

# The Chronicle

## Of All Saints

### Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

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FEBRUARY, 1985

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The Rêctory,  
P.O. Box 241  
PETERSHAM 2049  
24th January

Dear Friends,

This is our first Chronicle for 1985. Let me commence the year by wishing you a Happy New Year — a bit late some may say, but nevertheless A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

I guess one of the most frustrating things in life is to follow a false lead. To be told you are sure to find what you are looking for by travelling in such and such a direction, only to find it is not there. The directions given were wrong — you've travelled the wrong road.

I suppose it's all tied up with the beginning of the New Year — coming back to work after the Christmas-New Year break. Direction, goals, and the like have been very much in my mind of late.

As a parish we need some goals for the New Year. We need to think about where we are going and how we intend to achieve them. It is equally possible for a group of people as for an individual to discover the direction they are taking leads them nowhere.

Our constant prayer ought to be for guidance and for strength. We need to know what God would have us do and we need to do it in His strength.

I knew of a church congregation which met happily in an old wooden church, but they wanted to build a beautiful brick church. They had an architect to draw up plans and they put

all, or at least most, of their effort into raising sufficient finance to get a bank loan to build this beautiful modern building — a credit to any congregation. The loan was raised, the building erected. The two things happened: the large monthly payments were found to be a burden on a congregation which was slowly but surely moving out of the district. Great numbers of migrants were coming into their area and the congregation was getting smaller and smaller. Who would now use this beautiful church and how could this ever decreasing congregation pay for the building.

The false trail — the desired goal — but no satisfaction — what was to be their joy and crown became a chain and a weight which dragged them down. We must always be on our watch against such things.

It always concerns me when things — money, buildings, etc. become our great goal in church activities. Our constant aim must be to serve the Lord, but, and this is important, to serve Him when, where and how He asks of us.

Everyone will have their individual task — God certainly will not have us all doing the same thing. Heaven forbid us all wanting to sing solos every Sunday or all play the organ — although if all wanted to preach or take the services every Sunday — that would make easy work for me; but even that might need some thinking about.

Everyone doing what God asks of them will not mean confusion but rather complementing and supplementing each other's effort. God is not a god of confusion but rather fits us all into His grand plan.

Seek in prayer to find God's plan for you in our work to extend His Kingdom here in Petersham, and keep in mind people are precious to God, not things.

Our task in '85 must be people-centred. Without a doubt we must care for people. Other goals are false unless they are directed to the major task of the church to win people to Christ — to minister to them — to guide and encourage them to find the Saviour who died for them.

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Yours sincerely, BRUCE WOOLCOTT

### IT'S AN ILL WIND

On Sunday morning, 13th January, at Service time it was discovered that the main door of the church had been damaged and could not be secured. Mr. R. Swankie took command of the situation and organised temporary security at the end of the service, and planned for repairs to be done on Thursday morning. As the repairs required that the door be removed and taken away the Rector called for volunteers from the congregation to care for the church during the time that the door would be open. A roster of names and times was drawn up and those concerned duly turned up. However, Thursday is the day on which the cleaning team work on the church and hall. We have to thank the people on the roster for assistance in the cleaning, for polishing the brass and tidying up the church grounds.

We have since been informed by a reliable witness that a small man was observed wandering in the church grounds on the evening of Thursday, 10th January. Suddenly he threw himself bodily at the door. As our witness watched, he did this three times and the police were then called, and the man was taken away.

The repairs to the door were completed most satisfactorily by Mr. R. Swankie and it is difficult to find the part that was damaged.



### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

An innovation this year was a Carol Service held on the afternoon of Sunday, 16th December. This service was designed to attract the attention and attendance of two hundred or so householders who support our paper collection by keeping their own and friends newspapers ready for us to collect on the second Saturday of each month. We are happy to report that a considerable number of these specially invited people attended and it proved to be a great success. After the Carol Service the congregation adjourned to the Church Hall where a most attractive afternoon tea had been prepared by the ladies of the church.

The afternoon was highlighted by the parish council's decision to emphasise that it was a Thanksgiving exercise by not taking up a collection and by supplying the afternoon tea free of charge.

On reflection we realise that more of our friends outside

the church may have attended if we had made transport available; as it was so successful we obviously will consider a similar occasion for next Christmas.

Our services this year have been marked by the attendance of a number of folk who have not previously been regular members of our congregation. We are pleased to welcome them and hope the trend continues. We do need "new faces."



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School and Kindergarten recommenced classes for 1985 on the 3rd February. Sunday School is held at 9.30 a.m. each Sunday except for the Family Service on the 3rd Sunday in the month.

Trowel teaching manuals and pupil activity material, supplied through the Christian Education Publications, will be used again this year. In addition to the usual books we have purchased sound cassettes for use with various lessons in Terms 1 and 2. A new publication this year is an activity pad suitable for the younger members of the Kindergarten. A number of the pads, which have enough work for 50 weeks, have been purchased.

The Sunday School Prize-giving will be held in March at the Family Service.

At the Family service in December, the Sunday School pupils presented their Christmas item in a special way. The pupils walked into the church at the start of the service in choir robes and took their places in the choir stalls. This was an idea of Mrs. Woolcott's. I would like to thank Mrs. Woolcott and Mrs. Essam for organising this Sunday School activity. Also thanks to all the pupils for their participation.

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### **WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP**

The first meeting of the Women-in-Friendship for 1985 will be held in the Guild Room of the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 12th February at 1.30 p.m. We hope to see all our members and hopefully some new members at this meeting to help plan the year's functions. Please note that the meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month in future, not the first Tuesday as previously.

The March meeting will be, as usual, our Annual Meeting followed by a Happy Home Party. Also on either Friday, 15th or Friday, 22nd February we will be holding a second hand and jumble stall. Please watch the weekly notices for details and please save all your unwanted clothes for us.

A sad note in our club was the passing, just before Christmas of May Ruhle, a loved member of our club for many years. The club members will be putting flowers in the Church in her memory in the near future. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Our prayers are with Thelma Kidd as she waits to undergo an eye operation early in February. We hope you'll be as good as new after the op., Thel.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary



### **SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB**

The Senior Parishioners' Club is back in full swing. If you are lonely or just want to fill in an afternoon in happy surroundings, just come along to the Parish Hall any Thursday at 1 p.m. Come and visit us, then I am sure you will want to come again. We play "Housie", talk and eat.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, 7th February at 12.30 p.m.

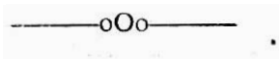
We were very sorry to learn tht Freda Miller has had a spell in hospital after suffering a fall late last year, but are glad to know she is O.K. again now.

See you on Thursday afternoon.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

**FLOWER DONATIONS FOR JANUARY**

- January 6—By Miss Leslie in memory of her mother.  
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- January 13—By Mrs. M. Willis in memory of Mrs. Shiels.  
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.
- January 20—In memory of May Ruhle by the Women-in-Friendship.  
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- January 27—By Mrs. P. Hitchins in memory of her husband.  
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.

**FLOWER DONATIONS FOR FEBRUARY**

- February 3—By Mrs. M. Willis in memory of her mother,  
Mrs. Sheriff.  
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- February 10—No Donation.
- February 17—No Donation.
- February 24—No Donation.

**CHURCH CLEANING**

At the December Parish Council meeting there was discussion on church cleaning. It was pointed out that it was costing more than \$1500 a year at a time when numbers of people are working wholeheartedly to make money by recycling newspaper and by other means. Arising from this we were able to arrange for a volunteer team of three to take on the cleaning job and this is now being done on Thursday starting at 8 a.m. The team is not too proud to accept help from anyone who has the inclination to do so.

The Parish Council is now transferring weekly the \$30 which it previously spent on cleaning, into the Restoration Fund and this will continue as long as we have volunteers to do the church cleaning.

## THE STORY OF THE PRAYING HANDS

All of us have admired the art masterpiece known as "The Praying Hands. Here's the fascinating story behind that masterful work of art.

In the late fifteenth century, two struggling art students, Albrecht Durer and Franz Knigstein, worked as labourers to earn money to continue their art studies. The work was long and hard, it left them little time to study art.

Finally, they agreed to draw lots and let the loser support them both while the winner continued to study. Albrecht won. It and when he attained success, Albrecht agreed to then support Franz so that he too could finish his studies.

After Albrecht achieved success, he returned to keep his bargain with Franz. He soon discovered the enormous sacrifice his friend had made for him. As Franz had worked at hard labour, his fingers had become twisted and stiff. His long, slender fingers and sensitive hands had been ruined for life. He could no longer manage the delicate brush strokes so necessary to execute fine paintings. In spite of the price he had paid, Franz was not bitter. He was happy that his friend Albrecht had attained success.

One day Albrecht saw his loyal friend kneeling, his rough and gnarled hands entwined in silent prayer. Albrecht sketched his friend's hands. From this sketch he later completed a truly great masterpiece. He gave it the simple but moving title, "The Praying Hands."



## IMAGES OF STILLNESS

The Lord is my pace setter . . . I shall not rush.

He makes me stop for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity  
He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind  
and his guidance is peace

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,  
I will not fret, for His presence is here

His timelessness, his all importance will keep me in balance

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my  
activity by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility

My cup of joyous energy overflows

Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours  
for I shall walk in the Pace of My Lord and dwell in His house  
for ever.

A version of the 23rd Psalm from Japan.

**ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH, PETERSHAM**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR**  
**DECEMBER, 1984**

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Offertories .. .. .	1355.75	Rector's Net Stipend	1240.00
RECYCLING—		Rector's Trav. Allow.	245.00
Cans .. .. .	82.20	Church Flowers .. ..	45.00
Papers .. .. .	423.45	Chronicles .. .. .	75.20
	505.65	Church Cleaning .. ..	120.00
District Visitors .. ..	73.70	Catering Expenses for	
1984 Fete .. .. .	500.00	Carol Service .. ..	50.00
1985 Fete .. .. .	2.00	Insurance .. .. .	95.00
Anonymous Donation		Organ Tuning & Reprs.	90.00
for Special Ass. Arrs.	50.00	Special Assessmt. Arrs.	50.00
DONATIONS—		Trinity and Advent Sun	
Sen. Parishioners' Club	500.00	day Offertories to	
OES Members for		H.M.S. .. .. .	374.45
Floodlighting .. ..	4.00		
Mr. J. A. Barlow .. ..	50.00		2384.65
Bal. Catering Expenses		Surplus for month ..	715.06
for Carol Service .. ..	4.37		
Deposit Interest .. ..	54.24		
	3099.71		3099.71

Balance date: 1/12/84 5563.31

PLUS Surplus for month .. .. . 715.06

Balance date: 31/12/84 6278.37

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