

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

March

FEBRUARY, 1984

RECTOR'S LETTER

The Rectory,
Petersham, 2049

Dear Friends,

From time to time a person will say to me, "I would like to help the church". One is encouraged by such remarks, particularly when they go on to specify what they intend doing. "I will take envelopes and give a weekly donation"; or, "I will help out on Fete Day", or, "You can pick up newspapers each month".

All those ways are good and helpful, but—but—it is about this that I want to write.

There is a great difference between helping the church and being part of the church. It is like supporting a football team but never playing. You may regularly stand on the side line cheering when your team is winning, or shouting abuse when they are losing; you may wear the club colours, or sport a supporters badge; but for all your enthusiasm or your support you are not on the field. You are not taking the knocks, or running around the field, sometimes exhausted, nor do you have to battle on when the odds are against you.

Being "in the church" is being part of the team which is battling — straining every muscle, and still being there when things are going the wrong way.

Being part of a Christian congregation in an inner Western suburb of Sydney is not very easy. It has great blessing for those whose eyes are open to see God at work amongst them but often it seems to be like playing a game which is stacked against you.

Do you want to help the church? Right! The best help

you can give is to put on a jersey and come and join the team. Come and play the game with us. Come to the practices; we hold them twice every Sunday here at All Saints', Petersham.

People like to help — may be our conscience tells us it is right; or may be we think it will secure the services of the minister when we are sick or worse.

What would happen to a football team if it had hundreds, or even thousands cheering on the side line, or wearing the clubs colours but no one playing the games or practicing at training sessions? The answer is obvious, there would be no team!

Thank you for your interest so far. There is still a church, a team, to support but we are in need of new regular members who will participate.

There is no doubt the christian church will always exist. Believers will always find other believers and enjoy fellowship with Christ and one another. We ought not assume that it will always be in our suburb or that our church building will always be used. Only your attendance and active participation can secure that.

When we talk about "helping the church" let us think about what we are saying and consider being a player rather than a spectator.

May the Lord bless you.

Your sincerely,

BRUCE WOOLCOTT

—oOo—

LENT 1984

Wednesday, 7th March marks the commencement of Lent. That is Ash Wednesday.

There will be a service of Holy Communion held in All Saints Church, Petersham at 7.45 p.m. on that day.

During Lent on each Wednesday evening there will be a Lenten Devotional in the church.

We ought not underestimate the importance of Lent as a preparation for the great festival of Easter. Our hearts and minds need to prepare for the wonderful news that through the Cross Jesus has forgiven us our sins and in His Rurrection has given us power to live a life pleasing to God.

Don't forget Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Devotionals.

—oOo—

SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

Are you lonely? Do you need someone to talk to? or do you just want to fill in Thursday afternoons in a Happy, Friendly Club playing "Housie" and laughing and chatting over a lovely afternoon tea. Well just come along to the Parish Hall 1 p.m.

to 4 p.m. every Thursday, only 60 cents covers door prizes, game prizes and afternoon tea.

We will be glad to welcome you, age or creed does not matter.

See you next Thursday.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School commenced the 1984 classes on Sunday 5th March.

The primary section commences at 9.30 a.m. in the church and the Kindergarten at 9.30 a.m. in their own hall.

The Sunday School Annual Teachers meeting was held on Sunday, 19th February, following the Morning Service.

This year the Sunday School prize-giving is to be held on the 18th March, during the Family Service.

Will you please come to this service and give the children the support of your presence. How can children believe their religious teachings when so few grown ups attend church services.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent



WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship will be held on Tuesday, 6th March (Pancake Day) at 1.30 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Parish Hall.

A Second Hand Clothing and Jumble Stall has been set for Friday, 9th March in the Parish Hall, opening at 9 a.m. If you have anything saleable that you no longer need please let us have it. Last year we were able to donate \$1,000 towards Church funds mainly from the proceeds of these stalls. So many thanks to all who have helped us in the past, and we look forward to your continued support.

The Happy Home Demonstration held after our meeting last month was very successful. We expect to receive \$27 proceeds. Thanks to all those who came along and supported us.

Our club members all take this opportunity to wish Mr. Woolcott and Helen, Health and Happiness in the years ahead.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

FLOWER DONATIONS

- March 4 — Donation in memory of Raymond Smith by his mother.
Arrangement by Mrs. Steed.
- March 11 — Anonymous donation for Stone of Remembrance
Donation in memory of "Mate" from Julie and Alison.
Arrangement by Miss. Nisbet.
- March 18 — Donation by Mrs. Bill Williams in memory of Mrs. Ivy Clark.
Arrangement by Mrs. Steed.
- March 25 — Donation by Miss Perry.
Arrangement by Miss. Nisbet.
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**Order of Service for the Marriage of
HELEN HARRISON to BRUCE WOOLCOTT
SATURDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 1984**

Officiating Clergy: The Right Reverend A. J. Dain,
The Reverend W. J. Dumbrell.

Attendants: Tracey McBeath, Mrs. Susan McBeath,
Mr. Roy Abel.

Ushers: David Woolcott, Martin McBeath.

Organist: Stephen Woolcott.

THE FAMILY AT RISK

Christians have never doubted that the family is the basic and most essential unit in any society. However, we have tended to be judgemental about parents who cannot cope, and a little over enthusiastic about removing children from their natural environment and placing them in children's homes.

Today, the emphasis has changed. The first priority is now seen as helping families to acquire the resources and skills to help themselves.

That's possibly a greater challenge today than ever before, as many factors combine to put new stresses upon the family

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structure. But it's the course of action that Care Force has chosen to pursue, in the firm belief that maintaining the family unit is by far the most effective way to help.

Care Force is about people caring for others in their community. Using trained volunteers as well as staff members, it works to put disadvantaged families in touch with personal support networks and resources in their own neighbourhood. Care Force seeks to help such families to learn appropriate survival skills, and to use and develop emotional and spiritual resources within themselves.

Care Force is divided into 13 teams. The central office is at the Charlton Centre, Ashfield (phone 799-5222).



FISHING FOR A WAY OF LIFE

"You will fail", said the Anglican bishop as the community at Kisumu, in western Kenya, prepared to embark on an ambitious program in partnership with World Vision. The people at Kisumu have set up a fishing program as part of a much larger community development project which will make the village self-reliant. And they are determined to get it right the first time.

But the Anglican Bishop of Maseno South Diocese, Henry Okullu repeated: "You will fail". The large crowd at the local boatyard strained their ears to make sure they were hearing correctly.

Their bishop read from the fifth chapter of Luke's Gospel. "You see? The disciples failed. They were experienced fishermen. Even though they had been doing their best it was going badly. They had fished all night without catching anything. They were ready to give up.

"But Jesus challenged them to be persistent. 'Don't give up', he told them. 'Throw out your nets again. Keep trying.'

"Here in Kisumu, in this project, you will fail. There will be times when you feel like giving up the idea of being self-reliant", said Bishop Henry Okullu. "But I challenge you to have the courage to be persistent."

Before offering a prayer of dedication for Alpha, the new 22-foot wooden fishing boat, Bishop Okullu drew a second lesson from Luke's Gospel: "Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

When the disciples discovered they were not strong enough to hoist all of their fish into their boat, they had the good sense to call to the people in another nearby boat to come over and help them."

With its nets, sail and other equipment, Alpha cost a total of \$1,700. A second, similar boat now is being built at the

government boatyard, the money for this one also provided by World Vision sponsors. The project committee is doing the rest.

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NO EXCUSES THIS SUNDAY!

(Australian Church Record)

Suggestions from Petts Wood Methodist Church

To make it possible for everyone to attend church, we are having a special 'No Excuse' Sunday.

- Beds will be placed in the aisles for people who say "Sunday is the only day I have for a long lie".
- We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof will fall in if ever I come to church!"
- Blankets will be provided for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who think it is too hot.
- We will have hearing aids for those who think the minister speaks too softly, and cotton wool for those who say he preaches too loudly; or maybe we are just testing the amplifiers?
- Finally, the church will be decked out with Easter flowers and Christmas decorations for those who never see the church without them.

from: "Petts Wood Messenger"

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MARANATHA

Beautiful people . . .

. . . we are constantly being told are the young, the slim, the attractive, the handsome, the rich (you would have to be to afford the clothes, the cars, the leisure activities, and the food of T.V.'s beautiful people).

But it's not real is it?

We all know that there is a lot of truth in the old saying "you can't tell a book by its cover". We know that, but how well the advertisers seduce us to believe that beautiful people are those with nice covers.

I can remember a saying of one of my aunts, "It might be nice inside". This saying was always repeated in our family as we drove past old weather beaten houses.

Surely real beauty, surely the beautiful people, are those with good hearts and minds.

Real beauty has nothing to do with youth, physical attractiveness, riches, the clothes we wear.

It's got to do with how I really am inside.

That's why it is no surprise that in the Bible God speaks about how we think (and act) as being important.

What I am inside will become evident in my words and actions. This is the case because how I think always determines how I act.

None of us is beautiful on the inside. We all know that our hearts are not entirely pure. This is rather disconcerting, especially in the light of the great truth that God is not interested in the cover very much, but in the heart.

Can I be beautiful then? Yes, there is a beauty, a deep and lasting beauty, one that is quite independent of the externals.

It begins when I humbly acknowledge my uncleanness before God, and receive forgiveness when I commit myself to Jesus. Then the promise of God is that I am cleansed and forgiven. He looks upon my heart and treats me as if I had never sinned.

Then I can accept myself as being worthy; worthy of my own love because God loves me. I can accept myself if I am beautiful physically or not so, if I am clever or not so, if I am good at things or not so, if I am young or wrinkly, if I am rich and successful or not so.

I will be freed from the unreality of having to keep up all the externals. I will see in myself and in others real beauty for what it is.

Then finally, with the help of God's Spirit, God will begin to produce within me thoughts, habits and actions which will be beautiful and loving and helpful.

This beauty never fades with age or the pains and hardships of life. On the contrary, since it is a beauty God is wanting to produce within us, it will only grow with the years and the pains.

Peter Brain

(Australian Church Record)

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.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on Monday, 19th March at 7.45 in the evening.

Your attendance is important.

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH, PETERSHAM STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT, DECEMBER 1983

Balance at 1st December, 1983	\$4,759.95
Plus Surplus for Month	526.86
Balance at 31st December, 1983	\$5,286.86

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Offertories	1184.91	Rector's Net stipend	1126.25
RECYCLING:		Rector's trav. allow.	286.21
Cans	130.80	1984 Offertory	
Papers ..	276.45	Envelopes	59.85
Church Flowers	35.50	Church Flowers 11/83	40.00
District Visitors	218.30	Church Cleaning	150.00
DONATIONS:		Special Asses. Arrs. ..	10.00
Snr. Parishioners		Hall Electricity	99.56
450.00		Organ Tuning &	
OES members for		Maint.	105.00
Chronicle ..	2.50		1876.87
Anon. for Special		Surplus for Month	526.86
Assesment			
arrs	10.00		
1983 Fete	3.50		
1984 Fete	73.77		
Rector's Telephone			
Contribution 11/83	18.00		
	<u>\$2403.73</u>		<u>\$2403.73</u>

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT — DECEMBER 1983

Sydney County Council — Hall Electricity 21/7—18/11	99.56
Fresh Flowers Pty. Ltd. — November Flowers	40.00
J. W. Walker & Sons (Alia) Pty. Ltd. —	
Organ Tuning & Maintenance	105.00
Anglican Information Office — 1984 Offertory	
Envelopes	59.85