

MARSTON NEWS

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

MARSTON NEWS—NEW LOOK!

All being well, it is hoped to publish the Marston News next month (or in March) in a completely new form. It will be published as a small illustrated booklet of something like twenty or more pages. It will have a different cover each month, both different in colour and in illustration.

It is intended that this should be a Magazine for ALL PEOPLE OF MARSTON, churchmen and non-churchmen alike. In each edition there will be space devoted wholly to *Local News*; with reports on such things as the monthly Parish Council Meeting and any other items of interest.

The main purposes of this magazine are to help to create a real sense of fellowship in the very much enlarged community of Marston, and to keep people in touch with the Church and the Church with the people.

The success of this new venture will depend on each one of you personally. It is still intended to deliver this magazine to every home in our Parish; but we can only continue doing this if people will **KINDLY PAY FOR THEIR COPIES**. We only intend to charge 4d. per copy which, all will doubtless agree, will be remarkably cheap.

Note for all Club, Institute, Fellowship, Organisation Secretaries.

It is intended to publish month by month a complete list of all organisations which function in Old Marston; together with the times of meetings and the address and telephone number (if any) of the secretaries. It would be appreciated if all secretaries would kindly send the appropriate details to the Editor, at the Vicarage, 11 Elsfield Road, as soon as possible. Don't delay, or you won't "get in" for another twelve months!

Note to all Tradesmen

As you know the population of Marston is constantly growing, and there is still a large building programme to be completed. It would be a great help to the people of Marston, as well as to the Tradesmen, if a Directory of all shops and services were published. It is intended to compile such a Directory in the new magazine. Would all tradesmen interested please communicate with the Editor at 11 Elsfield Road (Tel. 47034) as quickly as possible.

Please play your part in making this new Magazine a success by buying a copy each month.

My dear Friends,

My wife joins me in wishing you all every happiness and God's richest blessings upon you in this New Year.

I have deliberately given this letter "second place" in this month's copy of the Marston News because I want to make sure that everyone will make a point of reading all about our new Marston News which I hope to publish next month. Whether I publish it next month or the next will depend on how quickly the club secretaries and tradesmen respond to my appeal—please do all you can to hustle them on!

The beginning of the New Year is a time for stock-taking (in more senses than one), and a time for new resolutions. Maybe you have been finding it hard to persevere along the Way, and you are anxious to try and make a fresh start. Maybe you have made too many fresh starts already, and you are finding that somehow you seem to be getting nowhere spiritually, and you are tempted to give up the struggle. Of course it's no use pretending that the Christian life is an easy one in this world, our Lord does not offer His disciples a bed of roses but a cross, and as the saying goes: "No Cross, No Crown".

But one principal reason why so many people find it so hard to keep their faith live and militant, is that they try and keep it to themselves and do nothing in the way of active service for Christ and His Church. There is one piece of active work, of simply vital work, which any member of our own church of St. Nicholas can take on right now, and that is to be a Magazine Distributor.

Please don't skip this next section! We are in desperate need of more Magazine Distributors; and in fact we can never have too many, for the more we have the shorter the ground each covers, and the more effective each will become. The task of a Magazine Distributor is not that of a post-man; it is far more than that. It involves "taking charge" of a certain number of houses, and once a month calling at each of these houses and selling the magazine. It provides an opportunity of getting to know the families in one's "charge" and taking a real interest in them, and so showing by one's actions Christ's care and concern for each one. Frequently there will come opportunities to help in cases of need and also to call in the support of the Church and its staff.

Please pray and think seriously about this, and ask yourself this question: "Why shouldn't I be a Magazine Distributor?" Then go and offer your services either to Miss Liles or myself. This is a task which can be undertaken by old and young alike. It is wonderfully uplifting to be "on active service" for our Lord; and rewards, in such things as new friendships which are formed, far exceed the price paid.

I must close with a word of thanks to the few who have faithfully carried on this work during these past few years; and say how much I hope they will be willing to continue this vital work in this coming year, assuring them that reinforcements are on the way.

A text for the New Year: "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus". (*Phil.* 3: 13.)

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

LESLIE WRIGHT.

Holy Baptism.

"We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock . . ."; but where is the congregation? Baptism is one of the most momentous occasions in a person's life, whereby we are actually received into Christ's own Family; yet all too often Baptism is a small "hide in the corner" affair with no more than a dozen or so witnesses to this great event.

The Reformers clearly intended that Baptism should take place: "when the most number of people come together . . . either immediately after the last Lesson at Morning Prayer, or else immediately after the last Lesson at Evening Prayer". In actual fact it is practically impossible to baptize during Morning or Evening Prayer, as it would make the service too long for most people.

Nevertheless in order to help people, and especially parents and godparents, to realise what a tremendous thing it is that they are undertaking in bringing their children to this Holy Sacrament, Baptism services will in future only take place on the fourth Sunday of the month, in order to assemble a good sized congregation. The service itself will be a choral one and a short sermon will be preached.

Parents wishing to have their children baptized, are asked to give the Vicar sufficient warning in order that he may visit them and go over the Service with them.

Godparents. Please make every effort to secure godly godparents, who are regular worshippers, and who realize what a serious responsibility they are taking upon themselves in undertaking to be godparents.

Christian Unity.

Christian *disunity* is one of the stumbling-blocks which hinders many sincere people from becoming Christians. The sad thing is that so many Christians don't seem to care about this anyhow. Yet if we do not care about this, if we are not concerned about fulfilling Christ's prayer "that they may be one", then it is not likely that we shall be gladly received into His Kingdom, for He came and died with the purpose of making us one.

Each year, towards the end of January, the churches of the world unite in prayer for Unity, under the sponsorship of the World Council of Churches. This year the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* will be from 18th to 25th January, 1958.

Your attention is drawn to the following meetings in connection with the Week of Prayer:—

TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY, at 8.15 p.m.

A public meeting in the Town Hall, Oxford

PRAYING FOR UNITY

Chairman: The Bishop of Oxford

Speakers: Bishop Anthony Bloom (Orthodox)
Dom Bede Winslow (Roman Catholic)
Rev. Denis Marsh (C. of E.)
Rev. Geoffrey Beck (Congregationalist)

TUESDAY, 28th JANUARY, at 8.15 p.m.

Regent's Park College

ANY QUESTIONS?

A brains trust on Christian Unity.

Prayers for Christian Unity will be said daily from 18th to 24th January in Christ Church Cathedral from 1.45 to 2.0 p.m.

"Received into the Congregation of Christ's flock".

- 10 Nov. Nicola Carrington
Melvin John Lee
Michael Geoffrey Waddle
17 Nov. Lynne Kidd
1 Dec. Beverley Jane Beat
Richard John Lord
Michael David Lord
8 Dec. David Mark Brown
Heather Ann Quarterman

"Those whom God hath joined together".

- 2 Nov. John Heath and Patricia Ann Beeks.

"Unto God's gracious mercy we commit them".

- 29 Nov. Walter George Haynes. Aged 81.
4 Dec. Richard Walter Atkinson. Aged 81.
7 Dec. Frederick Charles Gordge. Aged 72.

CALENDAR

- January 2. 8 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
3. 7.45 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Christmas
Party—Primary School.
5. **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.**
8.15 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
6. **FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY.**
7.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
7. 2.45 p.m. Pram Service.
9. 8.0 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
11. 3.0 p.m. Young Wives' Children's Party—Primary School.
12. **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**
8.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
15. 7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Meeting. Travel Talk by Mrs.
Harlow—Reading Room.
16. 8.0 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
19. **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**
8.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
21. 8.15 p.m. Open Meeting on Christian Unity—Oxford Town
Hall.
23. 8.0 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers—Vicarage.
26. **THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**
8.15 a.m. Holy Communion.
11.0 a.m. Morning Prayer.
4.0 p.m. Holy Baptism.
6.30 p.m. Evening Prayer.
28. 2.45 p.m. Mothers' Union. Talk by Mrs. Vernon on Watch
and Social Work of the M.U.—Reading Room.
29. 7.45 p.m. Young Wives. Visit to Thern House.
30. 8.0 p.m. Bible Study and Prayers. Vicarage.
February 1. 3.0 p.m. Sunday School Party.