

The Chronicle

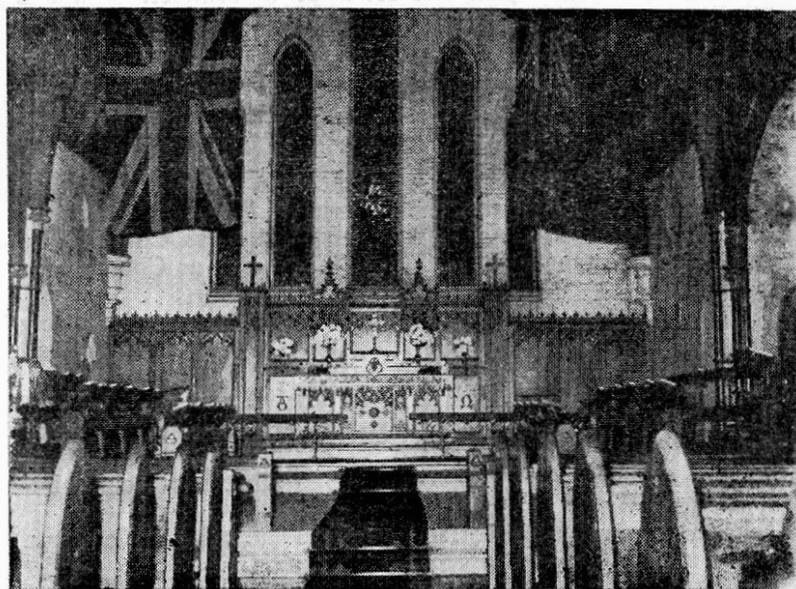
Of All Saints
Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM

Rector: BRUCE WOOLCOTT

Phone: 569-4735

MAY, 1984



THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In the busy life that we all live it is difficult, if not impossible to do everything. I don't expect we complete everything we ought to do let alone the things we would like to do. There are not enough hours in the day or weeks in a year. We are all conscious of failing to do something or other.

Into our language, and into our life style has come the word "priority". Like it or not we have to make a choice as to what we will do, and what we will leave undone. Sometimes it is a happier decision because it doesn't leave things undone so much as working out which we shall do first and then what comes next in order of importance.

I find myself continually having to change my priorities on a day to day basis. A phone call tells me someone is seriously ill in hospital, or a person with a problem comes to the Rectory door and that hour which was set aside to complete a task is either lost, or the job has to assume a secondary importance. We all know it and we are constantly coping with it daily.

There is a real need to plan our priorities for each day. Better to achieve a few things each day than spend the whole in confusion and feel at the end that just nothing has been done. We all know the feeling.

In Christian things there is the need to have priorities and more than that to have the right priorities. For the believer the first priority is to know and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. This is not just important for us individually but also as Church congregation.

The Christian Church exists for the sole reason of bringing men and women to know and obey the Lord Jesus Christ, all other activities are secondary.

It is necessary that from time to time we stop and ask ourselves individually and collectively as a Christian congregation what are we doing; and, have we got our priorities right? What do we spend our time and energy doing? What has become important to us?

This matter is as important for individual christians as for a group claiming to be a Christian congregation.

Some would see such a single aim or purpose as narrowing life down, but once embarked upon it is just the opposite—"fresh every morning is the love our waking and uprising prove. That is character of God. He leads us out into ever widening circles of life, for the Gospel is for all men. Restrictions come only when we human beings limit our obedience, or limit our view of the power of God to save lost mankind.

What is your priority in life? — What is first and foremost

in your thoughts and deeds, in your ambition? If it isn't Christ our Saviour and Lord then you are missing out on what is best for you.

Yours sincerely, **BRUCE WOOLCOTT**

—oO—

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

At the last Sunday School teachers meeting we decided to re-organise the Sunday School classes. The classes are now divided into a boys class and a girls class. The ages in these two groups range from 9 to 15 years.

It has now been decided to form a class of High School aged boys and girls, and a class of Primary School aged boys and girls.

The change in the classes will begin at the commencement of the second term.

The Sunday School, Kindergarten will be in recess for the school holidays. That is on Sundays 6th and 13th May. We will resume on Sunday, 20th May at the Family Service — 9.30 a.m. The Kindergarten will meet in their own hall.

On Friday, 25th May a Family Fun Night will be held commencing at 6.00 p.m. There will be plenty of games for all of the Sunday School & Kindergarten pupils. Parents are encouraged to join in.

NOEL CRAGG—Superintendent

—oO—

CAUSE FOR SERIOUS THOUGHT!

Ye call Me Master and obey Me not;

Ye call Me Light and see Me not;

Ye call Me Way and walk Me not;

Ye call Me Wise and follow Me not;

Ye call Me Fair and love Me not;

Ye call Me Rich and ask Me not;

Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not;

Ye call Me Gracious and trust Me not;

Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not;

Ye call Me God and fear Me not;

If I condemn YOU—blame Me not.

These solemn thoughts of admonition are found warning the faithful in the Cathedral of Lubeck, Germany.

—Grit.

—oO—

FLOWER DONATIONS

May 6th — In memory of Marge Cole, by Pat and Dawn O'Brien. Arrangements by Mrs. A. Steed.

- May 13th — By Mrs. Carr in memory of her mother.
By the Misses Nisbet in memory of their mother.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.
- May 28th — By Mrs Cullen in memory of her husband.
Arrangement by Mrs. Steed.
- May 27th — Donation by Mrs. Perry.
Arrangement by Miss Nisbet.

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SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

A very pleasant afternoon was spent on Thursday, 12th April, when we celebrated our 26th Birthday. We finished "Housie", at afternoon tea time, and Mr. Ken Rowlands gave us a very bright hour playing the songs of our vintage which we all could join in in a sing song. Thanks Ken. I'm sure every body went home very happy.

What about joining us in our 27th year. Age or Creed does not matter, you can always find someone to laugh and talk with over a lovely cup of tea. 60 cents covers game prizes, door prizes and afternoon tea.

See you some Thursday soon at 1 p.m. I'm sure our members will all be happy to know Mrs. Champion is now convalescing at home. We look forward to you being back with us soon dear.

IDA BARRETT — Hon. Secretary

—oO—

WOMEN-IN-FRIENDSHIP

By the time you are reading this, our Annual Luncheon will be over, but I take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped us in any way with donations of provisions or money towards our luncheon. I must say that the hard work and generosity of every member of our Club is just unbelievable. The Salvation Army are such good friends when we need help. Thanks to all.

The second hand Clothing and jumble stall is the next effort on Friday, 25th May. We are looking forward to your help with anything saleable.

FRESH FLOWERS PTY. LTD.

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Phone: 569-1505 — A.H. 349-1427

For all Floral Arrangements at Shortest Notice

Wedding Bouquets a Specialty — Deliveries Anywhere

Our June meeting on Tuesday, 5th at 1 p.m. will be followed at 2 p.m. by a Byron-Parker Presentation, a donation for this presentation will be 50 cents. Goods on show are not for sale, but lots of samples are to be distributed. Please come along and join us.

The July Meeting is to be followed by a speaker from C.M.S.

We are very glad to know Mrs. Champion is home from hospital although she is still far from well.

IDA BARRETT — Hon. Secretary

—oOo—

CORRECTIONS

An error in the April Chronicle has to be corrected, and the Rector has asked that the following paragraph be included in this months Chronicle:

In the April issue of the Chronicle it was stated that **Offertories had only increased by \$200. In actual fact they increased by some \$1,319.06 over the 1982 figures. This is something like a 20% increase in Offertories.**

BRUCE WOOLCOTT — Rector

The error is the fault of your Editor. However two wrongs do not make a right and the actual position as shown by the Parish Balance Sheet is that Offertories increase from \$10,775 to 12,094, i.e., an increase of \$1,319, which is 12.2%.

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DONATION TO THE CHRONICLE

We have recently received the following donations:

From Mrs. W. Dingle, \$2.00

From Mrs. M. Willis, \$5.00, on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. Small of Melbourne.

From Mr. Bruce Livingston, \$6.00, on behalf of Mrs. F. Price and Mr. J. Phillip Gawthrop.

Our known mailing list is now 16 persons. If there are any donations which have not been acknowledged, they will appear in next months Chronicle.

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.

CROSS CARE: NEW HORIZONS FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

"Sometimes, people feel uneasy and awkward around a handicapped child. The child usually picks it up. It means that he or she can become terribly isolated and cut-off from others."

So says Jeanine Maxwell, co-ordinator of Cross Care at Ashfield.

Part of HMS's Care Force division, Cross Care links host families with handicapped children and their parents. It provides a home away from home for the child, perhaps for a day, perhaps for a weekend: just enough time to give parents a break from the constant supervision needed by their handicapped child.

"Cross Care enables the child to develop relationships outside its normal family, relationships that are needed and that most of us just take for granted", says Jeanine. "It helps him learn to relate to others. It breaks down the isolation."

"But," she adds, "the program seems to benefit everyone involved: the host family, the child, and the child's parents."

"It is more than just one family doing a good turn for another."

"The host families discover all sorts of delights in meeting and coming to understand the needs of handicapped children. They enjoy seeing the children grow and respond to their care."

"Handicapped children usually love to spend some time staying with another family. It's like a holiday for them. And the host family is usually in a good position to pay special attention to them during their stay."

"And then of course, the parents of the handicapped child really benefit from the programme. A handicapped child needs constant supervision. It's draining on the parents. They need the occasional break. It often means that they can focus attention on others in their family for a while. It takes some of the pressure out of their lives."

According to Jeanine Maxwell, it means a great deal to the parents to be in touch with another family which takes an active interest in their child; another family which cares.

"Parents of handicapped children can often become isolated themselves," she says. "Sometimes this is because their own relatives don't understand their situation. Sometimes it is because their neighbours or friends are embarrassed or shy to offer help."

Cross Care allows other families to share a bit of the load.

Says Jeanine, "if a family want to become involved, they have to discuss it throughly together. It can't be a decision taken just by a mother or father."

"Having a handicapped child in your home for a weekend

places new demands on your own children. It usually means they discover new reserves of patience and sensitivity."

Families who become involved attend a couple of preparation sessions. There they look at practical things like; what it means to have a handicapped child in your home; how it might affect your family; what are the special needs of a handicapped child; what it is like for the parents to have another family looking after your child.

Cross Care is jointly funded by Care Force and the Department of Youth and Community Services. Host families are given financial assistance to cover their expenses.

If you would like to consider becoming a part of Cross Care, phone Jeanine Maxwell on 799-5222.

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"HAD A LOVELY DAY, MUM"

The work of Flying Angel House extends far beyond the seamen themselves, to their families ashore. Regularly faced with long periods of separation from husbands and fathers, they need the care and support of an "extended family". The following letter, written by seafarer's wife, aptly illustrates their dilemma and one way in which the Missions to Seamen is often of help.

Dear Rev. Dykes,

I am writing to thank you for the service you performed at the christening of our two youngest children in December.

We are so pleased circumstances made it necessary for us to approach you, as we never hoped for a more personal or enjoyable service.

I would especially like to thank you for your comments during the ceremony regarding the family unit and how the family extends itself into the community. As my husband is away at sea, I have been very conscious of the value of "extended family", particularly for our children's sake. Even though they are quite young and supposedly "adaptable", I already see them struggling to come to terms with their father's departures to sea when the time comes — particularly our son.

Comments by people such as, "I suppose they get used to it," are just not true, nor would I want it to be so. I do, however feel that, if they are aware of loving, caring relatives, such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc., as their extended family unit, then it can only make them feel secure and part of a still-stable family group.

Occasions, such as christening, which draw a family, however geographically separated, together, demonstrate this to the children, especially when they have a part to play themselves.

I thought you might like to know that our son told us, when we put him to bed that night, "Had a lovely day, Mum." So, you succeeded in making his christening a special day for him, as well as ourselves. Thank you for that.

And thank you for your words which reinforced our beliefs in the Christian roles we believe we have to play in their upbringing.

Gratefully yours,

—oOo—

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH RECORD MARANATHA

Is God like a policeman?

Someone once suggested that "God is like a policeman, only interested in you when you're doing something wrong."

Let's be sure of one thing, God is interested in wrong. A policeman is really only interested in the wrong things we do, but God is interested in wrong things, wrong thoughts and wrong words. A policeman often catches a person who does wrong things. God always knows when we do any wrong or fail to do what we know is right.

But thankfully it's simply not true to say God is only interested when we do something wrong. If that were true the chances are God would have destroyed the human race straight after Adam and Eve rebelled against Him. If it were true there would have been no Christmas, no Easter and no Pentecost.

The truth of the matter is that God is so interested in us that He had done and is doing something about our sins. He wants to forgive us for our wrongs. That is why God the Son came. "God demonstrates His love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Think of it! God is prepared to forgive us for our sins, even though He knows all about them. This is not a 'sweep them under the carpet, hope they will go away' job. No, it's real cleansing, real pardon for all who turn back to God and trust in Jesus' death as the way of forgiveness.

Then He will begin to help us to overcome our sin. Don't get me wrong, no christian is ever perfect whilst on earth, but God the Holy Spirit comes to help us change. To change us from self-centred people to people who care for God and others more than ourselves.

Any good policeman is interested in positive growth and development of a community. A policeman however is dependent on the goodwill of people to co-operate and change.

God on the other hand is not only interested in our growth as individuals and society, but also able to change the raw materials. He can and is changing people and through His Spirit helping many to live the way he wants which is best and most fulfilling for us.

Peter Brain