

# THE CHRONICLE OF

## All Saint's Church of England, Petersham

STANMORE ROAD, PETERSHAM (Opposite Fire Station)

Two minutes from Petersham Railway Station

Rector Rev. S. W. Gissing, Th.L. — Phone: 569-4735

JUNE, 1980



## BUSHED!

Everything seemed beautiful when you set out — and it was easy going, you wouldn't need a map. No sir! Let the tenderfoot take a map; you knew enough to find your way without one.

But now? That broad track has petered out — so gradually that you hardly noticed; there is no familiar landmark in sight; night will be falling before you know it, and suddenly the very things that made the country seem so attractive at first begin to take on an unfriendly aspect. You have an uneasy feeling that you're not such a good bushman as you thought.

You don't need to go to the bush to get lost. You can be just as thoroughly lost in your own home or office. Business, pleasure, worry — is it any wonder you don't know which way to turn?

You need that map after all. Let your church show you the path.

There is a way out of your maze of cares; God's way. Let God have His way — at home — at church — at work.

# From your Minister's Desk



My dear friends,

There's a river in Spain called the Guadiana which is rather fascinating. It flows for some several hundred miles. The strange thing about it is that again and again it flows underground, and is lost from the sight of men. But here and there it comes to the surface in small lakes. These lakes are referred to as "the eyes of Guadiana". They are the visible signs of the invisible reality—and show that the river still flows on!

This river is a sort of physical parable of the Purpose of God. Again and again it is driven underground—but still flows on—and will prevail.

It has been driven underground for maybe a generation or more at times, but the tradition is handed on from father to son. The Bible is hidden from enemy eyes—the Christians meet secretly in secluded places—and the stream flows on. It seems indeed that modern China is an example of this in our very own age from the latest news coming out of that great land.

One of the most astonishing instances of the triumph of the purpose of God despite the wayward wills of men is in the story of John Wicliffe and his influence on John Huss in Bohemia, and through Huss on John Wesley, and then ultimately through Wesley on England, and so upon the world.

Wicliffe taught in Oxford about the close of the 14th Century, and exposed much of the corruption in the then church. While he was allowed to die in his bed, his bones were later dug up and hurled into the river Swift. While he had been teaching at Oxford Huss was teaching at Prague. Some of the students of Huss went to Oxford and heard Wicliffe. They were profoundly influenced by his preaching and carried reports back to Prague, thus adding fuel and flame to the witness of Huss. Huss was burned at the stake and the hussite movement went underground—it seemed that it had been extinguished. When at last it re-emerged, it was in the form of Moravianism. August Spangenberg, the man who met John Wesley in North America and asked such pointed questions about his soul, was a Moravian. So was Peter Bohler who so greatly influenced Wesley when he'd returned to England. So, the flame kindled at Oxford, apparently quenched at Prague, leapt across the ocean to America, and then back again to England to become a burning and shining light scattering darkness everywhere.

We are seeing a period in our own day when the Purpose of God seems to be weakening, and in some areas of life to be disappearing. The forces of materialism, immorality and humanism are apparently

overwhelming it. Many are despairing—and confusion is gripping the hearts of some. The institutional church is weak and ineffectual. Even some modern theologians have proclaimed that God is dead.

Have you ever been tempted to fall prey to this feeling. Maybe you should think about the promise of the Scripture—"The Word of God shall stand forever". Dwell on that promise in the light of the parable of the River Guadiana—and the movement of God's Church in history. One disciple in medieval times in answer to a tyrant who threatened to crush and shatter the church said: "Sire I beg you to remember that the Church is an anvil which has worn out many hammers". Jesus said that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What is the use of fighting against God—in history?—or in your own heart either?

Your friend in the glorious name of our loving Saviour,

S. W. GISSING.

## NEWS BRIEFS



### NEW ARCHDEACON

It has been announced that our area within the Diocese is to have a new Archdeacon. Until now Bishop John Reid has included this responsibility among his other duties. As from July 22 the Rev. Philip Oliver will become Archdeacon of Sydney and Cumberland. Mr. Oliver is at present Editor of the diocesan magazine "The Southern Cross", and heading up the Anglican Information Office in St. Andrew's House. He will be commissioned to his new position in the cathedral on 22nd July in a service commencing at 8 p.m.

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMPS

The details of the wide range of camps arranged by our Diocesan Youth Department are now available. Brochures giving all information are to hand, and copies may be obtained from the Rector or Sunday School. We advise any parents interested to act promptly, as these camps are very popular and fill very quickly.

### 40 HOUR FAMINE

The World Vision fight against famine will feature again this year a 40 Hour Famine. This will take place over the week-end June 27 to 29. The idea being to raise funds for the relief of the starving people in various areas of our world.

The challenge is to seek folk who will go without food for 40 hours and ask their friends to sponsor them for each hour that they go hungry. Both the participant and the sponsors contribute something in this way to the reduction of hunger in the world.

There are 14 million refugees who are needing YOUR help—food, shelter, medical aid, etc. The money you raise will demonstrate Australia's concern for the people of the world.

## Women-in-Friendship

Our annual Luncheon is over once again, and what a lovely day!! Over 100 people attended, and Mrs. Eileen Ritchie, who entertained with little sketches, songs and the playing of the Melodica, was much appreciated.

Financially, the Luncheon was very successful too—\$118 being the proceeds.

We all enjoyed the Bonsai Demonstration by Kathy Spiteri at our May Meeting. Kathy brought with her some lovely specimens of Bonsai, and enthused us all about trying to experiment with Bonsai.

At our June Meeting on the 24th, our Guest will be Jan Reece, who is a consultant from Con-Stan Industries and will demonstrate "Nutrimetics" — a totally different concept in skin care and beauty aids. Business meeting at 12.30 p.m., and the demonstration at 1.30 p.m.

Members!! Please remember the Trading Table at each meeting.

The next Second-hand Clothing and Jumble Sale is to be held in the Parish Hall on Friday, 20th June, commencing at 10 a.m. Please let us have anything saleable that you no longer want.

IDA BARRETT,  
Hon. Secretary.

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### SENIOR PARISHIONERS CLUB

Although Thursdays seem to have a habit of being wet days, the Club is still a happy meeting ground. Do come along and see what a happy afternoon it really is. Only 50 cents covers everything, and a lovely cup of tea is always assured.

Every Thursday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., wet or fine, hot or cold.

I'm sorry to have to report the passing of one of our members—Mr. Frank Kilpatrick. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Win Barber (also a member of our Club) and his family.

I'm also sorry to report Phyllis Lacey is in hospital undergoing tests. We all look forward to seeing you back with us, Phil.

IDA BARRETT,  
Hon. Secretary.

**FRIDAY, 20th JUNE**

from 10 a.m. .

**USED CLOTHING**

**AND JUMBLE**

in

**PARISH HALL**

### ALL SAINTS', PETERSHAM, "BUS FUND"

In many instances a project seems so enormous we are hesitant to start. But if our faith is strong and Our Lord Wills it, then no aim is too high.

Many people have expressed a desire to try and provide our church with a Bus, and we ask you to pray with us for the guidance and help in achieving this aim.

There will be a collection box marked "Bus Fund" placed at the rear of the church, and we pray that through you Our Lord shows His approval for this project.



### WHAT SORT OF CHRISTIAN ARE YOU?

Some Christians are like wheelbarrows—no good unless pushed.

Some are like kites—if you don't keep a string on them they fly away.

Some are like kittens—they are contented only when petted.

Some are like footballs—you can't tell which way they will bounce.

Some are like balloons—full of hot air and ready to blow up.

Some are like Neon signs—keep going off and on.

Some are like trailers—they have to be pulled.

BUT some let the Holy Spirit lead them and are like a good watch—open faced, pure gold, quietly busy and full of good works.

(Author unknown)



### UNDER RECONSTRUCTION

There are some people who think that those who go to church and support its activities consider themselves superior to the rest of mankind. As a result, when those who are "outside" the Church are approached and urged to come "inside" they most readily respond with something like "I'm as good as so-and-so" — and "so-and-so" is a regular churchgoer.

Really it's time this business was straightened out.

In the first place it is nonsense to say that Church people for the most part think they are better than people outside the Church. With very few exceptions they think nothing of the kind. Indeed, it's because they know they are very far from being good and want to be better people, that they seek the help of God in worship and prayer and fellowship. This makes such a difference to their daily lives that they long for others to come in and share what they've found to be so

valuable. Sometimes this looks to the non-churchgoers as a "holier than thou" attitude — but it is really nothing of the kind.

Christians are really people "under reconstruction". Through contact with the living Spirit of the living God they've come to see that their lives are a bit of a mess, and also that with only their own resources to draw on, there's very little they can do about it all.

This discovery isn't nearly as gloomy and morbid as it sounds. God doesn't want people to be continually brooding over and grovelling in their sins. He greets all who see this need in themselves with something they could never earn—full reconciliation with Himself. And He doesn't leave them there, wonderful as it may be to know there is nothing between you and the Love of God. No, He proceeds, where people invite Him to do so, to introduce His Personality into their personality—, His Spirit into their spirit. Wherever God is genuinely asked to enter a human personality He begins to change that personality—an infinitely delicate piece of work—into someone who really does love good and hate evil. This is the peculiar beauty of the Christian faith. It isn't a matter of dozens of "thou shalt nots"—but the coming of God's Spirit into our spirit so that whether the process is quick or slow, we are being changed **from inside**.

So should you ever be tempted to criticise the genuine churchgoer (yes, we aren't talking about those others who are play-actors) remember he is a "man under reconstruction" And it would be silly to pass judgement on a picture or building that's only in process of becoming wouldn't it?

—From J. B. PHILLIPS.

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## Floral Memorials

We are most grateful to all who help beautify our church on Sundays by contributing towards flowers as a way of remembering loved ones.

1980

June 15—Mrs. Hilliray in memory of former Parish Organist Miss Katie O'Neil.

—At the Stone of Remembrance—an anonymous donation.

29—Mrs. D. Reid in memory of her mother.

—Barbara and Stella in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, sister Ena, and friends Dorrie and Sally.

—Iris and Colin in memory of their grandmother, Mrs. Field.

July 13—Misses Nisbet in memory of their parents.

—Mr. Bill Williams and family in memory of Mrs Aileen Williams.

27—John and Lindsay in memory of their mother, Mary Joan Nance.

Those who would appreciate the opportunity of thus marking a treasured memory — or perhaps marking an occasion of thanksgiving to God for a particular blessing received — are asked to contact the Rector as early as possible — say by six (6) weeks prior to the appropriate date if "in memory". This makes it possible to organise the details and record the memorial in the relevant issue of "The Chronicle".

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### A SMALL PERSONAL NOTE . . .

2/3 Wreford Road,  
Blackburn South,  
3130, Victoria.  
Tel. (03) 878-2858  
APRIL-MAY, 1980

It's great to be writing to you! How are you going and what's been happening in your life over the last month or so?

As you have probably already seen from our announcement card the Small household has become a bigger Small household — and what a delight Joel is to us. Annette and I have been taking delight in proudly walking Joel in his pram or driving with him in the car, and suffice it to say he loves the ride!

Annette Mary is terrific. She is very healthy, and I have fallen in love with her all over again with her slim attractive figure!

Since we wrote last we have settled into Melbourne very well and are enjoying both living here and our ministry very much. We have also begun to regularly worship at St. Mark's (Anglican) Church in Forest Hill. We have been wonderfully welcomed here and are looking forward to participating in a family fellowship group each week.

On the campus scene, things have been a little unsettled for me over the past month with Joel's birth, Annette's return home, her folk's visit for a week (which was a marvellous encouragement and help).

Let me share a little about one particular week we had in mid-April at Monash Uni. The "Christianity Festival" was designated for April 14-18, with the aim of encouraging the Christians as well as clearly presenting the Gospel to the non-believing students.

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## 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.

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A number of banners were placed around the campus promoting the festival and displaying some of the sayings of Jesus. A number of counter banners were put up saying "FEED THE LIONS" (that is feed the Christians to the Lions) and "CHRISTIANITY SUPPRESSES WOMEN & GAYS (Homosexuals)". An anti-Christian group calling themselves "Christianity Exposed" was formed, and they organised a number of public lectures on "Christianity and Sexism".

Also, the Student Newspaper refused to print anything related to the festival on the basis that . . . "religion gets a mass coverage in the media and the Student Newspaper is a progressive newspaper which wishes to protect people from superstitions that uphold the status quo, and since not many people would be interested anyway, we will only run articles that appeal to the greatest number." I might add here that, the April 14 edition had a full page article written by an atheist condemning Christianity, and a full page mock advertisement for the Christianity Festival entitled "Pagan Week".

Meanwhile, the Festival activities, including, open air debates, prayer meetings and worship services, public lectures by prominent Christian speakers, films and Christian bands providing entertainment all proved to be a great success. Much thought and discussion was provoked among the students and staff on campus, and this was especially enhanced by the opposition—God does work everything together for good (Romans 8:28).

Well, that's it for now,

God Bless You and Keep You,

ANNETTE, RICHARD and JOEL.



## WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AT ALL SAINTS

### MORNINGS at 9.30 a.m.:—

Holy Communion on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Morning Prayer on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Family Service is the 3rd Sunday.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN is at 9.55 a.m.

### EVENINGS at 7 p.m.:—

(This changes to 5 p.m. during winter months.)

Holy Communion on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Evening Prayer on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays.

Baptisms, Marriage and Funerals by arrangement with the Rector.