

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

AUGUST, 1984



The Rectory,
Petersham 2049

Dear Friends,

26th July, 1984

It is a great satisfaction to know many parishioners and friends, not only receive, but also read our parish paper, and especially the Rector's Letter.

This month I would like to share a matter that gives me some very real concern. The matter of Christian Joy.

Being a believer ought to bring great joy, and this joy is seen in our worship and daily living. Too often the picture drawn of a Christian is that of a "killjoy" or someone oppressed by many burdensome restrictions. Others would see the follower of God as a hard worker spending much time trying to keep the local church going.

To some extent we cannot blame non-believing, or non-Churchgoers for having this rather distorted picture. There is no doubt that we bring such upon ourselves.

Christian Joy comes basically from a knowledge of the character of God. The God who made us, loves us and sent His Only Son to die for us on the Cross. In Christ we receive forgiveness of sin. Right from that start that should give us not only peace, peace of conscience but also tremendous joy.

The problem, however, that I see is one of day to day living. When one first realises the love of God that brings overwhelming joy, but it appears to wear thin as the years pass.

Everyone needs time both privately and in the company of others to do two things—first, recall the things God has done for you, and second, to hear the things God is doing for other Christians. In so doing, our knowledge of God widens and deepens.

To live the Christian life on an experience long in the past and without any regular encouragement is a joyless task. We need to be kept constantly in touch with what God is doing in this world. Exciting things are happening and as we make time to listen we will find such things will happen to us. It is easy to cut oneself off and become depressed and despondent. Even the great prophets in Old Testaments found this to be so.

Christian Joy comes from knowing that God is working in this world. Exciting things are happening. Keeping the church alive doesn't depend on my hard work or on us sticking rigidly to a set of traditions. Joy comes from knowing the character of God. He is alive and active in the world. Being in touch with Him brings joy and life to us personally and to our church.

"Trust and obey for there's no other way,

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Joy comes through loving obedience. Let's all enjoy God's blessing.

Yours sincerely, BRUCE WOOLCOTT

FLOWER DONATIONS

- August 5 — By Mrs. E. Champion in memory of her parents,
Mr. and Mrs. Sugden.
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- August 12 — By Mrs. M. Willis in memory of Mrs. Shiels.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.
- August 19 — No donation.
Arrangement by Mrs. A. Steed.
- August 26 — In loving memory of William John Roberts from
Rita and family.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

As mentioned last month Ian and Felicity McLure have moved to Canberra.

We are now in urgent need of two teachers for the Sunday School. One teacher for the kindergarten and the other for the senior Sunday school.

Until we have a teacher for the senior Sunday school, the high school group will remain in church.

NOEL CRAGG, Superintendent

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

The next meeting of the Women-in-Friendship will be on Tuesday, 7th August at 1.30 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Parish Hall. The Annual Fete is drawing nearer and we must think about our Cake and Sweets Stall. Any donations of sugar for sweet making or cake ingredients would be very much appreciated.

The last Second-hand Clothing and Jumble Stall was very rewarding. The proceeds being \$170. Many thanks to all who contributed in any way. The next Stall will be held on Friday, 21st September. Please keep us in mind. We would be grateful for anything saleable.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.

SENIOR PARISHIONERS' CLUB

Our Club continues to be a bright afternoon even if the weather outside is cold and wet.

Come along and play "Housie" with us. It's very easy to play and a lovely hot cup of tea is always enjoyed by all.

60 cents covers the afternoon's expenses.

IDA BARRETT, Hon. Sec.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE

He was born in an obscure village the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was 30. Then for three years he was

an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of man as much as that one solitary life.

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

WIPPELL MEMORIAL GATES. Relatives have been approached and now have the matter under consideration.

The Traffic Planning Committee have since moved the No Standing sign to the light pole west of the gateway.

BOX GUTTER: No progress at the time of the Parish Council Meeting.

CHURCH RESTORATION SUB-COMMITTEE: The list of suggested money raising items was reviewed and divided into present and future studies.

OPENING OF CHURCH: This suggestion was welcomed and action postponed pending clarification of the mechanics of finding enough volunteers to be in attendance. It was recommended that two people be present.

FLEA MARKET: It was agreed that this matter be dropped.

FETE: The Rector is convening a meeting of Stallholders and others interested in running the Fete for Saturday, 18th August at 2 p.m. in the Guild Room.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION: The movement of Ian and Felicity McClure to Canberra leaves us short of two Parish Councillors. A Special Vestry Meeting will be held after morning service on Sunday, 19th August to fill these vacancies.

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PUMP IN BASEMENT OF PARISH HALL: The pump that has for years prevented the basement from flooding has finally come to the end of its useful life. Parish Council has agreed to the purchase of a new unit and alterations necessary to install it. As this work will require operators with a "jack hammer" it was decided that it would be an opportunity to dig out the worn concrete block at the front porch and re-lay it with a slight fall away from the door. At present it has a depression which holds water.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY: On Sunday, 12th August we will be celebrating our church anniversary. As guest preacher for the morning service we will be having Mr. Keith Williams. Mr. Williams is involved in the work of the Pocket Testament League. It is a privilege to have him with us for this occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS: The ladies of the Women-in-Friendship Group conducted a successful Jumble Sale on Friday. We thank them for their efforts which netted \$170. Congratulations.

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES and FUNERALS

BAPTISMS—

19th February—Jemma Elizabeth Mackay.

22nd April—Benjamin James Donaldson.

20th May—Norika Ann Callao.

Michael Joseph Edward Smith.

MARRIAGES—

28th April—Cheryl Lee Proctor to Brent Andrew Jeffrey.

FUNERALS—

9/2/84—Ethel May Bowrey of Braeside Hspntl., Stanmore.

26/5/84—William Kenneth Cullen of 14 Livingstone Road, Petersham.

1/6/84—Percy John James Forrest, of 37 North Street, Marrickville.

12/6/84—Margaret Hazel Pegrum of 40 Princes Highway, Kiama Downs.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN PETERSHAM

1860-1970

In October, 1798, Major Francis Grose, Lieutenant-

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.

Governor, named the district "Petersham" in honour of his birthplace Peters-Ham, near Surrey, England, and set the area aside for the growing of cereals. One of the original grantees of land was Reverend Richard Johnson, the first Clergyman of the Colony. After farming ceased Petersham so attracted the statesman William Charles Wentworth that it is recorded on 27th September, 1826, he purchased the area as his country domicile at a cost of £1,500.

Stanmore Road was opened in 1835 and in 1841 was still described as a mere bush track. The Incumbency of Rev. J. S. Hassall, locum tenens at St. Peter's, Georges River in 1848, included Newtown, Botany, Cook's River, Canterbury and Petersham. Of his work in the latter he wrote "there was but one house in Petersham, I often had to ride home on pitch dark nights through Petersham bush and never saw a track."

The population encompassing Petersham was still sparse when the railway from Sydney to Parramatta was opened in 1855 and it had not increased to any extent when the first Anglican Church Service was held there on Sunday, 15th April, 1860.

The Reverend P. J. Smith, Incumbent of the newly-formed Parish of Canterbury, officiated at this service in a tiny school room built in 1857. Despite the small population, the people resolved to erect a building to be used for worship and the education of their children. The School House was eventually erected in Crystal Street, Petersham (next to the present Town Hall) and the Petersham Church of England advanced. This building and subsequent additions served as a Church, Sunday School, Parish Hall and Day School. It ceased to be used for Sunday services after the erection of the new Church but fulfilled its other purposes until demolished in 1926.

The Parochial Association, equivalent to our Parish Council, reported that in the first year Divine Services were held twice each Sunday with an average attendance of eighty. During the period 1862-64 finances were so affected by the exodus of people from the district that it appeared the Church would close. However, towards the end of 1864 the congregation increased and the revival of interest so great that it became necessary to enlarge the building at a cost of £200. The debt when the Church was re-opened by the Lord Bishop of Sydney on 17th December, 1865, was £150, which the people were urged to clear to enable a more substantial church to be erected wherein the faithful could worship their Lord and Master.

The zeal of the parishioners may be seen from the report of the Church Committee in 1868:-

"On Sunday, 29th March, 1868, one side of the roof of Petersham Church of England was, by a violent and

sudden hurricane, torn completely off but fortunately the wind blew the shingles away from the Church, only one or two falling inside, so that the congregation escaped injury. Within a few days the cost of repairs was subscribed and before the following Sunday the work was completed."

In 1869 Reverend H. A. Palmer became Incumbent of the combined Parishes of Canterbury and Petersham and in the following year the two were separated, Mr. Palmer retaining Petersham.

After a year of effective service Mr. Palmer and the parishioners resolved that efforts be made to erect a new edifice to be named "All Saints". Donations received by the organising Committee totalled £500 against an estimated cost of £1700. To finance the project negotiations were entered into with the various banks. The amount required, however, was eventually advanced by the Bank of New South Wales on the personal security of three parishioners.

QUICK CUTS

THE IQ SYNDROME

I don't know who invented the blessed words "intelligence quotient" (shortened to IQ), but whoever he was did not do the human race a great favour. I suppose it was inevitable that we should try to measure intelligence; I suppose it was inevitable that we should try to do it rationally; I suppose that some benefits have come to us from the exercise.

It has long been recognised, however, that in the hands of the non-expert (and perhaps in the hands of the expert, too) these results can be abused. Some of us have far too high an esteem for the IQ test, and we tend to judge our children and other people's children by any results we can glean about them. How we preen ourselves on having a 'bright child..! How downcast we are, how ashamed, how deflated to discover that our child is 'average' or even worse. How foolish we are, either way!

The Bible agrees that men, women and children can be foolish or 'simple'; furthermore it agrees that this state is undesirable. The foolish, simple person is much to be pitied. But it does not measure simplicity by speed with the multiplication table. Indeed, in its terms, the greatest of intellectuals may be the deepest of fools, and the child may be the wisest of all. The biblical criterion is not IQ.

In the Bible the fool is one who does not honour God. This is folly, because it is based on the great untruth that there is no God in the world. The Bible says 'The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.' The wisest man is the one who knows God and his word and serves him.

This says something important about our children and us, doesn't it? Are you looking for the IQ? How much better that your child should be thoroughly acquainted with the word of God. Your child may be average, brilliant, or dull: what difference? If they know the word they are wise; they know sin when they see it and they will avoid it; they will know when friends are leading them astray and will resist. They will be wiser than all the great ones of the world. Does your child know the Bible? Have you taught him God's Word? Has he seen it in your life? If the answer is no, you are failing him. Forget his IQ—concentrate on his wisdom.....teach him the Bible!

—Peter Jensen

(Extracted from "Church Record")

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH, PETERSHAM
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS, JUNE 30, 1984

RECEIPTS	\$	PAYMENTS	\$
Offertories		Rector's Net Stipend ..	1186.16
RECYCLING:		Rector's Trav. Allow. ..	277.33
Cans	31.80	Organist	37.50
Papers	245.15	Church Flowers	40.00
	276.95	Chronicles	85.20
Church Flowers	20.00	Church Cleaning	120.00
District Visitors	33.40	Cleaning Materials	8.78
DONATIONS:		Electrical Maintenance	46.00
Women-in-Friendship	300.00	Church Electricity	29.93
OES—Heaters	2.00	Rector's Supn. Contrib. ..	189.00
1984 Fete Groceries	3.00	Parish Supn. Contrib.	189.00
Rector's Telephone:			
Contrib. Apl./May '84	29.40		
Deposit Interest	206.77		
	1890.74		
Deficit for month	318.16		
	2208.90		2208.90

Balance 31/5/84	\$3263.34
LESS Deficit for month	\$ 318.16
Balance 30/6/84	\$2945.16

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT JUNE 1984

James & James (Chronicles)	85.20
Sydney County Council, (Church Electricity)	29.93
Cash (Cleaning Materials)	8.78
Fresh Flowers Pty. Ltd. (May Account)	40.00
Ralph Abraham (Electrical Maintenance Hall and Church)	46.00

James & James, 188 Liverpool Road, Ashfield, 2181