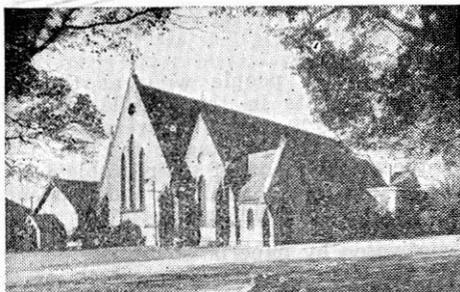


THE CHRONICLE OF All Saint's Church of England, Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station



JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1980

HARVEST THANKSGIVING



on

Sunday, 17th February, 1980

also, at 9.30 a.m. Service the Sunday School Prizegiving will be held.
Gifts of Fresh and Tinned Foods to decorate Church, please — these
are later given to the local Church Nursing Homes.

From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

There must be very few people who, at the moment are not concerned by the developments in the Middle East. Lovely start to the new decade, do I hear you say? We were beginning to adapt to the impossible situation of the hostages in Iran — even perhaps beginning to accept the unlikelihood of their problem being resolved! — maybe even beginning to forget them! — and suddenly Afghanistan is thrust into the forefront of our thinking.

The U.S.S.R., motivated by imperialist desires, decided to “stabilise” the conditions that existed in this small neighbour of theirs. That it is also a gateway for the U.S.S.R. to the middle east oil fields makes their actions highly dubious to say the least. Oil energy reserves are most strategical for the Western nations, and fast becoming more so.

Newspaper reports have indicated that the invading Russian forces have acted in rather a brutal way to win domination — just as they have done in a number of other countries before. No feeling man or woman can be unmoved by the cynical and blatant aggression. In the world community such actions must be viewed with serious disapproval. However, in this atomic age, a reaction by others has to be very considered, lest we find ourselves engulfed in a conflagration that few would survive. It has been encouraging to note the careful manner in which national leaders have sought suitable ways of showing the reality and seriousness of their unwillingness to submit to such international banditry.

That many people have thought of boycotting the Olympic Games to be held in Moscow in order to register protest, is causing a great deal of unhappiness — though it is seen as a very effective way of drawing the attention of the ordinary Russian to the disapproval of the “free” world. Regrettably it is an avenue of protest that not only hits at the offending nation, but also at the many innocent sportsmen and women who’ve sacrificed a tremendous amount in preparing for many years. There are other more material complications as well, of course. It is far from a simple decision. However, these latter considerations are of lesser moment by comparison. After all, if as a nation we decide to boycott, we must surely be prepared as a nation to underwrite any material losses involved. But the individual disappointments, frustrations, and pointless sacrifices, plus the impact on the future of the games, are much harder to compensate for. It is no light thing to ask these further sacrifices from our athletes. Indeed what right have we to impose sacrifice on anyone, surely it must be their decision. Our decision must be to leave it to them.

Decisions are motivated by ideals, vision, sense of personal responsibility, and sense of purpose.

It has been claimed in recent times that considerations of material acquisitiveness, self-centredness, indifference to violence, injustice and

inequality, and the erosion of public standards of integrity, truth and decency have come to dominate decision making.

The choices before us as a nation and as individuals will reveal the reality or otherwise of such accusations.

The things that stand clear are that the Iranian and Russian behaviour in their separate matters, are disgraceful, and totally unacceptable to thinking and concerned people.

Those of us who are followers of Christ will be concerned that the decisions we make will be in line with His standards and aims. We are those who say "For me to live is Christ". So no step will be taken without submitting our action for His approval. Each decision, each word, each thought, should be first placed in the presence of the eyes of Jesus Christ before we act. And this applies on both personal and national levels. Jesus did protest — what were His overriding aims and principles?

Your friend in the Master's service,

S. W. GISSING.

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham — 'phone 569-4735.



MOSCOW TO EXPEL BAPTISTS

Baptists living in Moscow have been threatened with mass expulsion and forced resettlement during next year's Olympic Games, according to Amnesty International sources.

Amnesty also believes, but is not entirely certain, that Soviet authorities intend to remove prisoners of conscience, at present in psychiatric hospitals in the Moscow area, during the period covered by the Games. It is also claimed that a number of prison and hospital sentences are to be extended until the games are over so as to avoid contact between "dissidents" and Western visitors.

MUSLIM FEARS

At a time when some Arab leaders are fearful of growing communist influence in their countries, the Russians are apparently less than happy about the intensifying Islamic influence in the Soviet Union.

It appears that the U.S.S.R.'s Muslim population has a higher birth-rate than any other constituent part of the country. Current projections suggest that by the year 2000, 25 per cent of the Soviet population might give greater allegiance to Allah than to Marx.

(Quoted from "Crusade" Magazine).

£3 MILLION LIFE OF JESUS FILM

A £3 million film described by its British producers as "the most authentic film of the life of Jesus" ever made was released in the Western and Southern States of the U.S.A. in October, 1979, and by November was seen in 293 cities. The two-hour film, which has taken five years to complete, is called simply "Jesus", and is based entirely on the Gospel of Luke.

"Jesus" was initiated by a New York based organisation called the Genesis project. They brought in John Heyman, an Englishman and winner of three Cannes Film Festival Awards, to produce the film, which was shot on location in Israel. The part of Jesus is played by Brian Deacon, a Shakespearean actor, and features as many as 5000

Israeli and Arab extras. Shot in dramatical documentary style, it is said to have a particular emphasis on realism. Heyman said of first century Palestine, "it was not the picture postcard world that the renaissance painters have made it".

There will be a second major launch of the film at Easter, 1980, this time for the Eastern and Mid-western States, with a publicity slogan which reads, "Have you seen Jesus?" Britain will probably not see "Jesus" until after that date.

(Quoted from "Crusade" Magazine.)

WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SAINTS

MORNINGS at 9.30 a.m.:—

Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Morning Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Family Service is the 3rd Sunday)

SUNDAY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

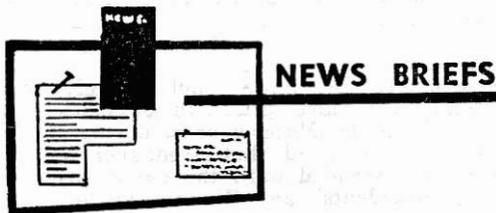
EVENINGS at 7 p.m.: —

(This changes to 5 p.m. during winter months.)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Evening Prayer on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.



CHURCH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Parish decided, on the advice of the Maintenance Committee (Messrs. Swankie, Evans & Cragg), that extensive painting needs to be carried out.

The areas nominated were the outside of the Parish Hall, Kindergarten Hall, Rectory and garage, together with the inside of the Parish Hall, Kindergarten Hall and the foyer and one ceiling in the Rectory. Quotations were called, and the prices ranged from \$6,790 to \$9,510. The lowest quotation was accepted.

Due to urgent electrical works that have become necessary after quotations were called, not all the painting can be carried out at this time. We therefore asked the painter to provide a revised quote before commencement of the work, to include only the following areas:

1. Outside of the Parish Hall, Kindergarten Hall, Rectory and garage.
 2. Inside to include the meeting room, kitchen, washrooms and toilets of the Parish Hall, together with the two areas inside the Rectory.
- He has indicated that this portion of the work would cost \$4,700 of the total. The balance of the painting will have to be set aside until more funds are available.

The urgent electrical work mentioned above includes the following:

- (a) Rewire of a power circuit in the church to which the fans on the southern side are connected.
- (b) Replace the subsidiary electrical switchboard in the church.

(c) Replace the electrical switchboard for the Rectory.

The electrical wiring involved is the original wiring and has perished to a dangerous state. A large percentage of the electrical installation has been rewired using plating covered wire. These areas are in a very good condition.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School and Kindergarten will recommence lessons for 1980 on Sunday, 3rd February, at 9.55 a.m.

We are in urgent need of Sunday School teachers if we are to continue to operate. If you are interested, please contact the Rector or the Sunday School Superintendent.

The Sunday School Prize-giving will be held on Sunday 17th February at the Family Service commencing at 9.30 a.m. This service will also be the Harvest Festival Service, when we ask the Sunday School pupils and parishioners to bring along gifts of fruit and vegetables, etc., to decorate the Church. After the service the girls will be distributed to local Church Nursing Homes.

NOEL CRAGG,
Superintendent.

THE "SHARE AND CARE GROUP"

The "Share and Care Group" will recommence on Friday morning, 8th February, at 11.30 a.m. — in the Meeting Room of the Parish Hall.

You would be very welcome to join the group. We "share" together, using the principles of the modern "Smaller Groups" methods for personal growth. This has allowed us to grow not merely personally but "together" in a caring fellowship.

We invite anyone who would like to share this experience to join us on Friday morning. We each bring something for lunch — and we share this also together — with a cuppa!

More details from Kathy Hitchcock (569-5550) or Betty Gissing (569-4735).

WOMEN'S GUILD DAY OF PRAYER — 7th MARCH, 1980

This year the local service of the Women's Guild Day of Prayer will be held at St. Paul of the Cross R.C. Church, New Canterbury Road, Dulwich Hill, at 10 a.m., and representatives of all churches of the area will take part.

Please take this as a personal invitation to share in the service, which has been prepared by Christian women in Thailand.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

The Senior Parishioners' Club is again meeting every Thursday in the Parish Hall, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

If you would like to spend a pleasant afternoon playing "cards" or "housie", and enjoy a chat over a lovely cup of tea, please come and join us. Any age; any denomination; ladies or gents — all very welcome.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Thursday, 7th February, at 1 p.m., before the games start. All invited to be present.

IDA BARRETT,
Hon. Secretary.

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The Women-in-Friendship will hold a Special Business Meeting to plan the programme for the year's meetings on Tuesday, 5th February, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please try to come!

Tuesday, 26th February — our normal meeting day (4th Tuesday each month) — will be our Annual Meeting. We look forward to having all members (and hopefully new members) present.

IDA BARRETT,
Hon. Secretary.

MISSIONARY AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

The first Field Day for 1980 will be held on SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, at the Camden Airport. Joy Flights from 10 a.m. till dusk (Adults \$6; Children \$4). Rally from 2.30 p.m. with speakers and films. Refreshments available.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of LENT for 1980 falls on 20th February. We will be holding a Communion Service at 7.15 a.m. on that day. Then throughout Lent on Wednesday mornings there will be a Communion at 7.15 a.m. This time is designed to make it possible for workers, as well as those who are at home during the day, to share together as a special Lenten observance.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held in March. At this meeting the reports of Churchwardens, and the election of church office-bearers, take place. There has been a suggestion that this year the meeting be held on a Sunday following the morning service. Should any parishioners have any objection to this idea, please contact the Rector before the 22nd FEBRUARY.

INVOLVEMENT IN THE "AGE OF ME"

A leading Sydney advertising agency recently carried out a study of trends in our society, to help it understand the social environment in which its clients would be marketing in the 1980's.

The conclusions are fascinating — and disturbing. They indicate that our society is entering a period of withdrawal. People are pulling back from involvements in wider issues.

Their horizons of concern are shrinking. More and more, people's interests are turning inward, to matters directly affecting them, their homes and their families.

The study suggested that this trend will continue — so much so, that the agency has coined a term to describe the 1980's—

"The Age of Me"

This trend towards introversion and non-involvement is already very evident, the study emphasised, in the United States. There, in the 1960's, as in Australia, involvement was the keynote. People cared deeply about issues. It was the age of Vietnam moratoriums, anti-apartheid demonstrations, protest marches, civil rights, campus rallies, expressions of concern for others in need.

All that has stopped in America. And it's winding down here. Demonstrations are rarer and smaller. Even on the highly emotive uranium question, the visible, outspoken objections are becoming less apparent.

Why is the trend developing? No-one seems sure. Various answers are put forward, such as an increased preoccupation with earning a living in tough economic times, or a growing lack of confidence in the face of the energy crisis and an uncertain future. But one thing appears clear: the phenomenon is real and spreading.

Will Christians become part of it? Will we follow the trend towards non-involvement, and so become even more conformed to society?

Unhappily there do appear to be some affirmative signs.

Christian groups are finding it harder to recruit voluntary workers. Freedom from Hunger, and Austcare, who once relied almost wholly on church people for doorknockers, now get most of their volunteers from high schools and service clubs. And even that's becoming more of a battle each year.

Sunday School teachers are harder to find. Many churches are employing paid youth workers, and one reason for that is that fewer people are willing to commit themselves to youth leadership roles.

We could go on multiplying examples, which is disturbing in itself.

So we're alerting Christians to a trend. A trend in society that people totally outside the Church have detected. A trend that could easily sweep Christians along with it, before we fully realised what was happening.

There's no doubt that non-involvement in the needs of others is completely foreign to the wishes and example of our Lord.

Did you feed them? Did you give them a drink? Did you clothe them, house them,, visit them? Those are the questions He said He would ask at the end of time.

Will we be able to say yes? Or will we have to say: "Sorry, Lord, but we got caught up in 'the Age of Me'?"

Quoted from a recent issue of "Pulse"
[the Home Mission Society Newsletter.]

—oOo—

FLORAL MEMORIALS

We are most grateful to all who help beautify our church on Sundays by contributing towards flowers as a way of remembering loved ones. The following are noted in January/March. We remember those who are remembering one loved and missed:

1980

January 27—Mr. W. Williams in memory of my good friend, Ted Baker.

February 3—Mrs. M. Willis in memory of Mrs. Sheriff.

10—Mrs. A. Hall and the Lowe family of Harbord, in memory of Bessie Clarke.

March 16—Stone of Remembrance (anonymous).

—oOo—

FROM RICHARD AND ANNETTE SMALL

As we reflect over 1979 there is so much to praise and thank God for. From the moment we joined the staff of Student Life God has been showing us how great is His faithfulness.

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.

We had many expectations for 1979, and it's exciting to see how God has fulfilled them. Our three months at Sydney was so precious to us and we have truly loved and appreciated our time here in the Philippines. God has matured us a lot and given us a vision for reaching Asia and the world for Himself, as we have lived in a different culture and observed other trainees from different cultures. He has placed us in situations where we have had to seek Him and really come to grips with what it means to have Him as our first priority (there is still a long way to go though!). He has done so much else and yet all these things we are seeing more and more our weaknesses and the absolute necessity to fully rely on Him.

All these experiences, ministries and training we have had would not have been possible if You had not followed God's call to you and supported us by your prayers and finance. How we praise God for YOU. It's a privilege to have you on our support team. We love writing to you, and it's exciting to see what God is doing in your lives.

We eagerly look forward to 1980 — returning to Australia, settling in Melbourne and beginning a new ministry at Monash University, becoming parents, enjoying another year of marriage and seeing the Lord continue to prove His faithfulness to us.

Schedule:

Our Schedule for the months of Jan./Feb. will be very busy, and we would like you to be aware of our overall itinerary:

Jan. 19, Graduation; 20, depart Manila via Qantas for Melbourne; 21-30, Deniliquin; 31-Feb. 7, Cowra; Feb. 8-12, Sydney, Staff Retreat nad Planning; 13-15, Sydney; 16-20, Canberra; March 17, Campus.

Please address any personal mail to us c/o "Billinudgel", Deniliquin, 2710, N.S.W., or business mail to us c/o L.I.F.E., P.O. Box A399 Sydney South, 2000, N.S.W.

Let's Praise God For—

- ★ 1979, a great year of growing and learning.
- ★ Our first year as full-time Christian workers and your invaluable contribution to this by encouragement, prayer and finance.
- ★ Our trainers, who have imparted not only the training but also their own lives.
- ★ The very good health we have both enjoyed.
- ★ Our placement to Monash in 1980.
- ★ The forthcoming baby.
- ★ God's grace in calling us, teaching us and using us (Annette, I and You).

Please Pray For—

- ★ Us — the travelling, visiting, support raising, house hunting and moving we will be doing.
- ★ Annette and the baby, for good health and good rest.

. . . . thanks!

Closing—

Once again, thanks for the very significant part you are playing in this ministry. We thank God for You. It's going to be great to be home again, and we hope to see everyone soon, until then,

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours in His Service,

ANNETTE & RICH.

P.S.: Looking forward to seeing you in February. Would love to worship with you all on the 10th if we can sneak out of retreat that morning. Will give you a call beforehand, anyway, God Bless, A. & R.
(Hello to All!)