

The Chronicle

Of All Saints

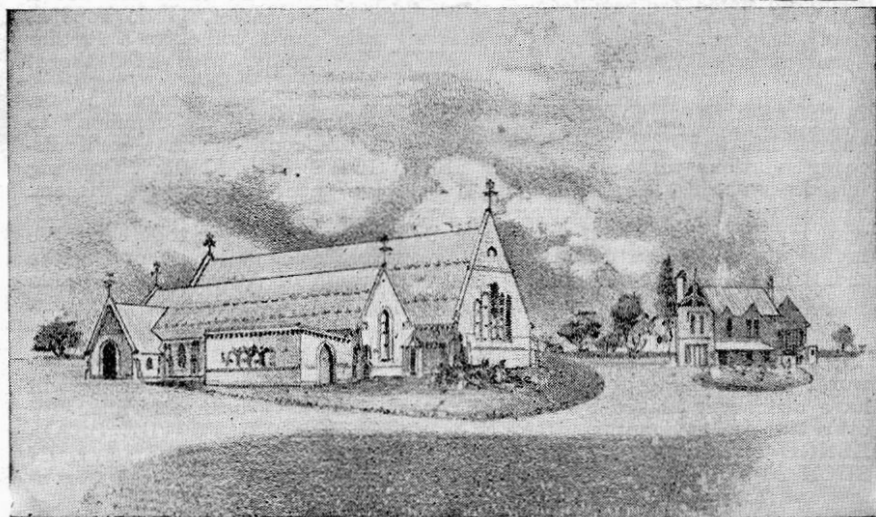
Petersham

Rector: Rev. S. W. GISSING, Th.L.

The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham, 2049—56-4735

Hon Assistant: Rev. A. E. C. GARDNER, B.A., Th.L.

AUGUST, 1974



RECTOR'S NOTES

My dear Friends,

There was one omission from my first message through the pages of our Chronicle which I want to amend straight away. I express my thanks to Mr. Hugh Quelch for carrying the responsibility of being Editor of this monthly publication. This means a relief for me personally as all I have to concern myself with is this monthly letter and the details from the Parish Registers. Mr. Quelch, as Secretary of the Parish Council, is in a convenient position to know of other matters requiring publicity in these pages, and has undertaken to "fill" the pages with articles. I do ask the responsible officers of parish organisations to help him by being prompt in supplying their individual contributions. Should other parishioners wish to contribute items please contact Mr. Quelch or myself.

One of the "features" of our parish year has been the Consecration Festival when we celebrate the Church Consecration on 15th August, 1903, by the Bishop of Newcastle. We will be holding an evening this year to mark this significant anniversary. Friday, 23rd August, is the date—6.15 p.m. the time! We plan to have some films as well as guests to share with us. It will be a "family occasion" and therefore not a late night—the plan is to finish by 9 p.m. at the latest. I do hope as many as possible will join us so that my wife and I will have a further opportunity of "getting to know" our parish family. See YOU there!

As in any parish we have our share of problems confronting us. Some are peculiar to this parish; some are "such as are common" to church life anywhere. As your minister I am confident that we'll discover solutions to these AS WE SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE. One big mistake we must avoid is trying to resolve them in our own wisdom. Therefore I am asking as many as possible to share as often as possible with my wife and myself in seeking God's help by prayer together. We invite you to join us on any Tuesday evening (except the second in the month) in our lounge. For at least the month of August we will plan to start at 8 p.m. and finish by 9 p.m. We trust this will develop into a warm sharing group that will bring great blessing to our whole parish.

Surely one of the most tragic circumstances facing us today in the world is the plight of the peoples of North Africa. Many of us will have been very moved by the film reports that have been shown on TV over the recent months. HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE THAT THIS SITUATION PRESENTS TO US WHO LIVE IN SUCH AFFLUENCE? Read the article printed elsewhere in the Chronicle and pray about what you should do to help.

Looking forward to "growing together in the Lord" with you all.

Your sincere friend and minister in the Name of Jesus Christ,

S. W. GISSING.

THE AFRICAN DROUGHT

In human terms, the problem is one of hunger, malnutrition, thirst and sickness,

- agricultural production has been decreasing and is bordering on zero in certain areas,

- livestock, the main source of wealth in the economies of the Sahel, has been destroyed at the rate of anything between 30 and 80%.

- water is in short supply, underground water levels have sunk further and further, and can no longer be reached, as before, by sheer human effort.

The drought in the Sahel covers a distinct geographical area and it is estimated that 12 million people are victims. The threat to the region is a natural and permanent one stemming from natural causes. To the north of the affected area lies the Sahara, advancing steadily at the rate of 6 miles per year. The phenomenon has also been marked by a lowering in the level of recorded rainfall.

However, nature and clouds are not alone in their responsibility for the drought; man the inhabitant is also a "predatory animal" and this makes it important to examine man's part in the disruption of the ecological balance, pollution caused by his activities, inadequate development policy and the excessive cultivation of crops for export.

The first task is to save life . . . provide food, drinking water, care for the sick. Livestock must be replaced. Transport and communications have to be created, food-for-work programmes are being organised to build roads and bridges so that food, seed and medical supplies can be despatched to the effected areas. Donkeys, camels, land rovers and lorries are being used for the purpose.

Emergency aid, however vital and necessary, obviously does not go to the root of the problem, it is geared to the expediency and limited in scope.

Drought recognises no natural frontier—political action is needed. Regional programmes are essential. The World Council of Churches, Catholic Relief, Austcare, Freedom From Hunger, and other non-governmental agencies are working with local authorities on essential long-term projects.

The campaign is on behalf of humanity . . . drought degrades people, threatens their lives, their dignity and value as human beings.

Support is urgently needed to ensure projects can be guaranteed . . . reconstitution of grazing-grounds; a fund for replacing livestock; mobile eye clinic; care of orphaned children and family rehabilitation programmes; food for work projects; airlifting of food and emergency feeding stations; date-palm control; the use of solar energy; rural engineering brigades; oases improvement schemes.

The churches of Australia are challenged to respond to this world-wide appeal which needs over one million dollars urgently. Will you do something to help? We will gladly pass on any gifts received and designated for that purpose.

—oOo—

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

Mr. & Mrs. "Robby" Roberts of the B.C.A. Hostel, Broken Hill,

have resigned. Robby has accepted a position which suddenly became available. Robby and Margaret have served well, for some years, with a good mixture of Christian zeal, love and discipline. All of these are essential. There are twenty boys from outback places living at the Hostel, of all ages, for primary and high schools.

They attend the schools nearby. At the Hostel there is a complete care of the boys, the insistence upon time for study and the opportunity of Christian homely witness.

Outside help is employed for cleaning, laundry and ironing.

Would you know of any couple suitable?

We ask for your prayers that the present need may be met.

T. J. HAYMON,

Federal Secretary.

—oOo—

"There is an Eye that never sleeps
 Beneath the wing of night,
 There is an Ear that never shuts
 When sink the beams of light,
 There is an Arm that never tires
 When human strength gives way,
 There is a Love that never fails
 When earthly loves decay.
 That Eye is fixed on seraph throngs,
 That Arm upholds the sky,
 That Ear is filled with angels' songs,
 That Love is throned on high.
 But there's a power that man can wield
 When mortal aid is vain,
 That Eye, that Arm, that Love to reach,
 That listening Ear to gain;
 That power is prayer, which soars on high,
 Through Jesus to the Throne,
 And moves the Hand which moves the world
 To bring salvation down.

Anonymous.

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CHILDREN'S SECTION

One day a lamb, named Leonard, wandered out of his pasture because the gate had been left open. When he was found he was too heavy to carry all the way home but was guided by being tempted with pieces of food.

Leonard reminds us of the story Jesus told about the lamb who was lost on the mountainside. He, like Leonard, had gone on his own way, happy to be adventuring. He climbed far up the mountain but after a while became tired. The night came, the wind howled, the rain lashed at the lamb. What would happen to him?

His good shepherd came to look for him when he had put all the other ninety-nine sheep safely in the fold and when the shepherd found him he was so pleased he carried the lamb home.

Jesus, Our Good Shepherd, is looking for boys and girls, men and women who have wandered from Him. He watches and cares for everyone.

Next time you see a lamb I Hope it reminds you of Jesus, Our Good Shephard. If you would like to read the story yourself you can find it in the New Testament, St. Luke chapter 15 verses 3 to 7.

(Author Unknown)

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SANCTUARY FLOWER ROSTER

- August 4: Donated by Mrs. E. Robertson in memory of Loved Ones; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- August 11: Donated by Miss Dobson in memory of her Sister and by Mrs. D. Jones and family in memory of her Parents; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- August 18: Donated by Mrs. P. Scott in memory of Mr. Norman Scott and by Miss Butt in memory of her Sister and Brother; arranged by Mrs. Clark.
- August 25: Donated by Mrs. Gordon in memory of her Husband; by Mrs. Hillery in memory of Mr. Hillery; by Mrs. Waterfield and Family in memory of Mr. Waterfield and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, from their Daughters; arranged by Miss Nisbet.
- September 1: In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Jones from her Family; arranged by Mrs. Clark.

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CLUB NEWS

Ladies Guild:

On Tuesday, 13th August, our meeting will commence at 12.30 p.m. and be followed by a "Housie" afternoon at 1.30 p.m. A donation of 35 cents will include afternoon tea.

We have also arranged an address by a speaker from the Police Department Crime Prevention Section for 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 10th September. The usual donation will include morning tea.

E. BOSWARD, Honorary Secretary.

Y.M. and Friends' Club:

The next meeting of our Club will be held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 13th August, at 8 p.m. We propose to hold another "Jumble Sale" in September and would appreciate any donations of second-hand clothing or anything saleable between now and then. Goods may be left at 59 John Street, Petersham.

We are seeking new members and any lady who can spare a couple of hours on the second Tuesday night each month would be most welcome.

IDA BARRETT, Honorary Secretary.

Senior Parishioners' Club:

In spite of the inclement weather and the severe 'flu, which has kept so many indoors, we have spent very pleasant Thursday afternoons in the Club last month.

There is still plenty of room in the hall and we would welcome new members. Any lady or gentlemen is welcome to visit us and when you have been once we hope you will come again. It only costs you 20 cents and this includes afternoon tea, and a pleasant afternoon is assured from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Thursday.

We are sorry to report the loss of a member, Mrs. Davidson, and extend our sincere sympathy to her sister, Mrs. Parish, and to other members of her family.

IDA BARRETT, Honorary Secretary.

Indoor Bowls Club:

We have now finished our competition games. Although we have not been successful in winning the competition we are happy to have renewed old friendships with members of other clubs as well as watch some excellent play.

Visitors are always welcome at any of our evenings. We meet each Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

B. SEE, Honorary Secretary.

● Difficulties are God's errands; and when we are sent upon them, we should esteem it a proof of God's confidence.

Beecher.

● Articles for the September Chronicle are due no later than 18th August, 1974.

PARISH INFORMATION

HOLY COMMUNION—Each Sunday at 8 a.m., 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11 a.m., 3rd Sundays after Evensong.

MATINS—1st and 6th Sundays at 11 a.m. LITANY—5th Sundays at 11 a.m.

EVENSONG—Each Sunday at 7 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE—3rd Sundays at 10 a.m. Sunday School and Kindergarten on other Sundays at 9.45 a.m.

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR.

CHURCHWARDENS: Messrs. E. Quelch (Rector's), F. G. Hearn, W. Williams.

PARISH COUNCIL: The Churchwardens and Messrs. J. H. Bretherton, N. Cragg, F. Evans, Mrs. Gorman, Mr. P. Gray, Messrs. B. Livingston, H. E. Quelch, B. Sayers, D. Sayers, C. Sillence, Mrs. W. Sopwith, Mr. H. Swankie.

HON. TREASURER: Mr. E. Quelch. HON. SECRETARY: Mr. H. E. QUELCH.

SIDESMEN: Messrs. V. C. Barrett, G. Clarke, G. R. Miniter and H. J. Shaw.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT:

KINDERGARTEN LEADER:

EXTENSION GROUP LEADER:

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Mr. H. J. Shaw (797-6967).

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER: Mr. C. Sillince.

CHRONICLE EDITOR: Mr. H. E. Quelch.

I am not at my best at midnight. Particularly if I retired to bed before eleven. The telephone ring seems a hundred miles away, and

gradually seeps into my consciousness. I lift the receiver really still sleeping and in a mumble identify myself.

Usually I hear the familiar voice of a supervisor from the hospital, apologizing for the lateness of the hour and in quiet tones describing the situation which calls for the chaplain's presence.

So if you are in the habit of telephoning your friends at midnight, and I have heard of people who do, speak slowly and gently.

The friend who called at midnight in the story Jesus told (Luke Chapter 11, verse 5), probably presented his urgent request in haste. Even though he wasn't successful at first in obtaining results, our Lord said, "Yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him whatever he needs."

Now that sounds suspiciously like making a nuisance of yourself. It could be taken to mean that you just pester and cajole and you will get your way in the end. I wonder if Jesus meant us just to act like a spoilt child?

On another occasion, giving advice on prayer, He said, "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do: for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matthew, chapter 6, verse 7.) So what did He mean by "importunity"?

The word does have a meaning of persistence in English, but the word used by Luke also has another shade of meaning. It can also be translated shameless, immodest or complete frankness.

The New English Bible translation reads, "The very shamelessness of the request will make him get up." Today's English Version reads, "Because you are not ashamed to keep on asking."

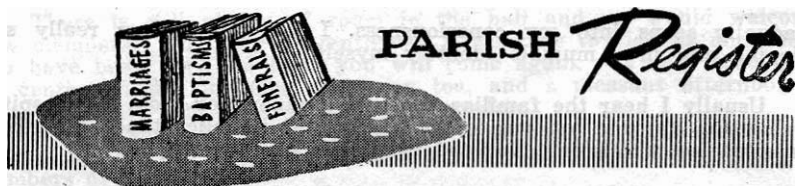
In other words, the relationship of the two friends in the parable was close enough to stand the strain of the inconvenience of the call at midnight.

The sleeping friend might be upset for a while but he would be alright next morning. He was a good mate. The emphasis is on the friendship, the bond between them, as well as the persistence.

Our relationship with the Father through the Son is closer than any relationship we have experienced. He is not asleep, or grumbling about the difficulties of getting up, or making excuses about the inconvenience involved.

The contrast is vivid. "How much more will our heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him."

The story of the friend at midnight is meant to reassure us about His ability and extreme readiness to come to our assistance. To all of us who from time to time wonder about the validity of prayer, this word of Jesus brings loving and stimulating encouragement.



HOLY BAPTISM

"In token that he shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified".

June 16—Stuart James Spaans of Croydon.

June 30—Michael Terrence Patterson of Chiswick.

HOLY MATRIMONY

"Till death do us part, according to God's holy law, thereto I give thee my troth"

July 13—Vincent Ross Coe (Petersham) and Kerry Anne Laman (Panania).

July 20—Ian Charles Rowe (Concord) and Judith Louise Cheetham (Greenacre).

CHRISTIAN BURIAL

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

June 25—Nonie Patricia Maxwell of Stanmore Road, Petersham.

June 26—Norman Watts of 1/15 May Street, Eastwood.

July 8—Phillip James Jennings of 15 O'Hara Street, Marrickville.

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.