

# MARSTON NEWS

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

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My dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity of wishing you every happiness and God's richest blessings upon you and your homes this Christmas.

What sort of Christmas cards are you sending your friends this year? Judging by the display of cards in the Oxford shops, it looks as though you may be sending much the same sort of cards as last year, and the year before, and the year before . . . ! There is almost bound to be a robin, or a sprig of holly, or a stage coach in your pictures! But why not try and send a proper *Christmas* card this year? Why must we take Christ out of *Christmas*?

This is a religious festival, which tells us quite the most wonderful and yet extraordinary news the world has ever heard; that God became man and was born of a poor humble woman in Palestine. Imagine reading these headlines in your newspaper one morning: "GOD BECOMES MAN TO SAVE WORLD". This is the startling news of Christmas — yes, it is something which has *really* happened.

The world won't be saved by Sputniks, by atomic power, by all man's latest inventions and discoveries; the world can only be saved by Jesus Christ, the Saviour of Mankind. The world needs Him more today than ever before; and what is true of the world is equally true of *you* and of *me*; only Christ can save us.

The Christmas message is one, then, of God's love shown to us in the giving of His Son to be our Saviour. This is the most wonderful news that has ever been published. Let us each do our share in publishing this news, by making sure that our Christmas cards are indeed *Christmas* cards, for "the Gospel that brought light into the darkness was not about a robin on a holly bush, or people with frozen noses in a stage coach; it was about what the living God has done to identify Himself with men and women".

There are a good many things happening in the life of our church around about Christmas, so do please read on and do all you can to join with us in our worship this Christmas.

One last word. Do please feel free to call on me in the Vicarage if you think that I can possibly be of help to you.

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

LESLIE WRIGHT.

**Holy Communion.** Christmas is one of the three great festivals upon which all Communicant members of the Church of England are enjoined to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. There will be three celebrations of Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

If there are any people who are sick or too infirm to join with us at the Lord's Supper, would they please inform the Vicar, who will be only too pleased to bring them Communion in their own homes.

**St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6th. Patronal Festival.** Our beautiful church is dedicated to Saint Nicholas, the Patron Saint of Children. We shall observe this day with a Family Communion Service at 8 p.m. This will be a service of Holy Communion together with hymns and an address. It is hoped that all who worship regularly at St. Nicholas will come to this service, so that the Family of Christ's Church here in Marston may together rededicate itself corporately to the service of God here in this corner of England. What better way to dedicate ourselves to the Master's service than at a celebration of the Lord's Supper; where in the Bread and the Wine we receive Him to ourselves, and then in the prayer which follows we offer ourselves to Him: "here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, *ourselves, our souls and bodies*, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice (offering) unto Thee . . .".

If the life and fellowship of St. Nicholas means anything to you, then please do all you can to join with us in this service of rededication.

**Old Marston Secondary Modern School.** A great deal of interested curiosity has been aroused by the erection of the fine new Secondary Modern School in our village. As the building is not yet finished, nor fully furnished, the school has not yet been opened for general inspection. The Headmaster, Mr. D. Smith, and the Staff are planning to hold an Open Evening early in the New Year, when they will look forward to welcoming parents and all those who are interested in the school.

**Lambeth and Ourselves.** "What's Lambeth to do with me, anyway?" you ask. If you are a member of the Church of England you ought to know by now that next year there is to be another Lambeth Conference of all the Bishops of the Anglican Communion throughout the world. The Bishops meet together every ten years, etc. . . . You will find full details about all this in a special edition of *Church Illustrated* (price 1/-), which will be appearing at the beginning of next year. Why not be sure of your copy by placing an order for one with Miss Liles *now*.

**War Memorial.** We are glad to announce that the Memorial Tablet, commemorating the names of the three who lost their lives in the last war, has been put up in our church just below the memorial to the first World War. The three bodies responsible for this are the Parish Council, the Marston Branch of the British Legion, and the congregation of St. Nicholas Church.

We are grateful to Mr. T. Haynes and Mr. W. Brain for cleaning up the War Memorial in the churchyard in time for Remembrance Sunday.

## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

**Church Services** will be held as on previous years: for full particulars please see the Calendar at the end of this letter.

**Church Decorating.** This will be done on Saturday, December 21st, from 9 a.m. onwards. Please come with suitable decorations, such as evergreens and gifts for the Christmas tree, as early as possible after 9 a.m. Helpers, old and young, will all be most welcome.

**Carol Services.** We shall be having two Carol Services this year; both of them on Sunday, December 22nd. The first will be mainly for our Sunday School children and their parents and friends, at 3 p.m. The Marston Choral Society are very kindly helping us at this service, and they will also be singing some beautiful though less well known carols on their own. All are welcome to this service.

The second Carol Service will be our usual **Carols by Candlelight** at 6.30 p.m. It is hardly necessary to say what a joyful and uplifting Service this is. Once again the Marston Choral Society, as well as our choir, will be leading us in our singing. Once again, all people of Marston and their friends are very welcome: come early and make sure of a seat.

**Carols and Hand-Bells.** It is our privilege each year to bring the Message of Christmas to every door in the parish by means of carols and handbells. In order to cover the whole parish, roads will be visited as follows:

Mon., Dec. 16: St. Nicholas Park, Wardsfield, The Butts, Church Lane and Mill Lane.

Tues., Dec. 17: Raymund Road, Arlington Drive, Cotswold and Windsor Crescents, Haynes Road, Cherwell Caravans.

Wed., Dec. 18: Beechey's Avenue, Rippington Drive, Cromwell Close, Fairfax Avenue, Salford Road, Cavendish Drive.

Thurs., Dec. 19: Mortimer Drive, Lewell Avenue, Nicholas Avenue, Ashlong Road, Marsh Lane, Elms Drive.

Fri., Dec. 20: The Close, Lamburn's Close, Boults Lane, and Oxford Road from the Red Lion southwards.

Mon., Dec. 23 and Tues., Dec. 24: Old People's Homes and Hospitals.

This is no light task, now that the parish has grown so much, but we rely on the practical interest and support of our many friends. You are invited to join the carol-singers one or two of the evenings, and anyway to encourage those who share in this labour of love.

This year we shall be collecting for the needs of other people; namely for the orphan children of the Children's Society, and for the millions of homeless men and women and children in other lands, who are leading lives of extreme hardship, misery and poverty. So will you please give *very generously*.

## CALENDAR

DECEMBER 1ST. *Advent Sunday.*

Holy Communion: 8.15 a.m. and 12.15 p.m.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

Evening Prayer: 6.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 6TH. **St. Nicholas Patronal Festival.**

Family Communion Service: 8.0 p.m.

DECEMBER 8TH. *Second Sunday in Advent.*

Holy Communion: 8.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

Evening Prayer: 6.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 15TH. *Third Sunday in Advent.*

Holy Communion: 8.15 a.m.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

Evening Prayer: 6.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 21ST. *St. Thomas, Apostle and Martyr.*

Holy Communion: 7.30 a.m.

DECEMBER 22ND. *Fourth Sunday in Advent.*

Holy Communion: 8.15 a.m.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

**Children's Carol Service:** 3.0 p.m.

**Carols by Candlelight:** 6.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 25TH. **CHRISTMAS DAY.**

Holy Communion: 7.15 a.m., 8.15 a.m., and 12.0 noon.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

DECEMBER 27TH. *St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.*

Holy Communion: 7.30 a.m.

DECEMBER 29TH. *First Sunday after Christmas.*

Holy Communion: 8.15 a.m.

Morning Prayer: 11.0 a.m.

Evening Prayer: 6.30 p.m.

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*Vicar:* THE REV. LESLIE V. WRIGHT, M.A., 11 Elsfield Road. Tel. 47034.

*Lady Worker:* MISS M. S. LILES, The White Hart, Oxford Road.

*Churchwardens:* PROF. V. T. HARLOW, Fir Tree House, Oxford Road.

MR. B. G. OLIVER, 13 Jack Straw's Lane, New Marston.

*Vergers:* MR. W. E. BRAIN, Cranmer, Elsfield Road.

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