

MARSTON NEWS

The News-Letter of St. Nicholas Church, Marston, Oxford
delivered to every home in the Parish

NEW EDITION — MARSTON NEWS

Latest News.

The new edition of the Marston News will be published next month. Owing to various "teething troubles" it has not been possible to publish it this month.

There are still a number of CLUB SECRETARIES who have not forwarded particulars of their meetings. Delay in doing so will mean that these particulars cannot go into print for another twelve months.

Dear Friends,

What a joy it has been to my wife and me to spend this past Christmas with you in Marston. The Carol Service was a special joy and inspiration to us. I feel I must record my gratitude, and the gratitude of all of us, to those who contributed to our worship, and who added to the beauty of our church, on this occasion. I will not cause embarrassment by mentioning names, except to give a special thanks to the Marston Choral Society singers for all they did both in the afternoon and evening services.

Now, as I look at my diary, I notice that our thoughts are already directed to the next great Festival in the Church's Year, namely, Easter. Lent begins early this year; and this calls for thought and action on our part right away.

I have never possessed a garden of my own before; and the trouble with taking over a Parish at the end of a year is that so many things need seeing to, that the garden gets all too easily neglected. As I look out of my window I can see flower beds absolutely covered with weeds; and unless I do something pretty soon about these weeds, all that is beautiful in the flower beds will fail to come up and display itself. Now, please don't think I'm appealing for help! I mention this because I see it as a parable on our lives.

How easily, and yet unnoticed, do these weeds spring up! I feel that very often we too are like flower beds. We all of us have the potential within us, with God's good care, to produce beautiful things — to produce a beautiful character of love, goodness, honesty, and so on. Yet as we grow careless in our walk with God, little sins crop up in our character; and if we don't do anything about it, these sins soon have dominion over us and choke all that could be good and lovely. Now, Lent is a time of weeding:

it is a time when we should, with God's help, remove all these little sins — and the big ones — and enable the sunshine of His love to shine upon the potentially good in us and draw it out.

How are we to do all this? By disciplining ourselves to a habit of waiting daily upon God in prayer, by reading portions of His Word, and by being regular in our worship, and above all at Holy Communion. It's very difficult to do this — so is weeding! — but it must be done.

One more word. I am grateful to the few who have responded to my appeal for new MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS; but are there no more who should be taking on this vital work? If we all take a share in this, the burden will indeed be a light one: if not, then the few faithful will have a heavy load on their shoulders. Even if you can only undertake to "cover" eight houses, this would be of immense help. Please think and pray again about this.

Isaiah 6:8: "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me".

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

LESLIE WRIGHT.

Carol Singing Collections.

We are very grateful to all people of Marston who so generously responded to our appeals for the Inter-Church Aid to Refugees, and for the Children's Society (formerly Waifs and Strays); and also to those who kindly entertained the carol singers and bell ringers in their homes.

The total collected was £34/8/0, of which £19/14/0 was sent to the Aid to Refugees and £14/14/0 was sent to the Children's Society.

Who is my neighbour?

When Jesus was asked this question by a Jew, He told the story of a *Samaritan* who took care of a *Jew* who was in desperate need. Samaritans hated Jews as much as Arabs hate them today. But Christian love is to cut across all national barriers, Jesus tells us.

"Why should we worry about refugees, about people who live in other parts of the world, when there are people in need in our own country?" Some people asked that question as carol singers collected from door to door. Surely the answer is clear. The need of those in other parts of the world, and especially of the millions of refugees, is infinitely greater than the needs of those in our Welfare State.

Oxford Famine Relief Appeal — February 27th, 28th, March 1st.

The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief are organising a special drive in Oxford on the above dates. The needs are as great as ever; please do all you can to support this.

Donations are very useful; for instance 10/- gives a hot meal to 120 Arab children; 30/- enables a refugee suffering from tuberculosis to get one month's treatment.

Discarded clothing is urgently needed, as well as footwear; as are blankets, and nappies.

LOCAL NEWS

1. Women's Institute — Open Meeting.

February 11th, at 7.30 p.m.—The meeting of the Women's Institute, in St. Nicholas Primary School, is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Mr. Busbridge, of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Harwell, will give an address, and show a film, on "The Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy".

2. The Old Marston Church Society.

More voices are required. If you enjoy singing, why not join us?

Meetings on Fridays at 8 p.m. in the Church School.

3. Cricket Club.

Are you aware of the existence of the Old Marston Cricket Club? Further details in our next issue.

MARRIAGE — The Real Keystone.

"He is the opposite of the 'Ideal Husband' I had in mind before we were married", writes a London housewife. "And I often feel like blowing up". She goes on: "But when I turn round to 'blow my top' and see the expression on his face I just roar with laughter and he joins in, ready to make peace. This capacity to laugh at ourselves, our mistakes and trials, makes him very dear to me. But the real keystone to our happiness together after nearly 20 years of married life is the humble way he can kneel down with his four sons and me to say our prayers together. A husband and wife who pray together will stay together".

CALENDAR

- February 1. 3.0 p.m. Sunday School Party.
2. SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.
8.15 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
4. 2.45 p.m. Pram Service.
5. 7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Meeting. Discussion.
6. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
9. SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.
8.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
11. 7.30 p.m. Women's Institute Open Meeting—Primary Sch'l.
13. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.

16. QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY.
8.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
19. ASH WEDNESDAY.
8.00 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion.
20. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
23. *FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.*
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
4.00 p.m. Service of Holy Baptism.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
24. ST. MATTHIAS.
7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
27. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.