

# The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

FEBRUARY, 1984



“Rise up, take the child and his mother and escape with them to Egypt and stay there until I tell you.”

The Rectory,  
Petersham, 2049

Dear Friends,

31st January, 1984

This is the first Chronicle for 1984. I, therefore, take the opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

During January I took a fortnight's holiday with my two sons. We went to Kiama and spent our days swimming and surfing — a very enjoyable pastime.

Whilst on holidays I always make it a point of attending the local Anglican Church at least once on Sunday. At one of the services Bishop Clive Kerle was the guest preacher. The bishop is now retired from the active ministry but still does some part-time work.

His sermon was on the Past, the Present and the Future. One matter he drew to our attention was the great changes coming over our country. The bishop went to great pains to point out that we Anglicans are no longer a majority group, or the largest Christian denomination in our community. This fact takes some thinking through.

The bishop also pointed out the increasing number of non-Christians in our community. The ancient religions of the East and the more modern so-called philosophies are becoming very numerous and are making many converts. Many of these converts were formally nominal and sometimes active members of Christian denominations. This also takes some thinking about.

Both of these facts about the changing face of Australia are having an effect upon us — especially upon All Saints Anglican Church at Petersham. We either view these things as opportunities to win men and women to Christ as Saviour and Lord; or, and it appears as the only other alternative, we are bowed down with the impossible task of trying to keep alive a dying church.

One thing is certain — the Word of God shall never cease to bring men and women to Christ, nor will there ever cease to be a living Spirit-filled Church made up of Christian men and women who are obedient to Christ. These are things Jesus taught and He never lied.

In 1984 we must listen to God speaking to us, and we must obey. This is not going to be easy, obedience is costly.

Will you join with us seeking God's way in 1984? We need your prayers and encouragement.

Yours sincerely BRUCE WOOLCOTT

### WEDDING SERVICE

A Wedding Service will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, Petersham on Saturday, February 25, 1984, at 2 p.m. for Helen Harrison and Bruce Woolcott.

**EASTER GIFTS**

Mabel Willis is now ready to receive donations of cash, toilet soap, talcum powder or other small things which have become part of our Easter gifts to people living in the nursing homes in this area. A gift of cash is most welcome because Mabel can then take advantage of sales and specials and thereby have more gifts to allocate. Let us be thankful that in this we are giving and not receiving.



**FLOWER ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY**

- February 5—By Mrs. M. Willis in memory of Mrs. Sheriff.  
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- February 12—Donation by Miss Perry.  
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.
- February 19—No donation.  
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- February 26—No donation.  
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.



**PAPER RE-CYCLING**

Now that the Christmas Season is over, it is hoped that the number of people assisting will return to normal and that others may assist.

We have on hand a car foot pump that was picked up during the January collection. If you have a claim on it, please contact the undersigned.

F. HEARN. 569-1852



**WOMEN IN FRIENDSHIP**

The first meeting of the Women-in-Friendship will be held on Tuesday, 7th February, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The meeting will be followed at 2 p.m. by our Annual Happy Home Demonstration. Please come and swell our numbers which, I am sorry to say, are very small. You don't have to buy anything at the Demonstration and afternoon tea will be provided.

We are earnestly seeking more members for our monthly meeting which is on the first Tuesday. Please come and join us.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary



**SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB**

The Senior Parishioners Club is held in the Parish Hall every Thursday at 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you are lonely or just want to fill in Thursday afternoons, you will be very welcome

to come and play "Housie" with us. If you are not sure how to play, there is always somebody to help you.

A lovely afternoon tea is always served over which everyone finds something to chat about. You will find us a happy, friendly club. Age or creed does not matter.

Our charge is only 60 cents, which covers prizes for the games, door prizes and afternoon tea.

We are waiting to welcome you.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

—oOo—

### HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday, February 19, and gifts of fruit and vegetables, groceries and garden flowers will do much to help decorate the church. The church will be open on Friday morning 17th from 10 a.m. and Saturday morning, 18th February, and the early arrival of your gifts will greatly assist in making the arrangement attractive.

—oOo—

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School resumes today, 5th February. Year 1983 finished on a high level with the Children's Carol Singing on Sunday, 18th December, which all the congregation enjoyed. We have a group of delightful children in the Kindergarten and some older ones, boys and girls, with the potential to bring the Sunday School up to a thriving body.

If we can retain our teaching staff the Sunday School future looks brighter.

—oOo—

(We print the following by courtesy of the Shoalhaven and Nowra News, 28/12/83)

### BISHOP SPEAKS ABOUT MARRIAGE

The Anglican Bishop in Wollongong, Bishop R. H. Goodhew, yesterday said love in marriage or elsewhere needed work and effort.

Bishop Goodhew said "Few things are sadder to reflect

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on than the unhappy contrast between the hopes and anticipation with which couples enter into their marriages and the disappointment and disillusionment which so many experience in practice.

"Increasing divorce numbers are a testimony to blighted hopes.

"They represent deep community sadness.

"In part, this comes about because of a lack of understanding about the nature of love.

"Most of us think of ourselves as experts when it comes to love but that is often far from the truth.

"For example, some people feel that love is something that cannot really be understood.

### **MYSTERIOUS**

"That it is mysterious, defying definition, analysis and rational discussion.

"This is not true.

"God has defined love for us, described in nature and operation and demonstrated what it is like in action in the life of Jesus Christ.

"At the other extreme there is the outlook that says that love is the simplest thing in the world.

"It is just doing what comes naturally and that it requires no effort, no thought, no real concentration.

### **MISCONCEPTION**

"This is a youthful misconception which many of us find hard to outgrow.

"But it is just not true.

"Love in marriage or elsewhere needs work and effort.

"It is an art to be learned.

"What an immense difference it would make in our marriages, in our homes and in our community if we all took seriously the task of loving.

"It would initiate a revolution of vast proportions.

"Why do we not try?

"Certainly God stands ready to point the way if we will give it serious consideration," said Bishop Goodhew.

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### **ANGLICAN CHURCH ENTERS NEW ERA**

St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Bomaderry enters a new era on New Year's Day, 1984 when it becomes a provisional parish separate from All Saints Nowra.

This will include the areas of North Nowra and Cambe-

warra as well as St. John's Anglican Church at Culburra-Orient Point.

The Rev. David Irwin will be the minister in charge of the new parish.

Mr. Irwin arrived in Bomaderry in late May to take up his post.

He is South African-born, was raised in Zimbabwe, studied for the ministry in Sydney and was previously the Vicar of Baradine in the north-west of N.S.W. before coming to the Shoalhaven area.

He is married to Jane and they have three daughters.

Mr. Irwin said "I think that this is an interesting development in the history of the local Anglican Church.

"The subdivision of the former parish of All Saints into three makes pastoral work much more manageable and provides for a closer contact between clergy and people.

"I am really looking forward to the challenge of ministry here."

Mr. Irwin said that only a few years ago it was supposed that the influence of the church was declining, never to rise again.

"Certainly post-war materialism and the rebellion against all forms of authority during the 1960's and 1970's weakened churches, many of which were too bewildered by the sudden changes in society to respond constructively.

"During this time of decline, the church itself has learned important lessons about the need to speak its message more relevantly and to minister more sensitively.

"Society too has changed.

"Recession, unemployment, the high rate of marital breakdown and constant international tensions have eroded confidence in materialism and man's capacity to solve his problems alone.

"This has created a new and growing interest in the Christian message and many churches in Australia are growing rapidly."

Mr. Irwin said his own emphasis would be a practical one.

"Jesus related easily and well to ordinary people caught up in the concerns of day to day living, and His message has just as much relevance to ordinary life and relationships now as then.

"It is to be regretted that the church has sometimes spoken its message in so appallingly irrelevant a way.

"What we hope to emphasise is not simply 'pie in the sky later when you die', but also 'steak on your plate while you wait'."

Mr. Irwin said Jesus promised his followers a quality of life here and now marked by peace, love and joy.

Mr. Irwin said St. Stephen's would have a number of programs specifically concerned with marriage and family life.

It would deal with such matters as marriage preparation.

The church will run a marriage enrichment program consisting of one seminar a month during most of next year.

"For family groups there will be family life seminars, family camps, and family fun days when families just get away from it all, together, to strengthen their love and enjoyment of each other.

"Marriage counselling is available to those who are hurting.

"Child development, discipline and nurture will be seminars offered to parents, and so on.

### WIDE VARIETY

Mr. Irwin said there would be a wide variety of activities for youth and children which he hopes will be character building in the Christian sense.

"We also plan to be as supportive as we can of single parent families, divorcees, widows and widowers, the elderly and any others who seeks out our help.

"We want to see people happy and whole in the sense that God always intended them to be.

"As we launch out on this new venture, we would like to invite all Anglicans (formerly the Church of England), and indeed all those with no Christian affiliation, to seriously consider involvement at either St. Stephen's Bomaderry or St. John's Culburra.

"The doors of our buildings are open, and so are our hearts and lives."

Mr. Irwin was officially instituted by the Bishop in Wollongong, Rt. Rev. Harry Goodhew, at 9 a.m. on New Year's Day at St. Stephen's Bomaderry.

— By courtesy of the Shoalhaven and Nowra News, 21/12/83

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## WALTERS & SON

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

#### Offices and Chapels:

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You are invited to enquire about our funeral fund.

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

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Offertories ..... 1021.52	Rector's Net Stipend 1126.25
<b>RECYCLING:</b>	Rector's Trav. Allow. 366.45
Cans ..... 92.40	Organist ..... 45.00
Papers .. ... 297.35	Church Flowers ..... 37.50
389.75	Chronicles ..... 65.20
Church Flowers ..... 45.00	Church Cleaning ..... 120.00
District Visitors ..... 10.00	Parish Supn. Contrib. 180.00
<b>DONATIONS:</b>	Rector's Supn. Contrib. 180.00
O.E.S. Mbrs. (Flood-lighting) .. ... 6.50	General Assessment .... 558.25
Taverner's Hill	Special Assessment 164.00
Mothers Club 5.00	Special Assmt. Arrears 87.50
Anon. for Special	Telephone Acct. .... 127.97
Assessment Arrears 50.00	Fete Expenses ..... 118.24
Advert in Chronicle	Paper Towels .. ... 40.32
(Fresh Flowers) .... 50.00	Advert Offertories to
1983 Fete ..... 6107.35	H.M.S. .... 218.71
1984 Fete ..... 19.00	Annual Insce. Prem. .. 548.00
Rector's Tele. Contribution 10/83 ..... 11.80	3983.89
7715.92	Surplus for month .... <b>3732.03</b>
	7715.92

Balance, 1/11/83 .....	1027.92
Plus Surplus for month .....	3732.03
Balance, 30/11/83 .....	4759.95

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT ,NOVEMBER, 1983**

Fresh Flowers Pty. Ltd.—October Flowers .....	37.50
Fielders Bread—Bread for Fete .....	18.24
Beverly Hills District Band—Fete Performance .....	40.00
Brett Hire & Repair Services Pty. Ltd—2 Tents for Fete	60.00
Paper Hand Towels—Cash Payment .....	40.32
Telecom Aust.—Telephone A/c:	
Calls 72.75; Rent 48.00; Directory Assistance 7.22 .....	127.97
Anglican Insurance Ltd.—Annual Premium .....	548.00
James & James—December Chronicles .....	65.20