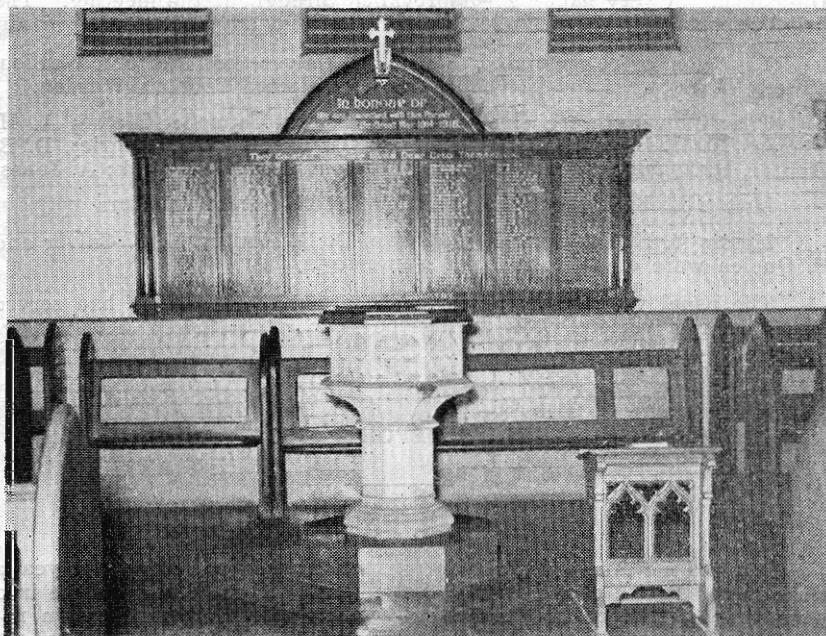


The Chronicle Of All Saints Petersham

Rector: Rev. T. E. CHAMPION, Th.L.
The Rectory, 325 Stanmore Road, Petersham—LM 4735

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

JUNE, 1957



PARISH INFORMATION

8 a.m.—Holy Communion (every Sunday), 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11 a.m.
5th Sunday after Evening Prayer.

Saints' Days as announced.

11 a.m.—Morning Prayer. 7.15 p.m.—Evening Prayer.

9.45 a.m.—Sunday School. 9.45 a.m.—Kindergarten.

Churchwardens: Messrs L. C. CALVER (Rector's), W. SOPWITH, E. QUELCH.

Parish Council: THE CHURCHWARDENS and Messrs A. H. THOMAS, T. H. BOSWARD, J. M. BOYLE, H. G. BRODIE, J. HUMPHREYS, D. B. HUNTER, H. F. JONES, B. PULLEN T. J. SHAW, K. GRANT, A. COOK A. JONES.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. L. C. CALVER Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. SOPWITH

Organist: Miss KATHLEEN O'NEILL.

ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The postponed Vestry Meeting was held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, 21st May at 8 p.m. There was a very good attendance considering it was such a cold night. Apologies were received from Messrs W. Sopwith, D. Hunter, H. Brodie, H. Shaw and Mesdames Furnell and Ditchburn. A very happy spirit prevailed throughout the meeting. The usual reports and balance sheets were read and adopted.

The Rector re-appointed Mr. L. C. Calver as Rector's Warden. Messrs W. Sopwith and E. Quelch were re-elected People's Warden.

The following were elected to the Parish Council: Messrs A. H. Thomas, T. H. Bosward, J. M. Boyle, H. G. Brodie, J. Humphries, D. B. Hunter, H. F. Jones, B. Pullen, T. J. Shaw, K. Grant; A. Cook; A. Jones.

Messrs E. Brooks and L. Derrett were re-elected Auditors

Messrs T. H. Bosward, J. M. Boyle, D. B. Hunter, L. C. Calver and E. Quelch were elected Parochial Nominators.

The usual votes of thanks were accorded to those who had served the Church in various ways during the year.

RECTOR'S REPORT, 1956-57

All Saints', Petersham

It gives me much pleasure to present this report of my first year's work in the Parish of All Saints', Petersham. My wife and I came into your midst just over twelve months ago, to take up work here, in response to what we believe was a call of God. Naturally, at first we felt a bit strange, but very soon the warmth of friendship at All Saints' made us feel we had been here for a considerable time. Although the

year has been extremely busy and has seemed to slip by faster than any year in my ministry, I want to say that we have never spent a happier year in any of the seven parishes in which we have worked. The knowledge that a band of workers had done so much both inside and outside the Rectory to prepare for our coming made us feel that we were coming amongst friends, and as time has passed we have been more than ever convinced of that fact.

I feel that the year behind us has been one of progress, materially and spiritually. Materially, I feel we can think of it as a year of repair and restoration. The total cost of renovations is not known to me, but I do know that the value of voluntary labour has at a low estimate saved the parish over £800. Our sincere thanks are offered to those who have helped in any way to restore the fabric of our buildings and property to the state it is in to-day.

I referred last year to the fact that five bedrooms at the Rectory had been painted out in nine pastel shades and that the workmanship left nothing to be desired. Some of this work was finished in this financial year, hence my reason for mentioning it again. Then the walls in the study and breakfast room were plastered and a much needed book case built on one side of the chimney in the study. Both these rooms are yet to be painted when time and money permits. New electric power points were installed in the kitchen and laundry and one moved in the study so that another book case can be built later. Then new guttering (very much needed) was put around the Rectory, Parish Hall, Kindergarten and garage. New galvanised iron was put on the roof of the laundry to overcome the problem of too many "showers of blessing" in that room every time it rained. Bad gas leaks in the Rectory were examined by an inspector from the Gas Company who condemned the pipes and ordered us to have a new installation.

In the Parish Hall we had the problem of a kitchen that was too small for general use so we enlarged the kitchen three feet by moving the wall and reducing the library by three feet. Then additional lockup cupboards were built in for crockery, a new double bowl stainless sink installed, the wall around the sink and urns was tiled and the water service to the hall was renewed in copper pipe. The water pipes were so clogged up that we could easily have had trouble with blowing up the urn which was fed by an automatic tap and which functioned too slowly. New inlaid lino was supplied by the Ladies' Guild for the kitchen floor which added to the appearance when the kitchen was painted out. We also received the gift of an ice chest from Mrs. O'Sullivan and now have a 'fridge for use when required. The Y.M. Club were responsible for the purchase of a new gas stove, which was installed in the Rectory and the Rectory stove (still in very good condition) was put in the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

The Guild Room or Library was transformed, the robe cupboards refitted and sliding doors placed in front of the books to keep out the dirt and dust. Much needed paint gave the room a very attractive appearance the pastel shades being a big improvement on the previous colour scheme. For thirty years the basement under the platform in the hall was a doubtful asset because everytime it rained it became like a swimming pool. We concreted a gutter around the wall, sloping the drain to one low point and there installed an automatic electric

pump. The basement is now used for the storage of tables, trestles and spare chairs, thus giving us more room in the main hall. Although the season has been reasonably dry we feel we are prepared now for any eventually and that the basement will be usable to all times for storage

The latest improvement to the hall is the painting of the Y.C.I. Room, which has truly been transformed. Again this work has been done by voluntary labour and many pounds saved. Y.C.I. members under the guidance of Mr. Moore have done a good job in brightening up the "Men's Sanctum."

In the Church there is much needed work to be done—painting and repairs. However, the Vestry has been painted out and new rubber lino placed on the floor also a blue carpet square, the Guild were responsible for rubber floor covering and carpet and for supplying a vacuum cleaner for the Church. The painting was done by voluntary labour by Messrs Bosward and Humphries.

Most people have remarked on the improved and tidy appearance of the Church grounds. The Rectory back fence was in a dangerous condition through the large Coral trees. The Parish Council decided to have the trees cut down and fence renewed. It cost us £35 to have the trees cut down but it was the only way to tackle the problem. A new 6ft fence has been erected and another between the Rectory and Hopetoun Street. More new fencing has been done near the garage where the bamboo has been eradicated. In all 167 feet of fencing has been erected by voluntary labour.

For years the approach to the Parish Hall, between the Church and the Rectory has been unsatisfactory, especially in wet weather. There were two concrete tracks to the garage only, but now we have concreted the whole of the driveway 80ft long and about 12ft wide. We have also improved the path to the Vestry door with a connecting path from the main driveway.

Until last winter we had no heating in the Church, but thanks again to Mr. Erik Olofsson and helpers, four power points were installed in the Church where we now have four electric heaters to take the chill off the building on cold days. On the occasion of the visit of Bishop W. G. Hilliard in October for the Confirmation Service, a Clergy Succession Board was dedicated by him. This board reminds us of the men who have served as Rector of All Saints' in the years that have passed.

This Parish has a splendid tradition. One can see by the size and value of our property and memorials that we have been richly blessed with people who had vision and dearly loved our Church in Petersham. We still have an excellent band of workers of whom we can be proud but we must never be satisfied with our efforts; what we do is going to help those who come after us. We are still laying foundations upon which others will build.

Some may say I have not made much reference to the spiritual side of the work in this report so far. If the offertories may be taken as a guide there have been increased attendances at Church this year. You are in a better position to gauge that than I am. I have made many personal contacts through visiting and the occasional services of the Church. The number of people who have sought personal help and guidance in spiritual matters has far exceeded any previous year of

my twenty years in the ministry. During the year there were 85 baptisms, 43 marriages, 56 funerals and 23 confirmees. Some of the funerals moved from our Church but most from Funeral Directors Chapels. We sustained a great loss in the sudden passing of Mr. Edward Warr, our organist, on 7th September, 1956. Mr. Warr was appointed by my predecessor in February of that year and had rendered very valuable service, not only here, but in many Churches of this diocese, in a musical capacity. The funeral moved from our Church where a personal tribute was paid to his services by the Rev. N. Graham Rector of St. Mary's, Balmain, from which Church Mr. Warr left when he came to us.

I would like to mention two others who passed from us during the year first, Mrs. Florence Amy Day, who had also given so much help musically to the Church and community. Many a time Mrs. Day had supplied the music for Fellowship Social evenings and was much appreciated.

Then Miss Emmaline May Belfield was another who, though not living in this parish, always thought of All Saints' as "home". Miss Belfield was a life worker for the cause of Christ and His Church. Though each of these are no longer here their memory is still with us and their good deeds are not forgotten.

Religious instruction has been given as regularly as possible in the schools this year. I would like to pay tribute to the co-operation of the Head Masters and Head Mistresses and staffs of the schools we visit. I wish to thank Miss Atkinson for her help throughout the year with the Infant classes at Stanmore and Petersham, she is most loyal and reliable. To Sister Hodges who helps with a class at Stanmore Home Science and Miss Walsh who takes a class of girls at Stanmore Primary. Without the help of these ladies many of our children would receive little religious instruction. There is one other who has been a great help in the person of the Rev. John Fisher, the local Congregational Minister. It so happened that last year my visits to Stanmore Domestic Science School precluded me from visiting Petersham High School and the Rev. J. Fisher kindly took the C. of E. girls as well as his own. We all regret Mr. Fisher has suffered a stroke in recent months but rejoice to hear that he is improving in health.

We all know that the "personal touch" as we call it, is the thing that counts in this life. The average minister's week is not less than 60 hours of teaching, preaching, interviewing, visiting and taking occasional services for that reason I do want to pay a personal tribute to the work done by the District Visitors. These ladies do a wonderful job, not only in distributing Parish Papers and collecting money, but keep the personal link with many who would otherwise know nothing about the Church. It is a tragedy that so many call themselves Church of England, but could be anything. They know nothing about Church membership and its responsibilities, they live so isolated from the Church that they have an uncomfortable look on their faces when they enter the Church door for a baptism, marriage or funeral. The day is past when it can be thought that one man (even if his collar is back to front) can possibly give personal attention to the hundreds in his parish

and do all the other jobs required of him. Our conception of the Church must change. In the past the Clergyman has somehow been thought of as "the Church". We must now realise the Church is not one man but a family. Confirmation is really the ordination of the laity. Once we are confirmed we should say with St. Paul "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" There is a job for everyone and if we all pull our weight and realise before God we have a personal responsibility to help forward the Kingdom of God, and are prepared to do it, everyone, including ourselves, will be the happier.

I am pleased that of the twenty-three candidates presented for Confirmation this year, most of them have taken up Sunday School teaching or are in the Fellowship or Choir, or are workers for the Church here or elsewhere.

Although many in our congregation are regular Communicants it worries me that some are so seldom at the only service our Lord commanded. That in-as-much as we "eat the bread and drink the wine we do show forth the Lord's death till He come." We live in a changing world. The Communion Service was first instituted at a supper, then it became a breakfast, others celebrated the service at times to suit the people and community. In the Church of England there have been two schools of thought:—

1—The evangelical which had early communion and occasional evening communion.

2—The more conservative school which unconsciously followed Roman thought of only having early Communion and taken fasting.

Some have followed one or other of these customs often knowing nothing of the historical background and significance of early or late services.

Strangely enough the Church of Rome is proving more elastic than many less conservative Churches to-day. In the last twelve months it is common to see notices outside Roman Churches announcing Communion at 5.15 p.m. on Sundays. Rome realises that we are in a changing world and even she must relax on some of her strict rules. She has now laid down that three hours fasting is sufficient for receiving Holy Communion. Rome is not our guide but Holy Scripture and I feel the time is opportune to meet the needs of some of our parishioners by having Holy Communion at the close of Evensong once a quarter. My personal attitude is all things is that "I am among you as he that serveth."

Now I must close not desiring to unduly weary you. I want to take this opportunity of thanking all who have helped with the work in the Parish during the year. To mention everyone by name would be impossible but remember we are all known unto God. God is no man's debtor and those who serve Him faithfully will not lose their reward.

Beginning with the Church services may I express my gratitude to my colleague Rev. A. E. Gardner, the organist and assistant organists, Choir for the splendid lead with the services, to the Parish Council for co-operation and understanding, to those who week by week help to beautify the Church with flowers and attend to the Communion linen. To the Superintendent and Sunday School teachers who each week are found in their places teaching the young. The Bible Class Leaders, Fellowship members, District Visitors, Guild Members, Young Marrieds Club, Y.C.I. members, to Mrs. Ditchburn who has given more than yeoman service organising the Physical Culture Classes and to those responsible for the Cricket and Baseball teams.

I know it would be your wish for me not to overlook by name our two stalwarts who spend as much time around the Church as anywhere else and who are mainly responsible for the attractive appearance of All Saints' grounds—Mr. T. Bosward and Mr. J. Humphries.

To all who have helped in any way I say a big thank you and pray the coming year may be one of great blessing in every way.

T. E. CHAMPION, Rector

PHYSICAL CULTURE CLUB

Our Fancy Dress Ball will be held on Friday, 28th June, when the highlight of the evening will be the Presentation of our "Sub-Debs".

Prizes will be awarded for Fancy Dress costumes. Please come along and help our Social evening to be a good financial one as well. All proceeds will be given to the Church Funds.

F. DITCHEBURN, Hon. Secretary

YOUNG MARRIEDS' CLUB

The next meeting of the above club will be held in the Y.C.I. Room on Tuesday, 11th June at 8 p.m.

We thank all those who by their attendance and donations helped to make our Fancy Hat Party a happy and successful function. We especially wish to thank Mr. Moore our pianist and Mr. Sayers our M.C., Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Spencer for acting as Judges. It was not an easy task as there were many hats well deserving of a prize. The children were very happy at the Rector's request for them to parade by his sick bed at the Rectory so that he could see their fancy hats. Thank you Mr. Champion for your keen interest, even though you were sick.

Our next function is a Theatre Party at the Petersham Odeon Theatre on Wednesday, 26th June. "Trapeeze" will be the main attraction. Tickets are now on sale from any member of the Y.M. Club or at the Rectory, the price 3/6, children 1/9. We hope the parishioners will support us on this occasion.

I. BARRETT, Hon. Secretary

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Those desiring to be confirmed this year are reminded that classes begin on Sunday, 2nd June, 2.30 p.m. at the Church.

Y.C.I.

The 182nd issue of the Y.C.I. "Manuscript Journal" was released at the Meeting held on Friday, the 10th May. The issue contained many and varied articles but all were of a high standard, and the discussions which followed the reading of several articles was indicative of the interest created. The "Manuscript Journal" has always been a feature of the Y.C.I. since the inception of the Institute, and it is good to see the continued support it receives from several contributors.

Our June meetings include President's Night, on the 7th and an Open Debate on the 21st. The Y.C.I., which is the Men's Club of the Parish, meets in the Y.C.I. Club Room (Parish Hall) on alternate Fridays, commencing at 8 p.m. It is very pleasing to report that we have enrolled several new members during the past twelve months but there is room for more men of all ages. Full details of the Y.C.I. will be gladly supplied by the Rector or any of the Church Officers. Copies of the Syllabus may also be obtained.

L.C.C.

FLOWER ROSTER

June 2nd—Flowers donated by Mrs. King in memory of Mr. E. C. King
Arranged by Mrs. Bosward.

„ 9th—Flowers donated by Mrs. Martin. Arranged by Mrs. Colburt.

„ 16th—Flowers donated by Mrs. Colburt. Arranged by Y.M. Club

„ 23rd—Flowers donated by Mrs. Hawkins. Arranged by Mrs. Bosward.

„ 10th—Flowers donated by Mrs. Thomas. Arranged by Mrs. Champion.

July 7th—Flowers donated by Fellowship. Arranged by Mrs. Bosward.

WALTERS & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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