clear to us. As sinners we are need of forgiveness and renewal by the Spirit of God. God in His mercy has made this possible by dealing with out sin on Calvary and now calls upon all men everywhere to repent of their sins and lay hold on His mercy freely offered to them. The Sacrament of Baptism proclaims the mercy of God and invites us to receive God's promises for ourselves by grasping their outward sign and guarantee.

**"Repent, and be baptised everyone of you in  
the name of Jesus Christ for the remission  
of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift  
of the Holy Ghost". (Acts 2:38).**

To be baptised is to receive for yourself the promises of God. But we must remember that without faith in the promises which Baptism signifies nothing has been received at all except the external sign. Baptism is not a magical act that saves us quite apart from our attitude of heart. It is our faith in the promises of God that is important. Baptism focuses our faith of these promises in a very special way.

B. L. SMITH, B.D., Th. Schol.

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## 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.

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James & James, Printers, 209 Liverpool Road, Ashfield — 798 8825