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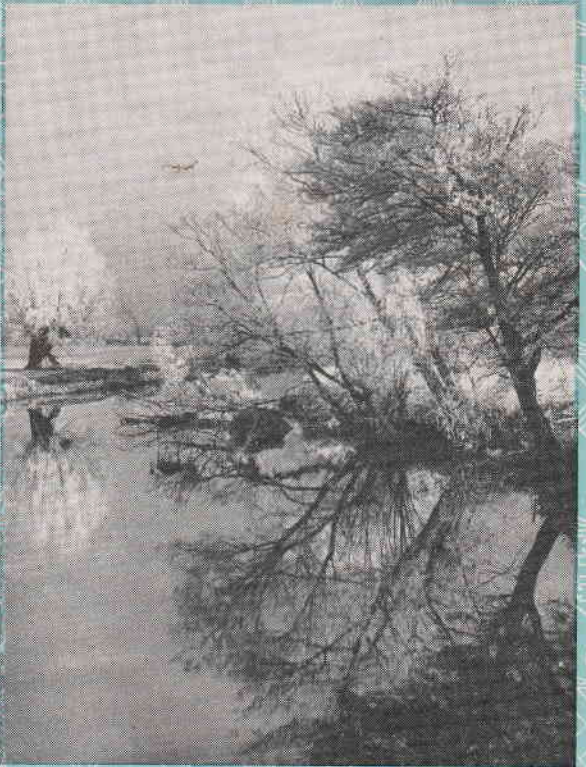
JANUARY, 1959

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1959

# MARSTON NEWS

INCORPORATING  
CHURCH & LOCAL NEWS



*J. Allan Cash*

# ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH — OLD MARSTON

## SERVICES.

**Sundays.** Holy Communion 8.15 a.m.  
also on First Sunday of the month 12 Noon,  
also on Second Sunday of the month 7.30 p.m.  
Morning Prayer 11.0 a.m. (Sunday School during  
Sermon).  
Sunday School 3.0 p.m. at Old Marston Secondary  
School.  
Evening Prayer 6.30 p.m.

**Saints' Days.** Holy Communion 7.30 a.m.

**Holy Baptism.** Fourth Sunday of the month at 4.0 p.m.  
Notice must be given.

**Holy Matrimony.** Banns to be given in at the Vicarage.

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & MEETINGS.

**Bible Study & Prayers.** All welcome—in the Vicarage on  
Thursdays at 8.15 p.m.

**Mothers' Union.** Fourth Tuesday of each month in the Read-  
ing Room at 7.45 p.m.

**Young Wives.** First and Third Wednesdays of each month in  
the Reading Room at 7.45 p.m.

**Pathfinders.** Each Friday in the Reading Room at 6.30 p.m.

**Cubs.** Each Wednesday in the Reading Room at 5.30 p.m.

**Scouts.** Each Thursday in the Reading Room at 6.30 p.m.

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**Lady Worker :** Miss M. S. Liles, The Flat, 15 Mill Lane.

**Churchwardens :** Prof. V. T. Harlow, Fir Tree House, Oxford Road.  
Mr. B. G. Oliver, 13 Jack Straws Lane, N. Marston

**Verger :** Mr. W. E. Brain, Cranmer, Elsfeld Road.

MOTTO FOR 1959

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect Peace whose mind is stayed on Thee : because he trusteth in Thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever ; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26. vv. 3, 4).

★ ★ ★ ★

The Flat,  
15 Mill Lane,  
Marston.

My Dear Friends,

May I wish you every blessing this coming year. The beginning of a New Year makes one take stock of the past, to see where we have perhaps taken a certain step, or pursued a definite action we should not have done, had we our time over again. We cannot go back in time, but we can trust our lives in God's Hands for the future.

I wonder what 1959 will have in store for us? Joys, fresh adventures, sorrows, or just the same "common round and task" to perform. Whatever is ahead, may we trust confidently in Our God, who changes not. May I give you the verses at the top of this letter, as a Motto for the year?

Have you thought of any New Year Resolutions? May be you have decided to get up ten minutes earlier to give your wife that cup of tea she longs for! Or that you will work harder at your job as "pleasing Him in all things." Here are a few suggestions for others who may not have settled down to think of any such ideals:—

Worshipping in God's House, if possible, every Sunday  
—yes, even with the family.

Having family prayers every day with your children.

Coming to Holy Communion once a month (at least).

Reading God's Word regularly, by joining a Bible Reading Fellowship (about which I can advise you).

Please pray about the Successor to Mr. Wright, whom we wish every blessing and trust will soon settle in his new sphere of work; and in the meanwhile, please let me know if I can help, visit (sick or otherwise), or do anything to advise you, any day or time.

The Rev. F. Cragg, lately Vicar of St. Aldate's, will be conducting our Services during the interregnum.

Your sincere friend,

M. S. LILES (Parish Worker).

**CHURCH NEWS.**

A member of our church phoned (as she then thought) the South Midland Coach Office to make two bookings for reserved seats on Holiday. Imagine her surprise when told they did not normally take bookings, and never for couples. She had phoned the Crematorium by mistake!

### **BELLRINGERS.**

Recently a Peal was rung in memory of the late Mr. George Gunn ; it was a peal of 5040 Bob Doubles, lasting 2½ hours. On December 13th the Oxford City Guild of Ringers had their Annual Meeting and Service at Old Marston. After the ringing, a very happy Tea followed, and the Meeting, at which Mr. Gammon was elected Branch Representative to the Diocesan Conference ; and also three local friends were elected to the Guild.

Thanks are expressed to those who made the afternoon so successful.  
ROY JONES.

### **CHURCH OF ENGLAND CHILDREN'S SOCIETY.**

Heather Lyford-Smith presented a purse containing £4 from our Sunday School to the Duchess of Gloucester, at the Royal Albert Hall, in November.

### **MOTHERS' UNION.**

Did you realise that several hymns have been set to Jazz tunes ? The Mothers' Union discovered this at their last meeting, when Mrs. Barnett gave an interesting address on different kinds of Hymns and their Tunes ; the gramophone came in useful too !

Will you join us at the Discussion Afternoon on January 27th. All women are welcome.

### **DO YOU KNOW? — THE DIOCESE.**

That the Oxford Diocese is the largest in Britain, consisting of over 629 parishes ; covering the counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire ?

That the Diocese is divided into three Archdeaconries, one for each county, with Suffragan Bishops and Archdeacons, to facilitate the work involved ?

### **DO YOU KNOW? — THE PARISH.**

That the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, visits Marston, at 22 Oxford Road, every Thursday, from 4—4.30 p.m. ?

### **CHURCH HALL.**

We shall be holding a Party for members on the Electoral Roll (and their children over 15 years of age) on Friday, January 9th, at 7.30 p.m., to celebrate the notable occasion of the completion of this fine building.

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**New Series of Articles from everyday people, telling what it means to live a practical Christian life.**

The first is from a housewife at Slough.

"I am just an ordinary housewife of 29 years of age, with two lovely boys and a husband, and home to keep going. You say it does not sound very exciting ? But if I tell you that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of our home you may agree that it is exciting. Here I am today with the responsibility (of course with my husband) of bringing up these two sons to a knowledge of Jesus, running a girls meeting, of being a witness for the Lord, and of countless other things which make the Christian life exciting, and how did it all come about ? It was through the acknowledging of my sin, and turning to the Lord Jesus Christ to be my Saviour and Lord.

# A MESSAGE FOR 1959

FROM THE BISHOP OF SHREWSBURY

(The Right Reverend R. L. Hodson)

“A HAPPY NEW YEAR !” Such is the time-honoured wish so often heard at the outset of each succeeding year. Perhaps it tends to be a somewhat conventional greeting, slipping glibly off the tongue with little more thought than passing the time of day with a casual acquaintance. Yet how much “A Happy New Year” can and ought to express. It is essentially a cheerful and hopeful greeting, whatever the climate, or the world situation, or whatever the state of our personal affairs.

If you were an artist commissioned to produce a painting which would symbolise in a recognisable way this seasonable wish, what would you try to show? An emaciated and ragged old man, scythe over shoulder and hour-glass at his belt, gazing wistfully back from some desolate hill-top? Or a Recording Angel, in flowing robe and with keenly searching eye, his pen poised over the open volume in which he is about to make his entry? Or the Roman god Janus, with his two faces looking in opposite directions—past and present—from whom is derived the name of this month of January? Might we not better symbolise “A

Happy New Year” by painting a normal modern family—father, mother and children engaged in some everyday household task or family diversion, their faces lit up with a contentment that comes only from tackling the daily duties and daily drudgeries in a spirit of cheerfulness as to the present and hopefulness as to the future? The spirit by which they are animated is the spirit of the Incarnation of the Son of God, Who “for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven” and lived as a man among men, in an earthly home where love ruled supreme.

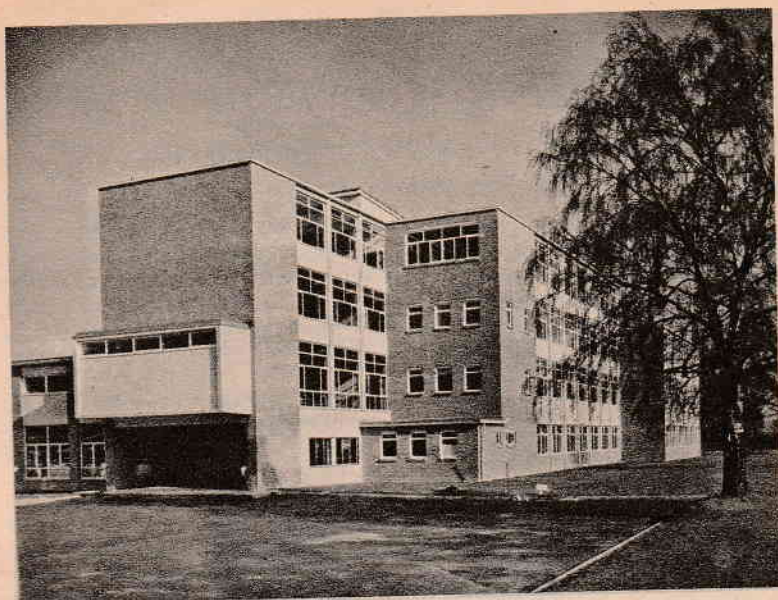
As we still continue to celebrate the Birth of Jesus at Bethlehem and the Coming of God to earth in human form, we should strive to carry the spirit of Christmas, which means, the spirit of Christ, into all our relation-

ships inside and outside the family and the home, throughout the coming year.

By so striving we can then wish our friends and neighbours “A Happy New Year” in the fullest sense of the phrase, conscious that our greeting will not be a matter of words only, but that behind them will be the spirit and the vision that alone can ensure their fulfilment.



“Ring in the New”



A Church Secondary Modern School (Harris School, Rugby)

## THE CHURCH AND HER SCHOOLS

BY CANON G. D. LEONARD

(GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY)

**F**ROM THE EARLIEST DAYS of Christianity in this country until the nineteenth century, education was largely in the hands of the Church which took the initiative in providing education for all children. Until 1870, the State played a very minor role. Parliament first began to make grants in 1832, but not until the 1870 Education Act were Board schools—the forerunners of our present County schools—first established. The Church now provides but a minority of the schools within the statutory system.

Since the Education Act of 1944 there are two main types of Church schools—Aided and Controlled. In the case of Church Aided schools, the Church is responsible for the

improvement or replacement and repair of the buildings, and also retains her rights for securing education truly linked with the life of the Church. In the case of Church Controlled schools, the Church merely provides the buildings which are improved and maintained by the Local Education Authority, and retains few rights in the school. The cost of keeping the Aided schools is heavy. Now that worship and religious instruction of a non-denominational character is required in the County schools there are those who feel that the Church, having inspired and started the national system of education, should gracefully withdraw, the burden having become too great.

Why should we keep our Aided

schools? Because we believe that our children should have not simply education plus religious instruction, but a *Christian education* which will enable them, as members of the body of Christ, to grow up into the fullness of Christian discipleship as members of that body. Christian education is a process, beginning with Baptism and ending with death, which affects the whole of life. It is a process in which worship, the Sacraments, prayer and instruction all have a part.

The Christian religion does not just consist of learning doctrine. Instruction in doctrine is indispensable, but should not be given in isolation from the Church. The early Church continued not only in the Apostles' doctrine but also in their fellowship and in the breaking of bread and in the prayers. Through life in that community, the Body of Christ; through worship, fellowship and prayer, the Christian grows into the likeness of Christ and learns to direct his everyday life—the raw material of his discipleship—in loving obedience to God.

If truly Christian education is to be given, the school must be part of the life of the Church and the staff should be convinced and practising Church men and women. Concerned to present the Christian interpretation of the world in all its aspects and aware of the need of Grace, they will create the environment in which the children will be enabled to grow up as members of the Body of Christ. In an Aided school this is possible and the Church is able there to exercise her cure of souls towards



H.M. The Queen Visits a Church School  
(St. Paul's, Walworth)

her children.

Much good can be done in a Controlled school with the co-operation of the Local Education Authority, but it is through the Aided school that the Church can best provide for her children and can offer a standard of Christian education as the Church understands it. Today the Church of England can speak with authority in matters of education. That this is so is largely due to the fact that there are a large number of Aided schools which witness to her concern for education and give her a stake in determining educational policy.

There can be no more important call upon the resources of a parish than that to keep the school as an Aided school.

# THE MARTYR KING

BY HUBERT FENWICK, A.R.I.B.A.

ONE OF THE SUBJECTS currently discussed in ecclesiastical circles is the adequate commemoration of Anglican "saints and martyrs", amongst whom many would undoubtedly include King Charles I. Whatever his faults and whatever we may think of him, no one seriously denies that he laid down his life for his religion; and he deserves, thereby, if for no other reason, to be remembered with respect and honour. Strange as it may seem, it is in Scotland, where he precipitated a considerable upheaval, and where his pet projects, bishops and prayer books, were, and are, looked upon with a certain amount of suspicion, that "The Martyr King" is best appreciated. But then Charles

was a Scot, the last of his family to be born North of the Border, and the last to "come home" as a ruling monarch.

At the time of his accession to the throne, in 1625, the Established Kirk of Scotland was Episcopal, and if Charles had displayed more tact this might still be the case. Unfortunately, like most folk with exalted principles, this perfectionist ruler was intolerant of those who did not see eye to eye with him, and he sought, through the power of his office, to impose a rigidity of order and ritual on the Scots Kirk that neither its clergy nor people were willing to

accept. He was crowned with great solemnity in the ancient Abbey of Holyrood, surrounded by all the pomp and ceremony of a Renaissance prince, and while this alone caused little offence his subsequent ordering of the immediate use of an unfamiliar liturgy by an unwilling Church certainly brought about the very disorders he wished to prevent. The infamous stool-throwing riot in St.

Giles's belongs to this period, and not long afterwards Episcopacy was rejected.

So much for the disruptive background against which Charles must be judged, but what of his more constructive activities? These were many, perhaps not so obvious in Scotland as in England, and especially not in the cultural field,



Panel in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, wherein he was Europe's acknowledged leader. Nevertheless, he raised Edinburgh to the dignity of a City, declared it the Capital and created the episcopal diocese, when the High Kirk of St. Giles became a Cathedral. He ordered the repayment to the Church of Scotland of monies filched from it at the Reformation, and, ironically enough, these "tiends", or tithes, now go to support the existing Presbyterian Establishment! Furthermore, Charles I granted a Royal Charter to Aberdeen University, and sponsored the implementing of John Knox's educational plans, whereby

every Scots child was sent to school, irrespective of means or status; and this compulsory scheme was the first ever to be put into operation in any country.

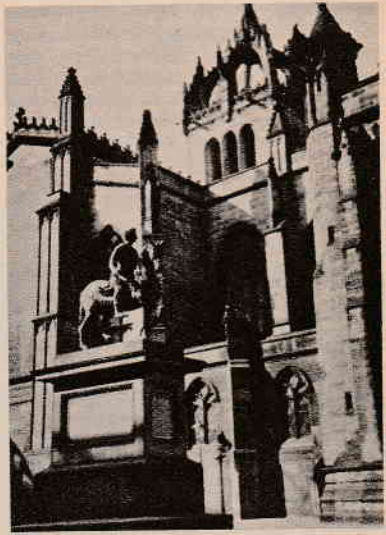
Despite his overriding passion for orderliness, and a certain high-handedness in behaviour, King Charles's politics were, on the whole, not unwelcome in Scotland, but the unwise manner of his introduction of the first purely Scottish Prayer Book ultimately led to the frustration of his purposes. Let us, however, consider this book more closely, for it is now generally considered one of the finest Prayer Books in the English language, and may yet come into its own, particularly if present plans for reunion between Presbyterians and Episcopalians succeed.

The Scottish Liturgy, properly so-called, was largely the work of two Scots Bishops, Wedderburn and Maxwell, and its principal difference from the English one was, and indeed is, its retention of the "Primitive" form of Prayer of Consecration in the Holy Communion Service; a prayer, incidentally, which appears only in mutilated form in the Church of England service, but which is included in its entirety in those of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America and of the Church of the Province of South Africa. It also, rather interestingly, links Scottish Episcopalians to the Eastern Orthodox Christians with whom we cherish increasingly close ties.

Some idea of the importance of this "Primitive" Liturgy may be gauged from the fact that visiting Russian Clergy, on a goodwill mission to Edinburgh last year, were each given a Scottish Book of Common Prayer by the Bishop, and later received copies of Dr. Gordon Donaldson's "The Making of the Scottish Prayer Book" from the Principal of Edinburgh University.

As to our keeping fresh the "blessed memory" of King Charles, the "City Fathers" raised no visible memorial to their founder and patron, although they did erect a fine equestrian statue of his son, "Carlo Secundo", and that on a site originally intended for one of Oliver Cromwell! Thus, today, the incongruous figure of "The Merry Monarch", dressed as a Roman Emperor, rides triumphantly over the supposed grave of John Knox, for the place was once a burial ground; and the King whose "head" made history has his revenge, albeit a belated and mildly inappropriate one.

Then there is St. Mary's Cathedral, the largest and handsomest Church of its kind in Scotland, and the masterpiece of the architect, Sir Gilbert Scott. It is now the seat of the bishopric Charles created, and in it a service is held every year on the 30th of January, the anniversary of the King's beheading.



Equestrian Statue of King Charles II  
(St. Giles's Kirk, Edinburgh)

## CHURCH NOTES AND VIEWS

### Nave Under Water

**D**URING heavy floods a year or two ago, the River Mole, a tributary of the Thames, swamped a considerable portion of the surrounding countryside. The attractive modern church of All Saints', Weston Green, Surrey, was flooded as far as the chancel steps. The photograph shows the altar and east window reflected in the invading waters.—MRS. M. K. MATTHEWS.

### A Mountain Sanctuary

**T**HIS quaint old church stands in splendid isolation, more than a thousand feet above sea-level, in the beautiful Cumbrian valley of Martindale. It is used for Evensong only during the summer months. On entering through the tiny porch, which is also belfry-cum-vestry, one finds the pulpit just within the door, so that the priest, when preaching, is literally in the midst of his people. Worshippers sit on long seats placed parallel with the north and south walls of the church. The stone font is said to be of Roman origin and was found in the mountains near-by. The altar candlesticks, though modern, are of local interest, being made from hooves of deer which still roam the forest of Martindale.

—MISS ETHEL PAXTON.



Nave Under Water

### You Have Been Warned!

**A**N 18th century Church Register of the Priory and Parish Church of SS. Peter and Paul at Leominster has the following warning inscribed on a fly-leaf.

"J. Jones, clerk to Mr. Benjamin Fallows, of Leom. attorney at law desires to communicate to ages unborn that on Friday the 9th day of October 1761 he shot his right arm with a gunn upon Cusney Hill And wishes all true sportsmen to avoid the like Accident".—ERIC L. KING.



A Mountain Sanctuary

### TO OUR READERS

We offer five shillings for every photograph with notes which we print on this page, and half-a-crown for every paragraph without a photograph which we consider of sufficient general interest for publication. Entries should be sent to: The Editor, 11, Ludgate Square, London, E.C.4. Unsuitable contributions can only be returned when accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.



### Youngest Secretary ?

**M**ISS MARION PARHAM (seen in photograph) was appointed Hon. Sec. of West Lydford Church Council (diocese of Bath and Wells) at the early age of 15½ years. Her appointment is a case of not allowing talent to run to seed, and her first six months in office have shown her to be a worthwhile and competent secretary. She passed by scholarship from West Lydford Primary Church School in 1953 to Sunny Hill Secondary School, Bruton, Somerset, where at present she is still a pupil. Later she hopes to train as a nurse.—REVD. W. H. WILLIAMS.

### Numerical Curiosity

**A**T St. Leonard's Church, Upper Deal, where I have been attending Evensong on and off for the past 18 years, a remarkable coincidence happened last year. After looking up the hymns for the service from the hymn board, I have always had a habit of adding up the hymn numbers, hoping one day to find them adding up to the same figure. To my very great surprise, on Rogation Sunday we had hymns Nos. 279, 142 and 690, which when added together, totalled 1111.—MARGARET WRIGHT.

### A Warning from the Font

**I**N Tollesbury Church, Essex, there is the following very interesting inscription round the bowl of the small octagonal font. The inscription is very plainly lettered:

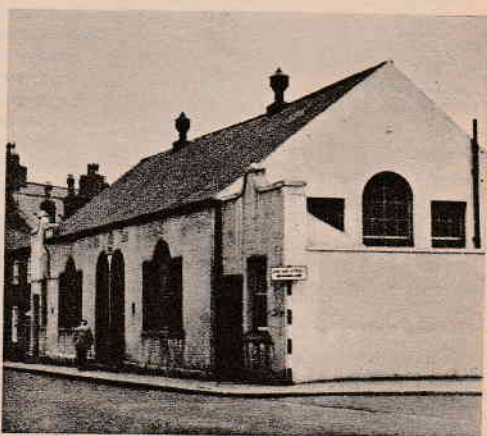
"Good people all I pray take care  
That in ye church you doe not  
sware  
as this man did."

These lines are explained by a baptismal entry: "1718, August 30, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert and Eliza Wood, being ye first childe whom was baptized in the New Font, which was bought out of five pounds paid by John Norman, sen., who some few months before came drunk into ye church and cursed and talked loud in the time of Divine Service, to prevent his being prosecuted for which he paid by agreement the above said five pounds. Note that the wise rhymes on the font were put there by the sole order of Robert Joyce, the churchwarden."—REV. C. K. BURTON.

### Oldest Sunday School

**T**HIS building at Tadcaster, Wharfedale, is the oldest Sunday School in Yorkshire and one of the oldest in Britain. It was erected in 1788, only eight years after Robert Raikes began his pioneer Sunday School at Gloucester, and it has undergone little structural change.

—ARTHUR GAUNT.



Oldest Sunday School in Yorkshire



Photo by

Cupboard Love

N. W. Kieffer

## WEEKDAY PAGES FOR WOMEN

CONDUCTED BY  
MARION HURST

### Tuesday's Sewing

*Shirts.*—When my husband's shirts are worn at the neck and cuffs, I make the little boys blouses out of them. If they are of plain material, I make tea aprons, bound with bias binding with pockets to match the binding.—MRS. A. CARINGTON.

*Knitting bag.*—Many people possess large white or coloured linen nightdress cases which are no longer used. These make very useful bags for knitting or light work. If a tape is run along the edge of the flap, it can be worn as a work apron. A fair-sized guest towel turned up by a third of its length will serve the same purpose.—MRS. P. H. B. PALMER.

*Use for old pyjamas.*—I have found a way to use up old pyjamas, when they are too old for repair. My son bought some new garden tools and wanted bags for them almost at once. I cut off the legs and arms of the pyjamas and turned them into bags very quickly. All I had to do was to run together the cut ends on the machine and then put a piece of tape in the already made hems of the ends. He was delighted with these as he also had all the left-over bits for rags.—ANON. (Bromley).

### Wednesday's Nursing

*When Friar's Balsam* in hot water has been used as an inhalant (as often prescribed by doctors), the jug is left with a sticky yellow deposit inside. This is almost impossible to wash off, and I heard once of someone throwing such a jug away. Yet it can be removed very quickly if a little methylated spirits is poured in and wiped with a rag.—MRS. M. L. BROWN.

### Monday's Washing

*Sponges and Flannels.*—A sure and quick way to dispel the "sliminess" caused by soap is to put the sponge or face-flannel in a saucepan and cover with cold water. Add one large tablespoonful common salt and boil. Rinse in the usual way and the article will be as good as new.—MRS. E. M. RAYNER.

*Curtains.*—When I am going to wash curtains, as I take out the hooks I mark the spot with a ball point pen. This does not come out in the wash, does not show when the curtains are re-hung, and saves quite a lot of time when putting back the hooks instead of having to measure or count.—MRS. A. HARRISON.

My "Clothes-horse" began to wobble when loaded with clothes to air and so was dangerous in case it fell forward into the fire. So my husband cut off the bands which held it together and put on good strong hinges. It now stands steadily and safely no matter how much one loads it with clothes to air.—MRS. E. HOADMOTT.

*The best soap.*—I was told by a hair-dresser many years ago that the best soap to wash ladies' hair with is melted Lifebuoy. It keeps the hair from greying too quickly. I have always used it, and proved it to be true.—MRS. COMFORT.

"Indeed they can. But many of the mothers have gone to work in the fields or in the factory before the children leave for school, and there is no one to see they put on the proper clothes."

"Then they get shocking colds," she joined in. "And as there is no one at home to look after them they are still pushed off to school, and the germs spread. I know; we had that in London."

"Yes. They run a temperature and you send them home, but they are back again the next day."

"Oh dear," said Anne with a sigh. "I thought that was a characteristic of town life. I imagined there were still homes in the country; places where you live, not the bed-and-breakfast houses we had near London."

"Villages are rapidly becoming urbanised," said Hassall. "Potter's Green has changed vastly in the ten years I have been here, but much of the change is very superficial as yet. It takes a long time to alter the basic outlook of the genuine villagers, though infiltration of 'foreigners' is speeding it up. Now I think you have seen everything and you will know your way round tomorrow morning. The first day of term is always rather chaotic, and it does help you when you are new if you have got the lie of the land first. I think I told you everything you need to know about your class. If you are in any difficulty don't hesitate to come to me."

By this time they had crossed the playground to the side road which ran into the village street. Over the road, on the corner of the main street, stood a fine fourteenth-century church, and opposite the school was a rather ugly Victorian Gothic vicarage of the same vintage as the school itself. A man was posting a notice on a board on the garden wall. He turned round at the sound of voices, and Anne

recognised him as the Vicar, Timothy Marks, who had been chairman of the managers when she had come for an interview.

"Sorry my hand's rather dirty for shaking," he said. "But come in, both of you, and have a cup of tea."

"I'm afraid I can't stay, Vicar," said Charles Hassall. "Jack Harris's father is coming in to see me on his way back from work. But I would like to fix the date for the Parochial Church Council, if you could spare a minute to look at your diary."

"One advantage of having a schoolmaster as secretary is that he is methodical," said Mr. Marks, looking at Anne with a twinkle. "He always keeps me properly organised. Sit down in here while I wash my hands."

They sat in a large, cheerful room piled with books and papers, poster paint, carpentry tools and a typewriter. They could hear the Vicar call into the kitchen, "Margaret, I've asked the new teacher, Miss Wiles, in for tea." Then he darted into the study again and unearthed a large diary from his desk.

While the men discussed the date and agenda for the meeting, Anne had time to study the two people who in future would have a good deal of influence on her working life. Both of them were men of about forty years of age, but whereas Marks was small with a rather ugly, puckish face, a mischievous smile and the quick movements of a dynamic personality, Charles Hassall was tall, good-looking in a quiet way, with a kindly face and humorous eyes beneath brown, crinkly hair which he tried in vain to plaster down. That dates him, thought Anne. If he were twenty years younger he would be encouraging the curl in his hair. He belongs to a generation which thinks it effeminate. She rather liked that.

"By far the most important thing

on the agenda of course," said the Vicar, "is the matter of raising money for enlarging the school. I know it is primarily the Managers' responsibility, but it is no good their launching an appeal unless the P.C.C. is wholeheartedly behind it."

"Have the estimates come in yet?"

"Not yet. I have said we must have them before the Managers' meeting next week, after which it will be all right to tell the P.C.C. Until then I don't think we should say much in the village. We want our facts before we begin talking."

At that moment Mrs. Marks pushed a tea-trolley into the room and greeted the newcomer. Anne took an instant liking to her, for she had an open, friendly face, a charming manner, and wore her old clothes with an air.

Mr. Hassall made his departure and the others settled round the fire.

"We can have a nice quiet session before the boys get back from the Morrison's party. I'm glad when Christmas parties are over," Mrs. Marks said to Anne. "The children get over-excited and make themselves sick, and nowadays people give such expensive presents that when we give a return party we can't afford to keep up with them."

"Where do they go to school?"

"Chilborough Grammar. They used to go here—and very good teaching they had too. Charles Hassall is quite first-rate with his senior boys."

Anne looked a little puzzled. "I am sure this school is very good in its way, but isn't it a little—well—lacking in the kind of things you expect in a school these days?"

"Well, of course it's shabby, and the building is old-fashioned; but it is a happy school, and that's the important thing, isn't it?"

Marks crossed over to a table in the window and picked up a large sheet of tracing paper which he placed on Anne's knee.

"This is the plan for the new building. We have bought the next-door plot which is an old orchard." He leaned over and pointed with his pencil. "Here is the Assembly Hall—we haven't one at present—here are two extra classrooms, the headmaster's room, and a staff room, instead of the little cupboard you have to make do with now. Your present one will become a badly-needed stock room. At the moment that is in the roof, and is only reached by ladder! The Assembly Hall will also be a gym, and it can be divided into two classrooms when needed."

"It looks fine. What about heating?"

"Oil-burning central heating, which will be immensely labour-saving."

"When is all this going to happen?" asked Anne delightedly, privately hoping she would be allocated one of the new rooms.

Marks threw up his hands and shrugged his shoulders. "Soon, if I have anything to do with it—but first we have to set about finding £6000. The County will meet half the cost and the diocese will make a loan, but that still means we shall have to find something in the region of three thousand."

"And if you can't raise the money?"

"We hand the school over to the County on a plate—no half-and-half state of being a Controlled school with no power to select our own staff. But there is no such word as 'can't'. This school has a fine reputation and a long tradition. For over eighty years it has been bound to the church, the two working in the closest harmony for the good of the children. The village will not let it go now."

"Come off your hobby-horse, Timothy!" said his wife with a laugh. "Give poor Miss Wiles time to settle down before you start on propaganda with her." She turned to her guest. "You are lodging with

the Barrons, aren't you? It is the first time they have let rooms. I do hope you will be comfortable."

"So far I have only seen Mrs. Barron, and she seems very kind and friendly," Anne replied, "and I like my rooms. They are light and not badly furnished. When I have a few of my things unpacked I shall feel quite at home. But tell me, what is Mr. Barron and what is he like?"

The Vicar and his wife exchanged glances and hesitated.

"Well," she said, "he and his brother are disgruntled builders. They have a reputation for being shoddy and expensive, and people here hesitate to employ them. They are going to be even more disgruntled soon, because they are not likely to get the job of building the new school block; but they will think they have a right to it."

"Harry Barron," the Vicar joined in, "is a District Councillor who possibly takes his responsibilities a little too seriously. Perhaps being a councillor compensates him for not being very successful in business; but he's not a bad chap at heart."

Anne stood up. "I think I had better go and make Mr. Barron's acquaintance now," she said smiling. "And thank you both very much for making me so welcome."

"Come in any time you like," said Mrs. Marks warmly. "Don't stand on ceremony. You may be a little lonely at first because, apart from Mr. Hassall, none of the teachers lives in the village. They all drive out from Chilborough."

"I think you will find Hassall a good man to work under," said the Vicar as he escorted Anne down the road. "He lost his wife when they had only been married two years, and since then he has lived for his work. Without his school and his church he would be a lonely man. As it is, he does us all a lot of good!"

Warmed by friendliness, despite the chill of the January evening, Anne Wiles returned to "Sans Souci", the square red brick house built by Harry Barron's father, which reeked of unimaginative prosperity. The prosperity, though, was a ghost from the past; hence, perhaps, the necessity to let rooms.

"Mr. Barron's got a latch key for you," said the plump housekeeper, as she opened the creaking front door. "He's home now and he'd like to meet you if you can spare a minute."

A large, round-faced man with a bluff yet cryptic manner was seated at the living-room table having his tea. He rose when she came in, and shook her hand in a painful grasp.

"Pleased to meet you," he said heartily. "Anything I can do for you, just say the word. As a matter of fact, I'm a district councillor you know. Of course I'm chairman of the parish meeting, too, but we only deal with tuppenny-ha'penny things on that. The real business is done at the district council meetings, and I think I may say I manage to keep Potter's Green on the map. I'm interested in everything that concerns the welfare of this place. The school, now, nasty old-fashioned little place isn't it? I wonder a bright young lady like you is prepared to teach in a dump like that. But I can assure you I am making it my business to see that matters are remedied drastically, and very soon too."

A ring at the bell heralded a visitor for Councillor Barron, and Anne retired to her unpacking in some uncertainty as to the Councillor's plans for the future of the school. His last words as she went upstairs puzzled her. "I hope we shall be pals, Miss Wiles," he had called after her. "You can help me and I can help you. Between us we might shake up Potter's Green."

*(To be continued)*

## “Ring in the New”

THE NIGHT SEEMS COLD, and very dark. It is an effort to detach oneself from the warm circle round the fire, to leave the radio programme and the dog stretched at ease on the rug, and go out, wrapped against the weather, into the quiet streets. We seem to be the only people abroad at this time. Our footsteps echo as we make our way past lighted windows, behind which New Year parties are already in progress; past other houses darkened and asleep; past a brave line of shops, made bright for Christmas and with none save ourselves to see them; to the still centre of the town, where the church tower, serene amid level lawns, lifts itself four-square against the winter sky. We wrestle with the refractory latch on the heavy West door, toil up the steep winding stairway, and emerge, breathless and half dazzled, into light and friendliness.

“Very cold; better get started and warm up.” Coats are doffed, ropes assigned and adjusted. “Are you ready? Treble going . . . she’s gone” and the rounds begin. The bells are half muffled. They sound thoughtful; each alternate round a reflective echo of the one preceding. We ring more slowly than usual, for the added weight on the muffled clapper alters the balance and holds up the swing. It seems right that we should not hurry, that the bells themselves should appear to linger a little over this last ringing of the old year. From rounds into changes, still muffled and slow, while people, called by the music, gather in the church below us. Presently the service will begin, and we must be silent. Goodbye, Old Year; listen to the bells, ringing you away.

“That’s all . . . Stand!”—and now

we are waiting for midnight. If we open the door of the ringing chamber we can hear the organ playing, faint and far away, while from outside the tower comes the distant murmur of the crowds, now collecting in the town, so deserted when we ourselves passed through it. Torch in hand, the captain of ringers makes his way up to the bell chamber, to unmuffle the bells for our next ringing. Though we know that he could find his way clambering among them blindfolded, we are relieved, when he appears again, dusty but cheerful. All is ready now; and the bells, like us, are waiting.

The church clock cannot strike midnight, for clock chimes are out of action when bells are in a position for ringing. Tonight the twelve strikes will be rung by hand on the tenor bell, and its ringer is already standing at his post. Two minutes to go. We take up our positions, each at a rope. Any delay on our part in pulling off at the last stroke of the tenor would cause him to strike thirteen—so we must be ready.

“One minute—half a minute—now!” The deep, deliberate voice of the tenor echoes through belfry, church and town. As the crowds outside begin cheering, we all count aloud. “One—two—Happy New Year everybody — nine — ten — eleven—twelve.”

And then we ring again. Unmuffled and clear, quick and urgent, the bells send out their welcome and their challenge. They are old bells; they have seen many years, and many ringers, come and go, but this year, too, they renew their message. Listening as we ring, we hear again their glad affirmation, and rejoice with them that, in spite of all our faults and follies of the past, there are still new years, new beginnings, and bells. A Happy New Year to all who hear them.

B. J.

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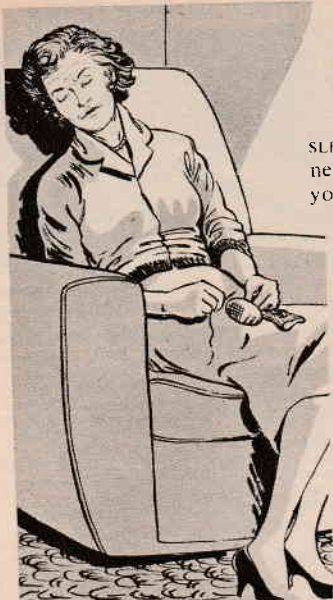
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I had to learn to have time of prayer and Bible reading but it has been worth it. Then, in next to no time, the step was marriage with its fellowship and partnership with a Christian husband. The verse given at marriage was Romans, Chapter 8, verse 28; and how blessed it has been. What joy we have with the four of us round the breakfast table for family prayers. I have had to learn many lessons, perhaps the greatest being humility and patience, but God has helped me in a wonderful way."

#### **OLD MARSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL.**

The School will be losing Mr. J. M. Dunne, M.A., and the permanent post is being taken by Mr. P. R. H. Eggleton, an experienced teacher trained at the well-known P.E. College at Loughborough. Inevitably the Games side of a young School has taken time to build up, in competition it will be surprising if spectacular results are ever achieved against bigger Schools, but the future should see a gradual raising of standards. It is hoped to make two hard Net Wickets soon to give proper Cricket practice.

A transformation has taken place on the School Garden and the surrounds thanks to the hard work put in by Mr. J. B. Mulliner and Mr. O. J. Carter, not to mention the Senior Boys. The Authority have planned a really excellent layout of grass, borders and trees. It should ensure that long after a provocative new building has lost its glitter, the area should be a place of beauty.

Preparations are in hand for most of the top form to sit the County Test of Achievement. This opens the way for other courses at another Secondary School, these courses include the General Certificate of Education besides Services Apprenticeship and Secretarial Examinations. As from January almost all of the School will be asked to do Homework. Apart from raising standards in an increasingly competitive world, it is hoped to develop a view that education is not just something done on the School Premises but part of a general social obligation in which many are involved. It is, too, part of a plan to raise the status of the School to the benefit of all who go to it.

Through the medium of this magazine the School would like to thank the Parents, their friends, and the St. Nicholas Primary School for the help given during this year to make the Teacher Parent Association a success. Recent activities have included a Film Show, a Bingo and the Annual Dance. The Association is now earmarking money raised as a contribution towards the provision of Hall Curtains. The anxiety to help and the general goodwill shown have been a great encouragement to continue to make special efforts to develop a worthwhile institution.

#### **ST. NICHOLAS' COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

December 18th brought an end to a term of greater frustration than any we have known even in Marston. It is with great eagerness that we are looking forward to starting the new year under one roof and with all our facilities in working order. Classroom parties had to take the place of our usual Christmas festivities but the children appeared to miss little of their usual animation associated with the season! Presentations were made to Miss V. Sinclair and Mr. J. W. Brucker in appreciation of the good work they have done for the School and as a token of our esteem and affection, we wish them success in the new work they are undertaking.

We shall be welcoming Miss H. R. Richards from Andover, and Mrs. E. Wells who comes to us from Gloucester. The former will take over the third-year class while Mrs. Wells will be teaching the top-class Infants. We hope that they will be happy with us.

Half-term holiday will be on February 16th and 17th, and term will end on March 25th.

#### TEACHER-PARENT ASSOCIATION.

Our meetings have been much missed during the past term and it is hoped that this part of the School activity will be resumed early in the new year. We shall particularly welcome the parents of new-comers to St. Nicholas.

#### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

- Jan. 4. **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.**  
Holy Communion, 8.15 a.m. and 12 noon.  
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.  
Children's Church re-opens at the Secondary-Modern School,  
3 p.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- „ 6. Epiphany. Holy Communion, 10.30 a.m.
- „ 7. Young Wives, 7.45 p.m., Church Hall.
- „ 9. Parish Party, 7.30 p.m. (For members on Electoral Roll only).
- „ 11. **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**  
Holy Communion, 8.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.  
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- „ 17. Young Wives and Mothers' Union Party, for their families.
- „ 18. **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.**  
Holy Communion, 8.15 a.m.  
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- „ 21. Young Wives Group, 7.45 p.m., Church Hall.
- „ 25. **SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY** also Conversion of St. Paul.  
Holy Communion, 8.15 a.m.  
Morning Prayer, 11 a.m.  
Evening Prayer, 6.30 p.m.
- „ 27. Mothers' Union, 2.45 p.m., Church Hall.
- „ 31. Sunday School Parties.

Forthcoming Dates to remember :

Tuesday, February 17th.—Lambeth Conference Film.

Thursday, March 12th.—“The Passover” demonstrated.

## CHURCH & LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES, ETC

### CHURCH.

- Bell Ringers.** Sec. : Mr. A. Gammon, 50 Oxford Road.
- Choir.** Choirmaster : Mrs. E. M. Garner, 49 Rippington Drive.
- Cubs.** Leader : Miss B. Hatton, 32 Ash Grove, Headington.
- Mothers' Union.** Sec. : Mrs. N. E. Green, 60 Oxford Road.
- Parochial Church Council.** Sec. : Mrs. M. Harlow, Fir Tree House, Oxford Road.
- Pathfinders.** Leader : Miss M. Liles, The Flat, 15 Mill Lane.
- Scouts.** Leader : Mr. R. Jones, 118 Oxford Road.
- Young Wives.** Mrs. E. Holmes, 10 Cavendish Drive.

### LOCAL.

- Allotment Assn.** Sec. : Mr. R. Bowen, 129 Oxford Road.
- British Legion.** Sec. : Mr. H. Hall, 61 Coniston Avenue, Headington.
- Choral Society.** Sec. : Mr. L. E. Hodgkins, 59 Copse Lane.
- Cricketer Club.** Sec. : Mr. R. D. Skates, 31 Mill Lane.
- Cromwell Club.** Leader :
- Parish Council.** Chairman : Mr. L. C. Jennings, 8 Oxford Rd.
- Teacher-Parent Assoc.** St. Nicholas County Primary School.  
Sec. : Mrs. M. Smith, 4 Windsor Crescent.
- Women's Institute.** Sec. : Mrs. R. B. Standing, Almonds, Oxford Road.

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