

The Chronicle

Of All Saints' Petersham

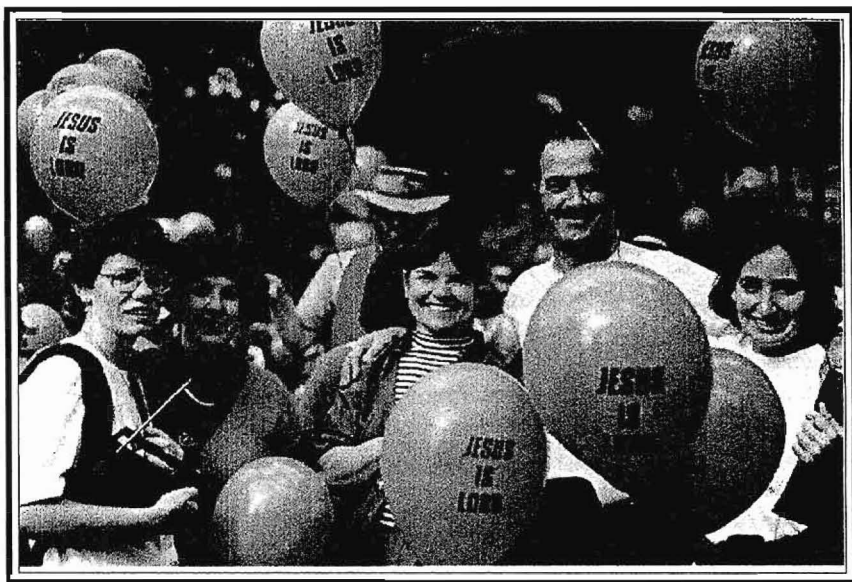
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Some of our All Saints members at the start of the 'March for Jesus'
From left to right: Debbie Harrop, & friend from Petersham AOG,
Carman Attard, Tony Grima & Jill James.

From Paul Watson's Desk



Antidote for the Middle Age Crisis

I turned 40 this year. It was a little unsettling to realise that officially I'm not young any more. I can understand that for many people getting to middle age can be a bit of a crisis. Men, particularly, it seems to me, find it hard to deal with. Lots of blokes react in ways which are not helpful. To "break free" of the rut, to prove their virility, many men enter into extra-marital relationships, change careers, buy the Harley, or the red Porsche, start a fitness program and so on. Why? I came across this poem which points me to an answer...

Across the fields of long ago
There often comes to me
A little boy with face aglow
The boy I used to be.
This little boy with face aglow
Looks up and smiles at me
And asks me if I really am
The man I thought I'd be.

When you were younger, what were your dreams for your life? Did they come true?

I suspect that for the majority of us we have to modify our dreams as we go through life. I think we tend to "lower our sights" as we realise that in reality the things we expected to achieve just won't happen. The career stalled at middle management level. "I don't think a company car and the manager position will ever eventuate." The home in the preferred suburb, the world discovery, the sporting achievements, the "happy family" ... What happened to them?

When you get to forty, assess your life, and realise that your dreams won't come true, you can suddenly feel empty, cheated, depressed. Middle age crisis!

The antidote for middle age crisis is to have different dreams for your life. That is, in a nutshell, to make **God's** dreams my dreams. Instead of living for my dreams which are so uncertain and so easily shattered, I seek to live for the fulfilment of God's dream. And the wonderful thing about this is that God's dream will never fail to eventuate. If my dream is to live for God's dream, then it **will** be fulfilled!

What is God's dream? It is to build the everlasting Kingdom of God. It means the historic process of bringing His people back to himself. It will be complete on the Day of Judgement and when the new heaven and the new earth appear.

In Mark 1: 14-20, Jesus proclaims "The kingdom of God is near..." and he calls people to follow him. Four of those who responded were the fishermen Simon, Andrew, James, and John. The Bible says that in response to Jesus' invitation to "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" they immediately left their nets, boats, and father and followed him. They traded in their dreams for the Lord's dream - to reach people for the kingdom of God.

The amazing thing is that in aligning our lives to God's dream we begin to see our deepest needs being met. We experience a contentment and a joy, and a peace that far exceeds anything that we previously dreamed for ourselves. And what a bonus! The fruit of the dream lasts forever! Age, disability, changing circumstances cannot take away the guarantee that my dream, God's dream, will come true.

It's not bad being 40 after all.

May God bless you,

Paul Watson

"Now that I Married the Wrong Person"

Sometimes it can feel like that. Over five Sundays in August / September we will be exploring this and other topics under the title *"Fanning the Flames of Marriage"*

Don't miss it!! Invite your workmates, friends, neighbours, family, spouse.

The same topic will be covered at each of the three services on those Sundays:-

August 18	Why the Fires Burn Low
25	Help for Husbands
Sept 1	Wisdom for Wives
8	Now That I Married the Wrong Person
15	Strengthening Family Ties

Bush Dance

On the 25th April we held a very successful and enjoyable Bush Dance. Thanks to the hard work of the committee who staged the event, over 100 people were able to kick up their heels and dance the night away. One person had such an energetic time that he required a short term course of medical treatment during the next week to recover. We must warn people for future dances that doing the "Drongo" could be a health hazard! Andrew Clarke's band "Outback" were terrific, ensuring we all learnt the steps, as well as giving christian encouragement to us all. Make sure you don't miss the next one!!



Combined Service

An encouraging night was had by all who attended the combined service held at All Saint's at 7-00p.m. Service. People from the Uniting Church, the Catholic Church, the Assemblies of God and Anglican Church in Marrickville as well as the visitors attended the service. It was great to see the church full and inspiring to see people truly want to bond together as a family of God. The differences that we have didn't stop us from coming together and expressing that Christ is our corner stone and our saviour. Thanks to the clergy for organising this and setting a great example for us all.

Parish Pulse

Sunday Services - 8-30a.m., 10a.m., 6-30p.m.

Sunday School, Creche and Teenagers 10a.m.

Youth Fellowship - Fridays 7-30p.m. - 9-30p.m.

"Playtime" for preschoolers - Tuesdays 10a.m. - 12 noon

TLC & House groups - Monday, Tuesday & Friday nights and Wednesday morning.

"Oasis" - Healing Service, prayer, Praise and worship - Tuesdays 7-30p.m.

Bible Study Groups

It's been exciting and encouraging to see two new house groups start involving Bible Study, prayer and encouragement to grow in Christ in our day to day lives and within our church as a whole. The groups meet on Monday night and Tuesday night and every 4th week they attend Oasis. The groups started off with a dinner which was great to get to know each other better.

See Paul Watson or Steve Layson if you are interested in joining a group.

Creche

Gillian Harris and Ainslie Ivin-Smith have revamped the creche which is a very important ministry. The children have a wonderful time with a story from the bible, with a craft activity to go. Lots of singing and plenty of fun. The leaders are involved on a roster basis. If you would like to help out see Gillian or Ainslie.

Up and Coming Events.

Houseparty

What a better way to spend a weekend than being together having a great time, being encouraged and motivated to follow Christ. Make sure you're there and jot the date in your diary — November 15th to 17th.

Confirmation

The confirmation service is on 29th September at the 10a.m. service. See Paul Watson if you would like to be confirmed and join the classes which will commence in August.



Comings and Goings

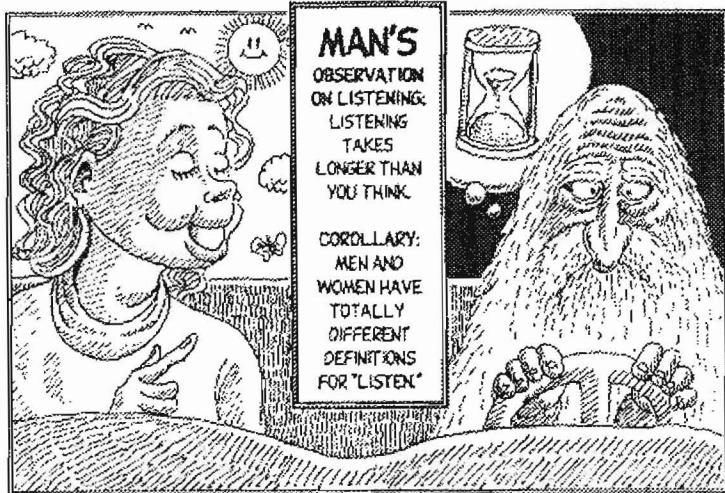
Bruce and Joan Livingston — travelled for their annual holiday to the USA visiting LA, San Francisco, Las Vegas — they had a beaut trip, arriving home several days before their luggage.

Paul, Ann, Mark and Claire Lennox — arrived home safely from their 8 months in Los Angeles. Living in the US was a fascinating experience for them all, but there's no place like home! Praise God for our country, Australia.

Bill and Nola Blake — are travelling to Romania in late August to visit an orphanage for disabled children which they sponsor as part of their ministry organisation, Australian Home Missions. Please pray for them as they travel.

"March for Jesus"

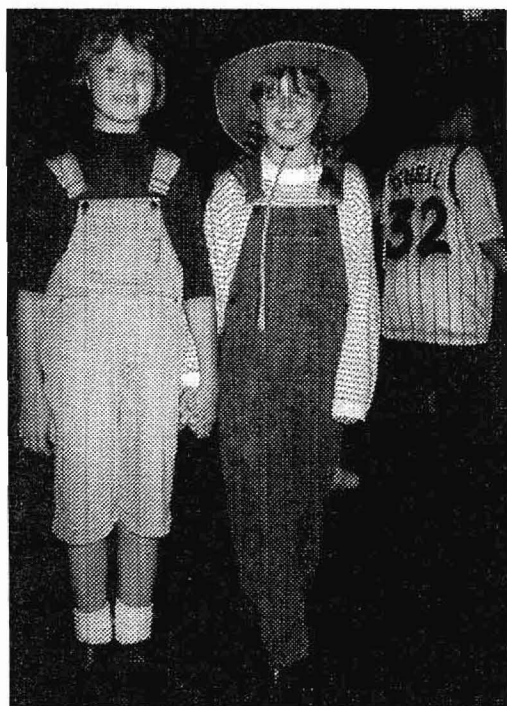
About a dozen people from All Saints joined with 10,000 other Christians on Saturday 25th May in the March for Jesus. We walked from Central Railway to the Opera House. It was a great rally and a positive statement that Jesus is Lord.



Sermon Series - Fanning the Flames of Marriage
See page 3 for details



More scenes
from the
Bush Dance



Everyday Evangelism

Steve Layson, one of our Student Ministers, will be leading a training course on how to point people towards faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are in situations where we would like to express what we believe, but we just seize up because we don't know what to say, or how to say it. This course will help you gain confidence in being able to speak about your faith. Incorporating both "Everyday Evangelism" and "Two Ways to Live", the course will run over 6 Sunday afternoons, 8th, 15th, 22nd September, and 13th, 20th and 27th October. At 2pm to 3-30pm each day. Our Petersham Area Deanery will also be conducting Everyday Evangelism on the Wednesday evenings in November.

PEARLY GATES

